

The Oldtimers' Grapevine



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30th Anniversary Year

Volume 30, Issue 2

A CONVERSATION WITH THE PUBLISHER, Part 2

By May F. Reed

May Reed: I've always said, with church members the communication is not always there. I think if we communicated better with one another, and not pick and choose who we'll communicate with we would be better off. You never know what you might learn from the ones you've been passing over as well as those you talk to all the time.

Dr. Foulkes: In those early days as pastor, I remember Catherine Zigler Smith who was the chair of my board for a number of years. She was so tough that I thought maybe she didn't like me, but I know she loved me.



Rev. Dr. John R.
Foulkes

In all churches you've got families and groups that are influential, and as I was trying to respond to questions and concerns raised by those who were the most vocal, she used to push me constantly saying, "you're pastoring the whole church. You need to listen to the little people, those who are not necessarily asking for what's best for them." It got to the place where I heard that and it became a life challenge for me, to

make sure that I listen not only to those that are making noise but to those that in very quiet ways are speaking.

May Reed: That's beautiful what you just said, "you heard that." So many of us never hear these kind of comments and never make use of them. Prior to your editorship I realized your keen observation of events just like you are sharing now. Your church history knowledge is quite remarkable. Do you write things down or are you able to just keep it up here?

Dr. Foulkes: I've got this problem and it's a real problem, and one of these days when I get together with my Lord and Savior I want to have some conversation with him about it. I may forget your name but I can remember a conversation we had twenty years ago. And besides from remembering the conversation, conversations are on a continuum for me, so I keep putting things together.

I've had a little trouble every now and then because I start drawing conclusions based upon what you've said over the last ten years instead of what you just said in the last few minutes, and that's a problem. Because I continue to have those conversations myself, and continue to raise the question, "What did that mean and What was God saying through that?" You'd be surprised at the kind of answers that come back from that. I had a conversation just recently with a young man who raised the question, "When do you know that you've done all you can, and you need to do something else?" and two hours later.... I always have a little notebook that I keep and jot down stuff. Unfortunately the other stuff sticks around too.

May Reed: Do you feel your work, your witness among the Disciples, the Church, and when I say the church I'm talking about the whole Church, not just the Disciples. Do you feel it has aided you in your witness in providing you time and availability to become invested, and more prepared to fill this editorial position, which, by-the-way, you are doing extremely well?

Dr. Foulkes: You're a little prejudiced. But I have friends who have done some pretty remarkable stuff and whose lives have just been sort of laid out and they've just sort of followed them. I knew one of the scientists who put the first man on the moon. I know people who have done stuff like that, and I sort of wondered "Why has my journey been so piecemeal?" I got this, and I got this, and I got this. If I had put all of that together maybe I could've done this, and this, and this, only to find out that all those pieces come together, and bring a perspective that sometimes gets scary. And quite by accident I've been thrown into, not discussion, but different environments through which you end-up with different kinds of experiences, that then collectively give you a wealth of understanding. So I praise God for my mixed-up development. And that the end result is how God is going to handle things through me. First of all, I'm not getting any younger, so you begin having thoughts about what God wants me to do with me.

A CONVERSATION WITH THE PUBLISHER, Part 2 (cont.)

I'm clear about the fact that my present wellbeing is in direct proportion in what God is calling me to do. I also realize that what God is calling me to do really does not depend necessarily upon what others have asked me to do. Sometimes I must not be confused about what that



May F. Reed

claim of God is on my life, versus all the noise. So I am in a comfortable place. I'm clear about a few things, not only the issue of communication, but that there is no more exact communication than written communication. There is nothing that conveys over all kinds of environments as well as written communication. I'm hoping to be able to do that. I had some great teachers. I happen to be married to the daughter of one of my teachers that made sure I could write.

May Reed: I think we have about covered learning things about the Grapevine and how you became a part of it – Dr. Fox, Oscar Haynes and now you. I want to center on you, now, and some of your thoughts. What is your favorite vacation spot?

Dr. Foulkes: Walt Disney World. It's a magical place and we've been fortunate enough to spend time there over a number of years. We've been married 33 years and we went that first year. My mother-in-law bought a vacation villa down there and my wife said "come and see what mama bought" and we've been traipsing down the road each year ever since.

May Reed: Do you have anything more you'd like to share before I ask you this one last question?

Dr. Foulkes: I shared my personal identity reflection with you because I find a need, every now and then, to try and be clear about what is going on inside of me before I proceed to try to talk about what goes on inside of others. It was helpful for me then, to review my developmental history. To come to realize there has been a lot of investment by a lot of very creative people to help me to know that I have the ability to look at things critically and to analyze them over time and to raise questions about what I'm looking at and try to perceive how God is present in all that. In that process, my primary concern has never been what I want but to what extent the use of what has been developed in me enables a clearer picture of what God's doing in a healing situation. And sometimes I have raised questions that persons didn't want raised and made statements that people didn't want to hear. I'm not the first one chosen for any particular social event but that's okay. I'm clear about what God is doing right now and the challenges that stand before us.

May Reed: My final question. What gives you hope for a more perfect union of the future of these United States as we enter this new year 2021?

Dr. Foulkes: What gives me hope is that we've experienced ourselves in ways in which we can't deny that we need help. And we cannot continue to function as we have. In the midst of the radical changes that have taken place in terms of our identity and our relationship with one another, and our relationship with the world, it's forcing us to realize that we need to be different people. And, that which will undergird the different people will not necessarily just be our economics or our ability to do what will make us people together. It will be the ethics and the values from which we function which places the future needs in the gospel which I've committed my life to be a part of. It's not a sideline. It's not something that people just do. It's the only thing that's going to make us what we are together. And that gives me hope. We can't run from the realities; we must face them.

May Reed: Thank you, Dr. Foulkes, for being so gracious and kind, in giving this interview. On behalf of Dr. Norma Ellington-Twitty, President of the Board of the Oldtimers' Grapevine, its Board and the Editorial Staff, we salute you this 12th day of the new year, January 2021. Thank you and God Bless.

May F. Reed is the gifted poet that has contributed her poetry to the Oldtimers' Grapevine from its beginning and serves on the Grapevine' editorial board. May served as a certified archivist with the Disciples Historical Society, former president of the National Convocation's Ministers Wives and Husbands Fellowship, and an elder at the Light of the World Christian Church in Indianapolis.

Part 1 of A Conversation With The Publisher appears in the 30th Anniversary Edition of the Newsletter, February 2021.



THE GRAPEVINE CELEBRATES OUR DISCIPLES' LEGACY - SHARE YOUR DISCIPLES' LEGACY

Letter from the Board President

“One does not have to live in poverty to be prodigal. For what makes a man a prodigal is not the loose living but the fact that he lives without God... When we come to ourselves, we stop saying God give me, but say God make me... It is that God finds us and qualifies us for His work.”

The above excerpts are from a sermon, “The Fugitive”, by the late Rev. Doctor Samuel W. Hylton, Jr. It is among four sermons recounted in “A Messenger Left His Mark”, a recent book by his son, Samuel W. Hylton, III.

