

Business item #1 - Regarding Special Day Offerings and DMF distribution:

It is recommended by the Regional Board that the Regional Assembly of the Christian Church in Georgia meeting November 14 – 16, 2008 at St. Simon’s Island, Georgia, approve the following for distribution of Special Day Offerings and Disciple Mission Fund giving from Georgia. For funds received during 2009: Special Offerings received by congregations and forwarded through the Christian Church in Georgia be allocated according to the General Board recommendations:

- a. Easter for General Church ministries
- b. Pentecost for New Church ministries (50% in Georgia, 50% General)
- c. Thanksgiving for Higher Education ministries
- d. Christmas for Regional Ministries in Georgia
- e. Week of Compassion for Disaster Relief and Development
- f. Reconciliation for Antiracism ministries (60% in Georgia and 40% national)

And that Disciple Mission Fund dollars received from Georgia sources be divided as follows:

- 60% - for Christian Church in Georgia
- 6% - Office of General Minister and President
- 34% - for General Ministries and Higher Education institutions

Business Item # 2 - Regarding the Regional Operating Budget for 2009

It is recommended by the Regional Board that the Regional Assembly of the Christian Church in Georgia meeting November 14 – 16, 2008 at St. Simon’s Island, Georgia, approve the operating budget for the Christian Church in Georgia for 2009 as presented to the Assembly.

Business item #3 - Regarding the budget for Camp Christian Conference Center for 2009

It is recommended by the Regional Board that the Regional Assembly of the Christian Church in Georgia meeting November 14 – 16, 2008 at St. Simon’s Island, Georgia, approve the budget for Camp Christian Conference Center for the year 2009 as presented to the Assembly.

Business item #4 - Regarding the Election of Officers and Regional Board Members

It is recommended by the Regional Board that the Regional Assembly of the Christian Church in Georgia meeting November 14 – 16, 2008 at St. Simon’s Island, Georgia, approve the Nominating Committee Report and that the following people be elected these positions

Credentials Committee:

Gladys Stephenson – Columbus, Central; West Central district - Female - Lay

Nominating Committee –

Ray Austin – Athens, Friendship; North East district - Male - Clergy

Board Secretary –

Jim Brooks –Winder, First; North East district - Male - Clergy

Regional Board –

Darlene Reynolds – Barney, Welcome Hope, South West district - Female - Lay

Tom Stephenson – Columbus, Central, West Central district - Male - Clergy

VACANCY

Business item #5- Regarding The Ratification Of Board Members For The Christian College Of Georgia.

It is recommended by the Regional Board that the Regional Assembly of the Christian Church in Georgia meeting November 14 – 16, 2008 at St. Simon’s Island, Georgia, approve the slate presented by the Christian College of Georgia for positions on their board.

Class of 2009

James Brewer-Calvert: Decatur
Sam Nickels: Athens
Jim Brooks: Winder
Janice Johnson Hume: Atlanta

Class of 2011

Larry Steinmetz: Sandy Springs
Helen Branch: Decatur
Angela Pfile: Athens

Class of 2010

Landa Simmons Sandy Springs
Diane Bales: Athens
Kathy McDowell: Norcross

Class of 2012

Jim Simmons: Decatur
Burdett Wantland: Bowden
Kris Jensen: Lawrenceville

Regional Minister's Report to the Regional Assembly 2008

“We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.” Within this new identity statement for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) lies promise and hope for the future. It gives us a sense of our future and a way to communicate who we are to those who live and work around us and need to know who we are. I can think of no better way to begin the Regional Minister's report than by reminding us, in this new language, of who we are.

We are people who are active and intentional about inviting every person to God's table in both the literal and figurative sense of the “Table”. We are people who have built on our relationships to help people see God and discover God's grace for them. Rather than insisting on a code of behavior or a set of beliefs we have instead called people with the Message “God loves you and wants to give you new life”. In any brokenness we discover and experience in life or in the world where we live, our message is that God wants to bring newness and wholeness to that situation. The way people know we are Jesus disciples are by the things we do to and for each other.

That is the emphasis I have continue to place in my ministry in the past year. It has been the principle by which I have decided what to do and what not to do with the requests and calls upon my time. I have continued to attempt to be present with congregations, as much as possible, and to be accessible to people so that we can build relationships. It is my hope and prayer that this accessibility and willingness to serve as pastor to all who will accept it, strengthens our congregations and make our Region more viable.

The Christian Church in Georgia has been dealing with severe issues over the last three years. We have experienced mistrust, apathy, financial crises, and a dwindling sense of pride and excitement at who we are. Each of those things can be traced to the need for improved relationships with each other and with God. As we connect and get to know each other, we will regain trust and the willingness to help each other. I am the one who leads in the trust rebuilding and the relationship emphasis.

At this point, though we continue to wrestle with things, we begin to see light at the end of the tunnel and believe that things will soon be improved. There continues to be good spirit about the Region and its ministries. The camping and youth ministries continue to be high points of our work which most people recognize. The women's ministries continue to have strong programming. Men's ministries are revitalizing and regaining strength. Without these strong programmatic ministries and the leadership we have from the staff serving them we would not be able to work through the tough times. I cannot thank Michael and Betty enough for providing those strong ministries to and on behalf of the Christian Church in Georgia.

