



CENTRAL AREA NEWSLETTER April/2009



“Better Together! Oklahoma Disciples in Faithful Mission”

The other day I heard an Oklahoma City pastor, Dr. Robin Meyers, of Mayflower

Congregational Church say:

“Jesus didn’t want ‘fans,’ he wanted ‘followers.’”

I like that idea; I believe it is true. Jesus had no need to be popular, to be a “star.” Jesus took his job very seriously: to be a teacher, a healer, an organizer, a motivator, a deliverer of the Good News. Jesus worked very hard to inspire and train people to do God’s work, as Jesus did. Jesus’ intent was to leave behind him a body of people who would finish His work – Jesus wanted followers/workers!

The Easter story of Jesus’ preparation for death and resurrection tells this clearly. Jesus talked to these disciples; he prayed with them and for them right to the end. Jesus supported the followers and asked them to support him and to do God’s will.

And all through their time together, Jesus continued to emphasize the priority of the mission: to bring Good News to the poor, to the oppressed, to those in need.

In this time of Lent, preparing for Easter, our theme: “Better Together! Oklahoma Disciples in Faithful Mission” is an active and an appropriate response to Jesus’ desire. Together we plan and pray, we worship and organize to get Jesus’ work accomplished.

We know that after Jesus’ resurrection there were countless people throughout history who became faithful followers. In “faithful mission” we, the Oklahoma Disciples of Christ, may be some of the followers Jesus prayed and hoped for. Let it be so!

Dr. Rita Newton, Moderator, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma



Oklahoma Disciples In Faithful Mission!

**Central Area Assembly
April 26
2:30-5:30 PM
First Christian Church, Moore**

Central Area congregations are invited to attend the Central Area Assembly “Oklahoma Disciples in Faithful Mission.”

Rev. Loma Sullivan, Associate Regional Pastor, will be bringing us the message of the good works currently being done and our vision for future work in *Caminante*. Workshops on mission work will be offered at the assembly.

(Rev. Sullivan and other Oklahoma Disciples went on our 2nd pilgrimage to *Caminante* from March 14-March 21, 2009.)



You may have asked yourself what a health care advocate would do. I have to tell you, this one, at least, first stuck her toe in the water and found the pond to be much larger

than she expected!

I have met with several people from DHS. I am amazed at the services available that I didn't even know about. I have been accepted in OALA (Oklahoma Aging Advocacy Leadership Academy). This is a group limited to 12 participants, committed to one week-end a month for 10 months. This past week-end we were immersed in the legislative process and I left Saturday evening with my head swimming. I also came away with some opportunities for seniors. **Senior Day at the Capitol is April 13 from 8:30 am to 11:00 am.** For more information call 1-800-211-2116 or 405-521-2281. **In May, the Conference on Aging will be held Tuesday-Thursday the 19th-21st.** I will be receiving more information on that if any of you are interested. My email address is blee@okdisciples.org.

Sorry this was not in time to let you know about Tony Campolo on April 2.

I already know more than when I started. I hope, in the future, that you may find me to be a one stop resource when you have questions regarding aging services in Oklahoma- from assistance in home to care facilities, from legislation to questions you never imagined yourself asking. I have visited some care facilities from one tier care to four tier care; from no place I would want to be to so elegant it feels almost like royalty, or what I think of as royal. In the future I plan to establish a data base with most all care facilities in the state listed. This is an ongoing process. Stay tuned.

Rev. Billie Lee, DRCO Health Care Advocate

(In addition to serving as DRCO Health Advocate, Rev. Lee is Pastor of First Christian Church, Wetumka.)



Lenten Daily Devotions by Oklahoma Disciples can be found on the Regional Church website, www.okdisciples.org

Central Area, Regional and General Church Events...



April 5 & 12

Easter Special Day Offerings
(100% goes to General Church Ministries)

April 16, 10:30 AM Central Area Pastors Gathering, Oklahoma Disciples Center
301 NW 36th, Okla. City

The monthly pastors' gathering is a time of sharing, reflecting and keeping abreast of news within Central Area congregations and the Regional Church.

