

The Oldtimers' Grapevine

JANUARY – APRIL 2022

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 1

The Oldtimers' Grapevine Bestows Honors

by Dr. Norma Ellington-Twitty

If you are a faithful Grapevine reader, the name John R. Foulkes is familiar. On a strictly volunteer basis, he served as Publisher/Executive Editor of *The Oldtimers' Grapevine Newsletter* for eight and one half years. With love and a servant's heart, John was faithful, prophetic, and always committed to speaking God's truth to our readers.

Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are leaders in the Lord's work.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:12 NLT



John R. Foulkes
Publisher/Executive Editor Emeritus

Another name familiar to Grapevine readers is May Reed, the prolific author who pens "The Poet's Corner" for each issue of the newsletter. Indeed, for 20 years, May has faithfully produced original poetry for our readers.

Sometimes when folks are "always there" and faithfully carry out their chosen roles, it is easy to overlook their greatness and how very special they are. Thank goodness the Grapevine Board of Directors is not guilty of taking John and May for granted.

The board approved two formal resolutions at the January 2022 board meeting. The first resolution bestowed the title of "Publisher/Executive Editor Emeritus" on Rev. Dr. John R. Foulkes, Sr., who stepped down from his position in September 2021, after eight and one half years of exemplary service.

A second resolution conferred the title of "Grapevine Poet Laureate" on May F. Reed. Historically, a position of "poet laureate" was associated with an eminent poet, considered a part of the British royal family, who composed poetry for special events and celebrations. Over the years, the position evolved and now refers more broadly to a poet honored for achievement or to one officially appointed by a government/institution and expected to compose poems for special events and occasions.

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May F. Reed
Grapevine Poet Laureate

Board Honors (Cont'd.)

Both John and May were present to receive their honor and the appreciation of board members. John's resolution described him as "having the heart of a servant leader, who, with eloquence, erudition, and a heart for Christ, has spoken to, and spoken out for, the beloved of God." Under his leadership, the circulation of the newsletter has grown and the scope and depth of articles have expanded in a manner that has greatly enriched the lives of Grapevine readers.

As Publisher/Executive Editor Emeritus, John will no longer be involved in the day to day work of the Grapevine; however, he has achieved elder statesman status with the ministry. We will continue to welcome opportunities to benefit from the wisdom and experience that flow from his eldership.

In her resolution, May, a published poet, was commended for "her remarkable achievement of faithfully providing original poetry for annual issues of the Grapevine for the past twenty years." In addition to the exceptional quantity of her poems, the quality of her literary creations is of great impact for the reader. The poems she creates expressly for Grapevine readers touch our heart, make us smile, and remind us of the power of the human spirit. Board members expressed their appreciation for her literary excellence, as well as her generous and loving nature.

May has served the denomination in a number of roles: certified archivist with the Disciples Historical Society, former president of the National Convocation's Ministers Wives and Husbands Fellowship, and is currently an elder at Light of the World Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Thankfully, our new Grapevine Poet Laureate will continue to produce her articles for the newsletter. We hope May's new title will be a reminder of how much we appreciate her and the literary gifts that she shares with our readers. In a word, May - Thank-you!!

Both honorees reside in Indianapolis, Indiana and are members of Light of the World Christian Church (DOC).





Letter From The Board President

Building a Bright Future

For I know the plans I have for You declares the Lord, PLANS to prosper you and Not to harm you. PLANS to GIVE YOU hope and a future.
- Jeremiah 29:11

Dear Beloved Grapevine Readers,

It was a year ago that we began our **30th Anniversary Celebration** with joy, hope, and deep appreciation for our rich legacy. At the same time, we launched our first major fund drive, ***I Love The Grapevine***, providing an opportunity for our readers and supporters to celebrate this legacy by honoring loved ones and investing in our future.

We enter our 31st year with renewed joy, hope, and deep appreciation for the remarkable support we received. We raised four times the amount we had ever raised in the past. We had unanimous support from board and staff. We added a significant number of new donors and readers, which more than doubled the number of donors from previous years! No less than 90% of the funds raised will be placed in our endowment fund with the Christian Church Foundation. The increased interest earned will supplement the operations on an annual basis, in perpetuity.

