



First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

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DISCIPLES MISSION FUND SPECIAL DAY OFFERINGS

Disciples Mission Fund Special Day Offerings allow Disciples to give with specific intention 6 times during the year. The offerings are:

Easter

Easter provides support for the General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.) These ministries operate across the U.S. and Canada as well as around the world.

Pentecost

Pentecost gifts support the development and growth of new churches. Fifty percent of the offering is available for new church ministries in the regions it was given and the remainder support the General Assembly's New Church Priority that is housed in Church Extension.

All gifts to the Pentecost Offering directly support the operating expenses of new congregations and the training of new church pastors, mentors and coaches.

Thanksgiving

Fourteen colleges and universities; and seven theological Institutions receive direct support through this offering, further nurturing the relationship between the church and educational institutions.

Your support of the Thanksgiving Offering provides scholarships and pastoral care to Disciples students at Disciple schools. Your gifts are directly impacting the lives of leaders who will serve the church for years to come.

Christmas

The Christmas Offering directly supports regions in their mission to extend the ministry of Christ in mission, teaching, witness, and service among the people and social structures of the region.

Regional Ministries provide pastoral care and enrichment programs in 33 areas of the U.S. and Canada. Regions are often known for their outstanding camp and conference programs as well as the development and ordination of ministry candidates. All funds raised through the Christmas Special Day Offering remain in the region given.

Week of Compassion

Week of Compassion is the Disciples' witness in the face of natural or man-made disasters. Floods, hurricanes, fire, civil wars, poverty, disease are only a few of the challenges Week of Compassion responds to on behalf of the Disciples. The Special Day offering is the only church-wide effort to provide general funding for the ministry.

Reconciliation Ministry

For more than 40 years Disciples have had a visible ministry to address the racism in society. Gifts support programs and initiatives aimed at dismantling racism.

PASTOR'S CLASS

All children, youth, and adults who want to be baptized are welcome to join the Pastor's Class. In the class, participants will discuss the meaning of baptism, communion, the life of Jesus, the love of God, and the joy of serving in the church. The class will be led by Edd and will meet every Sunday at 4:00 pm. The first class will be October 9 at 4:00 pm and will meet in the library. Baptism will be on Christmas Sunday, December 25. Contact Edd if you are interested in taking the class.

SUNDAY SCHOOL GREETER

Our beloved Jim Thigpen is retiring after many years as Sunday School Greeter. He will certainly be missed! We are in need of at least four people to take his place. The job consists of being at church by 8:30 am, turning on the lights, unlocking the doors, and classrooms, and making coffee. You will need to stay at the door until 9:15 am to welcome people. Please contact the church office or Julie Henderson if you are interested.

KOATS4KIDZ

Autumn is here; our young friends are back in school & cold weather is coming. Unfortunately, some of these friends do not have warm coats. Check the closets of your children & grandchildren for lightly used coats which they no longer wear. During the month of October the Sunday school benevolence effort is collecting good new or used coats to be provided through our Shelby County School partners to these wonderful, but needy, children. All sizes for kindergarten to junior high school are needed.

Please bring your gifts to the Farkas Room/ Christian Comrades Class Room & hang them on the racks provided there. We will inventory by sizes & have cleaning done, if necessary, to have these items ready for early November distribution. Please contact: Regena Varvoutis, Gloria McWilliams, Gary Howard or Charles Daniels with any questions.

BLESSING BOX

If your computer is working properly, no virus or no lost data because of hard drive meltdown, put something in your **Blessing Box** this week.

