

# FRONT PAGE

# Calendar



## Annual Fund

The work of Christ is growing through the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma because of your continuing support. The Annual Fund is a large part of the funding for the Regional Church through which we accomplish our shared ministries. Despite the current economic climate the Annual Fund continues to grow and in 2011 the goal of \$150,000 to the Regional Church Budget was realized. We appreciate all you do for the cause of Christ in Oklahoma through your gifts to the Annual Fund.

You may make a contribution to the Annual fund on-line at [www.okdisciples.org](http://www.okdisciples.org), or with the envelope you will soon receive along with the 2012 Annual Fund brochure. If we can assist you any way, please let us know. This is one of the ways we Oklahoma Disciples accomplish ministry together.

*See page 8 for Regional Church Assembly information.*

### March

- 3 Healthy Boundaries Seminar, Okla. Disc. Ctr.
- 6 Regional Nominating Committee, Okla. Disc. Ctr.
- 7 Regional Church Staff Meeting
- 8 NW Area Pastors
- 8 Central Area Pastors, Okla. Disc. Ctr.
- 9-10 Disciples Men Annual Retreat, Central Christian Camp, Guthrie
- 12 Commission on Clergy, Okla. Disc. Ctr.
- 14 NE Area Pastors, FCC, Wagoner
- 17-24 International Affairs Seminar
- 24 Harbinger of Spring (PREVIEW), FCC, Moore
- 29 Regional Executive Committee, Okla. Disc. Ctr.
- 30 Central Area Disciples Women, Del City

### April

- 1 Palm Sunday
- 4 Regional Church Staff Meeting
- 5 Holy Thursday
- 6 Good Friday, offices closed

### 8 Easter

- 9 Holy Monday, offices closed
- 14 ODW Board Mtg & Encounter Planning, Okla. Disc. Ctr.
- 18 NE Area Pastors, FCC, Broken Arrow
- 19 NW Area Pastors
- 22 Convocation, Pine St. CC, Tulsa
- 24 Central Area Disciples Women, Woodlands Christian Church, Ponca City
- 26-28 Regional Church Assembly, FCC, Duncan
- 30 Pastors' Retreat
- 30 Phillips Theological Seminary Golf Scramble

### May

- 1 Triple Camp Registration Closed
- 10 NW Area Pastors
- 10 Central Area Pastors
- 12 PTS Graduation
- 15 Summer Ministry Registration Closed
- 21 Commission on Clergy, Okla. Disc. Ctr.
- 23 Clergy Pentecost Worship
- 26 Encounter Planning
- 28 Memorial Day, offices closed

### *New on the Website*

[www.okdisciples.org](http://www.okdisciples.org)

The remarks made by Rev. Dr. Richard Hamm during the opening of Leadership Training School, February 4, 2012, are now available for download on the Regional Church Website.

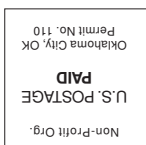
# THE OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN

*"A Ministry of Your Regional Church"*

Oklahoma Disciples Center  
301 NW 36th  
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

[www.okdisciples.org](http://www.okdisciples.org)

Spring, 2012 Vol. 61 No.1





Rev. Dr. Thomas R. Jewell  
Regional Pastor

## From Your Regional Pastor

have been most generous in their support of the ministries accomplished among youth, women, and men as well as clergy. Just last month, more than 400 of us gathered for Leadership Training School (LTS) in Oklahoma City to honor the Rev. Dr. Coy Parsley, who was instrumental in founding LTS, and to participate in more than 28 workshops conducted by clergy and laypersons for the growth of the Body of Christ. Centering on the theme of congregational transformation, Disciples were challenged and encouraged by the positive growth that not only is possible, but also is occurring among our congregations. Events like LTS, sponsored by the Commission on Laity and the Central Area, could not take place without the financial support of many, including those who contribute to the Annual Fund.

As you are reading this article, high school youth from across our Regional Church are traveling to New York City and Washington, D.C. for the annual International Affairs Seminar (IAS). In the past, hundreds of youth have benefited from this week-long experience that invites our youth to ask questions, receive new information, and grow in their faith as they live and struggle with the issues of our day. Parents who once participated are now sending their children to IAS. What a marvelous tradition that has been a rich part of life in the Regional Church....a tradition staffed by Associate Regional Pastors whose positions have been directly funded by the Annual Fund.