As a member of Centennial Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), in Saint Louis, Missouri; this writer heard many of Reverend Hylton’s sermons during Sunday morning services. Typically, these sermons were: scripturally based, with key bible citations; erudite, yet easily understandable; often with “three main points”; sprinkled with engaging and illustrative stories; and always inclusive of a practical side, in terms of



Samuel W. Hylton, Jr.

how his subject matter could play out in the lives of the members to bring them closer to Christ and a lifestyle that is pleasing to God.

It was a delight for this writer to hear about the book of his sermons, which brings Reverend Hylton’s clear thinking and sage advice back in a way that can be referenced over and over again. Although these sermons were delivered from the 1970’s - 1990’s; his words are still relevant, thought provoking, and helpful in promoting the reader’s spiritual maturity, well being, and faith development.

Samuel Hylton III subtitled his book: Essential Sermons and Messages of Reverend Doctor S.W. Hylton, Jr. In the Acknowledgements, the author states: “this book is dedicated to Doctor S. W. Hylton, Jr., my dad, and friend, who I did not give enough credit in the past, however, the intention of this book is to pay homage on the right custom in life that he stood for.”

Indeed, Samuel Hylton III in paying homage to his father, lifts up a Disciple who truly left his mark on the community and the denomination. Rev. Hylton, in over 30 years of ministry, grew his congregation and was an ardent advocate for diversity and social justice.

Three affordable senior living facilities, sponsored by the National Benevolent Association (NBA) in the 1980’s and 1990’s, honor Rev. Hylton and his work: Centennial Plaza; Hylton Point Apartments and Hylton Point Apartments II. These three Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded facilities marked NBA’s first partnership with a minority congregation, Centennial Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

After Rev. Hylton’s trailblazing involvement with NBA, many other minority congregations around the country followed suit and sponsored affordable housing for seniors in their communities. Rev. Hylton’s NBA partnership started a diversity program that has resulted in thousands of seniors of color being able to age in place with security in their communities. Truly he has “left his mark.”

Over the past 30 years the Grapevine has told the stories of countless Disciples like Rev. Hylton; servant leaders who have gone, above and beyond, to be of service to others. In addition to Rev. Hylton, there are many servant leaders who have left their mark on their communities and the denomination.

The Grapevine invites our readers to participate in “The Grapevine Celebrates Our Disciples’ Legacy” phase of the I Love the Grapevine Fund Drive, by placing a Disciples’ Legacy Tribute, in the next issue of the Grapevine, that honors a beloved servant leader or celebrates their congregation’s anniversary/special event.

Remember, as You Share Your Disciples’ Legacy in the Grapevine - you make the Grapevine Stronger ~ Enabling the Grapevine to Celebrate Our Disciples’ Legacy for the next 30 Years or more! Many Thanks for your continuing support!!

Your Sister in Christ,
Dr. Norma Ellington-Twitty, Board President

**Do you LOVE the Grapevine?
Have you made your donation
to the Oldtimers’ Grapevine
first major Fundraising Drive?
We welcome your support!**

NEW IDWM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CALLED

Rev. Angéle Saunders Johnson has been called as the new Executive Director of Disciples Women. As an ordained Minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), she brings experience, passion, and expertise to this role.



Rev. Angéle Saunders Johnson as Director of Christian Education for New Covenant Christian Church in Nashville, Tennessee.

The IDWM (International Disciples Women's Ministries) Search Committee Chair, Claretta Witherspoon, shares that the team prayed and deliberated for months to find the woman that God had ordained to fill the position of IDWM Executive Director. "We unanimously and joyfully selected Rev. Angéle Saunders Johnson. With great excitement we welcome her as the new leader for Disciples Women's Ministries in the United States and Canada. We look forward to working with her and her vision for the women in our denomination."

Wanona Redd, IDWM President, shares, "It is a pleasure and an honor to have the opportunity to welcome to the Disciples Women Ministry Rev. Angéle Saunders Johnson. I believe that Rev. Johnson will work diligently to fulfill our purpose statement, "...to be a conduit for diverse connections empowering each woman to find her voice and live out her call." Her road to Executive Director of Disciples Women has been, I believe, paved with obstacles of many shapes and sizes which have built character and fortitude that will be exemplary of a "Disciple Woman". I, as president of the International Disciples Women's Ministry, send a call to my Sisters in Christ. I urge you to welcome, assist, pray for and encourage Rev. Johnson as she represents us, the Disciples Women Ministry, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and most of all, God."

Rev. Angéle Saunders Johnson shares, "For over one hundred years, the Disciples Women's Ministries has aimed to be a source of empowerment for women as they seek to live out their call. As Executive Director, I look forward to co-laboring with an amazing body

of women across this denomination and reimagining this ministry into a relevant vehicle of transformation for all women, both clergy and lay. At its best, Disciples Women's Ministry will have an indelible impact that transcends any imaginable boundary creating pathways for women to restore, retool, and reclaim that which is rightfully hers: the audacity to manifest her divine call in the world in holistically healthy ways, ultimately advancing the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Rev. Angéle Saunders Johnson will officially begin her call on August 16, 2021. Rev. Sheila P. Spencer, Interim President of Disciples Home Missions shares, "We are grateful that Rev. Johnson has answered this call and we are thankful for the multiple gifts and talents that she will be able to share with Disciples Women and the Body of Christ."

REV. ED LITTON ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

In a dramatic showdown Southern Baptists elected a moderate pastor from Alabama as their next president, narrowly heading off an attempted takeover by the denomination's insurgent right wing at the 2021 SBC Annual Meeting held in June.



The election of the pastor, Rev. Ed Litton, was the result of what was effectively a three-way standoff for

the leadership of the nation's largest Protestant denomination. In the first round of voting on Tuesday afternoon, Southern Baptists rejected a prominent mainstream candidate and onetime favorite for the presidency, Al Mohler Jr., who received 26 percent of some 14,000 votes.

The race then headed for an immediate runoff vote that pitted an ultraconservative pastor from Georgia, Mike Stone, against Pastor Litton, who has largely avoided the culture wars. When officials announced the results from the stage — Pastor Litton bested Pastor Stone by just 556 votes, or about four percentage points — the floor erupted in a mixture of cheers and boos.

(Continued on Page 18)

NATHAN DAY WILSON SELECTED FOR POST AT WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The Reverend Nathan Day Wilson, formerly at Christian Theological Seminary, has accepted a position at the World Council of Churches (WCC), based in Geneva, Switzerland, as Manager of Income Development and Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting for the WCC's programs throughout the world.

"While the scope of work will be challenging, I'm eager to be part of the WCC's collaborative work for unity, justice, and peace. In a time so divided by allegiance to false gods such as money and power, by acts of lovelessness and hatred, and by lines drawn between people according to worldly standards, a witness to God's intended wholeness is needed more than ever," Wilson said.



Rev. Dr. Nathan Day Wilson also work on a book surveying the ecumenical social thought and theology expressed in the WCC's statements on international affairs. "I contend that the ecumenical movement has yet to fully develop the theological undergirding of its ethical commitments or the theological insights implicit in them," said Wilson.