We thank each and every one of you who gave. Some gave multiple times. Whatever the amount of your gift, we feel the love that prompted the gift, and we feel your support. You demonstrated clearly that you do indeed love the Grapevine! Your remarkable support is such an affirmation of our mission. What a foundation for building for another 30 plus years of the Grapevine ministry! Now all we have to do is translate that support and affirmation into a plan for building a bright future for the Grapevine.

At the time this newsletter is going to press, the board is preparing for a planning retreat, our first. Our theme is: ***Celebrating Our Rich Legacy...Embracing Change...Building A Bright Future***. With board, staff, and invited Grapevine friends, we will envision a future that enables the Grapevine to remain true to its core values, yet embrace those changes needed to remain viable and relevant. The results of the retreat will inform us of the type of Managing Editor we need to recruit and help identify the challenges and opportunities the new leader will face. We will then launch a search committee to fill the position of Managing Editor of *The Oldtimers' Grapevine* by midyear.

We are changing. We are on the move. We are all about building upon our rich legacy and the recent accomplishments of our anniversary year. We know we can accomplish difficult things in difficult times with the support of our readers and direction from God. As always, we solicit your prayers as we continue to build. Please contact us if you are interested in the Managing Editor position.

Your Sister In Christ,

Dr. Norma Ellington-Twitty
Board President

Contact us:
P.O. Box 441695
Indianapolis, IN 46244
oldtimers.grapevine@gmail.com

News From Our Wider Church Ministries

Global Ministries Names New President



Reverend LaMarco (Marco) Antonio Cable

The November 8, 2021 Disciples News Service article announced that Reverend LaMarco (Marco) Antonio Cable has been called to serve as the next President of the Division of Overseas Ministries and Co-Executive of Global Ministries. Rev. Cable started his position on January 1, 2022, succeeding Julia Brown Karimu who retired after 44 years of ministry from the dual role on December 31, 2021.

Rev. Cable commented, "I'm excited about having the opportunity to lead this ministry at a time when we are celebrating 25 years of ministry with our United Church of Christ (UCC) colleagues and friends and to think about what is possible in terms of global mission for the Christian Church (DOC) and the United Church of Christ. I love that we are able to walk alongside, sharing and receiving the gifts and graces for mission and ministry, with so many diverse communities around the world." Marco has a deep passion for the transformational work of Global Ministries, bringing both experience and innovation," says Rev. Cyndy Twedell, Chair of the Division of Overseas Ministries (DOM) Board of Directors. "He is qualified and prepared to lead this sacred ministry. The DOM Board of Directors confidently offers our full support to Marco. We celebrate Marco and look forward to working with him as he leads us into the future."

To partners, Rev. Cable shares, "In many ways, Global Ministries will continue to be the organization and ministry you know. We will continue to accompany you in realizing your mission and vision. As we move forward, there are opportunities for deeper engagement and hearing from you as we shape our future together."

Rev. Cable currently serves as Global Ministries' Area Executive for Africa. As Africa Executive, he is responsible for nurturing relationships with churches, ecumenical and interfaith organizations, and communities in the African region. Rev. Cable organizes trips to Africa for individuals and groups, supervises mission co-workers, and mobilizes support for Church partners in Africa. He also provides specialized knowledge to churches in the United States and Canada on the religious, political, and cultural life of communities in Africa.

Before being called to serve as the Africa Executive at Global Ministries, Rev. Cable served as the Deputy Director for Organizing at Bread for the World Headquarters in Washington, D.C. He has also previously served as the Interim Mission Personnel Executive and Program Associate for Advocacy and Education at Global Ministries.

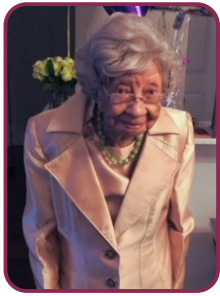
In 2007, Rev. Cable was ordained by the Christian Church (DOC) in Kentucky and Tennessee. Rev. Cable served as pastor at Haddon Street Christian Church (DOC) in Rogersville, Tennessee and Broadway Christian Church (DOC) in Winchester, Kentucky. He also served congregations in Memphis, Tennessee; Lexington, Kentucky; Washington, D.C. and Madisonville, Kentucky.