When this season of Lent was about to begin, your Regional

Church Pastoral Staff offered two different occasions for Oklahoma pastors to gather together for worship. Designed to provide pastors the opportunity to "sit in the pew" for a change, the spiritual life of our clergy is always something that we strive to encourage. Prayer retreats



Leadership Training School, 2012

were added last year and will continue into 2012 as another way to invite our clergy to a time of rest and renewal as they seek to lead their congregations in the worship of God and in mission to their communities and the world. These occasions can take place because we have a full Regional Church Staff of 10 persons who work diligently and tirelessly in attempting to minister to everyone within our 170 congregations. Such a dedicated staff is made possible by contributions to the Annual Fund.

I invite you to join me in making a generous gift to this year's Annual Fund so that the Oklahoma Regional Church can continue to accomplish these and other ministries in the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

In Christ's Service,

## Top Congregations to be Honored at Regional Church Assembly

### Top 12 contributors to DMF

1. First Christian Church, Edmond
2. First Christian Church, Norman
3. Harvard Ave. Christian, Tulsa
4. Southern Hills Christian, Edmond
5. Bethany Christian Church, Tulsa
6. Central Christian Church, Enid
7. First Christian Church, Ponca City
8. First Christian Church, Stillwater
9. Northwest Christian Church, OKC
10. First Christian Church, Midwest City
11. First Christian Church, Hobart
12. First Christian Church, Moore

### Top 10 additions by baptism or transfer

1. First Christian Church, Edmond
2. In the Spirit Christian Church, Tulsa
3. Harvard Ave. Christian Church, Tulsa
4. First Christian Church, Guthrie
5. First Christian Church, Fredrick
6. New Covenant Christian, OKC
7. Western Oaks Christian, OKC
8. First Christian Church, Duncan
9. Midwest Blvd. Christian, MWC
10. Wildewood Christian Church, OKC
10. First Christian Church, Tulsa
10. Waukomis Christian Church

### Top 5 Disciples Women giving to DMF

1. First Christian Church, Duncan
2. Central Christian Church, Enid
3. Southern Hills Christian, Edmond
4. First Christian Church, Bartlesville
5. First Christian Church, Stillwater

### Top 10 per capita spent for outreach

1. Arnett Christian Church
2. Odyssey Christian Church, Tulsa
3. First Christian Church, Tahlequah
4. West Point Christian Church, Yukon
5. Bethany Christian Church, Tulsa
6. First Christian Church, Bartlesville
7. First Christian Church, Wetumka
8. First Christian Church, Hobart
9. Harvard Ave. Christian Church, Tulsa
10. First Christian Church, Geary

continued on page 8

Grace and peace to you from God, the Creator, and our Lord, Jesus Christ!

This month we kick off the 2012 Annual Fund campaign for the Oklahoma Regional Church. Begun 10 years ago, the Annual Fund has become a vital funding stream for ministries accomplished throughout Oklahoma. Last year, more than



International Affairs Seminar, 2011

\$150,000 (152,351.77) was raised for the Operating Budget. What this means directly is that three Associate Regional Pastors' salaries, health insurance, pensions, and travel allowances were covered by the Annual Fund. **Without this fund, we would have three less ministers on regional church staff.**

Disciples all across Oklahoma



Rev. Devon McAnally, BCC Associate Regional Pastor for Health Care Advocacy

## DRCO Ministries In Action

While funding remains separate, the Disciples Retirement Community of Oklahoma, Inc. (DRCO) and the Oklahoma Regional Church work in partnership to offer a ministry of continuing care, protection, counseling and comfort to aging members and disabled persons. This is a vital part of the mission, witness, and service of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma.