Ecumenical ministry is not new to Wilson. During his tenure as Executive Director of the West Virginia Council of Churches, the organization added its first two historic African American denominations, moved into its own building, expanded staff, quadrupled income, and developed wide-ranging service and education programs.

Wilson also served as Director of Public Policy for Washington DC-based Sojourners and manager of its national network of organizations working to overcome poverty, dismantle racism, and build healthier communities. For eleven years he coordinated the Faith & Values section of The Indianapolis Star. He pastored congregations in Kentucky and Indiana.

Wilson is a prolific author with more than 600 publications, occasional college lecturer, and a regular workshop leader at pastor's conferences. As a volunteer, he is president of the Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua and board member of the Center for Interfaith Cooperation.

After completing his bachelor's degree at Asbury University, Wilson earned a Master of Divinity from Lexington Theological Seminary, a certificate in Ecumenical Studies from the Ecumenical Institute de Bossey, and a Master's in International Security from the University of Geneva, Switzerland. He holds the Fundraising Management certificate from The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University.

DR. JEFFREY ALLEN MURDOCK RECIPIENT OF THE 2021 GRAMMY MUSIC EDUCATOR AWARD

The Recording Academy named Jeffrey Murdock as the recipient of the 2021 GRAMMY Music Educator Award. He received the award in March 2021. Dr. Jeffrey Allen Murdock is internationally known as a music educator, conductor, and clinician. He currently serves as Associate Director of Choral Activities and Associate Professor of Music at the University of Arkansas, where he conducts the Razorback Men's Chorus, the Inspirational Chorale, and teaches undergraduate and graduate courses within the music education curriculum.



Dr. Jeffrey Murdock

Dr. Murdock is the 2016 Connor Endowed Faculty Fellow in the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences. In addition to being an accomplished conductor of Western choral music, Dr. Murdock is also a skilled gospel musician and conductor. He has served on the conducting staff of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., has collaborated with numerous world-renowned Gospel recording artists, and is nationally recognized as a leader in the field.

Dr. Murdock has conducted regional and state honor choirs in Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Oklahoma, and Colorado. He has also presented at regional and national conferences of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) where he serves on the National Choral Council, the International Society for Music Education (ISME), and at state and regional conferences of the American Choral Director's Association, where he serves as President-Elect of the Southwestern Division and on its national diversity subcommittee. He is married to Rev. R. Janae Pitts-Murdock, Sr. Pastor of Light of the World Christian Church (DOC) in Indianapolis, IN.

IN TOUCH: “THEN” & “NOW”

By Norma Ellington-Twitty, PhD.

“THEN”

In celebrating The Oldtimers' Grapevine Newsletter's 30th Anniversary, “In Touch” is a new column that pays homage to William K. Fox, Sr., Grapevine founder. Here is how he described the mission of the Grapevine in the 1990's: *“The Oldtimers' Grapevine is an independent senior citizens newsletter...for seniors belonging to the Christian Church (Disciples of Church) denomination. It is pointed toward those seniors who are sixty years of age-or-older-who have an interest in lifting casual to long-standing friendships to the level of a caring and sharing senior citizen net work.”*



Norma Ellington-Twitty

“In Touch” enables Grapevine readers to connect in ways that strengthen our “caring and sharing senior citizen network.” If “In Touch” is a success, it will mean that our readers will provide the content for many of the articles.

Content for “In Touch” could include some of the articles Fox included in the early issues of the Newsletter. “Did You Know” shared recent changes in living status and life experiences of readers. “Let's Celebrate!” included accomplishments and milestone events in the life of readers and the church. “Retirement” celebrated newly retired servants of the church, uplifting their plans and new directions. “Letters To The Editors” enabled readers to share their thoughts about the Newsletter. Many of these columns were crisp, short, and breezy - five lines or less. These columns were successful because readers were willing to send in their life experiences - their stories to connect to other readers. As you read the inaugural “In Touch” column, it is our hope you will be inspired to share “your story.”

“NOW”

In this first “In Touch” article our focus is on two areas: entitled **“Are You Out There?”** we seek to help a fellow reader complete a historical collection; and with **“Let's Celebrate,”** we recapture a Fox Grapevine tradition. We look forward to your response to this article's requests for help. We welcome your stories to share in future “In Touch” articles. (Please mail to the Oldtimers' Grapevine or email them to nretphd@sbcglobal.net).

“ARE YOU OUT THERE?”

“Are You Out There?” enables our readers to be “In Touch Now,” enabling one reader to bless another reader with a missing item to complete a collection. So the following two articles, Reflections of a Collector and Grapevine Legacy are asking: “Are You Out There?” with the hope that one of our readers will say: “Yes I am here and I am willing to supply you with what you need.”

“Reflections of a Collector”: Do You Have The Missing Convocation T-Shirts I Need?

By Patricia Clark

Recently I was reflecting on my life-long motivation to “collect” so many memories of past events I participated in - especially past church activities. My collection of memorabilia from past events is nearly taking over my storage locker.

I am looking for help in completing my collection of tee shirts from Convocation since 1988 (see photo). I hope to complete my “tee shirt quilt” and realized there might be a fellow collector of memorabilia, like myself, who still has a collection of tee shirts from past Convocations.

Oldtimers' Grapevine editor John Foulkes gave me the suggestion to put the word out to the readers of the Grapevine to find my missing tee shirts. So...



Patricia Clark

if you have any of the following missing tee shirts, I will be able to complete my tee shirt quilt. Otherwise it may remain “a lap robe forever.” The missing tees are from the following biennial Convocations: 9th in St. Louis, MO; 12th in Cleveland, OH; 13th in Kansas City, MO; 14th in Birmingham, AL; 15th in Lexington, KY; and 20th in Memphis, TN. I'm happy that a “fellow collector” will let me know if you have any of the missing tee shirts and you are willing to contribute to my tee shirt quilt. I will be happy to pay for postage.

If you have any of the above missing tee shirts, please contact us: (314) 374.6556 or nretphd@sbcglobal.net

Patricia Clark is a retired staff member of the National Benevolent Association in St. Louis, Missouri.

Grapevine Legacy: Do You Have The Missing Grapevine Issues We Need?

The late Ruth Elizabeth Ellington loved the Grapevine. Upon the arrival of the latest issue, her ritual was to sit down in her favorite chair, with a pencil and to read every article on each page, without interruption. The pencil was used to underline important quotes or accomplishments that she would enthusiastically share with



Ruth Elizabeth Ellington

this writer, at her earliest convenience. These Grapevine conversations remained a point of connection for mother and daughter in a way that kept this writer “interested” in the publication long before her retirement.

Ruth Ellington’s love of the Grapevine was reflected in her conscientious attention to preserving each issue. Her penchant for “saving important things” resulted in her almost complete collection of issues from the first one of February 1991 until her passing in August 2008.

Fast forward to 2020, when the The Historical Society of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) took on the important task of scanning The Oldtimers’ Grapevine Newsletters from the first one in February 1991 to the present. The plan is to place the collection on a digital platform that will enable Grapevine readers, scholars, church members, and others to access the rich historical record captured in these publications.