He earned a bachelor of arts in Religion and Sociology from Transylvania University and a Master of Divinity from Lexington Theological Seminary, where he serves on the Alumni Council. He is completing his Doctor of Ministry at McCormick Theological Seminary.

Originally from Memphis, Tennessee, Rev. Cable currently resides in Indianapolis, Indiana where he is a member of Light of the World Christian Church (DOC). There he serves on the Commission on Ministry. He also volunteers with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana and Wheeler Mission Men's Shelter. For fun, Rev. Cable enjoys nature walks with friends, spending time with family and attending Broadway shows. He is the son of a human resource professional and a veteran. He is also a brother and an uncle to a niece and two nephews.

I am grateful for the ways that the church has nurtured me. As I enter this role, I am committed to being the best person mentally, spiritually, and emotionally to lead this ministry forward. I will be faithful in honoring who we are, and uplifting our values.
~Rev. Marco Cable

Sharing Grapevine Good News



Ruth P. Hobbs Turns 107!

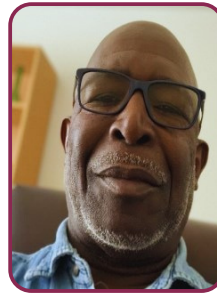
Ruth P. Hobbs became a *super centenarian* on February 18 when she celebrated her 107th Birthday! Her daughter, Falvia Roberts, described a low key celebration that included a surprise visit from Ruth's daughter, Romona.

Due to the pandemic, friends and family did not gather in person. Instead, they picked up the family's favorite brand of ginger beer (Fever Tree) and celebrated Ruth "in place" at home.

Prior to Ruth's birthday, friends and family submitted their favorite memories of Ruth in writing. Falvia read one or two writings each day leading up to her birthday. Ruth enjoyed them immensely, particularly those from the grandchildren. These precious memories fill a scrapbook to overflowing.

Ruth enjoyed a myriad of text messages, calls, cards, gifts, balloons, and floral arrangements during her birthday week. The conclusion is that "the queen," so called by her closest friends, had yet another wonderful birthday. We can see that at 107, Ruth celebrates her birthday in style. Just look at how beautiful she looks in that lovely suit.

*Dear Ruth ~ Our friend, our poet, our Board Member Emerita and our Queen ~
What a rich life and what a rich legacy! We wish you many more happy days!*



Board Member Retires

Our faithful Grapevine board member, Rev. Eugene James has announced his retirement as Regional Minister of the Michigan Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He has moved back to the greater Detroit area, from Lansing. So far, retirement is agreeing with him and he reports enjoying days without a schedule.

We salute Rev. James for a successful 40+ year career that has included service at the congregational level, in addition to ministry at the denomination level and extend best wishes as he begins this next chapter in his life. Eugene promises to provide a retirement update on the three recently retired James brothers, including Rev. Titus and Rev. Timothy James in the next issue of the Grapevine.

**Do you have good news to share?
Want to nominate someone for the
2022 Class of "Eighty Eighty Plus"?
We want to hear from you!**

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oldtimers.grapevine@gmail.com

The "Eighty Eighty Plus" Class of 2022 Wants YOU!

The Oldtimers' Grapevine believes there are many 80+ year olds amongst our readership who continue in service. Sharing your stories of successful aging and continuing service in retirement is just what "younger" and "older" retirees need to hear, as inspiration and hope for them to "keep going." It gives all of us the opportunity to say: Thank You!

*They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming,
"The Lord is upright; he is my Rock..."
-Psalm 92:14 (NIV)*

The Grapevine is all about celebrating servant leaders, 80 years old or older, who are actively engaged in ministry at the local, regional, or national levels of the denomination. In the February 2021 30th Anniversary newsletter we introduced the "Eighty Eighty Plus" Grapevine Servant Leadership Recognition Program.

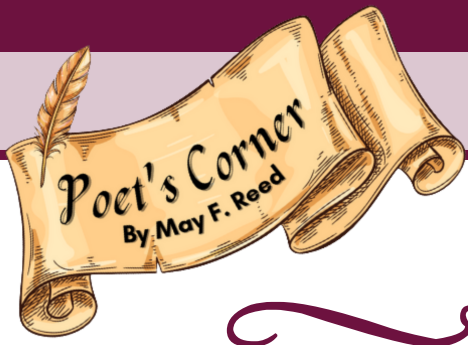
The inaugural class included Ruth P. Hobbs, Grapevine Board Member Emerita, Claude Maples, former Grapevine board member, and John R. Foulkes, former Grapevine Publisher/Executive Editor. Their profiles were featured in the issue. By recognizing these retirees, we send a message of hope and inspiration: a message that aging is not always associated with decline or lowered capacity.