On May 18th, 2005 the first meeting of the Disciples Retirement Community of Oklahoma, Inc. occurred. DRCO was established by the Oklahoma Regional Church Board in response to the National Benevolent Association's (NBA) liquidation of the church-owned retirement facility known as Oklahoma Christian Retirement Community in Edmond. This facility is now known as Bradford Village. There continues to be a long history of providing congregational and individual funding for benevolent care of residents who were impacted by the Oklahoma Christian Retirement Community liquidation and continue to live at Bradford Village. Any member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who was a resident of Oklahoma Retirement Community (now Bradford Village) at the time of the liquidation on April 15, 2005 is eligible for assistance.

In 2005, more than 70 individuals were eligible for assistance. Today, there remains close to 40. Assistance is currently being provided to one individual with the potential for more as our benevolent ministry continues. While the number of individuals eligible for assistance has decreased the need for continued financial contributions remains so that benevolent care can be provided should the need arise. While providing assistance to those impacted by the Oklahoma Christian Retirement Community liquidation has been the primary goal, DRCO members continued to envision an expanding ministry opportunity.

DRCO continues to realize the need for continuing care, protection and comfort for the older members of our denomination. Discussions occurred as early as October of 2005, when need for a Health Care Advocacy program was identified. In 2008 the Health Care Advocate ministry came to fruition. The Rev. Billie Lee was called to serve as Health Care Advocate. It was under her leadership the foundation for this ministry was developed. The goal was to be a resource for congregations and individuals seeking health-related assistance. The target audience was primarily senior adults. The hope was that the program would expand to include health-care ministries for all generations.

This program, funded by DRCO contributions, continues to grow and develop into a vital and much needed ministry. This past year 18 presentations were made to congregations and groups throughout the Oklahoma Regional Church. More than 31 published articles have been written for area newsletters, *The Oklahoma Christian* and the Health Care Ministries newsletter. The website, [www.okdiscipleshealth.org](http://www.okdiscipleshealth.org), continues development.

The website contains information for those needing assistance in evaluating living facilities. It also contains information on various health-related topics. Additional information will be added throughout this coming year. Relationships are continuing to be developed and fostered with many organizations at

The Oklahoma Christian, March, 2012

## Rev. Dr. Les Brown Retires

After nearly 25 years of service as senior pastor of First Christian Church, Midwest City, Rev. Dr. Les Brown retired. On February 19th, Regional Pastor Rev. Dr. Thomas R. Jewell presented Dr. Brown with the honored minister pin and his wife, Joyce, with a certificate of appreciation. After 38 years of ministry, beginning at Valley Christian Church in Twin Falls, ID, Brown decided it was



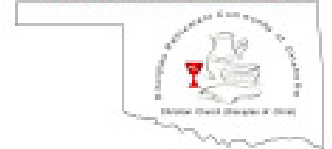
time to give some undivided time to his wife. He was ordained at Britton Christian Church, Oklahoma City, in 1969 and was awarded the Doctor of Ministry degree from Phillips Graduate Seminary (now Phillips Theological Seminary) in 1981. He saw First Christian Church, Midwest City, through its move to a new location and building of a new church facility in 2001 and the completion of the Jeanette Clemons Family Life Center earlier this year. He will continue his work with the regional Commissioned Ministry Training Program

the state, county and city levels. There is a great deal of excitement by these organizations at the prospect of working with faith-based groups to offer education, health-care advocacy and wellness care to the various communities throughout Oklahoma. Community organizations are realizing the value of inviting faith-based organizations to the community health-planning table. Faith-based organizations are stable, enduring and often the most trusted institutions in the community. They can be identified with almost every cultural and ethnic group and frequently serve as a point where large numbers of people regularly congregate. People often turn to their faith for strength in times of illness and stress.

This vital ministry of caring is such a part of the Great Commission to which we as Church and as individuals are called. Caring for our seniors at Bradford Village and the development of a health-care program are meaningful and vital ministries. I personally thank all those who contribute funds and time to making these ministries successful. I ask for you to prayerfully consider how you might financially help DRCO to continue these ministries this coming year and into the future.

Shalom,

### Health Care Ministries





## Moments of Grace

by Pastors Eula Hledik and Debbie Keith  
New Covenant Christian Church,  
Oklahoma City

### There is a Time for Every Season Under Heaven

**“The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you” 2 Timothy 4:22**

Usually at this point in the year, we are looking forward to spring. But this year, we haven't really experienced winter, yet. It is disconcerting -- many of us aren't experiencing our usual winter colds; but, we are caught up in spring allergies! Winter weather itself gives us a gift -- a time we are forced to slow down or completely stop for a while.