To make their collection of Grapevine Newsletters complete, The Historical Society identified a number of missing issues prior to 2012. Guess how the Grapevine was able to immediately supply four of the seven missing issues to the Society? You are right if you said we supplied them from the Ruth Elizabeth Ellington Grapevine Collection. May Reed, Grapevine Poet Laureate, recently supplied a missing issue.

Thanks to May and Ruth for loving the Grapevine so much and for their willingness to share with us. How pleased Ruth would be to know that her simple and loving act of preserving treasured Grapevine issues would have such an impact, many years later. What a legacy!

We are now turning to you our readers to supply the final two missing Grapevine issues.

The Oldtimers’ Grapevine Newsletter missing issues are as follows: 1993 Issue 2, and 2006 Issue 1.

You too can become a part of the legacy that enables the Historical Society to have a complete collection of Grapevine Newsletters from the first one to the present. If you have either of the above missing Grapevine issues, please contact us: nretphd@sbcglobal.net (314) 374.6556.

Many Thanks in advance for helping us preserve the rich historical legacy that is the Grapevine.

“Let’s Celebrate!”

Rev. Dr. Linda Tobias Doss: Ordained June 6, 2021 in Saint Louis, MO

Family, congregants, Nurture Team members, the Regional Minister of Mid-America, friends, and well wishers gathered at Centennial Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and virtually for the Ordination Service of Rev. Dr. Linda Tobias Doss. A graduate of Eden Seminary, she serves as Associate Minister of Centennial with Rev. Derrick Perkins, Senior Pastor, whose mentorship led her to accept the call to ministry 13 years ago. Rev. Doss combines ministry and serving as a nurse in a community health clinic. Her gifts were described as: “Healer, scholar, wise, meek, a gentle soul, and filled with the light of HIS Presence.



Rev. Dr. Linda Tobias Doss

So - “Let’s celebrate Rev. Dr. Doss for her perseverance, faithfulness, scholarship and love of service to others.”

Jennifer Strickland-Emerging Leader Award Recipient

Many of our readers were a part of the village that nurtured this writer’s daughter, Jennifer. You will be pleased to know that Jennifer Strickland was recently honored as a recipient of the 2021 “Emerging Leader Award.” She received the award May 11, 2021 during the 2021 Women to Women Virtual Leader Luncheon Awards hosted by The Women’s Fund of the Community Foundation of Central Illinois.

The Emerging Leader Award honors a young woman

“Let’s Celebrate!” (Continued)

between the ages of 25-40 who is a role model and demonstrates excellence and initiative in her chosen profession and service to the community. Jennifer announced her honor minutes before receiving the award. Why this delay in informing family about her nomination? Jennifer stated: “The competition was great, I did not expect to win, so I did not want to waste anyone’s time.” This writer assured her that being nominated was a win in itself and it is important to share good news with family. “Win or lose - we are very proud of her and relish the opportunity to celebrate her success. When one of us is lifted up - all of us are lifted up!!”



Jennifer Strickland

So - “Let’s celebrate Jennifer and the wonderful village that supported her and shaped her formative years!”

So - “Let’s celebrate Jennifer and the wonderful village that supported her and shaped her formative years!”

Share your story ideas for “In Touch”: for example, announce your retirement or tell us how you are doing in retirement; celebrate a milestone anniversary; tell us about that dream vacation; or share your reaction to a Grapevine article. Let us know about your story idea and we will help compose your article, if needed. Contact us at: 314.374.6556 nretphd@sbcglobal.net

Historic NAACP/Mormon Church Covenant Provides A Model For Social Justice!

The June 24-30, 2021 edition of the St. Louis American reported that the national leaders of the NAACP and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon Church) used the week of Juneteenth to announce strengthening of a relationship established in 2018.

In a jointly written op-ed in the publication “Medium”, condemning racism, they wrote: “Unitedly we declare that the answers to racism, prejudice, discrimination and hate will not come from government or law enforcement alone. Solutions will come as we open our hearts to those whose lives are different from our own, as we work to build bonds of genuine friendship, and as we see each other as the brothers and sisters we are - for we are all children of a loving God.”

The Mormon Church will donate \$3 million to fund scholarships for three years for Black students through the United Negro College Fund; \$250,000 to create a fellowship for students from the United States to travel to Ghana to learn about slavery; and \$6 million to fund three years of humanitarian aid aimed at helping residents of six metro areas in the United States.

So - “Let’s celebrate the Mormon Church and the NAACP for their covenant of unity and racial reconciliation. May other denominations do likewise!”

AND NOW THESE THREE REMAIN:
FAITH, HOPE & LOVE

What Remains...

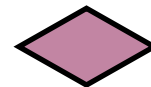
This week I listened to an interview with writer Anne Lamott. She was sharing reflections from her book, “Dusk, Night, Dawn: On Revival and Courage” and shared some thought on the last year. One of the parts that I remembered was how she talked about how much was taken away and yet how much we connected with what remained. In the midst of change, connection remained, and we found new ways to connect. In the midst of change, faith remained, and we found new ways to take leaps of faith. In the midst of change, hope remained, and we found more ways to remain hopeful. In the midst of change, love remained, and we continued to love each other. In the midst of change, we are always grateful for what always remains.



Rev. Shelia P. Spencer

In the midst of change, hope remained, and we found more ways to remain hopeful. In the midst of change, love remained, and we continued to love each other. In the midst of change, we are always grateful for what always remains.

Blessed to be a blessing to you,
Rev. Sheila P. Spencer



Rev. Shelia P. Spencer is the Interim President for Disciples Home Missions of the DOC in Indianapolis.

POET'S CORNER by May F. Reed



MY HEART IS LIKE A LIGHTHOUSE

My heart is like a Lighthouse
 Standing straight, and tall,
 so bright.
 All lighted up each day,
 But shining brightest thru the night.
 It watches for each vessel,
 Teeming light to human, kind.
 Flooding care and comfort to those
 That enter with questioning mind.
 So many souls in languish,
 So many hungry, hurt; they reel.
 Some seeking solace
 Now only long to be still.
 With comfort and peace often lost,
 Find their way again by the Lighthouse
 and receive that which is sought
 at no expense, no cost.

May Reed
 Written Mon., April 19, 2021

LIGHTHOUSES

I have always been fascinated with lighthouses. The earliest recorded lighthouse was maintained in Asia Minor before 660 B.C. The Pharos light, reported to be 100 feet square, was built at Alexandria, Egypt, about 280 B.C. It was one of the Seven Wonders of the World, and from its name was derived the term “pharology” which means the science of lighthouse construction.



*Portsmouth (NH)
 Harbor Lighthouse*

The earliest lighthouses in Europe were erected by the Romans of Dover, England, and at Boulogne-sur-Mer, France. Seafaring increased, lighthouses

began to be established in the Mediterranean Sea, on the Portuguese Coast, the Bay of Biscay and the English Channel. To identify the light for the mariner there are nine different types of signaling: the fixed light; the slow revolving light that flashes as it passes; the timed flashing; and six others.