For 2022, we plan to induct productive retirees into the second class of "Eighty Eighty Plus" and feature their stories in the next issue of the Grapevine. Our goal is to inspire and encourage our readers by highlighting opportunities for the maintenance of a high quality lifestyle and service in retirement.

We invite you to nominate someone to join the 2022 class. Nominees should display resilience in the face of challenges, adhere to habits that promote healthy aging, and display a thirst for lifelong learning/self-improvement. Service to others is a high priority for them and their activities make a difference in their congregations, their neighborhoods, and their community. These seniors inspire, motivate, and show a loving, supportive commitment to family and friends.



The inaugural Class of "Eighty Eighty Plus" included L to R: John Foulkes, Ruth Hobbs, and Caude Maples



REVEREND MAUDINE MCCURINE WORDLAW

by May Reed, Grapevine Poet Laureate

Rain, shine, sleet or snow
She faithfully rises - gets ready to go.
On her knees she prays at four A.M.
To prepare her heart thru talking with HIM.
Then forward she treads
Tho the day's task be wide.
She faithfully, dutifully, serves and abides,
For certain, undeniably, since this day began,
Sensing God's call, she has sought to defend.
Be ye assured as this path loomed forth,
many moons have evolved yet
she's stayed on course. Changed? No,
nothing at all has made her think "Whoa."
She preaches, teaches and stays
On the go.
Matters not what Woe's may be
Of those bereaved she journeys to see.
'KIND' words shared and "KIND' deeds too,
She ministers when called, none will she rue.
While life piles, stacks high her chores,
Mother Wordlaw keeps chopping
And knocking on doors.
Chaff, thru the Word is blown away,
For righteousness fills her soul
Day-by-day.
No, time hasn't changed me
Not one bit - she says
As she takes hold to turn life's next page.
For she has 'tackled' life boldly
AND SHE DOES LOVE FOOTBALL
But there's No time to procrastinate
As she ruminates in her mind.
'Tis with the Word I'll make my life, sublime.'

Written February 1, 2022

MOTHER WORDLAW is Minister of Bereavement at Light of the World Christian Church (D of C) where the Rev. R. Janae Pitts-Murdock is Senior Pastor in the city of Indianapolis, IN. [Blessings be upon her.]

LIFE IS A CLASSROOM

Because life is comprised of a daily routine of doing and learning, and experiencing new things, and old things although sometimes done in a new way with different circumstances, new thoughts, new views, new acquaintances and insights, we often find ourselves in a quandary of thought. Typically, our lives are manifested in many ways, and often it is easy to assimilate the old with the new. 😊
And there are moments you may find you have created an atmosphere of a classroom in your mind, only you aren't sitting in an actual classroom which might be alphabetically arranged so you are seated next to that individual whose name is most closely spelled like your own or, at least, that was how it was back in the 50's and 60's. I think the greatest classroom is housed in your mind, your thoughts, and it can be like arranging furniture in a room, a house, and you keep moving it about until you get it just like you want it or the way you think it should be. Because the housing or thought process is different in each one's mind, the outcome won't be, can't be identical. But if the housing holds good thoughts and has had good training, then although it may be different personalities, traits, it will still bear good results. Naturally change happens in the way we think, do, feel and see things as we develop. And change is good, but to make changes just for the sake of changing may not be profitable or just may not be the best decision in a particular situation. The eye is the window of the soul. Why not make every effort to see things more clearly while there is still light in the classroom. "

A LITTLE MIRTH

There were 2 mice who lived in a museum. One evening after the museum closed, the first mouse crawled into a huge suit of armor. Before he knew it he was lost inside the thing. "HELP" he shouted to his friend. "HELP ME MAKE IT THROUGH THIS KNIGHT."



