

CENTENARIAN BOARD MEMBER RUTH POWELL HOBBS RETIRES: AWARDED BOARD MEMBER EMERITA STANDING A Woman Worthy of Praise

Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all. Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring praise at the city gate.

Proverbs 31: 29 & 30

Before her board retirement on February 26, 2020, I often said about Ruth Powell Hobbs: “Who can say they have a 105 year old board member who is sharp as a tack - both in the wisdom she shares and in her dress.” Of course my answer was: “The Oldtimers’ Grapevine can make that claim with admiration, gratitude, and great joy.”

Ruth Powell Hobbs’ service to the Grapevine ministry is unparalleled. She was one of the ten founding board members who began their service in 1993 (It should be noted the Newsletter started in 1991). She caught the vision of the Grapevine founder, William K. Fox, Sr. and faithfully carried on the mission of the ministry for 27 years. Upon her retirement from the board, at the age of 105, she remains the only living member of the original board.

The Grapevine board will remember Mrs. Hobbs with fondness, with appreciation, and with awe. We have always been so taken with how she could do so much, so well, for so long, with such ease and style: while at the same time show such humility and appreciation for others. Over the 27 years Mrs. Hobbs was a faithful, informed, involved and financially supportive board member. Her wisdom was often paired with her wit, making it more likely that others would listen to, and agree what she had to say. It is easy to see why she is a such a highly respected and beloved board member.

In addition to her impactful board service; Mrs. Hobbs also shared her creative talents with Grapevine readers. She submitted poems, games, and articles for publication in the Grapevine. A bibliography of her works indicated over

ten submissions in a seven year period. Please take note of her latest poem in this issue.

As the board considered the uniqueness of Ruth Powell Hobbs contribution to the ministry of the Grapevine, on June 30, 2020, the board unanimously awarded her Board Member Emerita standing. Such standing is a one time, exclusive honor bestowed on a founding board member who served 27 years until her retirement on February 26, 2020, at the age of 105. As

the one and only Board Member Emerita, Ruth Powell Hobbs will be listed in each issue of the Grapevine forthcoming. Mrs. Hobbs will receive a *Certificate of Outstanding Service*, as well as an *Engraved Crystal Heart Award*. to convey the deep love and appreciation this board and staff feel for her devoted and historic service. Her imprint on the Grapevine ministry is broad and deep.

Board Member Emerita Ruth Powell Hobbs will continue to be a treasured presence in the Grapevine ministry. Her legacy reminds us of the importance of “catching the vision of a new thing” and giving faithful service to enable that “new thing” to become a treasured source of enlightenment, social connection, and hope for Disciples. Her legacy will motivate the work of this ministry for years to come...

The board, staff, and readers of the Grapevine give you honor and praise
Ruth Powell Hobbs, Board Member Emerita: 1993-2020.



**LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT; Norma Ellington-Twitty, Ph.D.
REFLECTIONS ON OUR TIMES**

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6: 9 NIV

Dear Beloved Grapevine Readers,

My prayer is that you are well, as all of us continue to deal with the challenge of a global pandemic; as well as a nation wrestling with the ugly effects of racism and struggling to come up with what to do about it.

As for the pandemic, if you have experienced loss as a result of the corona virus, the Grapevine board and staff extend our sympathies to you and your family. Our prayer is that you will receive the comfort “for those who mourn” that is promised in scripture. ...

If the pandemic has left you with too much “down time:” I would suggest a good read. My exercise buddy, Vivian Gibson has written a memoir: “The Last Children of Millcreek.” Please see her article in this issue: “*The Right Time: Becoming a Published Author at Age 70.*” I asked Vivian to write this article for the Grapevine as a way to encourage our readers to go boldly forward to realize their dreams. Whether you write a book or not; Vivian’s story tells us it is never too late to dream a new dream or make an old dream come true.

In contrast to my uplifting and positive reasons for asking Vivian to share her story; as I processed the protests to end racism; I became aware of an aspect of institutional racism that is often invisible. Her title



bespeaks what happens in urban areas across the country where there is deliberate disinvestment in an identified neighborhood of color by government and business. As a result, homes deteriorate, upwardly mobile residents move out, and the people struggle to maintain a viable life style. It is at this point public attention is drawn to a “slum” that needs to be razed - all in the name of “progress.” Thousands of displaced persons are “racially steered” to other neighborhoods in the city and the pattern repeats itself. Years later, the people who were in those neighborhoods are forgotten. Thanks to Vivian, she makes real the dynamic and vibrant Mill Creek community as she shares her family life, as well as the institutions that made her community a great place to live...

In the previous issue, Bill Mauk described his introduction to urban ministry. Please check out his second article, in a series of three: “*The Bridge of Hope*”. It is hoped that his story will

motivate more of us to invest in the urban core that is surrounded by affluent suburbs...

Finally, I was moved to write an article for this issue that provides important lessons to end racism, from the work of my father, Norman Sims Ellington, a founder of the Mother-To-Mother program. It would be good to hear from women who were a part of the Mother-To-Mother teams that were formed over 50 years ago, with the goal of bridging the racial divide...

The work continues... quitting is not an option...

**THE RIGHT TIME:
BECOMING A PUBLISHED AUTHOR AT AGE 70**
by Vivian Gibson

I wrote a memoir last year about growing up in a segregated community in downtown St. Louis, Missouri, called Mill Creek Valley. In 1959 the city razed the 452 acres where 20,000 African Americans had lived since the early 1900s when most arrived after migrating from Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

"My father was the grandson of Mississippi slaves, and the son of a thrice-married and divorced mother,

who cleaned white peoples' homes and cared for their children in three states, by the time they settled in St. Louis in 1929, when he was fifteen years old. They joined the wave of blacks moving north in the Great Migration to escape the tyranny of Southern apartheid, and seek a better education for their children. He attended the newly-constructed Vashon High School—built to accommodate the city's fast-growing black community in Mill Creek Valley".

- Excerpt from "The Last Children of Mill Creek

When I retired from recruiting volunteer mentors for Big Brothers Big Sisters in January of 2015, I ignored advice from those retirees who had preceded me. One unheeded suggestion was: "don't over-schedule." In my first year of retirement, I served on a school board and my condo board, played in a golf league, tutored a second-grader, joined a community roof gardening group, and added a second book club. Sometime around the middle of that first year of voluntary unemployment, I decided to purge unwanted paper in file drawers and on just about every surface in my second bedroom/office. I bought a paper shredder and whirred through mounds of documents off and on for weeks. I stopped periodically to read, then set aside, yellow pads, spiral notebooks, single sheets of paper, envelopes, even paper napkins, all scrawled with thoughts I'd deemed worthy of recording over decades.