Four of the NJ Lighthouses were shown virtually last year. They were the Absecon or “Abby” New Jersey’s tallest lighthouse. It has 228 steps and looks out over the Atlantic Ocean. It has been a beacon in Atlantic City since 1857. The Sea Girt Lighthouse was built in 1896. It was built to illuminate a



*Cape May Lighthouse
 Photo by Didier Moïse*

blind spot midway in the 38½ mile stretch between Twin Lights and the Barnegat Lighthouse. The tower is petite at 44 feet tall. The Barnegat or “Ol’ Barney” is the nickname for the distinguished 172-foot structure that is a landmark on Long Beach Island. It was completed in 1858. It has 217 steps. It was decommissioned as a Coast Guard Facility in 1944 and was re-lit in 2009. The Cape May Lighthouse in Cape May Point State Park was built in 1859, using the bricks from its 1847 predecessor. Cape May is active and has 199 steps that lead to great views of the Cape May Peninsula. It may still be available to view. capemaymac.org

SPEECH IS DIFFERENT IN SOME PLACES
 (A Bit of Jovial Pleasure)

Colbert Cartwright, in his biography wrote “Making a transition from the flat wheatlands of Kansas to the hills and mountains of Tennessee was not easy for a 4 year old. People didn’t talk the same way. One Sunday after church my mother asked me “What did you learn today in Sunday School?” I said “we talked about how in the beautiful spring-time all the birds turn into flowers. Mother looked at dad. Then it dawned on them; Miss Addie, my teacher, gushed with her southern drawl - what she’d said was “Spring is the season when all the little buds burst into flowers.”

Q. WHY IS 6 AFRAID OF 7? Because 7 ate 9.

BALANCE SHEET OF LIFE

By Ruth Hobbs

In the midst of a pandemic, public unrest, racial injustice, and chaos - Ruth P. Hobbs, centenarian Grapevine Board Member, Emerita - is thinking about the emotional, spiritual, and psychological well being of our readers. She received the following piece from a friend and she is eager to “pass on the wisdom” and encourage our readers to “keep the faith.”



The most destructive habit Worry
 The greatest joy Giving
 The most satisfying work Helping Others
 The greatest problem to overcome Fear
 The most effective sleeping pill Peace of Mind
 The most crippling failure disease Excuses
 The best self-help book The Bible
 The most powerful force in life Love
 The world’s most incredible computer The Brain
 The worst thing to be without Hope
 The deadliest weapon The Tongue
 The two most power-filled words “I Can”
 The greatest asset Faith
 The most worthless emotion Self-pity
 The most beautiful attire A Smile!
 The most prized possession Integrity
 The most powerful channel of communication Prayer
 The most contagious spirit Enthusiasm
 The most powerful spirit The Holy Spirit

LIFE ends, when you stop DREAMING;

HOPE ends, when you stop BELIEVING;

LOVE ends, when you stop CARING;

and FRIENDSHIP ends, when you stop SHARING.

A 4 INGREDIENT 23RD PSALMS

By Cynthia Hibbler

The Lord, He is like my Shepherd’s Pie, WONDERFUL!

I shall not want more than 2 serving scoops due to excessive carbs and mean calories.

The Lord maketh me to gather 1 ½ cups of vegetables.

In green pastures and 1 lb. of ground beef from the Kroger pasture. It is cooked thoroughly.

He leads me beside the distilled water to make homemade beef broth. A half cup is needed. He restores confidence in my soul to tirelessly mash 2 pounds of potatoes.

He leads me in the path of the right amount of salt, pepper and 1 tsp. of Worcestershire sauce, to layer a casserole dish with the pertinent ingredients correctly with mashed potatoes on top for His name’s sake.

Yea though I walk through the kitchen to the searing 400-degree oven of death, I will fear no evil mishap for you Lord God are with me to safely put the dish in the oven.

Your rod and staff remind me to clean up the mound of furious mess and wash the dishes.

Their warnings comfort me as the pie bakes in the oven for 30 min. while sweeping the floor.

Thou shall prepare a lovely table before me in the presence of my doubtful evil naysayers.

My cups of tears overflow looking at the golden pie with pride as it is removed from the oven.

An Ivy Tech Culinary Certificate glow on my kitchen wall.

Surely the Lord’s goodness and merciful directions like this one by Elise Bauer will follow me all the days of my life. And I will dwell in the house of the Lord with this recipe in my robe pocket forever.

Amen.

Note: I have used the 23rd Psalms in poetry form several times. I will never tire of using it. The complete Shepherd’s Pie recipe can be found in simplyrecipes.com. Elise Bauer is the author.

The King James Version of the 23rd Psalms was used to create this poem.



Let's Talk Economics

Economics will never likely make the top ten list of most popular dinner party conversation topics. Most folks couldn't care less about the inner workings of the economic system. But I would love to hear more conversations about things like gross domestic product, economic indicators, and fiscal policy. We need more critical conversations about how our economic system shapes us and our society.

The economy affects everyone. It directly impacts personal finances, investments, our jobs, and our very lives. But assumptions that overall economic conditions impact everyone equally are clearly wrong. Black unemployment rates have been roughly twice that of the overall rate for as long as we have the data. Median black net worth is one-tenth of that of whites. The Urban Institute points out that the gap in the home ownership rate between black and white families in the U.S. is bigger today than it was when it was legal to refuse to sell someone a home because of the color of their skin. Black child poverty is 30%, compared to 9% for white children. Black people own just 2% of businesses, and those businesses claim just 0.3% of revenue.

What lessens one of us lessens all of us. The persistent racial wealth gap in the U.S. is a heavy burden on Black Americans. Almost 70% of middle class Black American children are likely to fall out of the middle class as adults. But the racial gap also constrains the U.S. economy as a whole. McKinsey & Company estimated in a recent report that the racial wealth gap will cost the U.S. economy between \$1 trillion and \$1.5 trillion between 2019 and 2028.

In other words, GDP could be 4-6% higher by 2028. Racism is effectively costing Americans \$2,900 - \$4,300 for every man, woman, and child. By missing out on 4-6% economic growth, we all are robbing ourselves of a higher standard of living than we have today.

As a faith-based investor, we at the Foundation recognize the need to address the deep roots of racism in economic systems. We are committed to pushing toward racial justice. One recent action is calling upon companies to conduct a racial equity audit. A few companies have undertaken this external review of how their diversity, equity, and inclusion policies impact stakeholders. We will continue to advocate for more companies to consider how their internal policies, external communications, and organizational practices pertain to racial equity.

We are also working with our partners at the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility to integrate racial justice into investment decision-making and engagement strategies. Companies that imbed a racial lens into their culture are not only more sustainable, they are better investments.

Economics is not a bunch of abstract concepts. The economic system is an integral part of the human experience; it is tangible and deeply personal. So all may have the opportunity to thrive and prosper, we need more thoughtful and faith-based conversations about economic justice. A system which embraces fairness will make our economy more successful and our world a much better place for everyone.

Gary W. Kidwell
President, Christian Church Foundation



CHRISTIAN CHURCH FOUNDATION

Helping Disciples Make a Difference

DO YOU LOVE THE GRAPEVINE? READERS ARE ALL OVER THE COUNTRY!