Please Find Me Oh Lord

by Cynthia Hibbler



A sparrow was sitting on a tiny red hummingbird perch.
The weight from its body caused the feeder to sway to and fro,
rocking the sweet water outward to drip slowly
to the concrete porch floor below it.
Ants embraced the opportunity to dine on sweetness.
Watching intensively,
it appears the bird had lost its way in life,
lost its proper place in the world or
perhaps it was looking for a new place,
waiting steadfast on the little-bitty perch to find it.

A man was sitting on a hummingbird perch
in his profession. He did not feel he was where
he should be, needed to be, loved to be, and blessed to be.
Together, he and his wife called boldly upon the Lord.
They listened to a business minded God who made
the heavens and the earth. He asked them to count
the cost of walking away from everything
they had worked so hard to acquire;
to count the cost of following Him their Lord and Savior.

There will be good days and bad days.
They knew their young family
would lose some things and gain others.
God's promises and written contract agreement
was hard to dismiss.
With much prayer, they followed the Lord.
He got off the too small hummingbird perch,
discarded his too small business goals,
to allow the LORD GOD of Abraham to lead him.
He experienced a fulfilled life giving his time
and valuable talents to those who needed him most.
He worked for the downcast, down trodden,
and the just plain down people. He served the
moneyless, penny-less, rejected
people from all over the world.
Like Abraham, his borders had no limit.
He used his skills to help the people he served
achieve their moment of healing
along with his own.

The Lord calls him HAPPY and complete.
The man agrees.



We Counted on YOU!

You RESPONDED with GENEROSITY



As we began our anniversary year in February 2021, our goal was to grow our funding support and increase our readership. Thanks to your support, we are pleased to share our success in both areas!

I Love The Grapevine Fund Drive

Thanks to the generosity of our readers, many of whom are new to the Grapevine, along with full support of our board and staff, we marked our 30th anniversary with a year long celebration of our rich legacy and a highly successful fund drive.

We are pleased to announce that as of February 28, 2022, the *I Love the Grapevine Fund Drive* has raised \$20,305.00. This amount represents an outstanding success for the Grapevine, as it is four times the amount we have ever raised in the past.

We achieved this success because of **YOU**. Of the 72 donors to the fund drive, 37 were new donors! We extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your generosity and affirmation of our mission.

Proceeds will be deposited in the Grapevine Endowment Fund with the Christian Church Foundation. With the growth in the endowment, the annual interest income distributions will help with operational expenses. Your gift will continue to generate income for the Grapevine in perpetuity...a lasting legacy for the ongoing financial strength of the Grapevine.

There will be no further solicitation for the *I Love the Grapevine Fund Drive*. If readers would like to continue to make donations to the *Endowment Fund*, they will be gladly received. We look forward to your support of the Operations Fund in 2022.

Operations Fund Support

Many readers, some of whom are new to the Grapevine, also contributed to the Operations Fund. (Some gave to both the Fund Drive and the Operations Fund last year.) For the 2021 calendar year, we are pleased to announce *Operations Fund donations* from 38 supporters totaled \$7,990.80. We extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your generosity and support.

With the fundraising drive winding down, we will now focus on growing our annual Operations Fund giving. Although annual interest income from the endowment will increase, thanks to the success of the Fund Drive, **we will need to double annual Operations Funding to meet the increased 2022 operational expenses related to recruiting personnel, upgrading technology, and developing a social media presence.**

We look forward to your continuing annual support of the **Operations Fund** in 2022 and beyond as we upgrade and grow the Grapevine ministry.

In Christ,
Kirby Gould
Chair, Development Committee

We're Still Counting On You!
Thanks in Advance for your Generosity!



Our Donors

Thank you for your generosity!