Part of our sense of instability has been because of pastoral transitions. In recent years most of our larger congregations have been through some kind of change in ministerial leadership. Each time that happens, there is a resulting fear and some sense of panic which sets into a congregation. Ministries often turn inward and the congregation loses its focus. A new pastor means the congregation can once again be involved fully in mission and outreach.

Most of the searches for new ministers have been concluded. At many times I have been working with 10 or more search committees in helping them discover a new pastor. We are now at the point where only two congregations are actively searching for new ministers. This means congregations are reaching a point of stability which will enable them to move out ahead. As congregations are strengthened and work more towards their mission, the Region is stronger and able to pursue its mission as well. It also means I have time to begin to venture into other areas of ministry which have had to be de-emphasized.

I will be spending more time with our Reconciliation Commission in its work to identify ways we can become an anti-racist church. The move to join in calling Sekinah Hamlin to this prophetic ministry

will help us but it is a ministry which will require work from all of us. The Reconciliation Committee will become more important to us and will need more support in terms of funding for its ministry.

I will be spending more intentional time in ecumenical work here in Georgia and in particular with the Christian Council of Georgia. I believe it is important and is suffering in terms of its effectiveness as an ecumenical expression of the church. Unity of the church is one of our historic polar stars and one way we contribute to the whole church.

I will be working more deliberately with the Ministry Commission in its work of guiding and evaluating candidates for ministry and in revamping the documents and procedures we use. This year I instigated the conversion of most of our documents used in the Ministry Commission work to electronic files so we can transmit them easier.

One of the crucial things facing the Region now is the revamping of its documents and procedures by which it operates. In order to do that, I conducted listening conferences to discover the current and future mission of the Region. Once that is enunciated, we can structure ourselves for that mission. Results of these listening conferences will be discussed at other points but the need for connection between congregations and for leadership training have been clear. We will be approaching those things.

Within the Georgia Region we have continued to focus on the solidification of the Region in terms of its financial and relational health. Those two items contribute to our sense of positive self esteem and our pride in being representatives of Jesus Christ here in Georgia. Financially we have reached some of our goals. We have managed to sell the Woodland property and have payments coming in now to pay off the loans secured by that property. We have continued to reduce operating expenses and staffing in order to live within our income. We have seen congregations make significant increases in the designated giving to the Region and the Camp operations. There continues however to be a decline in our support of DMF which is the ministry of the whole church. The prospect for the future, if congregations continue to give as they have, will be that we have balanced budgets to present to you for your approval. With God's grace and the work of the people in the Region we have a chance to regain financial stability even in these times of economic uncertainty. It will however take all of us to accomplish that.

Administratively, I have been faced this year with hard decisions in terms of staffing. The finances have meant we have had to cut back the hours of our support staff and the transition to our current situation was time consuming. Currently the hours Pam Mikovitz and Brooke Ostberg are adequate to do the basics of the job. There are however things which we have become accustomed to in the past which we can no longer expect because of the reduced hours. Other things we do need will have to be done differently than the past. I make weekly decisions of what bills to pay and simple things like signing a lease for a new copier will mean reduction of our costs.

An additional aspect of my ministry this year included a trip as part of a delegation from the Church to meet with leaders of the church in China. Those two weeks were an opportunity to see how we are a global church. It gives a chance to emphasize that as a Global Ministry Region we can have a better perspective about the church and the world in which we live. The trip enabled me to see another side of the church in China, faithful, growing, serving and burgeoning in a culture where change is taking place rapidly. Contrary to the sensationalized reports of persecution of Christians, I saw faithful life and diligent work to serve our Lord and do God's mission. I have been able to present programs in a number of congregations to help them discover the global church and our relationship to it. I continue to see this as an opportunity for my ministry with and for the Region. The many mission work trips and the planning of two pilgrimage trips to India by members of this Region indicate the realization that our ministry and our mission field is the entire world.

Currently there are 65 congregations fully recognized as Disciples of Christ congregations in Georgia and Phenix City, Alabama. Together we are working to do what God has called us to do and to assist congregations to do their particular ministry and mission. My role as Regional Minister is to provide for that through administration, pastoral care and oversight and ecclesial support to the

congregations and pastors of this Region. It is my privilege to do that and an honor to serve our Lord Jesus Christ as Regional Minister for the Christian Church in Georgia.

In Christian Service

Ray Miles
Regional Minister

Report to the 2008 Regional Assembly **Associate Regional Minister, Michael Weeks**

Perhaps our entire lives are spent seeking to grow closer, move toward, and find God. The theme of our gathering this weekend offers each of us the same chance Jesus had to grow in wisdom and stature with God and other people (Luke 2:52). As a part of your regional staff, I take seriously the call to provide places where we can build strong Christ centered relationships between congregations and members of congregations. The regional assembly is an important place where we can share resources, stories and ourselves with other disciples on the journey. We will gather around the Lord's Table growing in wisdom and filled with the Love of God. I am glad you are here to share this weekend.

2008 was a big year for ordination and licensure in the Christian Church in Georgia. I celebrate those who have been called and are serving in ministry among our Disciple congregations. New church starts are in the process of becoming recognized congregations as we meet this weekend. More new congregations are beginning to meet together. We have begun the work of congregational revitalization and transformation this year. I look forward to Coaching congregations as they seek to Re-position themselves where God is calling them to be. All of us approach 2009 as a time of change. Resources in support of our shared ministries will be stretched. We must come together and make sure that our work on behalf of Christ continues to bring the gospel message to a broken world seeking wholeness.