Coinciding with signing up for social security benefits, I noticed my junk mail taking on a distinctively geriatric theme: senior living brochures, ads for health identification bracelets, funeral arrangements, and estate planners had started showing up in my mailbox. On a more optimistic side, the local St. Louis Oasis catalog promoted "Lifelong Adventure". I signed up for intergenerational tutor training, then an exercise class, and a fascinating seminar on the life of W.E.B. Du Bois. Eventually, I joined a creative writing workshop. The slightly daunting class description read, "*Class members will have the opportunity to share their writing with the group and receive feedback.*" The workshop participants were mostly retired physicians, lawyers, educators, and business professionals who now had the time to write poetry, a novel they'd been thinking about for years, or a memoir. After a few classes, I worked up the nerve to share my first piece. The feedback was positive and constructive—the first rules of workshoping. Soon I looked forward to reading my stories aloud.

Then things went in an unexpected direction. My fellow writers started talking about my work as if I were one of them, you know, a writer. I was the only black person in the class, so I thought they were overly indulgent to make me feel accepted. I'd been dodging curiosities and well-intended micro-aggressions since the first class. And I was convinced their positive feedback had to do with my subject matter. I wrote mostly about my childhood in a part of St. Louis that few white people had ever experienced. Besides, I had



no delusions about being a writer. I wanted help in organizing years of thoughts and memories into a coherent manuscript that I could share with my family.

As is my tendency, I threw myself into months of writing and rewriting my "mini memoirs." The workshop leader suggested I submit something to a literary magazine, "Vivian, people want to read about this," she said. I resisted because I was not convinced that what I had so much fun writing was literary. Eventually, I submitted a piece to a request for stories written by Black women. It became part of an off-off-Broadway spoken word production in Brooklyn. I was amazed and excited but still feeling like a pretender.

Late one night, my workshop leader emailed a link from Belt Publishing—a request for contributors to a St. Louis Anthology. She wrote, "You should submit to this." I submitted two recently workshoped pieces. The next morning, the editor of the anthology wrote back saying, "At a quick glance, I think these are fantastic. If you have more, I would love for you to submit them as well." I sent two more stories. He selected three for the anthology.

While I was trying to wrap my head around the idea that my little stories would be in a book for the world, or St. Louis, to read, I got another email. It was from the publisher of the anthology at Belt. She wrote that the editor of *The St. Louis Anthology* shared my submissions with her, and she "loved them." She wrote, "Your writing is gorgeous, and the life and history you discuss are fascinating. I would be thrilled to discuss the possibility of Belt publishing this memoir you are currently drafting. I think this book will find many eager readers."

My book, *The Last Children of Mill Creek*, was published April 20, 2020 (Belt Publishing).

It is not my intention to suggest anyone recently retired begin to write a book. But I can say that attempting something new and entirely outside of my comfort area was an exciting and refreshing experience that came at the right time in my life.

Portions of this article appeared in Oasis St. Louis 'Online Newsletter, May 2020.

Vivian Gibson's memoir, *The Last Children of Mill Creek*, can be ordered at beltpublishing.com, or amazon.com Visit her author page: vivian-gibson.com.

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THE BRIDGE OF HOPE

By William C. Mauk

The mission field is where you find it. Or where a ministry finds you. My introduction to “urban ministry” began 7 years ago when our small church began tutoring students at an elementary school in the predominantly black neighborhood of North St. Louis City known as The Ville. That was the church’s ministry. I wrote about that in the last issue of the Grapevine. My ministry began across the street.

This is a neighborhood with dozens of abandoned homes, and if you are a resident, you feel fortunate when the city levels the abandoned house next door before the deterioration becomes too unsightly and dangerous. There were two cleared lots, side by side, directly across the street from the school where we tutored. Could we use them? Wow! We discovered that the city of St. Louis will eagerly lease these lots for \$15 a year as long as you maintain the lot and don’t add a permanent structure.

Our vision was to build a community garden on these two lots. We envisioned families gardening together, learning new skills, keeping youth occupied in the summer, and everyone eating the very best, nutritious



vegetables at no cost. A gofundme page helped raise \$1,800, allowing us to build 18 raised garden beds, purchase composted garden soil, and seed. By spring, we arranged with the principal to have every class visit the garden. After I explained the growing process and how the garden was theirs for the summer, every single student in the school got to plant a few seeds. Throughout the summer, when we had visitors, each young one would point to the very largest plant and proudly proclaim “that’s the one I planted!!”

Inevitably, I guess, we only maintained the garden a few years. Yes, there were some wonderful moments, for sure. Seeing kids pick the perfect cherry tomato and popping it in their mouth. There was the girl that pulled all the plants in one bed because she wanted to get to plant them again when we came a week later.

And it was fun, and tense, helping 12-year-olds learn to guide a lawn mower around the vegetable beds.

But In spite of our good intentions to provide healthy vegetables while teaching children and adults to grow their own food, we had neglected to ask if anyone in the community actually wanted a community garden. In the heat of summer, we were often alone. Lesson learned. If you want to help, you must first ask people what help they want.

It was then that God provided me with a teacher. His name is Stephen Boda. Stephen and his wife, Robin, have an urban ministry team like no other. The Boda’s



ministry, prophetically named Bridge of Hope, has been serving the Ville for well more than 20 years. (Google “The Ville, St. Louis” if you are not familiar with this community.) Stephen saw me in the garden one day and stopped to visit. We shared a few garden stories, and he invited me to see what they were doing just a few blocks away.

Bridge of Hope is a day shelter helping families and individuals in crisis where poverty and addiction has affected their lives. I believe the ministry started as little more than a warm retreat from the cold, and a loving couple willing to listen. But I’ll let their website tell this part of the story:

“In our community, housing is an enormous need—both immediate and long-term. One of the obstacles to consistent home rental or ownership is general life skills training—literacy, healthy eating, job readiness, transportation, and community engagement. Through Bridge of Hope and Hope Education, Ville neighbors are learning to read, learning to eat healthy food, learning how to maintain a home, learning how to use a budget and gaining access to money-saving ideas. We assist people to live in the same place for a length of time rather than living crisis to crisis by giving them effective tools.”

Bridge of Hope is currently housed in a former school annex building with about 8 classrooms. A large room near the entrance is a homey warming room with tables, booths, tv, and fresh coffee. And to be honest, the building is a special blessing in that it also offers

bathrooms with several stalls and sinks, often a major luxury for homeless individuals.

Stephen and Robin, and their daughter Lydia, have formed their ministry by listening to what people would like to have to improve their lives. That's the key that I was missing. I wanted to decide for them. You might recognize a few other struggling ministries doing that, as well. We need to listen, then serve. Let me share the evolution of Bridge of Hope.



There is a clothing room, where donated clothing is cleaned, sorted, and displayed by volunteers, to be shared with the homeless and others in the community in need. Shortly after clothing was offered, they began seeing the same individuals coming back, asking for more clothes. They weren't selling the clothes, it's just that what they had was terribly soiled.



"We have no home. We can't afford a laundromat. What can we do?"

Stephen installed a washer and dryer in one of the bathrooms. They also installed showers.

Detergent, soap, water and towels are provided.

