

December 2004

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2003-2004**

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THE CAPITAL AREA CHRISTIAN

Dr. Perry Finishes Term as Moderator

Dr. Robert W. Perry's term as Moderator of the Region ends December 31, 2004. Bob has been a source of stability, support and presence during a time of transition. On behalf of the Region we want to say **thank you for his service and the gift of himself to the Region.** However, he has served the Region in more ways than that. As a matter of fact, over the last six years, no single individual has accepted more significant leadership responsibility for the Capital Area Region than the Rev. Dr. Perry. Bob is a lifelong Disciple, a graduate of Bethany College and Brite Divinity School (TCU). He has served the Region in three major capacities during the last three

biennia.

Six years ago, Bob was asked to **chair our capital campaign, *Building the Vision.*** He put together a team and they sought major gifts to ensure our success. Under his guidance the Region was able to meet its goal and raise the intended funds to do all of our projects.

Three years ago, as **Dr. William Chris Hobgood** announced his impending retirement, Bob was asked to chair the search committee to seek a new Regional Minister. He helped assemble a team representative of the region that worked long and hard to call the Rev. Lari Grubbs as the new Capital Area Regional

Minister.

Once the new Regional Minister was in place, Dr. Perry has been supportive and caring. At the same time during this last biennium, Dr. Perry has served as our Moderator. He helped reorganize the Board. Just as important, he helped the Board to begin thinking beyond the immediate business to begin to envision where our work will take us. In the midst of all of that, Bob found a way to lead the region so that it worked on announced schedules; he was not about wasting people's time.

Thank you Bob, for six good years with a lot of help from your friends!

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ASSEMBLY OFFERING HELPS HURRICANE HURTS!

When **Mr. Frank Martin** stepped to the microphone during the Regional Assembly, there were less than 200 voting delegates and interested parties left in the sanctuary. Calmly, but passionately, Frank built the case for being supportive of all of those who have suffered through four major hurricanes to hit the US, particularly in Florida. **Week of Compassion** does so

many things for us and the Regional Assembly offering was designated for Hurricane relief through Week of Compassion.

The opportunity to help further as Disciples respond to human and natural disasters comes in February when the annual Week of compassion Offering is received throughout the US and Canada.

Other churches also receive a similar offering called One Great Hour of Sharing. But on this October Saturday, the Assembly spoke loudly and effectively. The **offering received** (and immediately transmitted and put to work) totaled **two thousand, one hundred and sixty-two (\$2,162.09) dollars and nine cents.** Thank you one and all for a GREAT JOB!



A CAPITAL COMMENT

"Sell your possessions, and give alms; For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Luke 12.33-34 (RSV)

Resource Use Speaks Volumes about Commitment

Much to do has been made about the bidding war between the NY Yankees and the Boston Red Sox for players last year. It looks like the Yankees will spend even more this year, over two hundred (\$200,000,000) million dollars for salaries of their professional ball players.

Any of you who know me know that I was born with Cardinal Red blood! With apologies to Rev. Malcolm Smith, who is a die-hard Yankee fan, I would like to offer three observations in regard to this expenditure as related to you and me in the Capital Area.

The first thing that I would note is that **this one team is spending eight times our total for all mission spending as a denomination for all of our mission work beyond the local congregation!** One team is thus spending eight times for players what we are paying for our General Ministries, all of our Regional Ministries and our support of Colleges and Seminaries. Please note that the Yankees are just paying for payroll, while our dollars are total cost. Also note that some of the baseball costs are tax free as business expenses paid to entertain customers. There are

30 major league teams.

Now let's be honest about it, sports tap into our competitive nature and are exciting. They are fun! But friends, **commitment to God is not about having fun or being entertained!** Worship is only about feeling good when we have allowed ourselves to be transformed, when our value systems have been convicted by the need of others and the promise of eternal life. **But** worship should be something that does touch the heart. Our souls need to be inspired and our conviction hardened to face the temptations that come each day! Yet there is a difference between watching a show and participating. If you are not getting anything out of Church, the first question to ask yourself is, "**What have I been putting into it?**" If I walk away griping, chances are that I did not allow God's Spirit to touch me!

So what is this diatribe about? When we first walked down the aisle of a church, we committed to make Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior! **When we are willing to pay \$200 for a family of four to be entertained for three hours at a major league sporting event, one wonders how much we value our relationship to God,** especially if our total Church giving is two hundred dollars for the whole year!