The year has been a strong one for our outdoor ministries in Georgia. Camp Christian is coming off one of the strongest summers ever. While Disciple summer camping numbers were down a few people this past summer, the excellence of our facilities has attracted other groups who are using our facilities and helping us to spread out the costs of operating a conference center like ours. Camp Kicklighter also hosted three camps with great results last summer.

God bless you in your ministries during the coming year. Let me take a moment to share with you some of the emphases of my ministry during 2008.

Ministry Focus:

- Congregational Transformation
- Summer Camping and Outdoor Ministries
- Camp and Conference Center Retreat Ministries
- Fund Raising
- Commission on Ministry
- Clergy support
- Preaching and sharing special times of commissioning in congregations
- Working with the regional staff on program and fundraising initiatives
- Visiting and supporting youth ministries in our region
- Planning and carrying out the Servant Youth Leadership Event—a youth leadership training seminar for Youth Activity Council. This multi-regional event was held this past summer. The event is scheduled again in 2010.

I strive to bring a share a prophetic word at every opportunity about the importance of transforming mission-based ministry in the region, but especially about the ministry and contributions of youth and young adults. I have also worked with several ministry teams as Associate Regional Minister.

Regional Ministry Team I serve with:

- OMAT report to the assembly in the docket
- Youth Activity Council: facilitating the annual youth assembly—Youth-A-Palooza (more information available in the docket)
- Young Adult Disciples Association: on a summer and winter event and in support of Disciples on Campus at UGA (more information in the docket)
- The Christian College of Georgia: supporting their retreat and ministry programs
- Commission on Ministry: liaison to licensed ministry sub-committee
- Communication Commission: serving as co-editor
- Church Transformation Task Force

I am honored to be serving as your associate regional minister and as executive director of Camp Christian Conference Center. I am excited about the future of our ministries together.

En Agape',
Rev. Michael Weeks
Associate Regional Minister

Report to the Assembly
Rev. Betty C. Brewer-Calvert

It seems as if the year has flown by since our last gathering, and I am rather amazed at the variety of experiences in ministry in which our women have participated. I give thanks for the continuing dedication, faith, generosity, and love of the women of our churches.

We hosted three retreats for women of our region during the year: “Come to the Table,” a retreat co-sponsored and planned by the Reconciliation Task Force and the Christian Women’s Fellowship Commission and held at Camp Christian during the Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend; “Receiving the Day: Opening the Gift of Time,” a retreat for Georgia Disciple clergy women held at Camp Christian in August; and “Caring for All Creation,” our annual women’s retreat held at Norman Park Conference Center in October. Each event was a blessing to the participants and planners alike.

Our region was represented at the Southeastern Regional Fellowship (SERF) women’s gathering in Silver Springs, Florida, in early March. Ana Guardiola, Dottie Gill, and Betty Brewer-Calvert braved the elements to drive down for the 2-1/2 day training event and retreat.

Approximately 250 women from nearly 40 churches took part in spring conferences held on six consecutive weekends in April and May. The theme, “And God Said... Can You Hear Me Now?” explored the different ways that God speaks in our lives. Host churches were Albany First, Macon St. Andrew, Cherry Log, Hiltonia, Watkinsville Antioch, and Sandersville First. Clergy women from the various districts led us in Bible study. We collected personal care items for ministries in each host community, worshipped together, learned about available women’s study curriculum, saw pictorial highlights from the 2008 Disciples Women Blitz Build and the 2007 regional women’s retreat, and were invited to plan ahead for the 2010 Quadrennial Assembly for Women.

Four Georgia women attended the Global Women Connecting Retreat held in Nashville, Tennessee, prior to the World Convention of Churches. Participants from Georgia were: Ann Doster, Frabia Smith, Nancy Brewer, and Betty Brewer-Calvert. It was a rich time of sharing with sisters from across the globe from churches in the Stone-Campbell tradition.

Women who attended the annual retreat at Norman Park were enriched by the presentations of Dr. Katy Hinman, Executive Director of Georgia Interfaith Power and Light, who encouraged and empowered us to be better stewardships of God’s creation. We took part in a variety of workshops, elected a new commission, enjoyed an earth stewardship fair, and prayed and worshipped together. We collected \$1220.52 to be divided between the Hispaniola Education Fund (ministries in our mission countries, Haiti and the Dominican Republic) and women’s ministries in Georgia. Blessings Box offerings were dedicated; to date, they total \$11,169.89. Baskets full of pillowcases for the CURE Foundation to be given to children at Egleston-Scottish Rite Hospital were collected and dedicated. Women purchased books from the Cokesbury book display, including the newest regional book club titles *Truelove and Homegrown Tomatoes* by Julie Cannon and *The Shack* by William P. Young.

We celebrate the expanding number of study resources available to women in our region: *New Day* available from Christian Board of Publication, environmental study available on the www.discipleswomen.org website, Jubilee Bible Study available through regional staff, and a new Disciples women magazine *JustWomen* available by subscription in January 2009.

It is a special blessing to have Rev. Sekinah Hamlin as the speaker to our Regional Assembly Women's Gathering on Saturday morning. Her presentation is a fitting follow-up to our "Come to the Table" retreat earlier in the year and a help as we set goals for future reconciliation ministry.