April 16, 6:30 PM Central Area Disciple Men
First Christian Church, Moore

April 17-18, Oklahoma Clergy Women's Spring Retreat
"Relax/Refresh/Renew and Restore"
The Hawthorne Suites, Midwest City

The Keynote Speaker will be Rev. Dr. Nancy Pittman, Assistant Professor of the Practice of Ministry and Director of the D. Min. program at Phillips Theological Seminary. If you are a Disciple clergy women; ordained, licensed, seminary, retired of academic, you are invited to participate. For more information, contact: Rev. Loma Sullivan, lullivan@okdisciples.org



**April 24-May 1
Caminante Mission
Pilgrimage
Dominican Republic**

In a partnership closely aligned with and supported by our denomination's Global Ministries, this third trip to *Caminante* will continue the work begun in 2008 and will be the second time that an Oklahoma Disciples group has went in 2009. *Caminante* provides vocational and educational ministries to children and youth at risk of being lured into illicit drug and sex trades that are rampant in this growing tourist mecca. If you would like a presentation about *Caminante* for your congregation/group or would like more information, contact: Rev. Charles Hattendorf, chattendorf@okdisciples.org or Rev. Loma Sullivan, lsullivan@okdisciples.org.

(The Central Area Assembly being held on April 26th will provide more information and opportunities to become a part of the work being done in *Caminante*.)

**April 25, Noon
CHCC/Jim Graves Memorial
Golf Tournament**

Lake Hefner South

For more information: contact Crown Heights Christian Church coordinator, Garland Pendergraf, 405/521-9111.

April 28, 9:30 AM, Central Area ODW
First Christian Church, Ponca City

**April 28-30 Senior Adult Retreat
"God's Hospitality-Our Hospitality"
Faith Community CC, Choctaw**

This retreat, sponsored by the Laity Commission of The Christian Church in Oklahoma, is being offered for persons age 55 and older. To register or for more information, visit the Regional Church website: www.okdisciples.org or contact: Rev. Loma Sullivan, lsullivan@okdisciples.org.

**May 2, Not Alone,
"God is in the Midst of the City"**

The Not Alone project is a house refurbishing" being coordinated by Crown Heights Christian Church. If you would like to help or need more information, contact: Marilynn Knott, marilynnknott1@cox.net; 405/524-5074.

May 2, 8 AM, Rummage /Baked Goods Sale
Woodlands Christian Church, Ponca City.
Proceeds will benefit the mission and ministries of Woodlands Christian Church.

**May 15, 10th Annual FCC/Edmond Benefit
Golf Tournament, Kickingbird Golf Course**
For more information, contact:
First Christian Church, Edmond: 405/341-3544

**May 16, 8 AM, FCC/Midwest City Four
Player Scramble-Men and Women**
Choctaw Creek Golf Course
Entry fees include Green fees, cart, two mulligans and luncheon with Prizes and Awards after the tournament at the golf course's Creekside Grill. To register, visit the church website: www.fccmwc.org; for more information, contact: Lyle Fry: 405/396-2903

**May 16, 2 PM, Phillips Theological
Seminary Commencement, Tulsa**

**May 21, 10:30 AM
Central Area Pastors Gathering**
Oklahoma Disciples Center
301 NW 36th, Okla. City

**May 24 & 31, Pentecost
Special Day Offerings**

(50% goes to General New Church assistance & 50% goes to Regional New Church assistance.) To learn more about new church growth in Oklahoma and information about Regional New Church assistance, contact: Rev. Charles Hattendorf: chattendorf@okdisciples.org

**June 7-10, Mt. Sequoyah Conference on
Ecumenical Mission**
Fayetteville, AR

Join your sisters in faith from Kansas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas for a mountaintop experience! For more information, contact: 1/800-760-8126 or 479/443-4531.