More than the effect the lack of winter is having on our bodies is the trick it plays on our minds. Things seem “out of kilter,” not in the right place. Instead of celebrating the mild weather, everything seems a little chaotic, out of place. We have missed our time of winter's retreat into our homes, into our quiet time, into our time with God.

Indeed, there is a time for every season under heaven. Before we actually face the heightened activities of spring and summer, maybe it is time we design our own winter. Maybe, the time now is for a retreat -- into quiet, into reflection, into solitude, to be still enough to hear God's whisper.

Throughout the Gospel, Jesus models the necessity of retreat with God. It both nourishes and sustains Him, as well as prepares Him for what was to follow. In moments of stress or grief, after great activity or anticipating great distress, Jesus went to God in quiet and prayer. He took time alone. It cannot be overemphasized, we were designed to be creatures longing -- both for time in the presence of our Creator and times to rest and renew ourselves so that we, too, can face what is to come.

There is no doubt that we live lives of busy-ness. Sometimes we use that as an excuse for neglecting to find the time to just “be” -- no activity, no television, no texting, no Facebook, no Tweeting, no demands. In effect, we give ourselves permission to neglect the One who made us, with little thought as to how we are made. We lack so many things that can be found in prayer and a good nap!

“...Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”? (TNIV)



**From the doorsteps of your congregation to the ends of the earth, the General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) resource congregations for mission. The 2012 Easter Offering provides 20-25 percent of the annual funding for General Ministries.**

**The Easter Offering will be received on April 1 and 8, 2012.**

## Summer Ministry 2012

### REGISTRATION OPEN

Is church camp on your calendar for this summer? The Regional Church is working with volunteer directors and counselors right now to prepare for a summer of play, prayer, worship, study, and service for children and youth in grades 2-12. The 2012 theme is, “Secrets of the Kingdom.” This summer campers will discover the Truth that can be found in the parables of Jesus and ponder how these little brain teasers shape how we participate in the kingdom of God that is in our midst.



February 1 to April 13, the discount rates (fees) apply when youth register for camp. From April 14 - May 15, the regular rates apply for camp. The Regional Church did not raise its rates for 2012, even though our site costs increased. Visit <http://www.okdisciples.org/youth/index.html> to learn more and download the congregational registration package or individual forms.

#### Summer Ministry 2012 by Age Groups

- Triple Camp (Juniors / Chi Rho / CYF) @ Cross Point - May 29-June 2
- Chi Rho/CYF @ Camp Christian - July 16-21
- CYF Conference @ Central Christian Camp - June 25-30
- Discovery @ Central Christian Camp - June 22-24
- Junior 1 @ Central Christian Camp - June 4-8
- Junior 2 @ Central Christian Camp - June 25-29
- Junior @ Camp Christian - July 9-13
- Chi Rho 1 @ Central Christian Camp - June 4-8
- Chi Rho 2 @ Central Christian Camp - July 9-14

### CYYA MINISTRIES 2012

The experiences we offer together from weekend retreats to summer ministry to International Affairs Seminar to Young Adult ministry, build relationships, leadership capacity, and strengthen the Church today as well as the Church of tomorrow. Our program ministry for children, youth, and young adults is based in education, mission, and spirituality. But, you know that. What you may not know is that it in order to keep these opportunities affordable we need to raise \$25,000 to underwrite these program ministries each year. So, like many that work with children, youth, and young adults in your midst, I'm an advocate and fundraiser. I need your help. I'm looking for grants and sponsors to help underwrite these experiences and events for 2012 and 2013.