In addition to participation in CWF Commission meetings and the events mentioned above, my calendar also reflects the following:

- Church visits to Sandy Springs, Watkinsville Antioch, Rome First, Athens Friendship, God's City of Refuge, Griffin First, John's Creek, Peachtree Corners, Cherry Log, and Winder First
- Congregational Transformation Workshop, Atlanta First in Tucker
- Youth-a-Palooza, Epworth-by-the-Sea, St. Simon's
- Disciples Women's Habitat Blitz Build in Beaumont, TX
- Planning and helping to lead the Disciples Church Women's Staff Fellowship annual meeting in Houston, TX
- Clergy Ethical Boundaries Workshop, Ray of Hope CC
- District and cluster ministers' luncheons
- Ordination of Courtney Chandler
- World Convention of the Christian Churches, Nashville TN
- Keynoter for Alabama-Northwest Florida regional women's retreat
- Southeastern Regional Fellowship staff retreat at Christmount, NC

I appreciate the work of the CWF Commission, give thanks for those who have completed their service, and look forward to working with the incoming commission. Thank you for the opportunity to be in ministry alongside you.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty C. Brewer-Calvert
Regional Director of Women's Ministries

Communications Commission Annual Report November, 2008

We are in the midst of receiving our annual Messenger subscription renewal campaign. In 2007, we received a total offering of \$4874.25. In 2009, we will do 3 print editions and 2 online editions to reduce our budget for the Messenger. Our goal this year is a slightly higher offering of \$6,000 paying for 2 of our 3 mailed issues. Messenger issues this year were mailed in February, April, August, and October. A special online only edition was published in June. This issue was not widely distributed, since we have a limited email list. As of November 3rd, 112 persons had sent a total of \$3875 for the Messenger offering.

The November issue was mailed late due to financial cash flow difficulties at the regional office. It was posted online on October 24th.

Michael Weeks continues to be the staff co-editor of the Christian Messenger, along with Bill Thompson. We are seeing a much improved flow of news articles for the web site, which often provide information for the print Messenger. Keep those articles coming!

Christian Messenger dates and deadlines are tentatively planned as follows:

February Issue, submission deadline February 4, 2009 (**Online edition only**)

April Issue, submission deadline April 8, 2009

June Issue, submission deadline June 10, 2009 (**Online edition only**)

August Issue, submission deadline August 12, 2009

October Issue, submission deadline October 7, 2009

Website – www.gadisciples.org

Members of the Commission are:

Term expires in 2008

Dr. Charles Beadle, Valdosta First

Vacancy (Charles Cochran has resigned from the commission)

Term expires in 2009

Byron Wells, Chestnut Ridge CC

Buddy Ray, Peachtree Corners CC

Term expires in 2010

Bill Thompson (Chair), Cherry Log CC

Vacancy

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William L. Thompson, Chair

Ministry Commission Annual Report November 2008

Since the last Regional Assembly the Ministry Commission has met 4 times as a whole commission and other times as sub committees to interview candidates and to work on policies for ministry within the Christian Church in Georgia. During the year we have conducted more than 30 interviews with candidates for ministry. We are divided into three sub committees to handle various parts of our task.

Darrell Vandervort from Warner Robins is the new chair for the Commission.

Since last Assembly on behalf of the Region the Ministry Commission has acted on the following:

Authorized ordination for

Travis Halford

Betty Halford

Danny Gulden

Courtney Montgomery Chandler

Approved Licensed Ministry for

Gustave Achille

Tammy Dickson

Warren Taylor

Sarah Moody

Ricky Montford

Approved transfer of standing or other credentialing

Tom VanLaningham

Jim Lindskoog

Congregational Transformation Task Force

Regional Board Report November 2008

Over the past year, we have attempted in a variety of ways to engage congregations within our Region to enter into an intentional process of Congregational Transformation. This is our attempt to fulfill one of our Mission Imperatives as a denomination and to fulfill our 2020 Vision. We continue these efforts as we look expectantly to our future, and as we seek to discern God's call for us.

In January, we sponsored a seminar at First Christian Church Atlanta with George Bullard of the Columbia Partnership about the Spiritual Strategic Journey. This was a follow-up to our session in November of 2007 with his partner, Dick Hamm, our former General Minister and President. Out of this meeting, we continued investigating the prospects of forming a cluster of churches in the metropolitan Atlanta area, inviting a number of congregations to come together to support and nurture one another through the process.

In March, George Bullard returned once again as we sought to reach more congregations with the various options. A couple of our Task Force members attended an opening session of George's process at Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church on the campus of Emory University. We came away very impressed with the depth and breadth of George's knowledge.

In August we sponsored a series of webinars with the Columbia Partnership about Congregational Transformation and out of the attendance on those webinars we were able to identify thirteen churches in Georgia who have shown interest in entering a Congregational Transformation process.

We continue to look at options for our churches in this area. Some churches have already started or have completed formal processes of transformation. Some churches are ready to begin and are looking at which process best fits their needs. It now appears that we could form one cluster in the Southeast District and one in Metropolitan Atlanta. Task Force member Roger Sizemore recently returned from Indianapolis after investigating a number of offerings from the General Office. New Beginnings looks like it will be a tool we can utilize more in the future.

We continue to encourage all Georgia churches to prayerfully consider looking at ways to transform their ministry and to encounter the Spirit of God's call for their future.