**June 18, 10:30 AM
Central Area Pastors Gathering**
Oklahoma Disciples Center

June 26-27, Encounter
First Christian Church, Stillwater

**ANNUAL FUND
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

*June 1, 2009
1:00 p.m.
Quail Creek
Country Club
Oklahoma City*

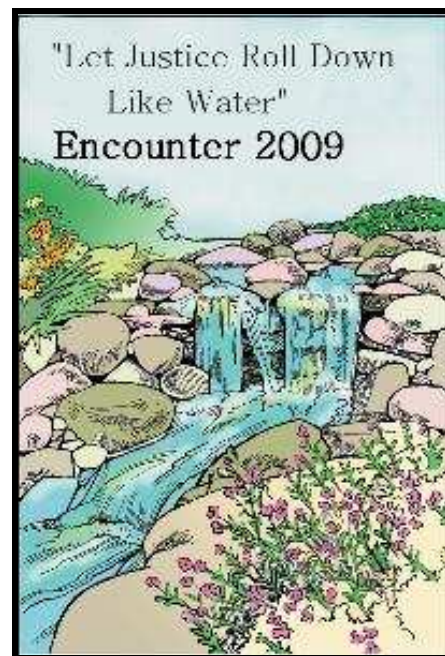
4 Person Team Scramble



*--Lunch
--Prizes
--Fellowship
--Delightful
Weather*

*Proceeds benefit Oklahoma Regional Church
Ministries*

*Mark your calendars now and plan to play.
Registration information will be provided
at a later date*



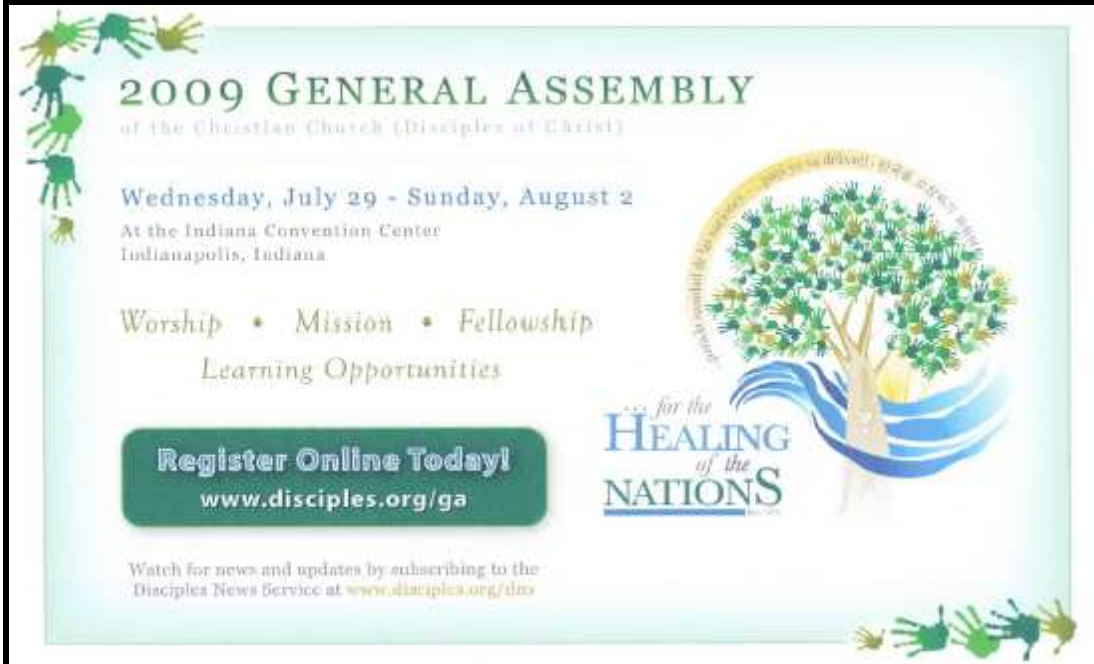
June 1, Annual Fund Golf Tournament
Quail Creek Country Club, Okla. City

The Annual Fund Golf Tournament raises funds for and awareness of the many different ministries and missions of the Regional Church, The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma. For more information, contact: Rev. Charles Hattendorf, chattenforf@okdisciples.org

The theme for Encounter is "Let Justice Roll Down Like Water" and will focus on issues of social justice in a variety of formats. Keynote speaker will be The Rev. Susan Gonzales-Dewey, co-regional pastor of the Pacific Southwest region (www.disciplespswr.org). For more information, contact: Rev. Loma Sullivan, [lsullivan@okdisciples.org](mailto:lullivan@okdisciples.org)

**July 16, 10:30 AM Central Area Pastors
Gathering**
Oklahoma Disciples Center
301 NW 36th, Okla. City

July 29-Aug. 2, General Assembly Indianapolis, IN



2009 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Wednesday, July 29 - Sunday, August 2
At the Indiana Convention Center
Indianapolis, Indiana

Worship • Mission • Fellowship
Learning Opportunities

Register Online Today!
www.disciples.org/ga

Watch for news and updates by subscribing to the
Disciples News Service at www.disciples.org/dns

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of the
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Other Items of Interest...

