

## Election of Officers and Regional Board Members

The following were elected to office at the 2009 Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia.

Moderator Rev. Vinnetta Golphin-Wilkerson  
God's City of Refuge, Atlanta

Moderator-Elect Lainie Jenkins  
Guyton, Guyton

Vice Moderator Rev. Jim Lindskoog  
Community, Fayetteville

Treasurer Sylvia Story  
Ray of Hope, Decatur

Continuing as Secretary Rev. Jim Brooks  
First, Winder

### Board Representatives – Tem expiring 2012

Annette Ford Ann Brooks  
First, Griffin St. Andrew, Macon

Rod Baker Rev. Rick Branaman  
First, Lawrenceville Atlanta First, Tucker

### Board Representatives – Term expiring 2011

Pam Gunter Elizabeth Hamm  
First, Watkinsville First, Decatur

Cecelia Glosson  
First, Waycross

Continuing –Term 2011 Darlene Reynolds  
Welcome Hope, Barney

### Board Representatives – filling unexpired Term expiring 2010

Rev. Rob Mason  
Marietta First

### General Board Representative

Rev. Dr. Tom Stephenson  
Central, Columbus

### Credentials Committee – Term expiring 2012

Barbara Duren  
Sandy Springs, Sandy Springs

Continuing – Term expiring 2010  
Ann Harris  
United, Dublin

Continuing – Term expiring 2011  
Gladys Stephenson  
Central, Columbus

Nominating Committee – Term expiring 2012  
Open

Continuing – Term expiring 2010  
Jane Osborn  
First, Valdosta

Continuing – Term expiring 2011  
Rev. Ray Austin  
First, Athens

Steve Willard  
Central, Augusta

**Ratification of Board Members for the Christian College of Georgia.**

The following were approved for positions on the Christian College of Georgia's board.

**Class of 2010**

Landa Simmons Sandy Springs  
Diane Bales: Athens  
Kathy McDowell: Norcross  
Janice Johnson Hume: Atlanta

**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

**Class of 2013**

James Brewer-Calvert: Decatur

## **Regional Elders**

At the 2009 Regional Assembly of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia, the following persons were commissioned as Regional elders. These people were nominated to the Regional Board and selected by the Regional Board for this service.

Medie Still - Lay person involved in Institute for Christian Ministry training, Guyton Christian Church

Archie Jenkins - Lay person operates food bank in Guyton, Guyton Christian Church

Linda Whitmire - Retired minister Sandy Springs Christian Church

Hoyt Huff - Retired minister, First Christian, Lawrenceville

Helen Branch - Licensed minister, serving at Ray of Hope Christian Church

Hal Doster - Retired minister, Cherry Log Christian Church

Sarah Moody - Licensed minister, serving with First Christian Church, Waycross

Ana Guardiola - Lay person, Community Christian Church, Fayetteville

Jack Snellgrove - Retired pastor of John's Creek Christian Church, living in Augusta area

The Role of the Regional Elders will be to increase the sense of connection and covenant between congregations and between congregations and larger church. Following Regional Assembly there will be a meeting of Regional elders for training, assignment to congregations and establishing rotating terms. Specifically duties will include:

- worship once each year in each of the assigned congregations
- maintain contact quarterly by telephone or email with the pastor of the assigned congregation
- represent the Region as requested at celebrative functions in assigned congregations
- be present in clergy meetings for the area
- be responsive in times of illness and hospitalization when requested by the Regional Minister
- share with the Regional Minister any pastoral or church related issues discovered during the care and presence process
- be an advocate for the Region and the larger church in the assigned congregations
- attend scheduled Regional Elders meetings with the Regional Minister
- carry out duties in manner consistent with the Code of Ethics for Ministers of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

## **Regional Minister Report 2009**

### **Rev. Ray Miles**

This assembly marks 4 ½ years that I have been serving as Regional Minister of the Christian Church in Georgia. Time seems to have flown past and it hardly seems that so much time has passed. Yet at other times the question of “only 4 ½ years?” raises itself. It is a good ministry among wonderful people with committed and exciting churches. There has been response and encouragement in the critical times and the accomplishments are many. At the same time it is a hard ministry. The amount of time in travel is unbelievable and the needs seem constant. Few times can one ever sit back saying “the tasks are done”. I anticipate sabbatical this coming year as a chance to simply be away and be in the presence of God. The temptation in this ministry is to “do” so much of the time and neglect time simply “being” in God’s presence and absorbing the life and goodness from God.

