



# Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia **NEWS**

Volume 43, Issue 2

Summer, 2009



## Camp

and Conference Season Marked with Joy



Youth and their leaders, gathered at Cedar Lakes and at Bethany College, enjoyed the best of times at 2009 camps and conference.



### Disciples Women: Spiritual Life Retreat



Friday—Sunday  
Sept. 11-13  
Cedar Lakes  
Conference Center  
Ripley, WV  
— Register by Aug. 8 —

- ◆ Service Project: Bucks for Haiti
- ◆ Theme Basket Auction
- ◆ 9 Interest Groups
- ◆ Labyrinth
- ◆ Pamper Room

Rev. Gloria Hernandez  
Quadrennial Assembly Coordinator  
Office of Disciples Women



### Disciples Men: Annual Fall Retreat

Friday—Sunday  
Sept. 25-27

Cedar Lakes  
Conference Center  
Ripley, WV

— Register by Sep. 1 for discount —  
Age 30 & younger: Free Registration



All ages welcome  
Engaging Fellowship  
Spiritual Growth  
Dynamic Worship



Rev. Rick Hamilton  
A Regional Pastor of the  
Great River Region

All of our registration and promotional materials are available from our website: [www.WVDisciples.org](http://www.WVDisciples.org).

**WITH OUR CONGREGATIONS**

**Beckley, First (Donald R. Snyder, Pastor)** Faithful Planning team continues work. "Summerfest" planned for July 19, featuring dinner and gospel music entertainment. Welcome gifts are being prepared for international students at Mountain State U. Visit [www.beckleydisciples.org](http://www.beckleydisciples.org)

**Beech Bottom, Community (Larry Grimes, Pastor)** Many of the church were present for Pentecost worship at Bethany Old Meeting House. Prayer Shawl ministry continues. See the website: [www.bbccc.org](http://www.bbccc.org)

**Bethany, Memorial Church (Scott Thayer, Pastor)** Hosted folks from several churches in worship on Pentecost at the Old Meeting House followed by picnic in the park. Visit [www.BMCDisciples.org](http://www.BMCDisciples.org)

**Bluefield, First (Aaron Watkins, Pastor)** Banner workshop held in June. Monthly movie nights continue. Visit: [www.citlink.net/~firstchristian](http://www.citlink.net/~firstchristian)

**Charleston, United Disciples of Christ (Steven Smith, Pastor)** Youth and young adults joined in mission trip. Church rummage sale held in July. For the environment's sake, newsletters now available by email.

**Fairmont, Central (Joshua Patty, Pastor)** Crop walk raised \$3000. Strategic Ministry Planning process is beginning. Team raised over \$3000 in Relay for Life. Book group meets. [www.centrachristianfairmont.org](http://www.centrachristianfairmont.org).

**Huntington, Madison Avenue (Jamie Gump, Pastor)** Church golf league meets Tuesdays. Annual picnic held in June. Youth mission trip to Lexington, KY planned for July 17-19.

**Logan, First (Kenneth Hardway, Pastor)** Worship in the Park held July 12 at Chief Logan, capping Bible Camp event. Visit [www.orgsites.com/wv/fccoflogan](http://www.orgsites.com/wv/fccoflogan).

**Matoaka (Craig Hammond, Pastor)** "FOCUS" Sunday celebrated in June, marking the church's 87<sup>th</sup> year of ministry.

**McMechen (Rod Hubbs, Pastor)** Food continues to be collected for those in need. Pentecost luncheon was great success. New members: Chris Sawyer, Rachel Edge.

**Morgantown, First (Richard Howard, Pastor)** Worship in the Park event scheduled for July 19. Several members attended worship at the Bethany Old Meeting House on Pentecost. Penny collection underway for Mobile Medical Van for our mission partners in Haiti. [www.morgantownwvdisciples.org](http://www.morgantownwvdisciples.org)

**Moundsville, First (Mark Mills, Pastor)** Over \$4700 was collected in Relay for Life. "Shoppers' Paradise" planned for Sep. 26. News at [moundsvillewvdisciples.wordpress.com](http://moundsvillewvdisciples.wordpress.com)

**About our Publications**

The *News* is mailed to every known member of our region's congregations, and it's always helpful to know of your changes of address. It is our hope that you find this publication meaningful, and will continue to help us improve it.

Between publications of the *News*, you can follow our online news feed, *The WV Disciples NewsWire*. Simply visit [www.wvdisciples.org](http://www.wvdisciples.org), for a link to the *NewsWire* to read it online or subscribe by email.

Please submit your congregation's news and photos for consideration, and remember: you are welcome to "opt out" of the paper mailing (send your opt-out request to the regional office: [info@wvdisciples.org](mailto:info@wvdisciples.org)), and you will be notified when the *News* is posted online.

**In Memoriam**

**Rev. William Barger**  
retired Licensed Minister  
and former pastor  
of the

**First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
in McMechen, WV**  
died on June 12.

Memorial Service was  
conducted by  
Pastor Rodney Hubbs  
of the church.