As they continued to listen, Robin began tutoring individuals and small groups in basic reading and math. As the adult literacy program expanded, they also started helping individuals obtain high school equivalencies. I understand that it was through these efforts that Robin recognized a disproportionate number of individuals with dyslexia...and with that, no small wonder they were having difficulties finding and retaining employment! Thankfully, numerous volunteers have come alongside Robin to tutor adult literacy, youth, persons with dyslexia, and others, offering

daytime, after school, and weekend programs. Robin is a certified dyslexia consultant and director of Hope Education.

Stephen and Robin worked tirelessly to meet really personal needs. For example, Steve established a "Tool Library," where individuals may check out carpentry and garden tools...hammers, drills, saws, shovels, etc..., to start a new job, and to use those tools until their paycheck allows them to purchase their own. There is a bicycle shop where both adults and youth are taught to assemble and maintain a bicycle. Those who complete the training are allowed to keep the bike as their own, an important means of transportation when no one can afford to own a car.



In addition to Robin's classroom, there is free wi-fi and a number of laptop computers that can be used in the building for job searches, educational materials, and just browsing for a little personal relaxation off the street. The cafeteria is used for meetings, Sunday services, and for visiting nurses that volunteer to offer medical screenings. Visiting social workers help direct individuals to find community resources for mental, emotional and physical well-being.

Bridge of Hope now has more than 30 raised garden beds, some adjacent to the building, some across the street, and some on vacant lots in the community. Stephen also used one of the classrooms to install a floor to ceiling hydroponic tower to share that aspect of horticulture as well. Complications to his own health have now forced Stephen into retirement, but while he was able, he had a vocational grant that allowed him to train eight people a year in professional gardening. These graduates went on to paying jobs with urban gardens that service St. Louis restaurants and caterers.



It takes a village to provide a Bridge of Hope this big,

and volunteers are welcomed and encouraged. Whether you arrive as a group or an individual, expect a meaningful orientation. In mine, Stephen and Robin explained that volunteers were required to understand the relational portion of their mission statement: “Listening is the primary way we demonstrate respect and unconditional love. Every person has inherent value and worth with ideas, gifts and talents to share. We dialogue continually to help individuals discover how to break the cycle of poverty in their own lives.” Volunteers do not just hand out clothing or food, they dialogue with individuals, sharing our mutual recognition as fellow human beings.

Under normal circumstances, a variety of churches from near and far help provide and serve meals, maintain the gardens, repaint walls, repair furniture and equipment, assist in tutoring, and offer additional, attentive ears to listen. Several weeks during the summer, small groups of teens from out of state come in to help maintain the facility, play ball with kids, and mentor adults. It’s a vital, often life-changing mission trip. For many, this is their first visit to the big city, and their first exposure to poverty. For some, it is their first opportunity to have a friend who is not white like them. Like any good church camp, they sleep on the floor, prepare meals for themselves and the community, lead worship, and everyone has a great time.

Local churches and individuals also play an important role. Teams show up on weekends to mow and garden, paint and make repairs. Others come to prepare and serve meals. Still others come throughout the 7 day week to help tutor individuals and small groups. In addition to some of those opportunities, I also have a standing appointment with a local donut shop that donates all of the donuts that have not sold that day. On Saturday mornings, I’m usually on hand at



opening with from 300 to 750 donuts of all sizes and varieties, earning me the nickname, “the donut man.”

Bridge of Hope has a small staff, a

situation compounded as the Boda family transitions from one generation to the next. Robin continues as Education Director, but their daughter Lydia is now the Executive Director. Shelly Morgan manages the front desk like an air traffic controller, and recent donations have allowed them to hire two part time com-

munity pastors, Jason Barney and Glen Banks Jr. to assist as needed. They were hired just before the pandemic forced the closing of the building, so their roles remain to be further defined.



During the pandemic, Bridge of Hope closed their building, but continued to minister to the community with sack lunches, toiletry kits, hand sanitizer, masks and clothing. Lydia and a team of volunteers distributed these items from the doorway, and as they did so, helped direct individuals to other community resources. The closing also gave them the opportunity to replace the aging plumbing system, thanks to a donation from First Free Church and a crew of retired plumbers working at their own pace. Individuals like myself went up to plant the spring gardens, maintain the grounds, and help where we could with minimal contact.

As Bridge of Hope cautiously resumes its ministry, I want to let the Boda’s own words ring out. They say on their website, “Much of our ministry is focused on meeting the basic needs of our community— which some would call the social Gospel. We see this as practicing the Great Commandment—loving neighbors as ourselves. This uniquely positions us to share Christ’s answers—practicing the Great Commission. As we are providing access to showers and laundry facilities, we utilize the wait times to develop relationships. Very quickly the discussion turns to our need for Jesus and His strength. Many have been ostracized by traditional churches, feeling fearful of sharing their weaknesses at first. However, soon after a shower, a load of laundry and a conversation over a cup of coffee, their defenses come down. They recognize that Bridge of Hope is different. They feel genuinely loved. They keep coming back to Bridge of Hope as a place of respite from the shame and fear they have experienced in the past.”

More information can be found at <http://www.bridgeofhopestl.org>. Donations are appreciated.

LESSONS FROM THE PAST; MOTHER—TO-MOTHER REVISITED

Norma Ellington-Twitty, Ph.D.

Be Still and Know

Psalm 46: 9b NIV

- Sheltering at home
- "wear a mask when in public"
- practice social distancing
- a monumental number of deaths from the ever present
- corona virus, with no end in sight
- "I can't breathe"
- "No justice - No peace"
- "Black Lives Matter"
- Too many deaths of African-Americans at the hands of the police

What are we to believe as people of faith? Many sincere white people are now WOKE and they ask: "What are we to do?" "Do we really need to end racism or do African Americans need to practice higher levels of personal responsibility - pull themselves up by their bootstraps like everyone else."

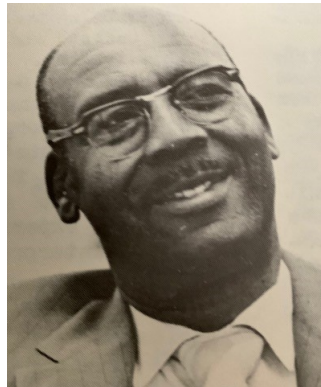
As bad as the pandemic is, what if we used this increased "down time" to reflect on the issue of racism. Just maybe our confinement at home could provide us an opportunity to *Be Still ...and Know*. In order to Know - we must first LISTEN: listen to new voices; listen to our conscience, once we have the integrity to end our denial; and listen for the Holy Spirit to remind us of who we are in Christ.

What if white people listened to people of color and experts on institutional racism: "What would they hear?" As I close my eyes, I hear the voice of my father, Norman Sims Ellington saying: "To be free in Christ is to be free to love across racial and economic lines." As a founder of the Mother-To-Mother program, in the 1950's & 60's he brought suburban white mothers together with an urban, inner city mother to form teams of three to four persons. The team's purpose was to form meaningful and mutually beneficial friendships.

Mother-To-Mother was based on the premise that people change their attitudes and prejudices about those who are different as they make friends across barriers that would normally keep them apart. Although initially a Disciples' program that received support from Homeland Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); it became ecumenical and national in scope. A Vanguard October-December 1994 article reported there were 31 M-T-M programs in 13 states, with over 1100 women participating on a team.