As the New Year approaches, it is a good time to reevaluate our commitment to God. The Christmas Offering is down over last year.

The need is up! Teenagers are killing themselves in cars seeking the thrill of speed. Children are hungry. The debt level of people in America is horrific. Most families are only a crisis away from economic disaster. **How are you using your resources? How are you demonstrating what is vital?** I heard a sportscaster castigate a fan who had declared that he was praying that the D.C. Nationals would really get to come! The announcer said, "when people are killing pregnant women to steal their baby, when so many go to sleep hungry or homeless, when there is war going on, **we have better things to pray for than whether DC gets a baseball team.**"

I would add that how we use the resources entrusted to us tells God how we value our relationship! I do go to ball games! But I am asking myself, "Did I match what I spent in showing God that I care?" Or as the little boy once asked at Sunday school, "How come my quarter looks so small in the candy shop and so big in Sunday School?" A new year dawns within the twelve day Christmas season. Maybe instead of what we get for Christmas, it would be better to wrestle with how we will use our resources this year to demonstrate to God and the world what is most important to us!

Starting with a tithe and seeking to do better,

Lari

A SPRING 2005 MISSIONARY OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR CHURCH!

Marla Schrader has recently returned from Israel and located in the Washington area in Silver Spring. She is a young woman, who has served with Global Ministries for 13 years in the Middle East. "She supports the Palestinian Quaker, Jean Zaru, who is extensively interpreting the Palestinian reality through faith-based talking and theological reflection. Among other things she has been working to advocate and arrange responsible tourism to

Israel and Palestine for church groups and individuals. Her appointment has included being director of international relations and conferences for the Palestinian Liberation Theology Center."

Because she is making her home in the area with husband, Leonardo Hosh (a native Bethlehemite and Greek Catholic Melkite Christian), and their two children, Global Ministries has made her available to visit and

speak to Capital Area Disciple and UCC Churches on weekends from mid-February until July.

Marla enjoys sharing stories of her life in Palestine-Israel through presentations and discussion. She prefers not to preach sermons. Her phone number is 301-603-8640. If your church wishes to arrange a visit with Marla on a Saturday or a Sunday, you are welcome to call her or your Missionary Coordinator, Penny

JOB OPENING: COMPASSIONATE, COMMITTED, & CURIOUS PERSON NEEDED!

The Position of CCCA Missionary Coordinator is being vacated and a replacement is needed ASAP! The position calls for someone who feels the importance of "educating congregations about how God's hand is present around the world". The person must also be willing to work with Global Ministries in scheduling missionary visits to the congregations in our Region.

There is also a hospitality function involved. The coordinator has also included finding and scheduling: housing,

transportation, meals, etc, for the Missionary visitors.) The CCCA Coordinator works closely with the UCC Coordinator on most of the missionary visits to the Capital Area.

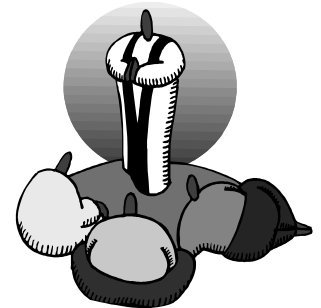
MINISTRIES AND MISSION INTERPRETERS is a Global Ministries special training event to be held February 24th-26th in Cleveland, Ohio. Our Regional Minister is hoping to be able to send our new "Missionary Coordinator" to this event!

THOSE INTERESTED in this volunteer position, please contact Lari Grubbs : (301-942-8266 or lgrubbs@cccadisciples.org). If you have questions, please contact Penny Farris (vacating the position after 8 years) :

(H) 703- 451-2810 or
(W) 703-256-4789 or
E-mail : Farriss8@aol.com

Regional Board 2005-2006

Mrs. Yvonne Malone, Moderator
The Rev. John Powell, Moderator Elect
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Rev. Dr. Martha Brown, Ministers' Association
Ms. Eleonore Denig, Moderator, RYC
Dr. Robert Chance, Chairman, Personnel
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C A P I T A L A R

STONE HOUSE HAS HEAT & AIR-CONDITIONING INSTALLED

For the 2005 Camping Season, **Stone House** is now outfitted with air-conditioning and heat! This means that beginning about April 1st and concluding October 31st, we will have available at Bethany Beach an ideal setting for groups up to 16 to do a retreat, planning session, etc.