Respectfully Submitted,

Byron Wells,
Chair

Report to the Regional Assembly
Christian Women's Fellowship
Beth Thompson

The 2008-2009 Christian Women's Fellowship Commission was elected and installed at the annual retreat in October. I am looking forward to serving as President and working with the committed women who make up the commission. We will have our first meeting on November 22nd. Betty Brewer-Calvert and I have explored together some of the hopes we have for women's ministries in Georgia and we are eagerly anticipating our upcoming meeting.

In January, Betty and I will attend the International Disciple Women's Ministry Cabinet meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina, the site of the 2010 Quadrennial Assembly for Women. This will be an opportunity for me to meet regional leadership from the US and Canada and be equipped for ministry in Georgia.

Our new commission includes the following women:

President	Beth Thompson, Lawrenceville First
Vice-President	Pam Gunter, Watkinsville First
Secretary	Linda Van Der Merwe, Albany Sanctuary
Service Coordinator	Ann Brooks, Macon St. Andrew
Study Coordinator	Ana Guardiola, Fayetteville Community
Worship Coordinator	Cecelia Glosson, Waycross First
East Central District Coordinator	Karen Boyd, Augusta Central
West Central District Coordinator	Annette Ford, Griffin First
Northeast District Coordinator	Theresai Manley, Loganville
Northwest District Coordinator	Diane Lanier, Atlanta First in Tucker
Southeast District Coordinator	Andy Waits, Sylvania Hiltonia
Southwest District Coordinator	Sarah Moody, Waycross First
Director of Women's Ministry	Betty Brewer-Calvert, Decatur First

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Thompson
President, Christian Women's Fellowship in Georgia

Disciple Men Regional Assembly 2008

We began the year with our laymen of the year Bob Grant from First Christian Griffin. Bob is an outstanding example of a Christian and example to all.

In March we had our spring retreat at Christmount in NC. Our theme was "Ordinary Men Called to Leadership" and our speakers were David Grandgeorge from 1st Christian Guyton, who presented the New Testament and Jerry Gladson from Marietta who presented the Old Testament. Bob Grant and Greg Holmes provided our musical leadership. Charlie Cochran from 1st Christian Augusta provided our nightly devotional as we gathered around the fire place. We had a great time of fellowship and a wonderful time of Spiritual renewal.

In the fall we had several rallies We had a district wide rally at Camp Christian. We were taken to the "Sea of Galilee" by Andy Campbell and raised \$450.00 for Camp Christian. The Northwest District rally was Saturday October 4th at 1st Atlanta. The program was presented by Reverend Lebron McBride of First Christian in Rome. He presented a thoughtful message titled "Discovering and Rediscovering our Relational Souls' from the scriptures of Psalms and Ezekiel. We raised \$236.00 for the Men's Work fund. At both these rallies the men had a great time sharing our Lord having the spirit fill us with his presence.

The future we forward to our retreat in March to be held at Camp Christian.

Outdoor Ministry Advisory Team (OMAT) Report to the 2008 Regional Assembly

The Outdoor Ministry Advisory Team (OMAT) oversees outdoor ministries in our region and supervises the budget and personnel working at Camp Christian Conference Center.

Summer Camping Outdoor Ministry

Camp Christian and Camp Kicklighter summer camping 2008 went very well. You can read some of the stories and highlights from camps online as well as see some films from the summer. Camp Christian was able to rent the camp to other groups this summer during off weeks that really helped our ministry to contain costs and hold rates for next summer.

Camp Christian Conference Center		
	2007	2008
Disciple Summer	380	367
Non Disciple Summer	156	353
Total Summer	536	720

Conference Center Ministry

Camp Christian continues to be the retreat location for many congregations around Georgia. Disciple congregations and groups receive 10% off the rates when they use our conference center. **62% of camp usage so far in 2008 is by Disciple groups**, in spite of the dramatic increase in camp use this summer by non-Disciple groups. Still our ministry is happy to offer our facilities to our ecumenical partners in ministry here in Georgia.

The Friendship Circle for Outdoor Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia

This year we have included an invitation to join the Friendship Circle in the Christian Messenger. We invite you to make note of the circle of friends listed in your docket and invite you to join them in supporting the outdoor ministries of our region. We welcome your gifts to sustain our excellent camping programs and conference center ministries. Please send a new gift or renew your support of the Circle.

2009 Summer Camping Information

- Camp rates will remain the same as last summer at Camp Christian.
- We will have Counselor Training sessions this summer prior to each camp beginning the day before camp starts at 3:30 pm. Please pick up an application at the camp booth if you would like to counsel at one of our camps next summer.
- Our 2009 schedule is available in your docket. Brochures and registration forms will be available on the web and in your congregation in February.

*Camp Christian Conference Center is a ministry of the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia.*



Georgia YOUTH ACTIVITY COUNCIL

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia

What is Georgia’s Youth Activity Council?

The Youth Activity Council creates and implements youth ministries, including the annual youth assembly— Youth-A-Palooza, and fosters and supports programs to develop the full potential of youth as they participate in the congregational, district, regional and general levels of the church. The council additionally helps to nurture connections between congregations sharing ideas and fostering cooperation on a variety of youth ministries across our region.

The Council is composed of Adults and Youth selected to represent their congregations in the planning and leading of Regional Youth Events of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia. One youth representative is selected by each congregation that wishes to participate. Adults are appointed by the Outdoor Ministry Advisory Team. The adults and youth serve as participants in the planning and implementing of regional youth ministries.