The beauty of the Mother-TO-Mother model was that it did not assume the suburban mother knew more than the inner city mother: the model was based on the principle that each mother had a unique set of knowledge - when combined could become a powerful basis for change in both communities. The success of the program rested on the commitment of each team member to listen to one another, with a 'clean heart' and without judgment.

As Mother-To-Mother team members truly listened to one another, the bonds of friendship were strengthened over time. Suburban mothers would come to know welfare mothers as individuals who were up against many institutional factors that prevented them and their families from securing: a good education; a living wage job; access to health care; as well as , safe and habitable living quarters and neighborhoods. These suburban mothers would come to know that their Mother-To-Mother friend was open to change, as resources and supports were provided.



From the standpoint of the inner city welfare mothers, through the Mother-To-Mother bonds of friendship, they came to know their suburban friends as individuals who did not display prejudice in their interactions with them; yet they had been taught racist stereotypes that needed to change. As suburban mothers showed them respect and understanding, these welfare mothers came to know that not all white people are your enemy. Indeed many of their suburban friends became allies who worked for legislative reform and policies that promote social justice and equality.

Indeed, many of these suburban mothers moved from the institutional racist stereotype of the lazy, dumb, and exploitative welfare mother to a position of admiring the strength and resourcefulness of these women, as they observed how much they were able to do with limited financial resources. These suburban mothers were able to move beyond "not being racist" to an antiracist position: "These welfare mothers and their families are not flawed, incompetent, or damaged - they are up against a system that is flawed, discriminatory, and inflicts damage, sometimes lethal, on its targets."

Listening to Norman Sims Ellington is informative, even though the lessons come from a program that is over 60 years old. The Mother-To-Mother program teaches us that we cannot end racism with a focus on

“fixing flawed people.” Instead we must focus on fixing the flawed attitudes, policies, and institutional practices of a racist system that would deny our equality and the basic humanity of people of color.

What teacher would you hear if you closed your eyes? Hopefully your teacher does not look or think like you; for it is only from this kind of teacher you will come to KNOW the truths needed for meaningful and loving action on your part. Oh - for those of us who have lived with racism all our lives - some say: “I am

tired of teaching white folks about racism.” I would suggest that this is not the time to be tired. It is the time to speak our truth in love. Many white people are WOKE in a way they have not been before. Perhaps, this could be an opportune time for you *to be “free to love across racial and economic lines”* as freedom in Christ enables us do...

“Thanks for being such a good teacher Daddy... We are listening...”

NEWBORN’S LEGACY LIVES ON THROUGH WOMAN-TO-WOMAN PROGRAM

BY T ANYA J . T Y L E R

If you have ever been on a Woman-to-Woman Worldwide journey, jointly sponsored by the Office of Disciples Women, Disciples Home Missions, and the Division of Overseas Ministries, you have Janice Newborn to thank.

The Woman-to-Woman program gives North American Disciples women an opportunity to make an overseas trip to forge enduring friendships with women in countries such as Bosnia, Korea, and Kenya. And Newborn was instrumental in getting the program off the ground when she was senior associate for administration in the Department of Church Women (later the Office of Disciples Women).

“Dan Hoffman, who was at the time the executive for Overseas Ministries in Africa, had worked with some other people, and we had been talking in the Department of Church Women about having an overseas program for women,”

Newborn says. “It was the beginning when we thought about taking groups of women overseas to meet with other women.”

Newborn had the opportunity to visit Swaziland to get an idea of how best to operate a Woman-to-Woman program. “We went to meet with women and visited them in their homes,” she recalls.

This initial journey to Swaziland, with an emphasis on learning first-hand about the women’s lives, laid the groundwork for all future Woman-to-Woman trips. It is part of Newborn’s legacy to Disciples women.

Woman-to-Woman Worldwide has continued since 1986, missing only two years in that time.

Later, Newborn visited Jamaica, and it was this particular journey that embodied for her the spirit of the Woman-to-Woman initiative. She made numerous friends while in Jamaica and she remembers them with fondness years later, especially since 1998, when a devastating storm struck the country.



“I thought about the women we had visited and wondered if any of them were in the midst of the storms,” Newborn says. “We had made friends. I took myself off one day and prayed for the women in Jamaica.”

Newborn’s journey through Disciples administration began when she moved to Indianapolis from Missouri with her husband, Ernest, who had been named director of the Disciples Reconciliation Ministry. In Missouri, Newborn was an administrative assistant to two state senators. She also taught public school in Ohio and Washington, D.C. In her work for the church, she was an administrative assistant to the president of the Division of Overseas Ministries, corporation secretary for that same division, director of program implementation for the Department of Church Women, director of Social Action Ministries for Homeland Ministries, and secretary of the International Christian Women’s Fellowship and the World Christian Women’s Fellowship. During her tenure as senior associate for the Office of Disciples Women, Christian Women’s Fellowship in the United States

Newborn was general coordinator of the 1986 Quadrennial Assembly. A wonderful instance of serendipity opened the door for her to attend her first Quadrennial.

“I was a young minister’s wife. I lived in Canton, Ohio. I wanted to go to the Quadrennial, but I had young children and I wasn’t sure (I could go),” she said. At an interracial prayer group she attended, someone asked if she was going to Quadrennial, and she said she didn’t think so. Another woman turned to her and asked why. Newborn explained that she couldn’t afford to go. At a subsequent meeting, the same woman came to Newborn and said, “I have talked with my husband and we are going to pay your way to Quadrennial.” Newborn doesn’t remember her

benefactor’s name, but she still remembers her kindness with gratitude. The memory returned to her when she attended the 2010 Quadrennial in North Carolina and renewed many old friendships.

“It was exciting to go back to Quadrennial this year,” she says. “My husband went with me. We’d walk down the hall and I’d have to stop and say hello to someone I had worked with.”

Although Newborn retired in 1994, she still has many connections to Disciples women. She served as president of Indianapolis Church Women United and is active in her California church’s women’s ministry.

“Women’s ministry in the Christian Church has had a hard time,” she says. “But I think we’ll keep striving and growing.”

A WORD TO THE CHURCH FROM THE GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT AND THE MINISTER OF RECONCILIATION

“I consider the sufferings of this present time not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.” Romans 8:18 – 19, NRSV

Dear beloved Disciples,

We are hurting.

We are haunted and outraged by the anguished cries of George Floyd, the gasp of “I can’t breathe” as a police officer knelt on his neck until the breath was completely taken from him. Floyd’s murder, like that of Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Aubery in recent weeks, is just the latest in a long history of violence against Black and Brown people in our country. The protests that are happening in big cities and small towns across Fwd: 'We need to be the Church we say we are' 6/5/20, 11:33 AM <https://mail.aol.com/webmail-std/en-us/PrintMessage> Page 2 of 3 the nation are an outpouring of grief and anger born of centuries of pain and injustice.

As members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), we condemn this injustice. We weep not only

for George Floyd, but for the entire system of oppression that has kept us from seeing each other as beloved children of God.