Groups taking advantage of this before summer camps are in full swing, will only have food service by bringing and preparing it themselves in the Stone House kitchen. During those times when the kitchen staff is available, meals can be purchased for an additional fee.

Reservations can be made by contacting the Rev. Sir Walter Scott at 302-539-7034 or 866-539-7034. Additional information on Bethany Beach located at: http://www.cccadisciples.org/index_Articles.php?id=91
Save the date – Bethany Beach Work Weekend is April 15-17!!!

CCCA MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION SELECTS NEW OFFICERS

New Officers for the year have been named by the Ministerial Association. Serving as **President is the Rev. Dr. Martha Brown**. Vice-President is the **Rev. David Caldwell**. Secretary is the **Rev. Lois Crump**. Treasurer is the **Rev. Anna Bradley** and serving At-Large on the Executive Committee is the **Rev. John Ellington**.

2005 dues are now due.

For more information,
contact Anna Bradley
or the Regional Office.

DISCIPLES HISTORY AND POLITY INTRO COURSE

The **Mt. Olivet Christian Church in Baltimore, MD** will host an introductory workshop on Disciples History and Polity. Those needing to take it for credit need to talk to Rev. Lari Grubbs about requirements.

Others are welcome to attend the lecture/dialogue workshop on Disciples History on **Sunday, March 6** from 1:00-4:00 pm.

The congregation is located at
823 West Lanvale Street
Baltimore, MD 21217
Call 410-225-7588 for directions.

E A N O T E S

TRAINING TO START A NEW CHURCH

Mt. Rainier (MD) Christian Church will be the host site for a training put on by the Board of Church Extension. Anyone interested in either the skills to start a new congregation or interested in starting a new congregation should plan to attend. The event will be held January 29th at Mt. Rainier CC from 1:00-4:00 pm.

Call the office at Mt. Rainier Christian Church for directions. The phone number is 301-422-8359.

YEARBOOK REPORTS ARE DUE

The 2005 Yearbook reports are due.

Forms were mailed to every congregation in December.

These reports are essential to comply with non-profit, tax-exempt status rules of IRS.

Please submit them now!



2005 Camp Schedule

Spring Retreats:

MM - April 15-17 - CYF Retreat
 MM - April 22-24 - Chi Rho Retreat
 MM - April 29-May 1 - Junior Retreat
 BB - May 5-8 - Possible New Event (Topic - TBA)
 BB - May 24-27 - Senior's 1 - New Spring Conference
 BB - May 27-29 - Bethany Beach Bible Lecture Weekend

Summer Short Camps:

MM - June 3-5 - Discovery Camp
 MM - June 10-12 - Girl's Chi Rho Camp
 BB - June 23-26 - Young Adult Conference (YAC)
 MM - June 23-26 - Boy's Chi Rho Camp
 MM - June 24-26 - Pioneer Camp

Summer Week Camps/Conferences:

BB - July 3-9 - Family 1
 MM - July 3-9 - Chi Rho 1
 MM - July 10-16 - Junior 1
 BB - July 10-16 - CYF 1
 MM - July 17-23 - Chi Rho 2
 July 17-23 - Appalachian Work Camp
 MM - July 24-30 - Junior 2
 BB - July 31-August 6 - CYF 2
 MM - July 31-August 6 - Chi Rho 3
 BB - August 7-13 - Family 2
 BB - August 25-28 - TnT

Fall Retreats:

BB - September 6-9 - Senior's 2 - Fall Conference
 BB - September 12-16 - Revelations - Adult Conference
 MM - September 23-25 - Chi Rho Retreat
 MM - Sept. 30-Oct. 2 - CYF 1 Retreat
 MM - October 7-9 - CYF 2 Retreat

MM = Mary Mac
 BB = Bethany Beach

For additional information please visit:
http://www.cccadisciples.org/index_Camp.php

Camp Grade/Life Stage

Pioneer - Entering grades 1-3
 Junior - Entering grades 4-6
 Chi Rho - Entering grades 7-9
 CYF - Entering grade 10/Graduation year
 YAC - Post High School -30
 TnT - Mid 20's and Thirties
 Family - Families
 Seniors - 55 & up

WITH OUR CONGREGATIONS

Several pastoral changes have taken place in the Capital Area:

The **Rev. Jeff Moore** has accepted a call to be the Executive Director of Big Brothers in Erie, Pennsylvania. We wish Jeff and Naomi the best in this new ministry.