Please make sure that your congregation is represented by this important group of youth leaders in 2007. Information on selection of your representative is available on the website www.gadisciples.org.

YAC has planned Youth-A-Palooza 2009-faithbook!

We are borrowing some ideas and structure for our event from one of the more popular online gathering places “facebook.” The “faithbook” theme will offer youth and their sponsors the opportunity to discuss:

- How we connect with God?
- How we connect with others?
- And how we do both in the emerging 21st century age of communication.

Perhaps you already catch up with old or current friends online. Our assembly this year will help us to connect as Disciples with other Disciples and share our stories with people of other faiths and denominations. We hope to articulate for participants what is unique about Disciples and also several really good ways to share the Disciple story.

Pastors and congregational leaders make sure that your youth are signed up. Youth make sure that everyone in your youth group is coming.

Now we want to say thanks to these leaders from congregations across the state. Thanks for your hard work and good luck with the assembly in January.



Connecting with God
One another
Disciples
and the whole world!

Youth-A-Palooza
January 9-11, 2009
St. Simons Island, GA



Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) In Georgia
Regional Youth Assembly for Chi Rho & CYF youth
Registration details available online
or in your congregation

2008-2009 YOUTH ACTIVITY COUNCIL

Youth

Henry Brewer-Calvert (Decatur, First)
Jeremiah McClelland (Valdosta, First)
Doug McDaniel (Atlanta, Sandy Springs)
Christie Mott (Tucker, Atlanta First)
Taylor Smith (Athens, First)
Jessica Tunnell (Atlanta, Peachtree)
<mailto:jihasty@hotmail.com> Stephen Wood (Marietta, First)
Meghan Bonnemer (Flowery Branch, SOJ)
Leah Faulconer (Norcross, P. Corners)
Melissa Hebenstreit (Warner Robins, First)
Doug Landrum (Snellville, Shiloh)
Charlie Witkowski (Johns Creek)
Clayton Norris (Watkinsville, First)
Riley Pugh (Columbus, Central)
Mark Wells (Marietta, Chestnut Ridge)
Tyler Branch (Lawrenceville, First)
Taylor Ewing (Lawrenceville, New Hope)
Matthew Proctor (Guyton)

Adults

Brandy Alsobrook (Decatur, First)
Katie Hawkins (Watkinsville, First)
Willean Easters-McClelland (Valdosta, First)
Stephen Westbrook (Lawrenceville, First)
Chris McCreight (Athens, First)
Melissa Proctor (Guyton, Guyton)
Troy Tatum (Watkinsville, Union)
Andy Torbert (Atlanta, Sandy Springs)



Georgia's
Young Adult
Disciples
Association



Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia

The Young Adult Disciples Association works to increase the fellowship and connections of young adults in and from Disciples churches during their college and young adult journeys. Our group is composed of 18-30 something persons who are married and unmarried and want to remain connected with one another and our Outdoor Ministries program.



Summer Event at Camp Christian Conference Center

Several adults participated in our annual summer retreat. They plan to get together again in the winter for a ski trip to North Carolina. Many of those attending last summer were from the Disciples on Campus program at the University of Georgia. DOC and YADA members invite all young adult Disciples to join them in North Carolina for skiing and at their Conference this summer June 20-21, 2009.

Christmount: YADA/DOC Ski Sugar Mountain 2009!

Dates to be determined

Details:

- Cost last year was approximately: \$160-\$180 per person for 2 nights lodging and some meals at Christmount plus transportation. Lodging will be hotel style with 3 or 4 people to a room. We will ski or snowboard all day on Saturday.
- Event begins at 8:00 pm on Friday Night (we usually meet in Athens for a van ride to Christmount) and ends following breakfast Sunday.

Please email Michael@gadisciples.org if you would like more information on this retreat.

Campbell-Stone Accomplishments of 2008

Campbell Stone has made great accomplishments this year. We completed the substantial renovation of Campbell-Stone Buckhead. Campbell-Stone Sandy Springs celebrated its thirtieth anniversary. Both communities are models for other affordable retirement living organizations and both locations are fully leased with waiting lists for our apartments. Our financial audits and Assisted Living annual review had no findings. And our annual Management and Occupancy Reviews conducted by HUD resulted in superior ratings for most categories and overall ratings of “Above Average” for Campbell-Stone Sandy Springs and “Superior” for Campbell-Stone Buckhead.

Below are some of the accomplishments of the Social Services Departments:

- Five months of programming for residents to prepare them for smoke-free apartment environment
- Internship site for a student in the master’s level counseling program at Georgia State University
- Enrollment of 20 residents in the Benson Senior Center programs
- Participation of ten residents in the GAHSA “Tell Your Story” program
- Arranged for residents to attend an informational program on Medicare Parts C and D and to have assistance in evaluation and selection of their own insurance plans
- Formation of the Campbell-Stone Auxiliary with 65 residents currently participating – the auxiliary is made up of the following groups:
 - Good Neighbor Group – expanding to provide support not only to residents in their apartments, but also to residents in hospitals and nursing/rehab facilities
 - Going Green Group – Community recycling and energy saving
 - Fund Raising Group – Organize, plan and facilitate fund raising activities
 - Lunch Bunch Group – Residents meeting to eat lunch with new residents in the Dining Room
 - Activity Network – Volunteers to remind or escort residents to activities
 - Peer Support Volunteers
 - Computer Training Group
 - Ambassadors – Welcome new residents, marketing assistants
- Intergenerational Programs with Garden Hills Elementary School, The Lovett School, Pace Academy, and a Brownie Scout group
- Orientation Programs for over 160 new residents
- Growth and Wellness Opportunities:
 - Meditation Class 5 days a week
 - Tai Chi Class 2 days a week
 - Laughter Club 3 days a week
 - Flu Shot Clinics annually
 - Blood Pressure Clinics weekly
 - On-site eye exams 2 times a year
 - Audiologist on-site 1 time per month
 - Life-long Learning Lectures 1 time per month
 - Educational programming at monthly Resident Council Meetings
 - Well-Being Ambassador Program one time per week for six months