Church pastoral leadership transitions have slowed from the hectic pace which they were a couple of years ago. This year we had four installations to new ministries. Reeda Allen at Eagle’s Landing, Betty Halford at Sandy Springs, Rob Mason at First Marietta, and Ruben Rodriquez at El Aposento Alto. Only Peachtree Christian is currently in search for a new senior minister. The time usually spent on ministerial searches has been allocated to other ministries in the Region. This has meant the year has been a time for congregations to look at what is ahead and to begin to program for the future.

This year we have celebrated 5 ordinations to the ministry within the Region. Christina Hicks at God’s City of Refuge; Tonya Sumter at Ray of Hope; Valerie Alexander at First Christian, Decatur; Tina Glosson at First Christian in Waycross and Stephanie McCormick at Chestnut Ridge Christian Church. Of these, two are in pastoral ministry in other regions and three are in bi-vocational and volunteer ministries. In 2009 we anticipate 7 ordinations. There are currently 38 candidates from congregations in Georgia preparing for ministry

We have continued to work with the Christian College of Georgia in areas of curriculum and training for licensed ministers and for lay persons, as well as clergy continuing education. Our plan is to continue the cooperation with the College as the church moves into the area of commissioned ministry. It is an appreciated resource for classes and help in the tasks of educating our clergy.

Currently, we have a number of possible new churches emerging. Two different people are interested in beginning new Korean Disciple congregations. One couple is interested in beginning a new Hispanic Disciple congregation. One Hispanic congregation in Valdosta has requested to become a Disciple congregation. They are excited as they work towards full recognition. We have two other congregations-in-formation at the current time, one in Savannah and one in Albany. I attended a groundbreaking for a new building at Spirit of Joy and they were able to move into the new building this year. I have also been working with Church Extension and El Aposento Alto trying to help them find funding for a new building.

Within the region several congregations celebrated significant anniversaries, Lawrenceville First and Columbus, Central both celebrated 100<sup>th</sup> anniversaries and Loganville celebrated a 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

This year I also was present and involved in ministries and events outside the boundaries of Georgia. I continued as part of the College of Regional Ministers. This year we planned and sponsored a Stewardship event for the whole church. Our Region benefited by having Katie Hays being our representative at that event. She has since begun to teach what she learned to build the stewardship sense within the Region. I also attended General Board, General Assembly and am serving a two year term on the board of the Foundation for National City Christian Church in Washington DC.

I was a part of a delegation to the Dominican Republic and Haiti to encourage the church in those places. While in Dominican Republic I preached at one congregation and in Haiti we were part of the ordination of 75 new pastors. Overseas experiences broaden our faith and our understanding of the church and we learn a great deal about what the church can be and should be from our brothers and sisters overseas. These trips are not vacations but really continuing education and ministry in a different setting. Each trip teaches more than I knew before.

Financially the Region has been through a rough year. The clear picture of what was going to happen with finances, made us take the difficult decision of reducing staff. Though painful, I must complement Michael Weeks and Betty Brewer Calvert for the gracious nature, understanding, and concern for the church which they showed through this action. Since that time we have been able to introduce reduced time positions for Women's Ministry and Youth Ministries with funding coming from other sources. We now have four part time program staff to assist the ministries of the Region. Michael Weeks with camping and the administration at Camp Christian Conference Center; Sekinah Hamlin working with the 8 SERF regions in antiracism ministries; Betty Brewer Calvert working with women's ministries and Troy Tatum working with youth ministries in the Region. My thanks to each of them for the ministry they are carrying out. I am fortunate to share ministry with them.

The reductions have meant that some areas of ministry have not received the staff support they formerly did and others have fallen onto the plate of the Regional minister. A positive result, however, is the opportunity for more "grass roots" ministries as opposed to staff driven ministries. I feel this is healthier for the church and will result in more authentic and genuine ministries in the future. The beginning of the Regional Elders ministry will provide us the opportunity for closer relationships and deeper understanding of the meaning of covenant as it relates to churches.

As a result of the staff restructuring and the faithful support of people and congregations in the Region we are beginning to see progress in the financial health of the Region. We have not yet achieved the position we aim towards, but we can see progress. This year we will re-institute the granting of seminary scholarships and the Christmas gift to the pastor of a small membership congregation in the Region. Those funds are provided by bequests and we are gaining enough financial stability to make these grants as part of our ministry.

