

THE SOUTH CAROLINA CHRISTIAN

A Publication of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in South Carolina
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Regional Conference Review

By Regional Board Vice Moderator : Eleanor Davis

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The 6th Annual Conference of the Christian Church (DOC) in South Carolina was held on October 1-4, 2009 at Greater Cherry Grove Christian Church (DOC) in Hampton South Carolina where Minister Johnny Smalls is the host pastor. Marking the unity of the 131st Annual Regional Assembly and the 139th South Carolina State Convention of the Christian Church! The theme of the conference was Abide in the Vine based upon the scripture found in John 15:1-15.

The Conference began with a worship service on Thursday evening which included the introduction of the Conference Theme Song "We have come into His House" to worship Him. We could feel the spirit working among us as we sang this and other songs and heard the spoken word from Pastor Ed Cushingberry (New Hope).

During the service, Minister Jim Brown (Rice Patch), Minister Ella Mae President (New Galilee) and Minister Virginia Simmons (Holly Hill), were presented with certificates of completion from the COM school and will be candidates for Ordination into the ministry of the Christian Church (DOC).

On Friday morning we heard a powerful testimony of faith from Pastor Ken McDonald (First Christian Church, Aiken). With humility and humor he spoke of his struggle with alcohol addiction and his faith journey. He stated, "God is good, God is love."

In the plenary session following the worship service, attendees were given the opportunity to interact with our partners in ministry: Rev. David Vargas, President of the Division of Oversees Ministry of the Christian Church (DOC); Ronald Degges, President of Disciple Home Missions of the Christian Church (DOC); Rev. Sekinah Hamlin, Minister for Anti-racism and Reconciliation; Ms. Helen Johnson, Associate Director, Christmount Christian Assembly; Ms. Ann Kwasnick, United Church of Christ Insurance Board (UCCIB); Mrs. "Dee" Long, Congregational Services Consultant, Church Extension.

We were able to feast and fellowship during our lunch breaks on Friday and Saturday, enjoying the good food and the good hospitality of the members of our host church (Greater Cherry Grove).

Four workshops were held on Friday afternoon led by the Reverends Monty Knight, Torrie Osgood, Sekinah Hamlin, Ron Degges and Pastor Donnie White. The participants in these workshops had many positive statements about their experiences.

Rev. David Vargas, President of the Division of Oversees Ministry of the Christian Church (DOC), on Friday night spoke on spreading the Gospel to the ends of the earth. He said that we cannot effectively carry out this task unless we are firmly grounded in the Vine (Christ Jesus). By ourselves, we will fail but with God we can do all things.

Pastor Pauline Walker (Rock Hill) was Saturday's speaker. She challenged us to "stay in the race" as we continue to follow God's plan for our lives. She had everyone on their feet, ready to share the Word. As Ron Degges said, "South Carolina rocks!"

The youth who attended the conference had their own program on Saturday under the leadership of Valildra Berry and Lula Richardson, and Pastor Brad McDowell. They shared their experience with us in the afternoon. It was great to see young people learning to share the Gospel

As always, we ended our conference around the Lord's Table. As we partook of the bread and juice we proclaimed again that we worship the one Lord, and that we are one body, one Church – for the healing of the nations.

Disciples Women Ministry

Quadrennial Assembly June 23-27, 2007, Greensboro, NC
Application for Registration are available on line at
www.discipleswomen.org and click on the Quadrennial 2010
link, and at www.scdisciples.org. Also applications to apply
for assistance is available online .Registration to ride the bus
will be available through The Regional Office

We are looking for a Youth age: High School Student,
Team Leaders (women between 19 and 21) and Chaperones
(women over 25) who will be helping with the pro-
gram. Please forward you names direct to our Staff Person.

Gloria Gilliard, Disciples Women Staff
Sandra Browning, Disciples Women President
Almetia Brown, Disciples Women Vice President
Gwendolyn Walker, Secretary

2010 NEWSLETTER DUE AND ONLINE DATE

January--February January, 12 January 18
Emphasize Week of Compassion (Feb.21&28)

March-April March 13 March 20
Emphasize Easter (April, 5&12)

May-June May 15 May 22
Emphasize Pentecost (May, 24&31)
Camp & Conference (June 7&14)

July-August July 10 July 17
Emphasize Regional Conference (Oct. 1-4)

September-October September 7 September 14 Emphasize
Regional Conference
Reconciliation (Sep.27&Oct.4)

November-December November 9 November 16
Thanksgiving Offerings (Nov. 15&22)
Emphasize Christmas Offering (Dec. 13&20)

Minister Wives and Husband Fellowship
Annual Speakers Program will be Held at
Cypress Creek Christian Church , Walterboro
November 14,2009 @ 5:00pm The speaker for this event will
Applicant Minister Charles Hightower From New Grove Hall
Christian Church

2010 Regional Board and Council meeting dates and Location

February 6, Canaan CC Moncks Corner

May 8, Antioch CC, Varnville

August 14, Evergreen CC, Walterboro

November 6, Luray CC, Luray

Commission on Ministry

Annual Clergy and Mate Retreat
Will be held in Myrtle Beach, SC
AT Sea Mist Resort
January 15-16, 2010

Facilitator: Rev. William "Bill" Lee
Pastor of Louden Avenue Christian Church
Roanoke, VA.