Gifts in Support of the Grapevine Operations Fund

November 1, 2021 - February 28, 2022

William B. & Gwendolyn C. Allen

Sandra Bryant

Jackie Compton Bunch

In honor of John R. & Marilyn Foulkes

Mrs. Lenita Bunch

Ellen Crowder

Phillip N. Dare

Dr. Norma R. Ellington-Twitty

In memory of Damon Charles Adams

In memory of Marilyn Foulkes

Katherine Fox-Cunningham

John R. & Kirby Hughes Gould

Ms. Mae Harris

Ms. Cynthia Hibbler

Minister Sheryl Hayes Holmes

Rev. Alvin O'Neal Jackson

In honor of John R. & Marilyn Foulkes

Mrs. Cherron Keith

Richard (Dick) and Doris Lauer

Rev. Norman & Elder May Reed

Mrs. Cheryl Strickland

Laura Bradley Squire

In memory of Rev. Frank B. Bradley

Donor Recognition for "I Love The Grapevine" Fund Drive

November 1, 2021 - February 28, 2022

JOHN R. AND MARILYN FOULKES CIRCLE

Gifts of \$1,000-\$2,999

Dr. Norma Ellington-Twitty
Katherine Fox-Cunningham

SERE S. MYERS CIRCLE

Gifts of \$500 - \$999

Shirley Compton
Peter & Lynne Morgan
Norweida Spencer

RUTH POWELL HOBBS CIRCLE

Gifts under \$500

Elder William A. Vance

Marilyn Laurretta Foulkes 1943-2021

Marilyn Laurretta (Stacker) Mayfield Foulkes began this life's journey on the 11th day of February, 1943 at the Provident Hospital of Chicago, Illinois with her proud parents, Emma Poole and Benjamin Stacker.

Marilyn went to be with the Lord on December 11, 2021 at 6:10pm at the Simon Cancer Center of Indiana University Hospital.

The Poole/Stacker family was a Christ centered family who found their spiritual and social life facilitated by the community of faith at the Berean Baptist Church of Chicago, Illinois. Participating in or leading the Sunday school, youth, music and athletic programs was a given part of the family's existence. Marilyn gave her life to Christ at the age of eight and never turned back.

Marilyn completed elementary school at Horner Elementary School of Chicago where her mother taught and completed high school at Hirsh High School. During high school, she had to make a critical decision of whether to pursue ballet or academics. She chose academics. Marilyn graduated from Roosevelt University and went on to teach chemistry, first at Chicago Vocational High School and then at Lindbloom Technical High School, where she also managed the chemistry department until retirement.

Marilyn married Michael Mayfield while in college. To that marriage, Michéle Lyn was born. The marriage didn't survive the trials of life and Marilyn and Michéle, with Marilyn's mother, Emma Stacker became a critical social force.

Marilyn married John Richard Foulkes, Sr. in 1987 who was serving as Associate General Minister of the Christian Church (DOC) in the United States and Canada and the Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation. Marilyn soon decided that they couldn't have a full marriage with him traveling all over the country and her teaching, so she retired and began traveling with him as often as she could.

John retired in 2003 enabling Marilyn and John to concentrate their service and ministry within Light of the World Christian Church where Marilyn was an active participant in the food pantry, youth program, Sunday School and Bible class teacher and served on the church council as the chair of the Membership Commission.

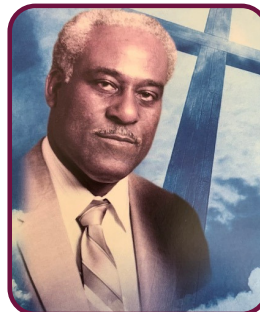
Marilyn leaves to continue the journeying: her husband, The Rev. Dr. John Richard Foulkes, Sr., daughters, Michéle Lyn Berry and Sarita Lynnea Foulkes Williams, grandchildren, Christopher Williams, Brandon Williams, Ryan Fernandez (Humberto), Kelsey Brown (Richard), James Berry (Erin), Cameron Berry (Ann), John R. Foulkes, III, and great grandchildren, Milano Fernandez, Emma Brown and Lillian Fernandez. She also leaves behind a host of friends, relatives, students and fellow Christians with whom she journeyed.



The celebration of life was held at Light of the World Christian Church on December 21. Interment was December 22 at Preston Taylor Mausoleum and Columbarium at Greenwood Cemetery in Nashville, Tennessee.

R.L. Jenkins 1928-2022

In the early 1950s, Norman Sims Ellington invited R.L. Jenkins to attend Sunday service at Centennial Christian Church (DOC). That initial visit resulted in R.L. becoming a faithful member of the congregation for 70 years.



R.L. Jenkins was the fourth of five children of the late Enoch and Hattie Jenkins, born May 8, 1928 in Greenwood, Mississippi. He entered eternal rest on February 14, 2022.