ALABAMA - ARKANSAS - ARIZONA - CALIFORNIA - COLORADO - CONNECTICUT
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - DELAWARE - FLORIDA - GEORGIA - IOWA - IDAHO
ILLINOIS - INDIANA - KANSAS - KENTUCKY - LOUISIANA - MASSACHUSETTS
MARYLAND - MICHIGAN - MISSOURI - MISSISSIPPI - MONTANA
NORTH CAROLINA - NEW MEXICO - NEW JERSEY - NEW YORK - OHIO
OKLAHOMA - OREGON - PENNSYLVANIA - SOUTH CAROLINA - TENNESSEE - TEXAS
VERMONT - VIRGINIA - WASHINGTON - WISCONSIN - WEST VIRGINIA

What Great Things are You and Other Seasoned Church Members Doing?

We Want to Hear From You! Grapevine Readers Want to Know!



WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU!

Thanks to your generosity, The Grapevine's first-ever Fund Drive has netted over \$12,000! We were happy to honor the many contributors and their honorees in the



Kirby Gould

30th Anniversary Special Edition newsletter earlier in 2021. Many new donors have been added to our list of contributors. Our goals to upgrade technology, develop a social media presence, add support staff, and grow our endowment are starting to be realized!

We are at the midpoint of the Fund Drive, and are happy to introduce the next phase to increase gifts and generous giving as we press forward to move toward our goal.

We now enter the **Disciples Legacy** Phase to give opportunity for celebrating special events and to honor trailblazers and servant leaders in the life of the church. Please review the **Share Your Disciples' Legacy** article to learn more about how to make a Tribute.

Talk with your church or other constituent group, and consider placing a **Disciples' Legacy Tribute** in the next issue of the Newsletter. To do so: complete the **Disciples' Legacy Response Form on the next page, along with your contribution.**

Tributes will be recognized in the next issue of the Grapevine. If you have questions, feel free to contact me, or board president Norma Ellington-Twitty.

In Christ,

Kirby Gould,
Chair of the OTG Development Committee

Share Your Disciples' Legacy In The Grapevine: As The Grapevine Celebrates Our Disciples' Legacy

The Oldtimers' Grapevine Newsletter is celebrating our Thirtieth Anniversary throughout the year. A major Fund Drive, I Love The Grapevine, is a part of our celebration, as the Grapevine works to ensure the organization's financial security for the future.

The Grapevine Celebrates Our Disciples' Legacy is a newly launched phase of the Fund Drive. We invite our readers to place a Disciples' Legacy Tribute in the next issue of the Newsletter. By doing so, you will enable other readers from all over the country to share in our rich Disciples' legacy.

Your Disciples' Legacy Tribute can celebrate your church anniversary or special event in the life of your congregation. See Tribute sample (fictitious):

Hopewell Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ~ Saint Louis, Missouri

March 2021 - Celebrates 100 Years of Service to their Members & the Community!

Senior Pastor, Bakari Jone ~ Associate Pastor, Bob Hill

Another way to pay Tribute is to honor a servant leader/trailblazer whose service has impacted the local, regional, and/or general levels of the denomination. See Tribute sample (fictitious):

Members of Our Redeemer Christian Church (Disciples of Christ): Sanai Templeton and Jennifer Thomas honor these faithful leaders whose selfless service has blessed our congregation and the community at large: Rev. George Grant, Howard Filmore, Dorothy Ellis, Susan Graham, John Ford & Ruth Norman

Complete the attached Disciples' Legacy Response Form to Share Your Rich Disciples' Legacy in the next issue of the Grapevine Newsletter.

Many Thanks for Your support!

DISCIPLES' LEGACY RESPONSE FORM

Name _____

Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____ Email Address _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Each *Disciples' Legacy Tribute* is \$200. I have enclosed my donation of \$200* _____ or Other Amount \$ _____

Please make your check payable to The Oldtimers' Grapevine. Please send this *Disciples' Legacy Response Form* and your donation to The Oldtimers' Grapevine, ATTN: Norman Reed PO Box 441695, Indianapolis, IN 46244

To place a **DISCIPLES' LEGACY TRIBUTE** complete the information requested in Section One and/or Two below to *enable the Grapevine to compose your Tribute*.

DISCIPLES' LEGACY TRIBUTE INFORMATION

Section 1. Church Anniversary or Special Event *Disciples' Legacy Tribute*

Church Name:

Senior Pastor:

City/State:

Associate Pastor(s):

Month/2021 Anniversary Date:

Number of Years Celebrated:

Names of Persons Sponsoring the Tribute: List up to two (2) names. If the church is officially sponsoring the Tribute - leave this section blank.

Descriptive Phrase for Anniversary Celebration/Special Event: No more than 30 words please. Use back of form if needed. (See sample on the preceding page.)

Section 2. Trailblazer/Servant Leader *Disciples' Legacy Tribute:* (See sample on the preceding page).

Names of Persons Sponsoring the Tribute: List Sponsoring Organization or up to two (2) sponsor names.

Descriptive Phrase in celebration of honorees: No more than 30 words please. Use back of form if needed.

List Honorees: List names of up to six (6) persons being honored. Next, **Indicate the position of persons being honored:** regional minister, pastor, church founder, general unit employee, spiritual mentor, and the like.



Our Donors

Thank you for your generosity!

Gifts in Support of the Grapevine Operations Fund

January 15 – April 30, 2021

Sandra Bryant	Cynthia Hibbler	Ms. Yvonne J. Malone
Dr. Norma Ellington-Twitty	Glenn H. Holme	Ms. Eva D. Martin
Rev. Tyrone Eugene Fisher	Minister Sheryl Holmes	<i>In Memory of Artie Scott</i>
Rev. Dr. J.R. Foulkes	Rev. Eugene James	Rev. Ray L. Nixon
John and Kirby Gould	Mr. Loy Paxton Jones	Dr. & Mrs. William J. Nottingham
Donna and Jim Green	Kathleen R. Kelley	Rev. Arzolla I. Phillips
Ms. Ina M. Green	Thomas L. Killough	Rev. Norman & Eld. May Reed
Mae E. Harris	Ms. Marlene Durham Lamberg	Mrs. Norweida Spencer
Eld. Arnold G. Hayes	Mr. Maurice R. Lee	Norman & Linda Williams

DONOR RECOGNITION FOR "I LOVE THE GRAPEVINE" FUND DRIVE

January 15 – April 30, 2021

Donor and Honoree

JOHN R. & MARILYN FOULKES CIRCLE

Gifts of \$1000-\$2,999

Katherine Fox-Cunningham
Rev. Dr. William & Reubena Fox

Drs. Donald K. & Charisse L. Gillett
Rev. Dr. John R. & Marilyn Foulkes

RUTH POWELL HOBBS CIRCLE

Gifts under \$500

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Jimmie S. Chambers, Sr. <i>Geraldynne M. Holt</i>	Mr. Samuel W. Hylton, III <i>Rev. Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr.</i>	Jerry E. Norris <i>Rev. William Cole Blackwell</i>
Patricia Clark <i>Rev. Dr. Karey E. L. Gee</i>	Rev. Titus H. James, Sr. <i>Jeremiah Eugene Bernard James</i>	Ms. Lentora G. Parker
Ms. Shirley D. Compton <i>Rev. Dr. John R. Compton, Sr.</i>	Bernice J. Jenkins <i>Rev. Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr.</i>	Zelois M. Powell <i>Rev. Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr.</i>
Doris C. Daugherty <i>Mr. Oscar Haynes</i>	Bob Hill <i>Rev. S. S. Myers</i>	Laura A. Squire <i>Frank Bradley</i>
Norma Ellington-Twitty <i>Rev. Dr. Gerald Cunningham</i>	Minister Sheryl Hayes Holmes <i>Eld. Callum and Hildra Hayes</i>	Rev. Charles H. Webb, Jr. <i>Rev. Charles H. Webb, Sr.</i>
Ms. Karen E. Hylton <i>Rev. Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr.</i>	Margretha J. Kellam <i>Elder John R. Redd & Deacon Odatta Redd</i>	Johnny & Debbie Wray <i>L. Wayne Stewart</i>