As we approach the future, major things face us. One is that we will have to rewrite our documents regarding ministry. The passing of the new Order of Ministry Document at the General Assembly means we will need to rewrite our documents to be in congruence with the General Church document. Another is providing the encouragement and assistance from existing congregations for those who are beginning.

The biggest need we have is for the prayers and cooperative commitment of people and congregations. This Church is built upon relationships and the covenants we enter into make us who we are.

I thank you for the opportunity to share in this ministry serving the church and our Lord.

Ray Miles

## Outdoor Ministry Advisory Team (OMAT) Report to the 2009 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. Team members include: Terressa Ewing, Darrell Vandervort, Stan Witherington, Pascale Dieudonne, Reeda Allen, Anne Money, Jimmy Peeples, J. R. Torbert, and Michael Weeks.

### Summer Camping Outdoor Ministry

Camp Christian and Camp Kicklighter both experienced strong summers. You can read stories and highlights from camp online as well as see some films from the summer. Camp Christian had a solid summer with more groups using our facility than ever before. Non-disciple summer camp usage helps our conference center to spread out maintenance and facility costs over a larger group of people, thus making camp more affordable for congregations and families.

<b>Camp Christian Conference Center</b>			
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Disciple Summer	380	367	340
Non Disciple Summer	156	353	342
<b>Total Summer</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>682</b>

### 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. **64% of camp usage so far in 2009 is by Disciple groups.** Our ecumenical ministry continues to move forward as we are renting the facility to new groups each year.

### Thank you for your gifts

Celebrate with me all that we have been able to do in supporting our program, remodeling and new equipment this year at Camp Christian Conference Center.

1. **Camp Scholarship & Camp Balaam gifts** were generously given to help many kids attend camp. Thanks for giving the gift of camping.
2. **Friendship Circle Gifts for pool renovations helped us get the pool open for the summer and now we can celebrate the completion of the project after the new tile were installed.**
3. The Disciple Men completed their **project at Lavery Hall which included painting the walls, floors, new baseboard, door closures, and new frames of our t-shirt collection.** We should also thank the several women who came during the Camp Work day and assisted the men on this project.
4. The Disciple Men also **completed repairs and remodeling in the cabin bath house.**
5. Thanks to the youth and members of Peachtree Christian Church we have **a new well** which provides water to the camp.



6. The **Giving Tree at First Christian Church in Lawrenceville** funded and members planted our vegetable garden for the summer. They also upgraded our recreation equipment and some other needed safety equipment.
7. The Disciple men of First in Sandersville donated the money for a **robotic pool vacuum**.
8. A mission trip group from Union Christian Church and summer campers helped out by **painting our picnic tables and outdoor benches** during camp.

### **Adopt-A-Month at Camp Christian**

Each month Camp Christian pays over \$4200 in mortgage payments for improvements and additions made to begin our retreat ministries. These improvements have made it possible for us to serve more than 10,000 people in our conference center ministries during the last 7 years.

We believe there are individuals, Sunday school classes, men's groups or women's groups who would be excited to take on the challenge of adopting one mortgage payment. If we find 12 groups or individuals who do this, we ensure the quality of ministry and facilities at the camp. Some groups have agreed to adopt a month for three years some are going on a year to year basis. Any gifts or inquiries are welcome. Are you a member of such a group? We would love to visit with you about adopting a month at Camp Christian Conference Center. Call us at the regional office or camp and inquire about a visit. We are always happy to come and share the camps story in the congregation.

### **2009 Adopt-A-Month Groups**

Sandy Springs Christian Church, Winder First, Chestnut Ridge, retired Disciple Pastors, the Regional Board, and Outdoor Ministry Team **adopted a month of the mortgage** this year. Thank you

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



This year you will find an invitation to join the Friendship Circle in your docket. We invite you to make note of the circle of friends listed below and 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 Gifts and Pledged Members of the Friendship Circle

Thank you to everyone who has given to assist the regions outdoor ministries.