R.L. professed his faith in Christ at an early age at Percy Christian Church in Greenwood. Upon arrival in St. Louis, he became a member of Centennial,

under the leadership of Rev. William K. Fox, Sr. who later served as the Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation and founded *The Oldtimers' Grapevine* in 1991. R.L. also served under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr. for 36 years. Prior to his transition, he served under the current pastor of Centennial, Rev. Derrick L. Perkins.

Over the years, R.L. served faithfully as a deacon and elder. He was a member of the Centennial Men's Ministry, Centennial Senior Choir, Centennial Male Chorus, and the Usher Board. As part of the church restructure, he was on the Lay Leadership committee, a new and pivotal committee for the congregation. R.L. was a prayer warrior and enjoyed reading his Bible and telling others about the goodness of the Lord.

R.L. was united in holy matrimony with his wife Bernice Jenkins in November 1973. She is an exceptional wife who honored and cherished him. She was a supportive presence until the end of life's journey for her beloved husband.

He was gainfully employed for 40 years at Pillsbury Milling Company until his retirement in 1992. Once retired, he continued to serve the church until his health required him to slow down. Whenever possible, even on days he was not in the best of health, you could count on seeing R.L. and his beloved Bernice in morning worship praising a God he had faithfully served for so many years. To know Mr. Jenkins was to know a man of Christ. To know Mr. Jenkins was to experience the love of Christ. He will be greatly missed, yet his legacy of faithful Christian service will live on.

R.L. leaves to cherish his memories: his wife of 48 years, Bernice, sons, Roger Harris and Myron Jenkins, one daughter, Machell Harris, all of St. Louis, Missouri; granddaughters, Anitra Harris of Phoenix, Arizona and Shirdetra Harris of Farmington, Minnesota; great grandchildren, nieces, great nieces, great nephews, other relatives, and a host of friends.

We are Still Counting On You!



With the successful Anniversary Fund Drive winding down, we are still counting on our new and continuing donors of 2021 to support the Operations Fund this year. For readers who have not given in the past, we invite you to make your first and continuing gifts to the Operations Fund this year as well. With increased personnel and technology expenses, we will need to more than double our donor base and the amount of funds raised in 2022.

We look forward to your support. Please complete the donor form below and enclose your gift. It is our prayer that more and more of our readers will experience the joy of knowing their gifts to the Operations Fund will enable us to grow and update the ministry. Your generous support affirms that YOU want the Grapevine to continue in our unique role as a ministry of fellowship and connection for the beloved retirees of the denomination.

Thanks in advance for your generosity!

My Contact Information

Name: _____

Address: _____ **City/State/Zip:** _____

Email: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____ **Home Phone:** _____

Would you be willing to receive future issues of *The Grapevine* via email? Yes No

Many thanks to those who agree to make this cost cutting decision!

New Readers: Yes, I would like to be placed on the Email Distribution List

I would prefer to receive a hard copy of the Newsletter

I would like to make a total gift of: \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 Other \$ _____

I designate \$_____ of the above amount to the Endowment Fund

I hope to make this a monthly quarterly annual donation

A gift of \$100 or more enables the donor to honor an individual or couple.

I would like to honor the following individual/couple: _____

in honor of in memory of birthday church anniversary other: _____

You have my permission to list my name and honoree in an upcoming newsletter. *(No dollar amount will be listed)*

My total gift of \$_____ is enclosed.

Please make check payable to *The Oldtimers' Grapevine* and return this form with your check (attn: Norman Reed) to:

PO Box 441695
Indianapolis, IN 46244

You may also contribute online via **Givelify**
(givelify.com/donate/the-oldtimers-grapevine-indianapolis)

I would like to learn more about:

Making regular gifts via direct transfer from my bank account or credit card contribution

Making a gift from my IRA (I am over the age of 70 years, 6 months)

Making a donation of appreciated stock

Remembering *The Oldtimers' Grapevine* in my will or estate plan

HOW WOULD YOU PREFER WE CONTACT YOU? email cell phone home phone

For inquiries please contact us at: PO Box 441695, Indianapolis, IN 46244 oldtimers.grapevine@gmail.com

The 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. With roots in the National Christian Missionary Convention and the National Convocation; the Grapevine values its diversity in readership, newsletter content, board leadership, and editorial staff, always striving to reflect our oneness in Christ.

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