Below are a few of the accomplishments of the Maintenance and Physical Plant Departments:

- 72 Apartments turned over
- Over 4,000 work orders completed
- New proximity card access system installed (Buckhead)
- Updated security cameras and DVR system
- Main Electrical Breaker replacement in Sosebee building (Buckhead)
- Dining Room, Club Room and Library repainted (Buckhead)
- Major cleanout of storage areas throughout all buildings
- Researched and purchased a new trash removal machine to increase safety and decrease manpower needed for this task
- Replacement of electrical systems for elevators (Sandy Springs)
- In the process of updating key control systems
- Conducted fire drills on a quarterly basis

Below are some of the accomplishments of our Activities departments:

- Sold-out monthly special dinners (Valentine's, Mexican Fiesta, Mardi Gras, Fifties Diner, and Luau Dinners)
- Evening parties for the Super Bowl, Cinco de Mayo, Chinese New Year, and Olympic Opening Ceremonies
- Expanded our cultural knowledge by taking trips to: the High Museum of Art; Callaway Gardens; the Breman Jewish Museum; a Braves Game; Harrah's Cherokee Casino; bus tours of Cabbagetown, Decatur and the new Beltline; and a local production of Fiddler on the Roof (and many, many more!)
- Made a difference in our community by: making clay bowls for a feed-the-hungry benefit dinner; raising more than \$300 for the Arthritis Foundation; began a magazine recycling program; and gave community and service hours to a local high school's Interact Club.
- Planned a Senior Prom
- Celebrated the completion of the renovation of Campbell-Stone Buckhead with an Open House
- Celebrated the Thirtieth Anniversary of Campbell-Stone Sandy Springs with a Fifties Themed Block Party

Some additional accomplishments realized by Campbell-Stone in 2008:

- We continue to streamline our process for applications and verifications.
- Converted accounting system at Campbell-Stone Buckhead to QuickBooks creating a more uniform accounting system between the two communities.
- Consolidated resident file systems.
- Modified accounting procedures to comply with new HUD audit standards.
- We added a new security company to the team.
- Staff served as guest speakers and presenters at Optimist Club meetings, Sunday School Classes, educational programs for Georgia Association of Homes and Services for the Aging and The Center for Positive Aging.
- Continued a vital Chaplain Ministries program serving as an intern placement site in partnership with Candler School of Theology and the Clinical Pastoral Education program at St. Joseph's Hospital.

- Recognized the service of three Board members who completed their terms of service in 2008 (Steve Bradley, Rev. Neal Ponder and Arol Wolford)
- Welcomed three new Board members who began volunteer service for Campbell-Stone (John Adair, LaRonda Barnes and Jonathan Blackwood).
- Revised Crisis Management Plan and Security Procedures.
- Campbell-Stone Buckhead became a smoke-free community (Campbell-Stone Sandy Springs transitioned to smoke-free in 2006).
- Conducted monthly “Lunch and Learn” sessions for staff providing comprehensive review of all Campbell-Stone operations.
- Increased participation by our Assisted Living residents to volunteer on the floor by gathering their neighbors for activities; friendly visits to a neighbor; wrapping silverware; playing the organ and leading a Vesper Service for our 9th Floor residents. Volunteer opportunities increases resident satisfaction of purpose and interdependence.
- Realized savings in insurance costs for the facilities due to low claim history.
- Celebrated assisted living week with activities involving all Campbell-Stone employees and residents. One activity included residents and staff dressing up, celebrating the 1930’s. Party for the caregivers was given by the residents and management to show our appreciation for their work.
- Professional Designations held by staff:
 - Tax Credit Certified – four staff members
 - National Compliance Professional (Executive Status) – two staff members
 - Assisted Housing Managers – four staff members
 - Certified Aging Services Professional (CASP) – three staff members
 - Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) – two staff members
 - Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) – one staff member
 - Licensed Medical Social Worker (LMSW)
 - Two staff members have completed Leadership Training with the Georgia Association of Homes and Services for the Aging

Our most important accomplishment is that our staff and Board of Directors have continued to fulfill the mission of Campbell-Stone by following our Core Values of *Respect, Excellence, Care & Compassion, Integrity* and *Interdependence*. Over 550 residents call Campbell-Stone “home” on a daily basis and their family and loved ones are thankful for the sense of community we provide.

Thanks are extended to all who made these accomplishments happen!

Christian College of Georgia

Report to the Regional Assembly - 2008

Imagine thirty Disciples representing two dozen congregations in Georgia all together for twenty-four hours (or more) learning about the History and Polity of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). And then imagine twice that number !!

