



# CENTRAL AREA NEWSLETTER

## June 2010



### The National Convocation Meets in Oklahoma City!!!

The 21<sup>st</sup> Biennial Session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will meet in Oklahoma City this summer from July 29<sup>th</sup> through August 1<sup>st</sup> at the Renaissance Hotel and Cox Convention Center. Disciples from around the country will travel here for workshops, worship, service projects and fellowship.

One of the conference highlights will be great preaching! The opening sermon on Thursday will be given by Pastor Major L. Jemison of the St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. Pastor Jemison is the past president of the Progressive national Baptist Convention. Disciples' pastors will highlight the remainder of the conference: Pastor Derrick Perkins, Centennial Christian Church, St. Louis, MO; Rev. Sekinah Hamilin, the anti-racism-pro reconciliation minister for the Southeast Region (SERF); Rev. Sheldon McCarter, The Greater Cleveland Avenue Christian Church, Winston Salem, NC and our banquet speaker will be Rev. Melvin Brown, a 'preacher's preacher' from South Carolina.

But the preaching does not stop there! On Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, several local Disciple congregations will open their pulpits to some great women and men of God: Dr. Frank Thomas, Mississippi Blvd. Christian Church, Memphis, TN and Rev. Ramoune Burton, University Christian Church, Houston, TX will be preaching at East 6<sup>th</sup> Street Christian Church; Rev. Cynthia Hale, Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur, GA and Rev. Titus James, North Heights Christian Church, Wichita, KS will be preaching at Wildewood Christian Church; Village

Christian Church and New Vessels Christian Church will have a joint worship with preaching by Dr. Eric Brown, Columbus, OH; Rev. R. Wayne Calhoun, Minister of Evangelism, will preach at Northwest Christian Church. Other local Disciple congregations have graciously offered to host guest preachers as well and those pulpit assignments are pending.

Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, Disciples General Minister and President, and Mr. Larry Brown, Disciples General Church Moderator, (both Oklahomans), will be at the Biennial Session.

The commitment of the National Convocation is to have an impact on each place when they meet and service opportunities at the conference include the Food Bank of Oklahoma, City of Refuge (a ministry affiliated with the Oklahoma Region) and the making Ends Meet ministry of East 6th Street Christian Church.

This is an exciting time for the Oklahoma Region- it has been over 50 years since African Americans Disciples have met in Oklahoma City, and All Oklahoma Disciples are invited to attend and show our fellow Disciples from across the country what they have been missing! Oklahoma hospitality is legendary and your support is important. You can register for the event at:

[www.disciples.org/convocation](http://www.disciples.org/convocation)

Thank you for your support, generosity and most of all your prayers for the upcoming Biennial Session.

Rev. Jesse Jackson, East 6th Christian Church, Oklahoma City  
[jessejackson@cox.net](mailto:jessejackson@cox.net)



## It's Time for Summer at Central Christian Camp!

In a few short weeks, hundreds of campers will gather to celebrate, learn, and grow with Christ. Campers soon will be swimming, fishing, crafting, worshipping and making new friends! Central Christian Camp recently held an Open House for Central Area, NW Area & SW Area Pastors and Youth Ministers. The response was good with folks touring, eating a BBQ lunch, and learning about the different ministries of Central Christian Camp and Conference Center. We plan to hold another Open House in the fall and hope to see you there!

Camp staff members continue to renovate the "rustic" side of camp. All rustic cabins, except one, have been completely renovated; a new bathhouse, which doubles as a storm shelter, has been added, and the Activity Center (the old Mess Hall) continues with extensive improvements. Once complete, this renovation will allow us to serve even more campers! Great things are happening at Central Christian Camp. God's ministry is alive!

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Spencer Bowen, Executive Director at 405-282-2811, or John Gauldin, Board President at 405-844-0413.

### Summer Ministries Dates for Central Christian Camp

**Discovery Camp** (For campers who have completed grades 2-3) **June 35-27**

**Junior Camps** (For campers who have completed grades 3-5) **June 28-July 2 and July 12-16**

**Chi Rho Camps** (For campers who have completed grades 6-8) **June 6-11 and July 18-23**

**CYF Events** (For campers who have completed grades 9-12) **June 27-July 2**

For more information about camps & events for Central Christian Camp, visit the Regional Church website:  
[www.okdisciples.org](http://www.okdisciples.org)

## Central Area, Regional and General Church Events & News...



Your are cordially invited to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual "Movies on the Lawn" at Community Christian Church, 2109 W Grand, Ponca City each Friday night from May 28<sup>th</sup> thru July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Entertainment starts at 8:30pm and show time begins at 9pm. "Movies on the Lawn" is free and open to all.