**GIFTS & TRIBUTES FOR "I LOVE THE GRAPEVINE" FUND DRIVE
DISCIPLES' LEGACY PHASE
January 15 – June 11, 2021**

**DISCIPLES' LEGACY TRIBUTE
TO**

*Alice Stovall Moore, Martha Stovall Barnett,
Clara Stovall Blair, Laura Stovall Shumate,
Nannie Stovall Thomas,
& Nora Ila Stovall Clark*

Celebrating the rich legacy of my family members. Paying tribute to the vision and faithfulness of my beloved aunts who were early members and supporters of Cedar Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ) in Cleveland, Ohio

Presented By Patricia Clark

**DISCIPLES' LEGACY TRIBUTE
TO**

Sandra Bryant

**PHENOMENAL WOMAN ~ DEDICATED SERVANT LEADER
Executive Director**

All Peoples Community Center Los Angeles, California

WE CELEBRATE YOU & Your over 30 years of exceptional leadership, selfless service, compassion, and advocacy for underserved children & families in need.

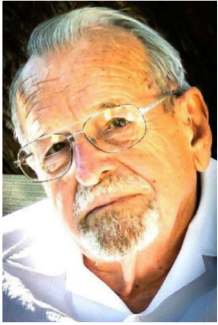
Much love, John R. Foulkes & Kirby Gould

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

REV. CHARLES H. BAYER

The Rev. Charles H. Bayer believed in justice, peace and love - and in fighting the good fight for all three. Charles, a longtime minister, professor, newspaper columnist and author, died June 26, 2021, at Pilgrim Place Health Center in Claremont, Calif., after a brief illness. He was 91.

Charles was born in Philadelphia and graduated from Lower Merion High School in 1948. He received his bachelor's degree in 1952 from Phillips University in Enid, and then attended seminary there.



Known for his thoughtful and inspiring sermons, Charles was the senior pastor of several Disciples of Christ congregations: the University Church, Chicago Illinois; First Christian Church in Alexandria, Virginia, and Shepherd Park

Christian Church in Washington, D.C.

He also served as president of the Washington, D.C., Area Council of Churches, frequently gave the opening prayer in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, and was a founding member of the Disciples Justice Action Network.

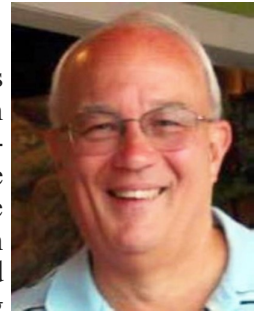
Everywhere he went, people who had never found a church they liked discovered in Charles the honesty, questioning spirit, intelligence, and rebellious streak they didn't know their souls needed. Charles met people on the outs with the law - civil rights marchers, Vietnam protesters, the Chicago 8 - with an open door and an open heart.

His books include: "Hope for the Mainline Church," "The Babylonian Captivity of the Mainline Church," "A Resurrected Church: Christianity After the Death of Christendom," "A Guide to Liberation Theology for Middle-Class Congregations," "Reclaiming the Christian Faith," "When It Is Dark Enough: Sermons for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany," and "Building a Biblical Faith: A Seeker's Guide to Christian Theology."

Charles is survived by his wife, Wendy; his daughter, Beth; his stepchildren, Jennifer Divine, Mary Divine Myers and Sean Divine; 11 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

ROBERT STEVEN "STEVE" BELDING

Robert Steven "Steve" Belding 74, passed away May 17, 2021. He was born February 3, 1947 in Indianapolis to the late Robert Vernon and Tommie Frances Belding. Steve was a graduate of Arsenal Tech High School, where he was student body president and a member of the Techoir and the Boy's Octet.



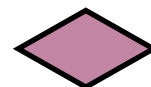
He received his Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics from Purdue University and attended Butler University while working on his MBA. He married Linda Sue Smith on June 8, 1968, and started teaching math and coaching baseball at Lawrence Central High School.

In 1973, he started working for National Insurance Association in Governmental Affairs, retiring in 2000. He then worked for Christian Church Services for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for 11 years. After his second retirement, he volunteered regularly at Indian Lake Country Club in the pro shop.

Steve was a former member of Centenary Christian Church, where his grandmother was a founding member. He was a 40-year member of Allisonville Christian Church where he served in many leadership positions. He was a Sunday school teacher, a member of the choir and Arts program, and the church's unofficial Visitor Greeter. His smile and infectious attitude welcomed many people to the church.

Steve was also a longtime Commissioner of Allisonville Pee Wee Baseball League and a reliable server at church events. He went on mission and work trips, played on the church softball team, and was a constant presence on building and planning committees.

He enjoyed golf, tennis, and lounge chairs next to a pool, but most importantly he loved being the #1 fan at his grandchildren's sporting and school events.

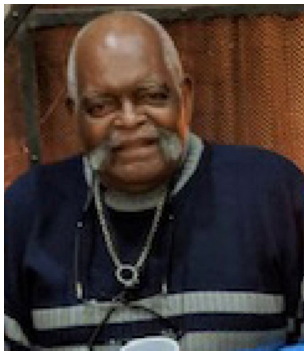


FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

REV. DR. KAREY E.L. GEE

On June 11, 2021, Reverend Doctor Karey E.L. Gee transitioned from his earthly home in Jacksonville, Florida, to new life in Christ. Throughout his long and vital ministry, he was beloved: a servant leader who touched lives, uplifted lives, and made lives better: always with a warmth, humor, courage, and humanity that made you smile and made you want to do better.

The family conducted two Homegoing Celebrations for Karey: on June 16, 2021, at his home church, Southside Christian Church (Disciples of Christ*) in Jacksonville, Florida; and on June 19, 2021 at Hyde Park Christian Church in Austin, Texas, near family of Karey and his late wife Pat. Rev. Dr. Gee was born in Matagorda County Texas, in 1935; where he was raised as a farmer sowing seed and eventually answered his calling to sow into the hearts of God's people.



Karey earned his master's degree at Texas Christian University and went to Seminary at Brite Divinity School. He later received his Doctoral degree at Lexington Theological Seminary. Prior to his seminary work he attended Houston-Tillotson College in Austin where he was a member of Bethany Christian Church and where he met Patricia Ann Gee. They were married and she continued to serve God with her beautiful voice as he started his ministry. She went on to serve in God's heavenly choir in 2001.