### \$501-\$4,999

Diane Bales  
Don and Nancy Brewer  
Larry Evans  
Dave and Kathy McDowell  
Ray and Wendy Miles  
Sam and Sharon Nickols  
Marilyn, Brendan, Sha, Kali and Ashlin Parks  
Jimmy and Kim Peeples  
John and Marsha Von Almen  
Gary and Mary Frances Wall  
Stephen, Meredith and Perry Westbrook

### \$100-\$500

Mizell and Julie Alexander  
Ray and Carol Austin  
Gregory Brooks  
Jim and Katrine Brooks  
Joanne Burgess  
Chi Rho Camp 2009  
Chrysalis 2009  
Beth Coker  
Genesis Camp 2009  
Rhonda Hale  
Katie Hawkins  
Charlie and Sarah Hebenstreit  
Cecil Hodges  
Junior One 2009  
Anne Money  
John and Margo Novikoff  
Bob and Vesta Porter  
Bob and Georgia Raiford  
Troy and Leigh Ann Tatum  
Sanford and Julie Thompson  
W. O. Thompson  
Friendship Sunday School Class, Winder First

### \$1-\$99

Alan Allen  
Rodney Baker  
Betty and James Brewer-Calvert  
Camp Reunion 2009  
Robert Clarke  
CYF Conference 2009  
Dinsmore Family  
Dottie Gill  
Carole Evans  
Terressa Ewing  
Rusty Grant  
Junior Two 2009  
Mary O'Tyson  
Will, Kristi and William Perdue  
Rachel Robeck  
Cris and Landa Simmons  
Darrell Vandervort  
Neva Wall

### Sandy Springs Adopt-A-Month Donors

Jim and Carol Armstrong  
Alan and Joanne Burgess  
Sid and Kathy Elliott  
Milt and Janis Hill  
Becky Kelly  
Bruce and Leslie Lady  
Bryant and Nancy McDaniel  
Greg and Darby Peterson  
Andy Torbert  
J.R. Torbert  
Jim and Marilyn Torbert  
Whit and Linda Whitmire

## **Congregational Giving in Support of Camp Christian Conference Center 2009**

Thank You to Congregations, Groups and Individuals Who Give to Camp Christian Regularly. Many individuals give regularly through their congregations to assist Camp Christian with its ministry to children, youth, and adults. To you we want to say a special thank you. Your stewardship and generosity help the camp with its everyday needs of maintenance and improvements that are enjoyed by all campers and conferees. On behalf of all children, youth, and adults who use Camp Christian Conference Center we say thank you to these groups and congregations who have given to our current fund.

### **\$5,000 or more**

Peachtree Christian Church, Atlanta  
First Christian Church, Sandersville

### **\$1000-\$4,999**

First Christian Church, Lawrenceville  
First Christian Church Men, Sandersville  
Sandy Springs Christian Church, Sandy Springs  
First Christian Church, Winder  
First Christian Church CMF, Winder

### **\$500-\$999**

### **\$200-\$499**

Brookhaven Christian Church CWF, Atlanta  
Cherry Log Christian Church, Cherry Log  
Johns Creek Christian Church, John's Creek  
First Christian Church, Macon  
First Christian Church Loyal Daughter SS Class, Winder  
First Christian Church Friendship SS Class, Winder

### **Up to \$200**

Sanctuary Christian Church, Albany  
Central Christian Church, Columbus  
Community Christian Church CWF, Fayetteville

## **2010 Summer Camping Information**

- 2010 Camp Christian rates, dates, directors are included in your docket. Please help us to make sure that campers and parents have these dates for 2010 summer planning.
- The 2010 full schedule for Georgia Disciple Summer Camps is also included in the docket.
- Camp Christian will once again have Counselor Training sessions 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.
- Summer Camp brochures are available at the camp booth.
- Registration forms will be available on the web and in your congregation in February.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as the Executive Director of our regional sanctuary in the woods, Camp Christian Conference Center. Please contact me if I can be of service in planning your next retreat or getting organized for summer camp 2010.