#### Youth Worker Sabbath - March 1-3 / August 9-11 (2012)

These short retreats are designed for persons that work with children and youth as volunteers, part-time or full-time staff. The retreats will in

*continued on page 6*



**Rev. Dr. Gary Byrkit**  
Regional Moderator  
Senior Pastor, Southern Hills  
Christian Church, Edmond

## From Your Regional Moderator

### The Multipliers

The memory is quite clear, perhaps the third grade or so, when a man in a dark suit representing the First National Bank of Peoria came to our classroom to explain the concept of compounded interest. He said it was the greatest thing since sliced bread and seemed to be very excited about it. When you start a savings account, he said, the money you place in that account earns interest, a certain percentage. He showed us how it worked

on the blackboard—do you remember blackboards? Earned interest becomes part of the principal so that the interest then earns interest. And to make things even better, said the banker, if you develop the discipline of placing money in your account every week, it grows like crazy. He had a graph to show the difference between simple interest and compounded interest. For just 50 cents a week we could all be millionaires by the time we reached the eighth grade—or something like that.

At some later moment I learned that human energies are compounded in a similar fashion. Some call it “synergy.” In the church we call it the “Holy Spirit,” when the outcome is so much greater (even miraculous) than the sum of our individual contributions of time and effort.

In the Fall of 2010 Annie and I were privileged to join a delegation of Oklahoma Disciples in touring a mission site in the Dominican Republic. Begun fourteen years ago by Sister Denise Piccardo, Caminante offers far-reaching services to street kids in Boca Chica who are at risk for being drawn into the sex trade. An amazing array of programs have evolved: supervised homework rooms for elementary age children who can’t afford the uniform to attend public schools (including the “Oklahoma Homework Room”), computer classes and job training for young adults, recreation programs, micro-credit lending to help young women start their own businesses, counseling, and advocacy. As a Region we support Caminate through our mission dollars, prayers, and work details.

One day we sat in a circle with a group of enthusiastic young adults who had gone through the program and were now part of “The Multipliers.” These young people take the message of Caminate into the community. They speak at parent meetings, school gatherings, and public forums. They presented to us one of the mini dramas they had created to accentuate their message that every child has a right to an education. Every child has a right to have a voice and be heard. Every child has a right not to be abused or sexually exploited. What really impressed was the dedication and passion these young adults had for their mission “to multiply the good works of Caminate.”

As those who call ourselves “Church,” it seems to me that we are multipliers too. Those of us who have been through the program, received such great Good News, and been bathed in the waters of Baptism ought to have some passion for compounding it, for passing it on, for getting the word out there, for **being** the word out there. “What does the Lord require of you but to

do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.” And “to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength...and your neighbor as yourself.” “To proclaim that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh.” In those words are nothing less than the formula for changing the world. How could we not be passionate about that? What would it be like if we got excited again about being the multipliers for the Reign of God?

Thank you for the opportunity of serving as your moderator during these last two years. I look forward to seeing each of you at the Regional Assembly in Duncan, April 26-28.

### News of the Congregations

The Christian Church Commission held its annual meeting on January 30 at First Christian Church, Midwest City. Rev. Charlie Wallace from Church Extension’s new “Hope Partnership” addressed the group, sharing information on trends in new church development and demographic data for new church possibilities in Oklahoma.



**South Grand Lake Christian Church, Langley, burns its mortgage as Associate Pastor Chuck Jackson watches.**

The Commission’s mission is to fund grants to local, new church ministries in the Central Area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma, and is funded by participants in the “1,000 Club.” The Club sends an appeal for \$10 (or more, if one chooses) two times a year, providing funds for new church development.

Currently, Iglesia Christiana, a congregation in Oklahoma City, is receiving funding from the group. For more information, contact Mr. Harry Rountree, president of the Commission, at [routree1@cox.net](mailto:routree1@cox.net).

### Ordinations



**The Oklahoma Regional Church and the Great River Regional Church joined to celebrate the ordination of Bill Hemm on February 12, 2012 at First Christian Church, Jenks, Oklahoma.**



**Mary Heath, co-pastor of Edmond Trinity Christian Church, was ordained to Christian Ministry on January 29, 2012. Regional Pastor Rev. Dr. Thomas R. Jewelled celebrated the ordination.**

## Summer Ministry



served as the General Youth Minister for the denomination. Randy created "Emerging Designs" after his work with the Youth Spirituality Project. We need \$4,000 to underwrite the two retreats this year so participant fees can be kept below \$80 per person. Dates for 2013 will be scheduled in September of this year and the focus will be on biblical studies and pastoral care.