Contemporary Worship Music Director-
Southern Hills Christian Church is seeking a self-motivated team player to manage music for the contemporary worship service, working 20 hours per week. Send resume and references by April 10th to:
hr@southernhillschristian.org; Southern Hills Christian Church, Attn: Search Committee, 3207 S. Blvd, Edmond, OK 73013



Marilynn Knott was recently honored with **The Phil Wahl Abolitionist of the Year Award** on March 21st by The Oklahoma Coalition for the Abolishment of the Death

Penalty. Oklahoma Disciples can all feel proud that one of our own has received this distinguished honor. Marilynn, a licensed minister, is a long time member and an assistant pastor at Crown Heights Christian Church in Oklahoma City.



Week of Compassion Mission Trip February/2009

The Christian Church in Oklahoma received the following Thank You from South West Good Samaritans Ministries:

Oklahoma Central Region Mission Group: SWGSM wants to express their thanks and gratitude for ALL the work that you accomplished over your Feb. 15-21 Mission Trip days.... We have been touched by your willingness to serve the "least of these" by helping our facilities support others who come to help as well... THANK YOU, THANK YOU..... Dios te bendiga (God Bless You), Connie, SWGSM

CENTRAL AREA CHURCHES PRAYING FOR CHURCHES

Please ask your congregation to be in prayer each week for the following congregations:


Apr. 5	Okla. City-Hillcrest	Tom Harrison, Larry Hildebrant
Apr. 12	Okla. City-Iglesia Cristiana	Alejandro Castaneda
Apr. 19	Okla. City-Memorial Christian	Peggy Farris, Loretta Dene Payne, Marilyn Lanphier
Apr. 26	Okla. City-New Covenant	Tim Pool, Scott Richards
May. 3	Okla. City-New Vessels	Boyze Edwards
May. 10	Okla. City-Northwest Christian	Zena McAdams
May. 17	Okla. City-Putnam City Christian	Jim Gladney
May. 24	Okla. City-Village Christian	Amy Rogers
May. 31	Okla. City-Western Oaks	John Regan, Ursaula Lietenberger
Jun. 7	Okla. City-Wildewood	Bill Simms, Janet Daniels, David Carter
Jun. 14	Perry-First Christian Church	Martin Foster, Matt Meister
Jun. 21	Ponca City-Community Christian	Mark Lyon
Jun. 28	Ponca City-First Christian Church	Larry Metzger, Teresa Benson
Jul. 5	Ponca City-Woodlands	Paul Krueger
Jul. 12	Prague-First Christian Church	Bill Shaw (Transitional Pastor)
Jul. 19	Purcell-First Christian Church	Bill Shields
Jul. 26	Shawnee-First Christian Church	Janet Peery, Ray Belford
Aug. 2	Stillwater-First Christian Church	Owen Cayton, Rick Hendricks, Sondra Ladd
Aug. 9	Stroud-First Christian Church	Paul Ragle
Aug. 16	Yukon-First Christian Church	Debi Powell Maxwell
Aug. 23	Yukon-West Point	Keith Spaulding
Aug. 30	Regional Church Staff	Tom Jewell, Charles Hattendorf, Gary Mitchell, Loma Sullivan, Leslie Dotson, Billie Lee Jean Scott Gauldin, Richard Keith, Laura Townsley, Dorothy Coy Light, Joyce McLendon



Christian Church in Oklahoma (Disciples of Christ)
Oklahoma Disciple Center
301 NW 36th Street
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405/528-3577, Toll Free: 1/888/528-6552 (Okla.)
Fax: 405/528-3584
Website: www.okdisciples.org

The Central Area Newsletter is published six (6) times a year* on the months that the *Oklahoma Christian* is not published. If your congregation has an upcoming event or item of interest that you would like to share with other churches and laity of the Central Area, please email your news to: jmclendon@okdisciples.org

*(February, April, June, August, October, and December)

 please don't print this unless you really need to!