5/28-Napolean Dynamite (Donations for school supplies will be accepted.)

6/4-Blind Side (School Athletic Dept. fund raiser)

6/11-Toy Story (Church will be taking up a collection of new toys for "Toys for Kids".)

6/18-Batman: The Dark Knight (Fee comic books, special reader's theater & story telling event.)

6-25-Raiders of the Lost Ark: The Last Crusade (A special live dramatic "Raiders Stunts" presentation.)

7/2-Hotel for Dogs (The Humane Society will sponsor pet adoptions, pet care and spade/neutering support.)

For more information, contact Community Christian Church, 580/765-8900.

**June 5 Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Annual Stamp-A-Stack Fundraiser, 10am-1pm  
First Christian Church, Moore**

You are invited to a special Stamp-A-Stack card class benefiting the American Cancer Society. You will be making 15 cards, 3 each of 5 designs for a \$20 donation to the American Cancer Society, plus a \$5 class fee to cover costs of the card supplies. For more information, contact: Sherri Peters, [speters@elitetrailer.com](mailto:speters@elitetrailer.com)

**June 6 Hillcrest Christian Church Chancel Choir Concert, 6pm  
Hillcrest Christian Church  
1501 SW 59<sup>th</sup> St, Okla. City**

A freewill offering will be taken with 100% going to the church's Mobil Meals program. Nursery and refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Hillcrest Christian Church, 405/685-6066.

**June 8 DMF & Special Day Offering Contributions for May due to OGMP Treasury Services**

**June 21-26 "The Jungle Book Kids" Summer Music Academy  
Northwest Christian Church  
2828 NW 30<sup>th</sup>, Okla. City**

The third annual Summer Music Academy will be held at Northwest Christian Church from 9am-4pm each day. Cost of the academy is \$135 per child. Children who have completed second through tenth grades are eligible to attend. Following a week of preparation, participants will present *Jungle Book Kids* on Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the church sanctuary. Cost to attend the performance will be \$5 for adults and \$2 for children. A party for cast, workers and attendees will be held in the Fellowship Hall following the performance. For more information or to enroll in the academy, please contact the church, 405/943-4477.



**June 23-27  
Quadrennial Assembly  
Greensboro, NC**

Join thousands of Disciple Women as they share in ministry, fellowship, worship and music. For more information, visit the Quadrennial website: [www.quadrennial.org](http://www.quadrennial.org) or call 1/888/346-2631.

**June 28-July??? ODW hosts Sister Denisse Pichardo, Caminante Director of Dominican Republic.**

For more information, please contact Rev. Loma Sullivan, [lsullivan@okdisciples.org](mailto:lsullivan@okdisciples.org).

**July 8 DMF and Special Day Offering Contributions for June due to OGMP Treasury Services**

**July 29-Aug 1, Twenty-first Biennial Session, National Convocation of Churches  
Renaissance Hotel and Cox Convention Center, Oklahoma City**

Make plans to attend the National Convocation of Churches Biennial Session hosted by Oklahoma Disciple Churches.

The National Convocation was birthed by the historic merger of the National Christian Missionary Convention (NCMC), which served African American congregations and the International Convention of Christian Churches in 1969. This movement towards wholeness and reconciliation moved the church closer to the vision of our founders, and more importantly, to the words of Jesus, who prayed for "oneness" among his disciples.

Information on the Biennial Session can be found in the Convocation newsletter, *Selah*, and online at [www.disciples.org/convo](http://www.disciples.org/convo).

**Aug 6 DMF & Special Day Offering Contributions for July due to OGMP Treasury Services**

**Aug 24 Central Area Disciples Women meeting, 9:30am, First Christian Church 402 East Noble, Guthrie**

**Sept 8 DMF & Special Day Offering Contributions for Aug due to OGMP Treasury Services**

**Sept 9-11 Weekend Mini-Mission Trip First Christian Church, Stroud**

Come with us on a mini-mission trip to Stroud, OK, where we will work on homes of folks who are unable to maintain their property due to health, age and/or financial problems. For more information, please contact: Tom Russell, [tomrussell1@cox.net](mailto:tomrussell1@cox.net); 405/946-5909.

**Sept 26 & Oct 3 Reconciliation Special Day Offerings**

Reconciliation Mission provides resources for the discussion of systemic racism and race relations in your congregation. Reconciliation Special Day Offerings supports this vital ministry. For more information, call 317/713-2444.