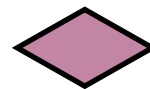
He started his ministry with pastoral work, serving at the Second Christian Church in Fort Worth Texas, Eastside Christian Church in Longview Texas, Pine Street Christian Church in Tulsa Oklahoma and Mt. Olive Christian Church in Baltimore Maryland. Over the course of this ministry Karey and Patricia had their three children: Viola, Karey and Alesia. They grew up in Wilson, North Carolina where Reverend Gee worked for the Division of Homeland Ministries and became the first Black Associate Regional Minister of the Christian Church, serving churches in North Carolina and parts of Virginia. He also began some of his work petitioning for fair wages and housing, helping to found Gee Corbett Village Apartments and being cho-

sen to have a street named after him, Gee Lane. Karey Gee was one of five people selected by the National Council of Churches to meet with the committee to confer with sitting President Jimmy Carter on the Humphrey-Hawkins Bill.

While training with the National Benevolent Association (NBA) as a possible developer, he learned about the Hollybrook Homes Apartments in Jacksonville, Florida, a multifamily housing complex that NBA managed. He and his wife decided to move to Jacksonville where he served as CEO of Hollybrook. Karey's mission was to make the complex a true "home" for residents. NBA employees have fond memories of Karey and his famous clipboard - a sign of authority and courage that he held as he made Hollybrook a safer place and a true community of thriving residents. He won several awards for his accomplishments as CEO from the NBA, HUD, the Hollybrook residents, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Division of Overseas Ministry, Division of Homeland Ministry, United States Marshals Service, Church of Action for Safe and Just Communities, and others.

He was also instrumental in placing ten families in apartments and collecting furniture and household goods after Hurricane Katrina's devastation. He retired from the NBA in 2001 to care for his wife. Even after retirement he remained involved with community service efforts and continued to serve as a dedicated elder at Southside Christian Church in Jacksonville.

**All Christian Church listings are (Disciples of Christ)*



**Don't Forget Your "I Love The Grapevine"
Fundraiser contributions in remembrance
of Your Loved One or someone special
to you.**

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

LAWRENCE JOHN O'NEIL

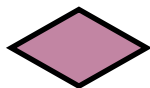
Lawrence John O'Neil, 72, of Indianapolis, passed peacefully at his home on Thursday, February 11. He was a lifelong resident of the city. He was preceded in death by parents, John J. O'Neil & Mildred "Midge" E. (McBride) O'Neil. He is survived by his devoted wife, Amy Erzinger O'Neil, sister, Suzy Reed, brother, Daniel O'Neil, sister, Kathryn L. Arnett and brothers, Robert D. O'Neil & Timothy L. O'Neil, sisters in law, Joan Kesicki, Elizabeth Erzinger & spouses, step-daughter, Patricia Triveri, three step grandchildren & six step great grandchildren.



Larry grew up on the eastside of Indianapolis, graduated from Arsenal Technical High School, class of 1967. He retired from IUPUI where he was employed as an electrician/fire protection services technician for IUPUI, Indianapolis campus, for many years.

As a youngster, he loved to tinker with all things electrical and was forever dragging home a discarded radio, etc., in the hopes he could get it working again. He was a long time resident of the southside of the city.

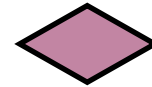
He was an active member of the local Mended Hearts support group where he served as Vice President. Larry loved the R.V. lifestyle and had an absolute fascination for a well-crafted campfire.



DONNA NAN MARIE HAYNES TAYLOR



Our beloved daughter, Donna Nan Marie Haynes Taylor went home to God on Sunday, January 31, 2021 after a valiant fight against cancer. She won! We lost her. She shed the body that betrayed her. God, Oscar, Mae, Kim and all the ancestors have welcomed her home! My heart is broken!



REV. ED LITTON ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

(Continued from Page 4)

Some had warned that the stakes for the denomination, which often serves as a bellwether for white American evangelicalism, have never been higher. Rev. Litton has been active in *The Pledge Group*, which works on racial reconciliation in Mobile, Alabama, where he has been pastor for 27 years. That work has taught him the need for humility, he said, something that has become a hallmark of his ministry.

We would like to apologize for the delay in the publication of this issue of the Oldtimers' Grapevine. Our wonderful all-volunteer editorial staff and board works very hard to make this Ministry meaningful for all of us.



Donor Form

Dear Friend and Reader of The Oldtimers' Grapevine,

The Board and staff hope that you enjoy reading every edition of our newsletter. It is a labor of love for those who write for it, produced it, and the Board that oversees its realization. We are forever grateful for saints like William K. Fox and Oscar Haynes who worked tirelessly to make sure this free publication is available to anyone who desires to receive it.

Of course there is a cost to produce the Grapevine. It is the ongoing donations from faithful readers that ensure the Grapevine is available to all. The Board and staff want to give each and every one of you the opportunity to make a donation - to widen and strengthen our circle of givers, thus ensuring that this historic newsletter continues to carry out its mission.

Would you please take a moment to consider a gift? We thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

MY CONTACT INFORMATION

(Please print)

Name: _____

E-Mail Address _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ May We Text You? (Circle One) Yes/No

I have Enclosed my donation(s): Total: _____

A. Annual Fund

\$15 ___ \$25 ___ \$100 ___ Other _____

This Annual Fund Gift is in memory of _____

or in honor of _____

B. I Love The Grapevine Fund Drive

\$15 ___ \$25 ___ \$100 ___ Other _____

(remember a gift of \$100 enables you to memorialize or honor one person)

This I Love The Grapevine Fund Drive Gift is in memory of _____

or in honor of _____

____ You have my permission to list my name and my honoree in an upcoming newsletter *(no amounts will be listed)*

C. Disciples' Legacy Tribute Fund Phase

(see separate Disciples' Legacy Tribute Response Form) \$200 (1 Tribute) ___ \$400 (2 Tributes) ___

For inquiries please contact us at oldtimers.grapevine@gmail.com.

*Please make your check payable to **The Oldtimers' Grapevine**. Please send your Donor Response Form and donation to The Oldtimers' Grapevine, ATTN: Treasurer-P.O. Box 441695, Indianapolis, IN 46244*

Many Thanks For Your Support!

The OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE

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OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE is a free print and electronic ministry published three times a year through tax exempt donations. The ministry networks Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) seasoned pilgrims by: 1) enhancement of communication and sharing of mutual experiences; 2) conveying a holistic view of aging and health; 3) being an advocate for seniors to become a supportive, loving and caring community; 4) giving honor and dignity to the lives of those included in "For Whom The Bell Tolls"; and 5) highlighting opportunities for the maintenance of a high quality life style and service in retirement. We are enabled by the vision of our founder and publisher/executive editor emeritus; and servants ordered as Board of Directors, administration and editorial staff.

THE REV. DR. WILLIAM K. FOX (1917-2004)

Founder

OSCAR HAYNES (1916-2014)

Publisher/Executive Editor Emeritus

RUTH POWELL HOBBS

Board Member Emerita

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