The **Rev. Dr. Alvin Jackson** has resigned as the senior minister of National City Christian Church and the President of the National City foundation. Our prayers are with Dr. Jackson and Tina as they discern God's next call.

The **Rev. Paige Marshall** is resigning at the end of January as the Interim Minister for Revitalization at the Rockville Christian Church to join her husband Bruce in his new ministry as Senior Protestant chaplain in Takoma, WA. Blessings go as you take the entire family including baby Bethany who was born in November! Congratulations and best wishes in this transition.

Several of our **clergy families have experienced deaths** in the last few weeks. We ask your prayer support for – Sylvanus Bent, Barbara Dunn, Evelyn Thomason. We also ask prayers for the Rev. Rhett Starnes. He is on his second tour of the Middle East and is in harm's way. Pray for an end to war and that everyone might be removed from harm's way.

2005 CCCA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 7-8 CCCA ART (Anti-Racism Retreat – Cathedral College, DC – begins 5:30 pm.
Jan 10 CCCA Trustees meeting– R.O. (Regional Office) – 6:00 pm
Jan 12 Bradley Christian Mission Center Committee– Twelfth Street CC– 6:00 pm
Jan 13 Camp & Conference Commission– Rockville CC– 7:00 pm
Jan 16 CCCA M. L. King Worship Service– Springfield CC– 4:00 pm
Jan 19 Bethany Beach Management Committee – Rockville CC– 7:00 pm
Jan 22 Regional Board Meeting– Shepherd Park CC– 9:00 am
Jan 22 Clergy Association Epiphany Gathering – That’s Amore – 5:00 pm
Jan 23 Art Work Display– FCC Falls Church– 1:00-4:00 pm
Jan 29 Commission for Extension – Mt. Rainier CC – 9:00 am
Jan 29 New Church start training – Mt. Rainier CC – 1:00 pm
Feb 3 Commission for Ministry – Heritage – 10:00 am
Feb 5 Hyattstown CC Women’s Retreat – Grace Trinity UCC
Feb 7 CCCA Trustees Conference Call – 6:00 pm
Feb 12 CCCA Executive Committee meeting – 9:00-11:00 am
Feb 19 LAY INSTITUTE – Hyattstown CC – 8:00 am
Feb 20-23 GCOM Meeting - Indianapolis
Mar 2 BCMC Comm. – Twelfth St CC – 6:30 pm
Mar 3 Commission for Ministry – Heritage CC – 10:00 am
Mar 5 **CCCA PROGRAM CABINET meeting – 9:00 am**
Mar 6 Disciple History and Polity Workshop – Mt. Olivet CC – 1:30 pm
Mar 7 CCCA Trustees Conference Call – 6:00 pm
Mar 9 Assembly Planning Exec Committee – Heritage CC -11:00 am
Mar 19 **CCCA Director/Counselor Training – Wilson Blvd CC – 9:00 am**
Mar 22-24 NIRF meeting – Parkersburg, WV
Mar 25 **GOOD FRIDAY – Regional Office Closed**
Mar 27 EASTER SUNDAY
Apr 2 CCCA Exec Committee – 9:00 am
Apr 4 CCCA Trustees Conference Call – 6:00 pm
Apr 6 ART Team – 6:00 pm
Apr 7 Commission for Ministry – Heritage CC – 10:00 am
Apr 16-20 GENERAL BOARD - INDIANAPOLIS

REGIONAL MINISTER VISITATION SCHEDULE

The Regional Minister has been asked to preach or be present at the congregations listed below.

January

- 2 - Rockville CC - Search Comm.
9 -
16 - ML King - Springfield CC - 4:00 pm
23 - Ft. Washington, MD - preach & install officers - 11:00 am
- Falls Church CC - Art Display 1-4 pm
30 - Whosoever Will CC - preach - 11:00 am

February

- 6 - Rockville CC - preach
13 -
20 - General Commission on Ministry - Indianapolis
27 - Downsville CC - preach

March

- 6 - Mt. Olivet - preach - 11:00 am
History and Polity Workshop - 1:00-4:00 pm
13 -
20 - PALM SUNDAY
27 - EASTER SUNDAY

ATTENTION CHURCH HISTORIANS!