### **Matching Gifts Can Support Global Ministries**

Can your gift be doubled at no cost to you? Matching Gifts are one of the smartest and most effective ways to give. Through a matching gift program a company will match (sometimes dollar for dollar or more) gifts made by their employees and occasionally even retirees. One in ten donors is eligible to have their gifts matched. If you are eligible for this, your gift will go even further and touch even more lives. Over 15,000 companies will match gifts made by their employees &/or retirees. Does yours? To find out if your company matches charitable gifts, go to <http://www.matchinggifts.com/globalministries/> If your company is eligible, request a matching gift form from your employer, send it completed and signed along with your gift. They will do the rest.

**GoodSearch**  
YOU SEARCH WE GIVE™ **Global Ministries: GoodSearch Toolbar**

For those of you who shop online, did you know that your purchases can help raise funds for Global Ministries without costing you any extra money? Participating companies donate a percentage of purchases to Global Ministries. Help raise funds for Global Ministries when you shop online.

Go to <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbars.aspx?charityname+global-ministries-disciples-of-christ-and-united-church-of-christ> to download the toolbar; then use it to search, shop and link directly to Global Ministries home page. (Thanks to Bob Shebeck for listing this information in his Global Ministries newsletter and for Pastor Marilynn Knott, Crown Heights Christian Church, for sharing it with us.)

### **Supporting Kids in Independent Living (SKIL)**



(Lt. Governor Jari Askins speaking with SKIL youth at a 2010 breakfast meeting.)

The Supporting Kids in Independent Living (SKIL) program was created in 1998 by community members and Junior League ladies in order to advocate for a group of individuals who otherwise would fall through the cracks.

SKIL offers support for high school students who, for reasons beyond their control, live on their own without any financial or emotional help from parents or legal

Supporting Kids in Independent Living (SKIL) continued...

guardians. By providing transportation assistance, referrals, counseling, life skills education, higher education application assistance and additional financial help, SKIL ensures that these students receive the resources they need in order to earn their high school diploma and have a future set in place. SKIL recognizes that trying to attend high school while living alone is a difficult task and for many people, very unrealistic.

However, with SKIL, partnering agencies such as libraries, non-profit organizations, business leaders and various other community involvement personnel are able to come together for one common goal: to help the youth within our community. SKIL teaches and gives students resources that would lead them to a life of post-secondary education, military or career in which their quality of life would be increase while giving them hopes and skills to survive. Students also gain life-skill training, mentoring, and various other teachings that they do not receive at home.

To watch a student come from an environment where education is the last priority to persevering and making graduation a top priority is unremarkable.

Rev. Jeff Hamilton

For more information about SKIL, contact Rev. Jeff Hamilton, [Hamilton.j@fccokc.org](mailto:Hamilton.j@fccokc.org)  
(SKIL is a ministry supported in part by First Christian Church, Oklahoma City where Rev. Jeff Hamilton serves as Associate Pastor.)

## CENTRAL AREA CHURCHES PRAYING FOR CHURCHES 2010

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

June 6	Perry-First Christian Church	Martin Foster, Matt Meister
June 13	Ponca City-Community Christian Church	Mark Lyon
June 20	Ponca City-First Christian Church	Larry Metzger, Roberta Schaffer, Teresa Benson
June 27	Ponca City-Woodlands Christian Church	Paul Krueger
July 4	Prague-First Christian Church	Susan Payne
July 11	Purcell-First Christian Church	Bill Shields
July 18	Shawnee-First Christian Church	Ray Belford, Janet Peery
July 25	Stillwater-First Christian Church	Owen Cayton, Rick Hendricks, Sondra Ladd
August 1	Stroud-First Christian Church	Paul Ragle
August 8	Yukon-First Christian Church	Debi Powell-Maxwell
August 15	Yukon-West Point Christian Church	Keith Spaulding
August 22	Regional Church	Tom Jewell, Gary Mitchell, Loma Sullivan, Leslie Dotson, Billie Lee Jean Scott Gauldin, Richard Keith, Laura Townsley, Joyce McLendon
August 29	Calumet-First Christian Church	Tim Clausing
September 5	Carney-Carney Christian Church	Jackie Roberts
September 12	Chandler-First Christian Church	Christine Bell
September 19	Choctaw-Faith Community Christian Church	Chris Muse
September 26	Cushing-First Christian Church	Larry Haney, Ish Engle



Christian Church in Oklahoma (Disciples of Christ)  
Oklahoma Disciple Center  
301 NW 36<sup>th</sup> Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73118-8661  
405/528-3577, Toll Free: 1/888/528-6552 (Okla.)  
Fax: 405/528-3584; Website: [www.okdisciples.org](http://www.okdisciples.org)

The Central Area Newsletter is published six (6) times a year.\* If you know someone that would like to receive the newsletter or 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, [jmclendon@okdisciples.org](mailto:jmclendon@okdisciples.org)  
\*(February, April, June, August, October, and December)