Racism and the denial of human dignity is counter to the call of Jesus Christ. Racism is a sin that breaks the heart of God.

Disciples, we call ourselves a Pro-Reconciling, Anti-Racist church. We have named it as a mission priority, and we have worked hard – though often imper-

fectly – to live that out in every expression of our ministry. In this moment, when protests rage and our hearts are broken again and again, we need to be the church we say we are.

We know that this moment calls for more than statements and prayers. In this moment, God is calling us to

act.

We invite you to accept this call to action in one or more of these ways:

1. Add your name to this statement affirming your commitment to Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racism as a mission priority of our church. ([form online](#))



2. Educate yourself about the history of systemic racism in this country and the ways racial injustice impacts every bit of our life together, from education and health care to jails and courtrooms and financial institutions. There are many good resources for learning; we've consolidated some of them here and will keep this page updated regularly.

3. **Sign up** to participate in the Mass Poor People's Assembly and Moral March on Washington: A Digital Justice Gathering on June 20, 2020. This event is part of an effort that seeks to address the interlocking injustices of systemic racism and poverty, and Disciples have been key leaders in this movement.

4. Join in town hall discussions hosted by Disciples leaders about how the church can do more to help dismantle systems of racism. These virtual gatherings will be held later this summer; be sure to **sign up for Disciples News Service** email updates for more information.

5. Get to work in your own community or church. Each context is different, so work where you are and with what you have. We want to hear from you about what you're doing. Send a photo, video, or short paragraph describing what you're doing to news@disciples.org, or tag us on social media (Facebook and Instagram: @christianchurchdoc; Twitter: @DisciplesNews) with #ccd. We'll share those stories [here](#) so we can support and inspire one another in this hard, holy calling.

Something is happening right now, Church, and the Spirit of God is moving in it. May we be bold enough to join the work.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President

Rev. April Johnson, Minister of Reconciliation

“

A CALL TO ACTION: THE TIME IS NOW!

College of Regional Ministers' letter to the Church

Dear Members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada,

“How long, O God, will you hide yourself from sight? ... Remember that I shall not live forever.” – Psalm 89:46-7

These last few weeks the Psalmist's cry is heard in our land, “How long, O Lord?”

In the wake of the death of George Floyd, the latest African American to die by police violence, the people of the United States, indeed the entire world, moan in grief and burn with anger. George Floyd's name is added to a long list of unarmed Black and Brown people, including Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery, who have died by actions taken by police officers or vigilantes in the past few decades and indeed centuries.

We are reminded that on July 17, 2014, Eric Garner was arrested in New York City where a chokehold

smothered him. Hauntingly similar to George Floyd, Garner was heard to be saying, “I can't breathe” eleven times before losing consciousness and dying an hour later.

In 2015, the **College of Regional Ministers wrote to you**, the Church, about race and racism in America in the shadow of similar events, expressing our concerns and laying out a plan of action for our

church to follow to move forward in our work of becoming a Pro-Reconciling/Anti-Racist Church. We ask ourselves if our words made any difference, if anything has changed?

Because on May 25, 2020, as we heard George Floyd on an 8 minute 46 second video gasping “I can't breathe” as a police officer knelt on his neck, we know we must speak to you again with our hearts broken and our resolve strengthened.



This must stop. Black Lives Matter!

Race is a created construct; an idea meant to oppress People of Color and give privilege to people of European descent. Race prejudice, combined with power, creates systems that dictate racist norms and practices. Racism is the force that cements those systems in place.

As people who follow Jesus, the One who sought out and empowered those pushed to the margins of power, we are called to confront the power of racism in our society. We are called to go to the roots of racism and dismantle its power to define, distort, and destroy all of us. While challenging these systems that have been in place for centuries is an enormous and daunting task, we are not without power to bring change to the core workings of this entrenched system.

In the Pentecost season, of all seasons, we know that the Holy Spirit can move in all people with fire and wind that wipe away obstacles of division and resistance to change. We believe in the Holy Spirit's power to remake our shared life as the Beloved Community. In that belief we declare that there is much that we can do, and need to do, in the days, weeks, months, and years ahead.

As a start we commit to and urge all Disciples of Christ to pledge to:

- Hear clearly the cries of our friends and neighbors who weep tears of lament and proclaim their anger at the same time that we all express our pain of racism to those in our circles of influence.
- Participate in non-violent actions and conversations/studies/learning opportunities that support Black Lives Matter.
- Hold ourselves and the systems, including police departments and other law enforcement agencies and judicial systems, accountable for the health and life of every person in their care.
- Speak clearly with the law enforcement leadership in our communities making it known that we believe the killing of People of Color as we have seen in these instances must stop, and we expect them to put into place accountability structures that clearly reinforce the training/practice of their officers to this expectation.
- Learn about community safety systems that offer alternatives to military like modalities for keeping communities safe, utilizing partnerships with other leadership functions in our communities.

- Wrestle openly with what it means to have a community defined by shared justice instead of enforced compliance.
- Study and learn the history of our states/provinces and communities and the relationships of the people that have lived in these areas historically and currently, so that we might understand our current community tensions in historical context.
- Strengthen the Anti-Racism committees/teams and training networks in our regional churches and make these resources more readily available throughout our regions with training available in multiple languages and modalities.
- When you consider a Bible study, what questions will you ask? Will you view the text from the dominant or oppressed cultures within the text? When you choose a book to read together, a topic for a sermon series, a way to decorate your worship space? Ask yourself to stretch beyond your own narrative and learn the story of someone different from yourself.
- Learn how to see the world from a perspective other than your own rather than to justify what you already believe and look only for stories that support that perspective
- Recommit to and vigorously promote the **Reconciliation Offering** which supports Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism work in our regions and throughout the entire Christian Church (Disciples Of Christ).

These actions are only a start. In the coming days we will be sharing more specific calls to action for individuals and communities of faith. Consider the healing balm that you can be as the Church by bringing the community together – healing the wounds that divide us, and being a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

We, as your Regional Ministers, cry out with those who mourn, take to the streets with those who march, and support those who seek to make changes in our world so that every beloved child of God will have the chance to breathe freely, and together pursue justice, equity, and dignity throughout the land. And, in doing so, may we see the face of God.

May it be so.

The **College of Regional Ministers** of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada

A LETTER TO CONGREGATIONS, A MESSAGE FROM Christian Theological Seminary

Dear Friends of God,

Once again, our nation has come face to face with our systemic racism. We are failing our people. We are not listening to the voices of those oppressed. We need to reform our justice system. We need to reform our police practices. We need to reform our economic system that deepens the impact of racism and dehumanizes our people. We need to reform our hearts. Communities of faith must be part of these reforms. We must put our faith into action. We must rise up and use our voices and our power. **We, at Christian Theological Seminary, believe that congregations can make a difference.**

Our Dean, Dr. Leah Gunning Francis, and Faith in Indiana organized a Processional for Racial Justice on May 31, the Feast of Pentecost, in downtown Indianapolis. As religious leaders and people of faith in the city and the region we gathered and raised our voices in unison with countless others in our city and across the nation over the ongoing racism against black and brown people in our country. On Sunday, hundreds of us enacted a die-in for 8 minutes and 46 seconds,

which was how long police officer Derek Chauvin kept his knee on the neck of George Floyd, resulting in his death. During the gathering, we called upon Mayor of Indianapolis, Joe Hogsett, to implement a series of police reforms that would provide equal protection for black and brown people. President Mellott and other members of the CTS faculty, staff, students and alumni were present.