The Joe and Nancy Stalcup Seminar for Local Church Historians will be held at the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Nashville, TN. February 10-12, 2004

You'll learn how to establish an oral history interview program for your congregation, research and write your congregation's history, preserve valuable papers and photographs, organize your congregation's archives, and use technology to provide access to your congregation's history. Plus, you'll have an opportunity to learn more about the Stone-Campbell Movement, meet historians from other congregations, have dinner at historic Avalon Hall on the

Lipscomb University campus, and participate in an old-time Sacred Harp singing.

Speakers include:

D. Duane Cummins, President of the DCHS and author of several books, including *Dale Fiers: Twentieth Century Disciple* **Bill Sumners**, Director of Library and Archives, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives in Nashville and author of *The Way We Were: Documenting Church Life Through Oral History* **Margery Sly**, Deputy Executive Director of the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia **Carol Roberts**, Director of Preservation Services, Tennessee State Library and

Archives in Nashville, and speaker on historic preservation **Richard Harrison**, Minister and author of several books, including *From Camp Meeting to Church: A History of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kentucky*

The Seminar will begin on Thursday evening and end with lunch on Saturday. Housing will be at the Scarritt-Bennett Center. Registration is \$50; rooms and meals at Scarritt are \$126, including two nights, two breakfasts and lunches.

For more information please visit www.dishistsoc.org/Stalcup05.htm or contact us at ail@dishistsoc.org or 615-327-1444

SUMMER INTERNSHIP

This summer, seven interns will be placed at Disciples Mission Centers and the Appalachian area to host mission groups and lead justice training for Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ congregations. The sites include the Yakama Reservation, Los Angeles, CA, Los Fresnos, TX, and Appalachian sites in towns in Virginia, West Virginia, and Tennessee. After an extensive four-day training, these interns serve for approximately ten weeks in the summer. The pay is a modest stipend and an Americorps grant for a total award of \$3000.00.

Room and board (except in Los Angeles), travel expenses

and training expenses for interns are paid. In addition, we have provided theological supervision for Field Education credit for seminarians.

Candidates for these positions must be at least 21 years of age, have high aptitude for working in demanding situations in myriad contexts, and a heart for justice. Please take a moment to consider what candidates you know who would consider such an opportunity.

The application deadline is February 15, 2005, and applications are available at:

www.homelandministries.org/VIM/Interns.htm

This program is a great opportu-

nity for future leaders in the church. It offers opportunities to live into theological issues pertaining to economics, the role of the church, leadership, and justice issues from a unique lens of ministry.

Questions should be directed to:

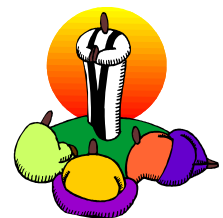
*Audrey M. Connor
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THE CAPITAL
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(CAC) IS
AVAILABLE BY
EMAIL



The Christian is now available via email and on the website at www.cccadisciples.org. To receive a copy via email, please contact the Regional Center at 301-942-8266 or send an email to mail@cccadisciples.org with the words **EMAIL NEWSLETTER** in the subject line.





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Articles are due before the 1st of the month of publication.

2005 CAPITAL AREA PRAYER CALENDAR

You are invited to participate in the Capital Area Prayer Calendar by offering a prayer each day for the listed congregation or Capital Area mission during the week listed.

January

Jan. 2-8 Winchester Christian Church, Martinsburg, WV
 Jan. 9-15 Snow Hill Christian Church, Snow Hill, MD
 Jan. 16-22 Frederick House Church, Frederick, MD
 Jan. 23-29 Our Mission Station - Bradley Christian Mission Center

February

Jan. 30-Feb. 5 Shepherd Park Christian Church, Washington, DC
 Feb. 6-12 Twelfth Street Christian Church, Washington, DC
 Feb. 13-19 Michigan Park Christian Church, Washington, DC
 Feb. 20-26 Aspen Hill Christian Church, Wheaton, MD

March

Feb. 27-Mar. 5 Christian Temple, Baltimore, MD
 Mar. 6-12 FCC of Edgemere, Baltimore, MD
 Mar. 13-19 English Consul Christian Church, Baltimore, MD
 Mar. 20-26 FCC, Baltimore, MD
 Mar. 27-Apr. 2 Lansdowne Christian Church, Baltimore, MD

April

Apr. 3-9 General Church, New Church Starts and Church Revitalization
 Apr. 10-16 Mount Olivet Christian Church, Baltimore, MD
 Apr. 17-23 Randall Street Christian Church, Baltimore, MD
 Apr. 24-30 Whosoever Will Christian Church, Beltsville, MD



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(Disciples of Christ) Regional Office**

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