include education, spirituality, and time for rest and connections to others that share the vision, joy, and sometimes heartbreak of working with children and youth. The retreats this year will focus on personal spirituality, self awareness, and will be led by Rev. Randy Kuss. Randy has served in youth ministry for 40 years and for a time

### International Affairs Seminar - March 16-24

The theme for this year's study trip is "Who is Welcome: What is a Christian Response in the Immigration Debate?" In March, 11 youth and 4 adults, will travel to Washington D.C. and New York City to study this topic. The group will visit with Rep. Dan Boren (Oklahoma District 2) and tour the Capitol while in D.C. To keep the trip affordable for the youth the Regional Church does not charge the young people fees to cover the adults that attend the trip with them. We need to raise \$10,000 to help scholarship each young person by paying the expense of the adults. This money also supports the housing costs, the educational seminars through the United Methodist Seminar, and some meals. Visit the IAS web page (<http://www.okdisciples.org/youth/IAS/IAS2012.html>) to download the current itinerary or make a gift. Our thanks to these that have made gifts as of *The Oklahoma Christian* publication date: First Christian Church, Sulphur, First Christian Church, Claremore, Andy Beck, Kirby Gould, Wayne Majors and Michael Davison.

### Youth@Assembly - April 27-29

As the Regional Church Assembly ends on April 28, Youth@Assembly will just be beginning. Chi Rho and CYF youth groups are invited to Duncan for a weekend of mission, worship, and play. Help underwrite this weekend as we raise \$1,500 to support the program and banquet meal on Saturday evening. Youth groups, as a great cloud of witnesses, will do mission work on Saturday morning following prayers and return to First Christian Church, Duncan for the closing worship service for the Regional Church Assembly. New members of the Regional Youth Council will be installed on Sunday morning worship of Youth@Assembly.

### Mission El Reno - July 22-27

This partnership event between First Christian Church, El Reno and the Regional Church will welcome 200+ youth in grades 8-12 and their

adult sponsors. Rev. Brandon Gilvin, Associate Executive Director of Week of Compassion, will speak at worship each evening and go to worksites with the groups Tuesday-Thursday. We need \$2,000 to support Mission El Reno and Week of Compassion.

### Qahal / Koinonia - Nov 9-11

This weekend retreat for Chi Rho and CYF youth groups will offer a keynote speaker, workshops, worship, and mission opportunities that are planned and led by the Regional Youth Council (RYC). This final experience of 2012 will celebrate the Disciples of Christ in Oklahoma and look to 2013 when the RYC will lead a weekend gathering for Chi Rho youth (Qahal) in the spring and a weekend gathering for CYF youth (Koinonia) in the fall. We need \$3,000 to support Qahal/Koinonia 2012.



### Regional Youth Council

This group of youth and adults are the servant leaders for the children and youth of the Christian Church in Oklahoma. RYC plan and lead weekend retreats, work on their own leadership skills and are active members in their local congregations. You will see many RYC members at Regional Church Assembly as well as at Youth@Assembly. RYC meets twice a year

face-to-face and uses technology to do their work. When they are together they sleep on floors and couches and the Regional Church provides meals and snacks for them as well as underwrites a bit of their registration for the retreats they lead. We need \$2,000 to scholarship RYC members to Regional Assembly, Youth@Assembly, and Qahal / Koinonia.



This is a brief glimpse of the horizon and yes, these are BIG numbers when times are good as well as when times are tough. This is missional ministry because we are raising up leaders, lay and ordained, for our denomination, the ecumenical Church and our culture. Children, Youth, and Young Adults are the Church today and the Church tomorrow. Please contact Rev. Michael Davison if you have questions or would like to make a gift to sponsor one of these experiences this year.

Thank you for supporting ministry in your local congregation. Be well and centered.

Peace . . .



Regional Commission on Laity

## Equipping the Saints

by Rev. Loma Sullivan, Associate Regional Pastor



We – the church, the Body of Christ – are a community of saints and sinners or, to use a descriptive label found in the Hebrew Scriptures, a “peculiar people”. We each have a particular story to tell about how God has dealt with us throughout our lives – how we are working at moving from being sinner to saint. That’s what makes us “peculiar” - our different stories. And, since we claim to be followers of Christ – Christians – we have been called to tell the Gospel story, or the “good news” of just how knowing Jesus has affected our lives.