Christian Theological Seminary calls upon all congregations to act in their cities and regions. Demand that your local officials put the appropriate measures in place that will provide justice and equality for everyone. Check out the LIVE FREE Reform Agenda of Faith in Indiana for inspiration. Join with people of other faith traditions and any who are committed to dismantling white supremacy and its destructive power. Organize peaceful protests and demonstrations to compel your local leaders act and lend your support. The gospel of Jesus calls us to speak out and act when justice is denied. When you do, know that you are not alone. We are taking action too.

REV. SHEILA SPENCER NAMED INTERIM PRESIDENT OF DISCIPLES HOME MISSIONS



The Board of Disciples Home Missions (DHM) is thrilled to announce the call of Rev. Sheila Spencer as DHM's Interim President. Employed by DHM since 2008, Rev. Spencer has been serving as Acting President of DHM since the departure of Rev. Sotello V. Long. Rev. Spencer's qualities as a connector and advocate for

all brought her to the top of the list for consideration: she is passionate about how the life changing love of God has infused her life and how she has seen it during her time at DHM.

Spencer's guide for her life has been Micah 6:8. "I can't stay connected to God without loving my neighbor and doing justice. It is important to continue Disciples Home Missions' commitment to be a Pro-

Reconciling/Anti-Racist Ministry. Having deepened our understanding of systemic racism, Christ compels us to advocate for justice, fairness and equality within Disciples Home Missions and our world."

"This is an important moment in our history," Spencer says. "DHM can continue to expand and be a support. We can continue to live into showing people the life-changing love of Jesus."

Spencer began her calling in ministry as an educator, with both a bachelor's and master's degree in education. While honing her gifts as an educator and leader, she also recognized her call to ministry through the examples of her family as well as the opportunities provided to her in the Pacific Southwest Region. Her formation also came through the leadership opportunities and impact of the National Convocation and Disciples Women's Ministry. These ministries had major impact on her life and ministry.

Spencer relocated to Indianapolis in 2008 to work with DHM as the Merger Staff Position -Program Director in Disciples Women. The Merger Staff Position called her to be a resource to African congregations/ community in addition to the Church. She then continued with DHM as the Director of Christian Education/Merger Staff and Assistant to the President – her role before becoming Acting President. In assuming the Interim President Role, one of the first priorities will be ensuring that the Christian Education Merger Staff position is filled. This work will be done in conjunction with the leadership of National Convocation Board.

Spencer has prioritized cross-racial, generational, and geographic relationships. Fluent in Spanish and passionate about travel and preaching, Spencer is grateful for a life in ministry that has given the opportunity to travel with Woman-to-Woman Worldwide trips to Colombia and Venezuela, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Morocco. She has preached and led workshops at several Convenciones across the US.

Rev. Spencer’s experience with DHM as well as the focus of her ministry are needed qualities for DHM at this time of transition.

Ability to approach leadership from an educator’s point of view, which she describes as the ability to

facilitate the learning that can happen for both the student and the teacher. “As a teacher, you’re always learning,” Spencer says. She brings that mindset to the team of DHM, in which everyone should have the opportunity to share their ideas and lead. “Everyone’s thoughts and ideas are very important to this season, this completely new season for how we see church and do church. This pandemic season, especially, has reinforced the fact that the church is not confined, and we are able to be the Church in a new and innovative way. God is leading us into this challenge and opportunity.”

DHM – because of its DNA as a support or the many communities of the church – is poised to listen and to connect. Our Christian Vocations office has had the ability to provide a **map** of churches doing virtual worship. Our General Youth Council has shifted from planning General Assembly events to talking about what’s happening in the world, addressing inequalities they have new awareness of. Disciples Women, Refugee and Immigration Ministries, Immigration Legal Counsel, Green Chalice, Ministry Across Generations, Disciples Men, Chaplains – all of these ministries and more held within DHM are about relationship, connection, and support. Most importantly, DHM is committed to being a Pro-Reconciling/Anti-Racist Ministry.

NATIONAL CONVOCATION ANNOUNCES INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY



In a virtual business session on Aug. 15, 2020, the 26th Biennial Session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) presented the Rev. Yvonne Gilmore as the interim administrative secretary. Gilmore follows the 17-year tenure of Rev. Dr. Timothy James who is retiring in December.

Gilmore is currently the associate dean of the Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago Divinity School and a co-teacher at the school. She is also a core trainer for Reconciliation Ministry and project director for the Constructive Theologies project, a group of young adult theological thought leaders within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Gilmore has also been a church planter, staff chap-

lain, and interim pastor. She holds a BA in International Relations from The American University, and an MDiv from the University of Chicago Divinity School. She was ordained at Michigan Park Christian Church in Washington, DC.

The process leading to Gilmore’s nomination included an extensive search by an advisory committee using the executive search model and her unanimous election by the Administrative Committee of the General Board. Her work with the convocation will begin in December.

President of the National Convocation and head of the advisory committee tasked with the search, Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II, said, “She is deeply invested in building on the strategic momentum of the National Convocation and the National Christian Missionary Convention to further the exceptional work of the Black Church, and earnestly excited about the unique opportunities afforded by this interim period to assess future possibilities for ministry and to advance operational resources for engagement in the wider ecology of ministry, vision, and service in the Christian

Church (Disciples of Christ) across the United States and Canada.

The advisory committee is excited to bring forth Rev. Yvonne Gilmore who is a magnetic personality, connecting with people in ways that enables the Church to grow and transform into the truest reflection of God. It was evidenced that she possesses the wit, pragmatic skills and visionary skills needed to enable the National Convocation to become stronger and more relevant in our present church culture.

PRACTICE WELLNESS



Let us face it; the world is not always kind to us, and situations of adversity or set back sometimes come out of nowhere. A nasty fall, a health crisis, a relationship issue, the car breaks down, a job loss, the death of a friend or loved one. These are all examples of situations that can turn our lives

upside down and render us scrambling?

Some situations may pass by quickly, in a few days, weeks, or in a month or two. However, long some circumstances can blindsides us, leaving us in tears. We may even feel helpless or even hopeless. That is why we need a backup plan so that we can be resilient in any situation. Building up your ability to be resilient is a good plan for self-care and practicing wellness.

Let us begin with a working definition of resilience. In general, it means the ability to bounce back. When applied to your life, it means bouncing back and getting your life back in order, after experiencing a set adverse situation. You have seen examples of these in your own life before, such as having a health care plan, life insurance, homeowner's insurance, or a rainy-day fund.