Rev. Michael Weeks

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

**OUTDOOR MINISTRY ADVISORY TEAM (OMAT)**

**Class of 2010**

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**Class of 2011**

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**Class of 2012**

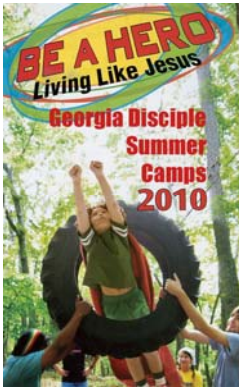
Sara Hebenstreit  
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Open

**Staff**

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**CAMP CHRISTIAN**  
**CONFERENCE CENTER**  
[www.gadisciples.org/camp](http://www.gadisciples.org/camp)

**Camp Registration**  
**Deadline May 1, 2010**

June	Camp	Grade Completed as of June 2010	Registration	Directors
7-11	Junior I	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup>	\$240	Andy Campbell Teresa Bensch
11-13	Chrysalis	1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$165	Erin Cooper
14-19	CYF	10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$280	Reeda Allen Chris McCreight
19-20	YADA	Young Adults	\$45	Michael Weeks
21-26	Chi Rho	6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup>	\$280	Melissa Fain Darrell Vandervort
<b>JULY</b>				
12-16	Junior II	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup>	\$240	Terressa Ewing Doug Job
16-18	Genesis	Kindergarten accompanied by an adult relative	Fee for adult & child \$225	Marilyn Parks
18-22	Camp Balaam	10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$170	Katie Hawkins Stephen Westbrook
<b>AUGUST</b>				
13-15	Camp Reunion	Family Camp Adults, Children and Youth accompanied by sponsors	\$53 full \$42 two days \$27 one day	Marilyn Parks Terressa Ewing Courtney Chandler

**Camp Christian Summer Camp Drivers & Parents Drop Off and Pick Up Times**

- **Genesis Camp** begins on Friday at 6 pm and concludes on Sunday at 10 am.
- **Chrysalis Camp** begins on Friday at 10 am and concludes on Sunday at 10 am.
- **Junior Camps** begin on Monday at 10 am and conclude on Friday at 10:00 am.
- **Chi Rho & CYF** begin on Monday at 10 am and conclude on Saturday at 10 am.
- **Camp Balaam** counselors in training should arrive at camp on Sunday at 3:30 pm and will be ready for pick up on Thursday at 10 am.
- **YADA** begins Saturday at 11 am & ends Sunday at 1 pm.
- **Camp Reunion:** begins Friday at 6:30 & ends Sunday at 10:30 am.

Camp Registration Forms and Camp Brochures with more information will be available in January in Disciple congregations and on the web. Visit the Regional web site [www.gadisciples.org/camp](http://www.gadisciples.org/camp) or call the Regional Office for more information, 1-800-755-0485.

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

The year has not been without its challenges and stresses; yet the women of the region carry on with a variety of ministries and a deep commitment to the wider church. I am especially grateful for the leadership, dedication, and generosity of the CWF/Disciples Women Commission and women's groups across the region.

Beth Thompson (Regional CWF/Disciples Women's President) and I began 2009 at the International Disciples Women's Ministries Cabinet Meeting in Greensboro, N.C. We were introduced to the "Art of Hosting Meaningful Conversations." Our knee-to-knee conversations were an enriching path to communion with one another and the Holy as well as a way to identify priorities and connect people around common concerns. We took the idea back to the Commission as a suggestion for the 2009 Spring Conferences.

Our Spring Conference theme, drawing upon Isaiah 43:18-21, was "*God is about to do a new thing.... SEE IT!*" We explored our gifts and how we are using them in women's ministries as well as what we are called to do and be in the future. The events were graciously hosted by Dublin First, Peachtree, Warner Robins First, and Winder First Christian Churches. Women were introduced to the 2009-2010 Disciples Women Service Project, "Human Trafficking: Breaking the Chains of Modern Day Slavery." We were challenged to become educated about human trafficking (the illegal trade of human beings for sexual exploitation or forced labor) and to seek concrete ways to make a difference in our communities. Each church was asked to set a goal for volunteer hours and money raised; results will be celebrated at the 2010 Quadrennial Assembly.

Conference participants received a copy of the new Disciples Women's magazine, *Just Women*," an excellent new resource published by *DisciplesWorld*. Skits performed by recruits from the audience introduced the new resource as well as the upcoming 2010 Quadrennial Assembly to be held in Greensboro, NC, June 23-27, 2010. We collected vast amounts of school supplies for children served by ForeverFamily, the ministry begun (as AIM) by Disciple Sandra Barnhill. Cokesbury books were on sale as well as jewelry from the Klong Toey Community Center, located in a Bangkok slum, a service focus of Global Women Connecting (formerly World CWF). 35 churches were represented at this year's conferences, with 190 participants. Women gave \$1492.55 in offerings to support women's ministries in the region and nearly \$80.00 in Blessing Box offerings.