Now, each of us being who we are – different, and all – will have a slightly different story to tell because, of course, each of us has had different experiences in our lives with Christ. Therefore, it seems that we have some choices to make here. We can let those differences divide us, or we can use those differences to showcase our diversity as the one Body of Christ.

The problems that arise from our focusing on the differences among us and letting them divide us are evident – we can fight over almost anything. (And some of us do.)

But God’s joy comes when we can learn to recognize the image of God in other peculiar people and then celebrate that image. That’s not so hard to do if we remember that we were all created by the one Creator (in God’s image) and it is our calling to share our stories so that we can identify that likeness – the likeness to each other and the likeness to God.

So, if your congregation is getting up in arms over some issue(s), how about remembering again what it is that makes us one Body of Christ: the fact that we share a meal together each Worship time, or that we worship the same God, or that Jesus quoted the greatest commandment for us to follow, “love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind” and then he added “and the second is just like the first, love your neighbor as yourself”.

In order to love myself, I’ve got to have a lot of forgiveness for my own “falling short of the Glory of God” and, in order to love my neighbor, I’ve got to have as much forgiveness for my neighbor as I have for myself. That’s how we can equip the saints that are with us on this journey!



## Nail Crosses

Rev. Will Bentley, First Christian Church, Lindsay, is minister by vocation and a metal sculptor by hobby. He makes beautiful crosses from nails usually used to shoe horses. These crosses have decorated many churches, homes, desks & communion tables. As part of Rev. Bentley’s Lenten Journey he has made several of these available to you, Disciples across Oklahoma. These are on display at the Oklahoma Disciples Center in Oklahoma City and in the Northeast Area office in Tulsa. If you wish to purchase one you may do so by calling 405-528-3577 or 918-743-6202.

## “Leave No Child Behind”



“Leave No Child Behind” is a program sponsored by Central Area Disciples Men that invites men to give “over and above” regular and mission offerings in order to lower the cost of summer camps and conferences at Central Christian Camp for all Disciples youth attending. Because of generous donations over the past year, the Regional Church will be able to lower the discount rates for all camps offered at Central Christian Camp and Conference Center this summer.



The rates listed below are good for registrations postmarked or received online through April 13. After that date regular rates apply. All registration closes May 15.

**Discovery @ Central - \$105**  
(was \$145)

**Junior 1 @ Central - \$225**  
(was \$265)

**Junior 2 @ Central - \$225**  
(was \$265)

**Chi Rho 1 @ Central - \$230**  
(was \$270)

**Chi Rho 2 @ Central - \$240**  
(was \$280)

**CYF Conference@Central - \$260**  
(was \$300)

## Directory

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Financial Administrator/  
Building Manager  
**Ms. Myrna Ranney**  
Administrative Assistant  
**Mrs. Laura Townsley**  
Administrative Assistant



## Regional Church Assembly

April 26-28, 2012  
First Christian Church, Duncan

Make your plans now to attend the 2012 Oklahoma Regional Church Assembly, April 26 – 28 at First Christian Church, Duncan. The worship, workshops and study sessions will coalesce around John 1:1. You can register on-line at [www.okdisciples.org](http://www.okdisciples.org) and your local congregation has registration

forms for you to complete. The guest speaker is Rev. Dr. Michael Mooty, Senior Minister of Central Christian Church, Lexington, KY, and former Moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

Workshops will be lead by Dr. Brandon Scott, concerning the Gospel of John; Rev. Dr. Lisa Davison, concerning the book of Genesis; and Rev. Dr. Mady Fraser, concerning Spirituality. These will be conducted on Friday morning, Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.

Registration begins at 3 pm on Thursday, April 26. The Clergy Banquet is later that evening at 6 pm followed by worship at 7:30. Disciple Men will prepare the All-Assembly Breakfast on Saturday morning and Disciple Men and Women will have their luncheons on Saturday at noon. Youth registration and details area available on the CYYA webpage. Child care for infants through age 5 is provided for free.