Even businesses have plans for disasters or adverse situations that they encounter. A business owner may hire extra help during certain seasons or when they know a key employee will be out for an extended period. You may decide to set new goals or have a backup plan when things don't work out. Your plan for resilience is like your disaster plan.

Things you can do to develop resiliency:

1. Write down your strengths'. Do this when things are going well because when you feel defeated, you may have a difficult time remembering what your strengths. Nor will you recall how to utilize them to make things better for you.
2. Write down the times when you overcame a difficult situation. Be specific. Include how you did it, and how felt after you overcame the situation?
3. Just as you must learn your gifts, you must also know your weaknesses or the skills you need to work on. Develop a plan now and start to work on them.
4. Develop your inner circle of support. Have at least one person whom you can talk to that can keep your confidence and encourage you. These are the people you will be counting on to help you keep going.
5. Build up your Self-efficacy. Know your worth, your value, and believe in yourself. You cannot afford to doubt yourself.
6. You may even think of situations that you may encounter and develop some preliminary plans on how you will handle them.
7. Most importantly, do not panic. As a person of faith, think of it as a test. Pray over the situation and ask God to help and lead you through it.

You will be fine. So, rest in the assurance and peace that God has got you!

STOP, DROP, AND PRAY!

Be Well! God's Be-Love!

“Cast your burdens on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken.” NIV

Rev. Dr. Betty M. Green
Associate Minister,
Woodland Christian Church,
Columbus Ohio

SOMETHING TO BRAG ABOUT

Submitted by Norweida R. Spencer



Carl Sandburg says “A baby is God’s opinion that life should go on.” I am blessed to have given birth to two(2) babies. These young ladies, no longer babies, have made their mom so very proud during the troubled times that we are now experiencing. Covid 19 has brought out a quality in them that I am happy to tell you about.

Candice Jennings Buckner and Felicia Jennings Wolfe, out of the goodness of their hearts, have shown sincere kindness, humility, and generosity to their fellow man by donating face masks and face shields to those in need. Candice, who is basically a self taught seamstress, was moved to make mask when her cousin, a nurse in Atlanta, posted on Facebook the challenges she was facing in her profession This inspired Candice to do research in order to learn what materials were better to use, what patterns were better and what a mask was meant to do. The masks were designed in layers of fabric and in many colors that were gender appropriate and washable so they could be used over and over. As she completed her projects, she gave to some and mailed to others. When the recipients would inquire as to the price, they were told “no charge.”

Felicia is married to a fireman, a first responder who also works for an ambulance service. Having masks was not an issue for him because they were supplied. Felicia, however, decided that he was in need of more protection. She purchased materials and crafted her first face shield. That shield turned out so well that she decided to make twenty (20) more for his co-workers. The shields were well received and as they were seen by other people, they wanted to know how they could get one. She freely gave to all who asked and when the recipients inquired about the price, they were told “no charge.” To date, Felicia has made and donated nearly four hundred shields. She has been able to continue to donate because friends and family have generously given funds to purchase materials.

These ladies are the daughters of Melvin Jennings. Melvin was the son of Rosa Brown Bracy, a renowned Disciples Woman who, among other writings, was featured in Black Disciples Who Made a Difference #1. I, nor my daughters got to meet their grandmother, but

if we had, I believe she would be pleased at their selflessness.

OLD AGE - A BLESSING FROM THE LORD

by
Ruth Powell Hobbs
May 24, 2020

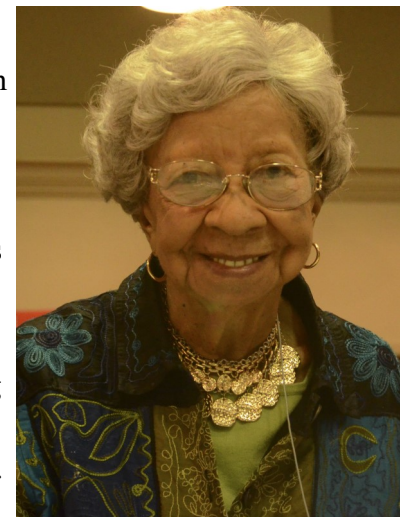
The Good Lord has perfect timing
for everyone’s age to be.

Therefore, may each year of our life we live
be joyful and worry free.

Each day - take time to be holy,
Give a smile instead of a frown.
You’ll realize a smile will erase your worries,
A frown will only keep you down.

Sometimes ”Ole Arthur” will try to upset you,
but keep your favorite ointment on hand.
Should there be a place you cannot reach,
just call Susan or maybe Dan.

There are so many things the “aged” person can do to be happy.
For males, become the coach of his favorite team,
Or, if the muscles in his legs permit,
try fishing in his favorite stream.
Knitting and crocheting - two things the aged female might enjoy,
Try humming a tune of her favorite song,
During these special moments, no need to be on the lookout for the boy.



There are many backyard activities all can enjoy,
Or, check the game room for you favorite toy.
As your steps grow shorter may your prayers be longer,
Continue to smile as the Good Lord showers blessing on top of blessing upon you!

POET'S CORNER by May F. Reed

A LITTLE CHURCH HISTORY

It seems every Fellowship, every Church has some-one of notable character to lift-up. This individual led a most interesting life which began in 1851 on the Eastern shore of Maryland. His mother died when he was two years of age. As he grew to a teen and could not read or write, he began gathering pieces of newspaper he would find along the side of the road to learn the ABC's. After plowing all day, when he could, he often ran or walked nearly fifteen miles in the evening to take lessons from a kind teacher. He eventually married. He and his wife moved to Philadelphia. He got a job making \$1.50 a day, working on the docks. Later he became a janitor at the Methodist Church. In 1855 he applied for ordination in the Methodist Church at the Delaware Conference. Others attending who came for the exam made fun of him for he was the church janitor. Some said, "We hold diplomas and all you hold is a broom." However, when the exam was over, the church janitor had received the second highest score. He was appointed pastor of the Philadelphia church where he had been janitor. He then studied Greek from theological schools, and Hebrew from a local synagogue. The church grew and grew. He was a powerful preacher. He did street preaching also. Once he was seen embracing a man with a serious drinking problem who said he wanted to believe in Jesus. It turns out that the man was the grandson of the Maryland plantation owner who previously had owned him.

He once preached a sermon on Jesus' calming the storm (Matt.8:23-27). He compared that to how Jesus delivers us from the storms of life. The sermon takes us through tribulations, faults, persecutions, failures, old age and death. This man, preacher/teacher was one **Charles Albert Tindley, 1851-1933**, who penned the hymn "STAND BY ME" in 1906. [*I knew you'd like to know the rest of the story.*]

MORE INTERESTING LIFE OF THE 500'S

Sometimes folks could obtain pork and would feel right special when that happened. When company

came over, they would bring out some bacon and hang it up to show it off. It was a sign of wealth and that a man "could really bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and sit around the table and "Chew the Fat."

[No idea if these are true but they are interesting.]



LENT

Let's concentrate on Jesus
of what He's done for us.
Set ourselves upon the path
our trust in fasting yield.
Meditate, seek obedience thru the
Word
For obedience is beneficial
Obedience has led.
Obedience is most blessed
When sought while living,
not dead.