On July 30, several Georgia women attended the Disciples Women luncheon at the General Assembly and were inspired by the depth and breadth of commitment and ministry of the women of the church. Event highlights were the liturgical dancers from Light of the World Christian Church, installation of new staff in the Office of Disciples Women, a Quadrennial Assembly promotion, and an inspirational message by Disciples Women Staff Person Sheila Spencer. Some of our Georgia clergywomen visited at the Clergywomen After Session. The Assembly-wide "world café" conversations were not unfamiliar as we had had a taste at our Georgia Spring Conferences. The experience at Assembly would also prepare us for using the same model at our annual fall retreat.

2009 Women's Retreat, October 9-11 at Norman Park, was facilitated by Rev. Patti Case. Our theme, "Weave Us Together," was explored through inspiring messages and sisterly conversations. Beautifully woven backdrops and a creative tablecloth created by women of Waycross First lifted our spirits as did the prayers of the Retreat Prayer Team faithfully led by Helen Chilton of Peachtree Christian. Kathleen McMichael from Florida shared her experiences on the Woman-to-Woman trip to Bosnia. Offerings included: canned goods; pillowcases for the Sweet Dreams Pillowcase Ministry; pounds of pop tabs for Ronald McDonald Houses; \$1308.76 for Church World Service's Build-a-Village in Bosnia and "A Future. Not a Past" (statewide campaign to stop human trafficking); and \$8040.10 in Blessing Box money (year-to-date figure). Boutique sales (\$1053.95) and silent auction receipts (\$875.70) will fund regional women's ministries.

Frances Shumake introduced two new regional book club titles: *Same Kind of Different as Me* by Ron Hall and Denver Moore (there's a study guide, too) and *When Crickets Cry* by Charles Martin. Throughout the weekend, a steady stream of women built enthusiasm for next summer's Quadrennial Assembly, highlighted by a song and dance by the women of Watkinsville First and QA Coordinator, Dottie Gill. Evaluations for the retreat were positive. Mark October 1-3 on your calendar for 2010 Retreat!

The CWF/Disciples Women Commission met three times since the last Assembly and has a scheduled meeting on November 14 at the regional office. Please read Beth Thompson's report for more on the ongoing visioning process. We are delighted that Rev. Vinnetta Golphin-Wilkerson, incoming Regional Moderator, will speak at the Women's Gathering at this Assembly.

In addition to participation in commission meetings and regional events, I have also appreciated the opportunity to be present in other ways on behalf of the region:

- Church visits to Sandy Springs, Winder First, Peachtree Corners, Lawrenceville First, Atlanta First, Cherry Log, John's Creek, and Loganville, Waycross First, Ray of Hope
- Women's ministry conference sponsored by God's City of Refuge
- Youth-a-Palooza, Epworth-by-the-Sea, St. Simon's
- 3 ordinations and a service of licensure for women in our region
- Planning and helping to lead the Disciples Church Women's Staff Fellowship annual meeting in Greensboro, NC
- General Assembly in Indianapolis, IN
- District and cluster ministers' luncheons
- Southeastern Regional Fellowship staff retreat at Christmount, NC

I am excited about our visioning process, am grateful for the leadership of the CWF/Disciples Women Commission, and continue to enjoy ministry alongside you.

Respectfully submitted,

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

## **Youth Ministries 2009**

### **Rev. Troy Tatum**

Ministry to, with, and by youth is essential for the church to live out our calling to be the Body of Christ in the world. While we have faced new challenges this year, youth ministry in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia remains strong, vital, and faithful.

Here are just a few of the ways the Holy Spirit is working through, and working on, our youth:

- The Youth Activity Council (YAC) has worked diligently to plan for another great Youth-a-palooza at Epworth-by-the-Sea this January 8-10. Paul Svenson is returning to lead music, and Revs. Joshua Bell and Laura Evans Mahn will be our keynote speakers. Registration and publicity material has been mailed to each congregation, and is also available online at [www.gadisciples.org](http://www.gadisciples.org).
- A new scholarship program has been established to help offset the cost of Youth-a-palooza for those in need.
- Some adjustments have been made in the way YAC is structured in order to meet some of the new demands of a changing church. For our adult YAC members, these changes include a three-year term, background checks, and appointment by the Regional Board. For our youth YAC members, these changes include a mandatory training retreat, the establishment of YAC officers, and representation on the Regional Board.
- YAC has been thinking and dreaming about ways to involve more churches in the Region's youth ministries, and will work more on these goals in the coming year.
- YAC youth and adults will be attending, along with their counterparts from other southeastern regions, a leadership training event at Christmount this summer.
- Rev. Troy Tatum, Senior Minister of Union Christian Church in Watkinsville, has been called to work with YAC and the Region's youth ministries on a contract basis. Troy has nearly fifteen years of experience in congregational youth ministry, and has led youth leadership councils in two other regions.
- Please see other reports to learn more about our wonderful ministry to youth at Camp Christian Conference Center and Camp Kicklighter.