Rev. Dr. Michael Mooty

## Registration

_____ Entire weekend -- Adults \$50	\$ _____	Name _____
_____ Friday Only -- Adults \$30	\$ _____	Address _____
_____ Saturday Only -- Adults \$30	\$ _____	City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
_____ Children (grades 1-5) \$5	\$ _____	E-Mail _____
_____ Thursday Golf \$45	\$ _____	Congregation _____ City _____
_____ Thursday Clergy Banquet \$14	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check enclosed <input type="checkbox"/> Credit card
_____ Friday All-Assembly Banquet \$14	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discovery
_____ Women's Luncheon \$14	\$ _____	exp. date _____
_____ Men's Luncheon \$14	\$ _____	card # _____
_____ Child Care (infants through age 5) (free)	_____	billing address _____ zip _____
<b>Total Registration Cost</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>	signature _____

Make checks payable to: Christian Church in Oklahoma. Mail to 301 NW 36th, Oklahoma City, OK 73118. Registrations are also available online at [www.okdisciples.org](http://www.okdisciples.org), (405) 528-3577, (888) 528-6552 or e-mail questions to [mranney@okdisciples.org](mailto:mranney@okdisciples.org)

## Pastor's Birthdays

### March

- 3 Marilyn Merle
- 4 Kitty Fisher
- 7 Kinsie Tate
- 8 Ray Belford
- 8 Jean Scott Gauldin
- 8 Ursula Lichtenberger
- 9 Ron Nofziger
- 10 Richard Connelly
- 10 Ish Engle
- 10 Tracy Wilson
- 11 Roger Barnes
- 12 Les Brown
- 12 Ralph Ranney
- 13 Don Johnson
- 13 Jim Ward
- 14 Chuck Shorow
- 15 Jo-Ann Jennings
- 15 Dean McDaniel
- 15 Paul Redden
- 16 Chris Shorow
- 16 Chris Short
- 17 Ron Eden
- 20 Lee Mefford
- 24 Harold Shore
- 25 Richard Cayton
- 26 David Hand
- 27 John Imbler
- 31 Fred Turner
- 31 Bob Elliott

### April

- 1 Gary Byrkit
- 1 Glenn Cowperthwaite
- 2 George Faulk
- 2 Shane Hickey
- 3 Claude Shue
- 3 Dan Weaver
- 5 Laurel Ragland
- 6 Mark Briley
- 6 Beth Ann French
- 8 Sei Touthang

- 10 Mary Tinnea
- 12 Parker Cross
- 16 LaVerne Draper
- 16 Tim Pool
- 19 B.J. Gensic
- 19 Charles Ragland
- 20 Gary Hardwick
- 22 Sharyn Cosby
- 27 Janet Parachin
- 28 Bill Shaw
- 29 John Bloss
- 29 Donna Gilchrist
- 30 Loretta Dene Payne

### May

- 1 Michael Oberlender
- 1 John Wheeler
- 2 Truman Ferguson
- 2 L.H. Hames
- 2 Carl Tinnea
- 4 Kim Hames
- 4 Larry Metzger
- 7 Rita Newton
- 8 Marilyn Lanphier
- 8 Romney Nesbitt
- 9 Phil Ball
- 9 Mike Hays
- 11 Tom Scott
- 12 Dick Johnson
- 16 Eula Hledik
- 17 Tanya Walker
- 18 Lisa Davison
- 19 Fred Rider
- 20 Don Heath
- 21 Sherry Shaw
- 23 Rosaura Hernandez
- 23 Jerry Hudson
- 23 Michael Clifton
- 23 Wayne Majors
- 24 Larry Stuart
- 30 Ronnie Fields
- 31 Bill Shields

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## Top 10

### Top 10 congregations sending youth to camp

1. First Christian Church, Tulsa
2. Central Christian Church, Fairview
3. First Christian Church, Guthrie
4. New Covenant Christian, OKC
5. Western Oaks Christian, OKC
6. First Christian Church, Edmond
7. First Christian Church, Midwest City
8. First Christian Church, Duncan
9. Central Christian Church, Enid
10. First Christian Church, Yukon