Registration Fee: Single \$150.00, Couple
\$250.00

And if you plan to attend and not Lodge at Sea
Mist

Registration fee will be \$100.00 Please send all
Registration to

Regional Church Office P.O. Box 32064,
Charleston SC 29417

S C State Ushers

will sponsor their annual Ushers Conference
Saturday December 5,2009 @ 10:00 am at
Poplar Hill Christian Cross SC, Pastor Deveta
S. Brown will be the Conference Speaker.

Larry Capers will
facilitate the workshop

FCCCharleston:

The book **Balanced Living "Don't Let Your
Strength Become Your Weakness"** By
Robert Marsden "Monty" Knight is avail-
able at the Regional Church Office at cost of
\$15.00 per copy and you may have your copy
autograph by the author, Monty Knight . Call
852-4537 to order your copy.

Thanksgiving Offering



This offering is received in most congregations on November 8th and 15th.

Homecoming is a process of returning to a particular place with a particular group of people who have shared a particular experience. Homecoming is often associated with alumni of a particular college, university or institution of higher education. **Homecoming** is a process that starts for Disciples students with your gifts to the 2009 Thanksgiving Offering, benefiting our 17 colleges and universities and 10 seminaries and divinity houses.

The **General Assembly** is often described as a homecoming event where friends reconnect and relationships are built. At the 2009 General Assembly, several Disciples were interviewed for the Thanksgiving offering and here are some words from their stories.

Aly Gideon who will be a freshman at Chapman University said, "I am attending Chapman because **Disciples Financial Aid** is making it possible." Your generosity is providing the way for future leaders.

Sven DeJong stated, "I wasn't raised in the church, but at Bethany College I came to an awareness of faith. Today I am so in love with the nostalgic beauty of Bethany College and the tradition of the Campbellites that I've never left." Your generosity brought someone to faith in Jesus Christ.

Minkook Um, a seminary student remarked, "I am empowered to study for ministry. Your gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering make it possible for students like me to attend seminary." Your generosity is training leaders today for the changing face of America." Forty years ago when I applied to seminary, I could not afford to attend. W.A. Welsh wrote me and said 'come to Lexington Theological Seminary because through Disciples dollars, my way would be provided,'" shared **Mary Pat Spencer**. Your gifts transform lives well beyond the year in which you give them. For decades now, Disciples, like you, have been providing resources to further the education of Disciples students at Disciples institutions of Higher Education. The 2009 Thanksgiving Offering provides the way for more Disciples to have that shared experience, with a particular group of people. Please give generously and let us support **OUR Disciples students at OUR schools!**

Disciples Seminary Foundation (DSF) serves God through the formation and support of emerging theological leaders on

the West coast for diverse Christian communities. DSF's ministry is made possible through faithful gifts to Disciples Mission Fund. In November, congregations throughout the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will be collecting a Thanksgiving Offering. The offering directly benefits our 14 colleges/universities and 7 seminaries, divinity houses, and theological foundations. The Thanksgiving Offering materials have been sent to local congregations. (Additional material can be found at **www.disciplesmissionfund.org.**) On November 8 and November 15, Disciples will be asked to contribute to this special offering. Your generosity for Disciples Mission Fund will support leader development through Disciples higher education institutions.

Christmas Special Day Offering

This offering will be received in most congregations on December 13 and 20, 2009.



The Gospel of Luke tells of the night that the shepherds' tedious routine was interrupted by an angelic announcement. There they were doing their hard, often boring, difficult work not expecting anything new or different or exciting. Suddenly everything changed as they heard the wonderful news of God's gift to the world in a newborn child. In response, they hurried to Bethlehem to discover for themselves what God had done. Sometimes the mission and ministry of our local congregations seems like the work of the shepherds-hard, boring, exhausting... and even sometimes hopeless. How exciting when God is revealed to us in new ways that take our breath away and the work we do for God suddenly has new hope and new vision.

Across the Regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) there are exciting stories of new congregations being established, existing congregations being renewed and transformed, and leaders equipped for ministry. Great things are taking place as we join God in God's mission for the sake of the world. In this holy season let us reach out to those broken lives that feel no joy. Let us be a beacon of light that will lead them to God's gift of new life.

With your Christmas Offering, you support your Region's ministry to enlist Disciples as members of a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

*For the January-February newsletter,
the due date for articles is
January 12, 2010*

*Please submit any articles, church activities, church
Anniversaries, etc. to the Regional Church Office at:
roccsc@aol.com*

*We rejoice in sharing the news of God at work
from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth
and from the ends of the earth to our doorsteps.*



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