If you have any thoughts or questions about Youth-a-palooza, the Youth Activity Council, or any aspect of our ministry to, with, and by youth, please contact Rev. Troy Tatum at [troy@gadisciples.org](mailto:troy@gadisciples.org).

## **Commission on Ministry 2009**

The responsibilities of the Commission on Ministry is to guide people as they pursue a path to ministry, in all the forms that can take. From students in seminary, to adults seeking to answer a call to specialize ministries, to clergy coming from other traditions all are part of the caring tasks of the Commission on Ministry.

Over the past year, the 15 members of the Commission on Ministry have supervised 10 licensed ministers, 25 candidates for ordination, and 7 transfer of standing candidates. Six of the candidates completed the process and were ordained this year. The members of the Commission take seriously the responsibility of caring for the current and future servants of the church. They commit hours to reading documents, interviewing candidates and reviewing the needs and work on the new denominational policy and its effect on the work in Georgia. I want to thank all of the Commission for their work and commitment.

During the next 2 years the Commission will be working to bring our policy into accord with the new Order of Ministry.

By the end of the year, it would be appreciated of all clergy in the Region to complete the update form and return it to the Regional Office. This form allows the Commission to keep our information current as well as to receive input from our colleagues in service to the Church.

Sincerely,  
Darrell Vandervort

## **Women's Ministry Report** **Beth Thompson, President**

The women across the Region have just returned home from our annual Retreat at Norman Park, GA, refreshed, renewed and energized for our ministries in our home churches and our larger ministry together as women of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia. The Women's Retreat marks the end of one Women's Ministry year and begins another. Several Commission members, Worship Coordinator Cecelia Glosson, Service Coordinator Ann Brooks, Study Coordinator Ana Guardiola, and Southeast District Coordinator Andy Waits finished their terms of office. All these women have served faithfully. New Commission members installed at Retreat include: Terressa Ewing, Worship Coordinator; Jane Osborne, Service Coordinator; Darlene Reynolds, Southwest District Coordinator; Linda Barner, Southeast District Coordinator; and Sarah Moody, who has served as Southwest District Coordinator and is the new Study Coordinator. Other Commission members continuing are Pam Gunter, Vice President; Linda Van der Merwe, Secretary; Dottie Gill, Quadrennial Assembly Coordinator; Theresai Manley, Northeast District Coordinator; Diane Lanier, Northwest District Coordinator; Karen Boyd, East Central District Coordinator; Annette Ford, West Central District Coordinator; Beth Thompson, President; and Betty Brewer-Calvert, staff person (*ex officio*). Each commission member is elected for a two-year term.

Our Retreat theme of "Weave Us Together" celebrated and honored the rich tapestry of women that are the heritage of Women's Ministries in Georgia – women like Rev. Anne Beach, our first Associate Regional Minister for Women's Ministries who was installed in 1941 and served in that capacity until the late 1970s, and Rev. June Doster who followed her and served as Associate Regional Minister until 1997. We also honored women like Martha Faw, who served as our International Christian Women's Fellowship President in the late 1980s. A total of 177 women were nominated by local churches and recognized for their contributions. Throughout the weekend, we wove in new conversations about what the future holds for Women's Ministries in Georgia.