“THE DISCIPLES”

Sunday, October 9th

The Superiority of Wisdom

Ecclesiastes 9: 13-18

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSONS

Sunday, October 9th

Instructions about faith and conduct

Titus

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

WORSHIP SERVICE	175
SUNDAY SCHOOL	71
 HOMECOMING DINNER	143

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

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Life In Our Community This Week

Sunday, October 9

Ministry Appreciation Sunday

- 9:00 Sunday School
9:45-10:15 Fellowship Moment
10:15 Worship Service
11:30 Rebekah at Ming's
10:30 Worship & Wonder
3:00 Bell Choir
4:00 Pastor's Class
5:00 Youth Groups
5:00 Praise Kids
6:15 Snack Supper
- Monday - Thursday*
9:30 – 1:30 The Adventure Nook Preschool
- Monday, October 10*
7:00 Men's Bible Study
10:00 Staff Meeting
- Tuesday, October 11*
9:45 TAN Halloween Walk with Edd
10:00 Women's Bible Study
7:00 Finance Council
- Wednesday, October 12*
6:30 Choir Practice
7:30 Cantata Practice
- Thursday, October 13*
7:00 Advocates Bible Study
7:00 Women's Bible Study
- Saturday, October 15*
11:00 Elders Visiting the Conwells

GRACE NOTES

- Congratulations to Sarah Alderson and Jason Hammontree, who were married Saturday, October 1.
- Our prayers are with Pat Deaton, Bud Flora, Helen Chapman, Gina and Hank Whitehead, Hannah Harms, and Linda Cullum.
- I would like to thank everyone for your prayers and cards during my dad's illness and recent passing. You all mean the world to me – my church family. Shirley Naylor
- We welcome Allen and Cele Montgomery who joined our church on Homecoming Sunday.
- Put on your calendar the Adventure Nook Fall Festival, Thursday, October 20.
- Volunteers are needed for the Pumpkin Patch at Hargis. The dates are October 18-21 and October 25-28. The times are 8:00 am – 1:00pm. Help is needed for story telling, games, fire-building and the petting zoo. Contact Libby Carpenter, Bud Flora, or Jim Langley if you can help.
- The choir would like to invite anyone who enjoys singing to join us this year for our Christmas Cantata on December 11. Rehearsals will be on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary.

CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED

On Friday and Saturday, August 6 and 7, 2004, there was an All-Church Retreat with the theme "Reconnect, Renew and Revitalize". This retreat was held at the church and dinner was provided on Friday night as well as breakfast and lunch on Saturday. This gave everyone an opportunity to spend time with Edd and Mary Pat Spencer, our new ministers, and also to express their thoughts on FCC and its mission.

Mary Pat grew up in Jacksonville, FL, where she was active in Riverside Christian Church. She graduated from Lynchburg College in Virginia and from Lexington Theological Seminary in Kentucky. During their time at LTS she and Edd met and were married.

Mary Pat was ordained into ministry at Azalea Hills Christian Church in Mobile and served the AL/NWFL region as youth minister. Many of us became acquainted with Mary Pat at CWF Retreats during her time at Azalea Hills. She served as Minister of Education at FCC in Little Rock, and as co-minister at Beneva Christian Church in Sarasota. Edd was born in Atlanta but grew up in Birmingham where he was active in our downtown church. He graduated from Auburn University and from Lexington Theological Seminary. He was ordained in our church in July, 1972, he served pastorates at Azalea Hills Christian Church in Mobile, FCC in Little Rock and a co-pastorate at Beneva Christian Church in Sarasota. Edd and Mary Pat were installed as our ministers on September 26. Regional Minister John Mobley brought the message and conducted the service of installation, which was followed by a reception.

Members of the Christian Motorcyclist Association rode to church on September 12 and attended our Sunday worship, also sharing their testimonies of faith. We appreciated their ministry and especially their support of Camp High Hopes.

The popular CYF sponsored Cajun Festival was combined with the Chi Rho sponsored Hallowe'en Carnival and was held on Sunday, October 31 following worship. Our youth, their parents and sponsors worked hard all weekend to make this event a success and raised about \$1,000 for their mission trips.

It was exciting to see the progress on our new building and to look forward to its completion around mid-December. It will be a great blessing to have so much more space for our youth, for adult classes and for meeting places. We also added two new commercial stainless steel tables to the kitchen and work was soon to begin on improving the sound system in the sanctuary.

Take advantage of our Men and Women Bible Studies. Judy Dudley leads the Women's Bible Study on Tuesday at 10:00 am and Thursday at 7:00 pm. Edd leads the Men's Bible Study on Monday at 7:00 am and Russell Fountain leads the Mens Bible Study on Thursday at 7:00 pm