That's an image of what is happening right now in the Region through the Institute for Christian Ministry of the Christian College of Georgia (scenario #1, that is). And the second image? Sixty students...or more...in a classroom -- that's what CAN happen as Disciples in Georgia continue to look for ways to prepare themselves for more effective ministry and service in our congregations.

No, preparation for ministry is not just for preachers anymore!!

The Vision and Mission of the Christian College of Georgia, launched a year ago and shared with the Regional Assembly in 2007, is coming to fruition in ways that we could only imagine. But we did imagine it, we did define it, and we went to work to make it happen: To nurture, educate and prepare Disciples for ministry and service.

1. Through the Institute for Christian Ministry, begun in the Fall, 2006, we now have almost sixty Disciples from Georgia (and two from Alabama) who have taken part in the three-year curriculum which offers fifteen courses, all designed to prepare laity and licensed/commissioned ministers for effective ministry.

2. Through the Campus Ministry, begun in the Summer of 1999, we have served more than two hundred young adults in and around Athens through the Disciples on Campus ministry -- offering weekly opportunities for worship, Bible study, outreach, and fellowship.

3. Through the annual "VOICES" Retreat for Clergy, a gathering of about three dozen (with room for more) ministers interact with one another and with retreat leaders of national reputation, refreshing our awareness of God's call in our lives and discovering ways to share that call with other Disciples.

Yes, preparation for ministry is for all Disciples!!

Christian College of Georgia, governed by Disciples of Christ from congregations in the Region, has a VISION of "Vitality in Christian Spirituality, Community and Ministry among Disciples Students and Clergy in the Region of Georgia." Look around, talk with participants in the programs (from more than half of the Georgia Disciples congregation at any given time, and from many other Regions as well), and you will begin to share the VISION.

Christian College of Georgia affirmed its Strategic Plan in the Fall, 2007; and we are launching our "Friendship Initiative" to involve many more Georgia Disciples in our Vision and Mission in 2009.

Our Board of Trustees has authorized two new advocacy groups for Christian College of Georgia. We will begin with "Advisory Boards" to help us examine what we do, evaluate our effectiveness, and extend our programs into places where we can be of greatest benefit to the Church.

We will also establish a “Development Committee” to help us prepare the foundation for our financial future.

If you, as a participant in the Regional Assembly, have an interest in joining us in a meaningful way, or if you know of someone who would benefit from our programs and opportunities, please ask for more information.

We are seeking ways to increase and diversify the participant base in every dimension of this ministry: The Institute for Christian Ministry, Disciples on Campus, and Clergy/Seminarian Nurture.

Call Bob Harris - 770-815-9078 - or visit our website -- www.ccofga.org -- for information on our programs, our calendar, and our future. **We want every Disciple in Georgia to know about the Christian College of Georgia. And you can help.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert L. Harris, Ph.D.
President

Board of Trustees

Class of 2009

James Brewer-Calvert: Decatur
Sam Nickels: Athens
Jim Brooks: Winder
Janice Johnson Hume: Atlanta

Class of 2010

Landa Simmons Sandy Springs
Diane Bales: Athens
Kathy McDowell: Norcross

Class of 2011

Larry Steinmetz: Sandy Springs
Helen Branch: Decatur
Angela Pfile: Athens

Class of 2012

Jim Simmons: Decatur
Burdett Wantland: Bowden
Kris Jensen: Lawrenceville

SPECIAL CHURCH RECOGNITIONS

LEADING CONTRIBUTORS TO DISCIPLE MISSION FUND IN 2007

Peachtree Christian Church, Atlanta
First Christian Church, Athens
Friendship Christian Church, Athens
First Christian Church, Decatur

First Christian Church, Warner Robins

Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur
First Christian Church, Macon
Eagles Landing Christian Church, McDonough
First Christian Church, Sandersville

LEADING CWF/DISCIPLE WOMEN CONTRIBUTORS TO DISCIPLE MISSION FUND

First Christian Church, Athens

First Christian Church, Valdosta

Central Christian Church, Columbus

LEADING YOUTH GROUP CONTRIBUTORS TO DISCIPLE MISSION FUND IN 2007

Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur

CHURCH GROWTH – ADDITIONS

Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur

Trinity Christian Church, Macon

CHURCH GROWTH – ADDITIONS AND BAPTISMS

Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur

Antioch Christian Church, Sylvania

TOP GIVING – DISCIPLE OUTREACH

Peachtree Christian Church, Atlanta
First Christian Church, Athens
Cherry Log Christian Church, Cherry Log
First Christian Church, Decatur
Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur

Sandy Springs Christian Church, Sandy Springs
First Christian Church of Atlanta, Tucker
First Christian Church, Sandersville
First Christian Church, Valdosta
First Christian Church, Winder

TOP GIVING PER CAPITA – DISCIPLE OUTREACH

First Christian Church, Athens
Friendship Christian Church, Athens
First Christian Church, Macon

First Christian Church, Winder

Eagles Landing Christian Church, McDonough
First Christian Church, Sandersville
First Christian Church, Warner Robins

REPORTED GROWTH OF 10% OR MORE – PARTICIPATING MEMBERSHIP

Cherry Log Christian Church, Cherry Log
Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur
Spirit of Joy Christian Church, Flowery Branch
Johns Creek Christian Church, Johns Creek

Antioch Christian Church, Sylvania

Loganville Christian Church, Loganville
Eagles Landing Christian Church, McDonough
Mount Vernon Christian Church, Monroe
Peachtree Corners Christian Church, Norcross