The Women's Commission which took office in November 2008 began a visioning process that is only partially complete. Our goal is to listen to the many voices of women across Georgia to determine what women value, need from, feel passionate about, and envision for our Regional ministry together. We have used a number of processes for our visioning, including Collaborative Action Planning by the Commission, World Café Conversations at Spring Conferences and Retreat, and Open Space Conversations at Retreat. We will continue to gather information over the next few months in several ways. A survey that can be completed online or in hard copy will be sent out to all the local churches. Our goal is to reach all women at all local churches. In January 2010, we hope to hold two focus groups of women 40 and under, one in South Georgia and another in the northern part of the Region. We will use a Collaborative Planning model to find out what these younger women need and want to create in women's ministry. On Saturday, February 20 (with an optional overnight on the 19th), the Women's Commission will host a Planning Retreat at Camp Christian. Any women who would like to attend are invited. The Commission will share all the information gathered, and the group will create a plan for the next year to begin to move toward the vision of what God is calling women

to do in our Region. We see this planning retreat as a beginning for many more conversations over the next year.

While it has been a difficult year with the Regional budget cuts, women across the Region have made it a priority to continue our mission and DMF support as well as to continue to fund our Director of Women's Ministries position. A contract with Rev. Betty Brewer-Calvert for this position was approved by the Regional Board for a six-month term of office to be reviewed in February and with funding to be provided by the women of the Region. Women have been very generous, and the funding for this above and beyond offering has been consistent and sufficient for the contracted hours.

We look forward to a new year that holds many possibilities and opportunities to serve, and we pray for God's guidance in making wise choices. It will be an exciting year of new challenges!

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Thompson  
President, Christian Women's Fellowship/Disciples Women of Georgia

## **REGION OF GEORGIA DISCIPLES MEN 2009 REPORT**

Eventful is the best way to describe the actions of GA Disciples Men in 2009.

In January, various members of the GA DM Commission met at First CC Atlanta for the awarding of the LAYMAN OF THE YEAR plaque. This year's recipient is Walter White. Walter was recognized for his Christian service at 1st Atlanta (as Men's Group Leader and Congregational Leadership/Support), Community Involvement with School Activities and Habitat For Humanity Participation, and Regional DM Involvement through Men's Retreat and District Rallies.

The Disciples Men's Commission received word that their grant application through Cookin' For Mission (formerly International Day of Pancakes) for Camp Christian Youth Needs was accepted and that funds in the amount of \$5000 was won. A series of Spring weekends for work detail was then implemented and followed through resulting in much needed improvements to Lavery Hall and Bath Houses.

GA Disciples Men's Retreat was held at Camp Christian for the 1st time much to everyone's delight. Glen Carson of the Disciples Historical Society in Nashville was our keynoter for the weekend. The Men enjoyed this time within state and came away blessed for their participation in so many ways. Plans for 2010 Men's Retreat are to return to Camp Christian Mar 19 - 21 with Rev Dean Phelps (former GA Associate Regional Minister and presently Minister of Church Multiplication with General Disciples Ministries in Indianapolis) leading us through sessions.

A new GA DM Commission was installed by Rev Ray Miles which includes officers Will Perdue (Peachtree Corners) - President; Bob Grant (Griffin 1st) - President Elect; John Anderson ( Augusta Central) - Past President; Medie Still (Guyton) - Secretary/ Treasurer; Joe Austin (Peachtree Corners) - NW District Rep; Mike Bodnar (Guyton) - SE District Rep; Archie Jenkins (Guyton) and Joe Kern (Marietta 1st) -- At Large Reps. Rev James Shelton of New Hope CC in Lawrenceville has recently been welcomed as our new Pastor/Counselor and has already given much support.

An Endowment Fund held by General Ministries was begun in the name of Milton Summerall (Augusta 1st). Milton has long been instrumental in Men's Ministry serving as GA District Rep, GA Men's President, GCDM President and most recently State Coordinator for GA DM. Donations to this Fund will result in earnings which will be used by the General Conference of DM programming.

The Men's Page Link on [www.gadisciples.org](http://www.gadisciples.org) has been updated. GA DM Groups from all Congregations are encouraged to share their news items here.

A new Quarterly DM Newsletter from GCDM was published for the first time this summer and all GA Men are welcome to sign up for this.

Three Fall Rallies were held in the state this year. They took place at Community CC, FCC Lawrenceville, and Hiltonia CC. Speakers were Rev Byron Wells, Rev James Shelton, and Medie Still respectively. Offerings received went towards CCINGA Flood Relief and GA DM Work Fund.

Archie Jenkins was installed as GCDM President Elect and was instrumental in the success of the Men's Gathering at General Assembly this summer in Indianapolis. We wish him God's Blessings in his expanded Ministry to Men.

Submitted by,

Will Perdue,  
DM President