May Reed

A LITTLE MIRTH

Of course little ones are harder to help than others: Two little boys came bursting into the house, shouting to their mother that their younger brother had fallen into the lake. "We tried to give him artificial respiration, mom," one of them said, "but he kept getting up and running

away."

WHERE DO YOU SET YOUR PURSE

Never set your purse on the floor of a bathroom stall. The bottom of the purse can pick-up harmful bacteria that could make you or your child sick if they touch it. We often wonder how our children pick-up a bug and never have a clue where they got it. E.Coli bacteria, hepatitis and even tiny bugs were found on the bottom of some purses that were swabbed in a survey at the University of Arizona. Washing hands regularly is the key to avoiding illness. Wipe purses with a disinfectant wipe. And never place your purse anywhere on a table where you will be eating or on your kitchen counter where food is. An ounce of prevention.

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

GARRETT DANIELS



Garrett Daniels was born on September 17, 1951 in Greenville, Texas to the late Wilburn Hiram Daniels, and Mary Patillo Daniels. He was the fifth of eight children.

Garrett confessed Christ as his Lord and Savior early in life. In his early years, he lived with his family in Greenville, TX. Garrett's father, Wilburn, was one of the first African American policemen who arrested a white man in Hunt County, TX. As a result, his father was forced to move away. In 1960, the Daniels family then moved to Oakland, CA.

Garrett attended Dunbar Elementary located in the Dallas Independent School District. In Oakland, CA, he attended Hamilton Jr. High and graduated from Fremont High School. During his schooling, he participated in football, wrestling and baseball. After graduating from high school, he attended Long Beach State University and De Anza Community College in San Jose, CA, where he graduated as a Physical Therapy Assistant. He moved to Humble, TX, in the early 1980's.

Garrett joined the University Christian Church in 1984, where he served as an Elder, Deacon and young adult leader teacher. He participated in the Christian Education and Disciples Men ministries. He also served five terms as the Board Chairperson and was a popular tenor who sang solos and led songs. Garrett loved the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and was well known among members. He also traveled to many states attending the church's General Assemblies, National Convocations and many other events.

Garrett married Tera Lanne Brown on June 29, 1984. They celebrated 35 years of marriage and were Blessed with one son, Garrett Eldridge Daniels, II. Garrett invested much time in encouraging and helping to mold his nieces and nephews which cultivated a special relationship with them all. Garrett was an advocate of working hard and instilled the importance of good work ethics in everyone he encountered

Garrett departed this life peacefully amongst his family on Monday, June 1, 2020.

MAYNETTE HARVEY



It is with much sadness that we announce the passing of Maynette Harvey, the mother of Apostle John Harvey, Founder & Senior Pastor of Serenity Christian Church in Hazel Park, Michigan. This is especially difficult after the recent passing of his father, Rev.

Ivery W. Harvey, Jr., on January 26, 2020. The two are together again!

CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS

Excerpts from The Congressional Black Caucus's statement on the passing of House Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee Chairman and Congressional Black Caucus Member, Congressman John R. Lewis (GA-05):



The world has lost a legend; the civil rights movement has lost an icon, the City of Atlanta has lost one of its most fearless leaders, and the Congressional Black Caucus has lost our longest serving member. The Congressional Black Caucus is known as the Conscience of the Congress. John Lewis was known as the conscience of our caucus. A fighter for justice until the end, Mr. Lewis recently visited Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington DC. His mere presence encouraged a new generation of activist to "speak up and speak out" and get into "good trouble" to continue bending the arc toward justice and freedom.

.....Despite more than 40 arrests, brutal attacks, and physical injuries, Mr. Lewis remained devoted to the philosophy of nonviolence in his fight for justice and equality, even to this day, as America faces another reckoning with racism and hundreds of thousands

around the world spark a modern-day civil rights movement against police brutality and racial injustice. He taught us to keep our eye on the prize, and that lesson is more crucial than ever. We will keep our eye on the prize of social justice, voting rights, quality education, affordable health care, and economic empowerment for every soul.

JANICE ROBINSON NEWBORN



Longtime staff in general church ministries and originator of the Disciples Women's Woman-to-Woman program, passed away April 21, 2020, in Claremont, CA, at the age of 91. She was the spouse of the Rev. Ernest J. Newborn, Sr., who passed away in November of 2019.

Executive Director of Disciples Women

Rev. Dr. Patricia Donahoo, said, "Janice Newborn was instrumental in creating the Woman-to-Woman Worldwide program of Disciples Women. This program has expanded the worldview of women for the last 30 years by creating opportunities to learn from women of faith in other countries. Not only do women learn first-hand the struggles of our sisters but also provides the opportunity to work with Global Ministries in sharing and publicizing the programs serving our sisters in those countries. The work of Disciples Women is indebted to her leadership."

During her career with the Church, Newborn worked in the Indianapolis offices of the Division of Overseas Ministries, Disciples Women and Disciples Home Missions, retiring in 1994. She was featured in Melvia Fields' book, *Women on a Mission* about African-American women in the Disciples of Christ. Her biography was also featured in a video series – *Wisdom of Women, Volume 2* – produced by Disciples Women.

Interim President of Disciples Home Missions, Rev. Sheila Spencer, said, "Janice Newborn was a treasured mentor and trusted source of wisdom. Throughout her life and ministry, she has sown encouragement into the lives of so many of us. I am especially thankful for her ministry and work within

Disciples Women and Disciples Home Missions. She was a true gift and I am forever grateful."

Newborn leaves behind two children, Ernest J. Newborn II and Mary Jo Newborn Wiggins, their spouses and several grandchildren.

LA ROSA DARLEENE PATE



La Rosa Darleene Pate, age 76, the Spanish Rose, departed this earth and entered into heaven's majestic gates on Saturday, April 11, 2020. La Rosa was born on March 17, 1944 in Terre Haute, Indiana, to Hobert Bush Sr. and Thelma May Bush.

As a child, La Rosa exhibited and scored a genius level IQ with an academic prowess.

While at Indiana State University as a student, she rushed and pledged to the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority where she found a true sisterhood of like-minded African American women who excelled at their academics just as she had.

La Rosa's illustrious teaching career expanded over 30 years with high success rates of student retention. She began her teaching career at School 69 in Indianapolis. After some great years at School 69, she found a need for her skill-set at Sarah Scott Junior High School.

She later learned of an opening in the English department at Terre Haute South Vigo High School. As she matured, La Rosa immersed herself in the sacred scriptures of the Holy Bible. At Second Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of the honorable Reverend Hord, the then presiding pastor, she was called upon by Mrs. Hord to write and direct several of the musicals and plays for various church and Sunday School events where she more than obliged. She was a Sunday School teacher, a Vacation Bible School teacher, a former member of the Junior Missions, a member of the NAACP Terre Haute chapter, a member of the Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, a member of the Scholarship Committee of her church, a member of the Board of Trustees, and a deaconess.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED RECENTLY TO THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE

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