*"Henceforth, says the spirit,  
they rest from their labors  
and their works do follow them."*

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**Next News Deadline:**  
**Oct. 1, 2009**

**New Martinsville, First** Disciples Center, the newly-acquired property adjacent to the church building, is a hub of community activity. Church library continues to grow.

**Parkersburg, First (Sanford Downs, Pastor)** Annual meeting and congregational dinner were held in June. Men continue to meet monthly for breakfast and work day. Go to: [www.movpdcc.org](http://www.movpdcc.org).

**Princeton, First (Gary F. Lyons, Pastor)** Kid's Fishing Adventure planned for July 23. Collection of personal needs for troops in Afghanistan continues along with Operation Christmas Child. [www.princetonwvdisciples.org](http://www.princetonwvdisciples.org)

**St. Albans, First (William Pollack, Pastor)** Damage from spring flooding of church facility was met by a generous grant from Week of Compassion [www.saintalbandisciples.org](http://www.saintalbandisciples.org)

**Weirton, First (Kevin Bowers, Pastor)** Church picnic planned in July. Many of the congregation planning to attend the pre-assembly mission trip in Indianapolis. Elders are posting a monthly devotion on the website: [www.WeirtonDisciples.org](http://www.WeirtonDisciples.org).

**Wheeling, First (Magdalyn M. Sebastian, Pastor)** Annual congregational meeting and annual picnic held in June. Youth created Pentecost window art for church and held garage sale. [www.BigRoundWindow.com](http://www.BigRoundWindow.com).

**Christmas Offering Promotion**

*We are preparing a multi-media presentation to help promote the Christmas Offering for Regional ministries. If you have photos or video, please contact us.*

**Upcoming Events**

**July**

29-Aug. 1—General Assembly

**September**

1—Commission on Ministry  
11-13—Disciples Women's Retreat  
15—WV Council of Churches Board  
20—Installation of Jamie Gump  
21—Disciples/UMC Dialogue  
25-27—Disciples Men's Retreat

**October**

4—The Great Communion  
17 WV Reconciliation Team meeting  
19 WV Council of Churches Assembly  
20 WV C of C Public Policy Forum

**November**

1—All Saints' Day  
7—Disciples Women's Cabinet  
16—Disciples/UMC Dialogue  
21—Regional Board meeting  
29—Advent Begins

## *The Annual Fund*

of the  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
in West Virginia



### The Annual Fund

is an extension of the Christmas Offering which opens a way for you to give personally toward regional ministries, throughout the year.

**We are thankful for your faithfulness!**

Contact Rev. Allen or Rev. Chafin for more information: (304) 428-1681 or [plannedgiving@wvdisciples.org](mailto:plannedgiving@wvdisciples.org)

## Gifts Continue to Arrive

Since the previous publication of the **News**, we have continued to receive gifts toward its costs from:

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Moundsville; and for the **Margaret Ann Green Fund** for regional ministry from:

Anonymous Steward in Beckley



## Annual Fund Receives Gifts

The Regional Church celebrates the faithful stewardship of those who have given so generously to our Annual Fund:

Darrell & Anna Adkins  
Thaddaeus & Jennifer Allen  
Daniel & Dorothy Barach  
Fred & Judy Bennett  
Karen & Richard Blanc  
Audrey & James Breuss  
Susan Brown  
David & Jayne Chafin  
Frank Dorsey  
James & Lois Drum  
Charles H. Foster  
Harry E. Hancock  
Judith D. Hudson  
Marilyn Hypes  
Carl Levander  
Lisa O'Dell  
Hal & Lois Price  
Madalene Vaughan  
Jean B. Verner  
Mel Vorhees  
Frances C. Watson  
Robin Wayne Winters  
Charles & Kay Workman

*For all who give,  
we give thanks!*

## Lanette Gilbert Serves Internship

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia is pleased to announce that Lanette Gilbert of the Moundsville First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was appointed as the 2009 Tad Fitzsimmons Intern for Youth Ministry. Ms. Gilbert is a Criminal Justice major at West Liberty University and has used the 3-week internship as an opportunity to explore ministry as a possible vocation. Her engagement in leadership in Camps and Conference has been exceptional.



## NIRF Wrestles Racism

Regional attendees of the May gathering of the Northeastern Inter-Regional Fellowship were led in some great conversation by Rev. April Johnson, Disciples Minister of Reconciliation.

## Ministry Transitions

**The Rev. Robert Brooks**, pastor of the First Christian Church of New Martinsville, has announced that he has accepted the call to serve the Kent, WA congregation. His ministry was celebrated in New Martinsville on July 25.

**The Rev. Gary Lyons**, pastor of the First Christian Church of Princeton, has announced the close of his ministry in the coming days. The congregation celebrates his long and faithful ministry there.

**The Rev. Larry Grimes**, pastor of the Community Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Beech Bottom, and retired professor at Bethany College, has been appointed as Director of Church Relations for the school, beginning July 1.

**The Rev. Jamie Gump** will be installed as Pastor of the Madison Avenue Christian Church in Huntington on Sunday, Sept. 20.

**The Rev. Scott Thayer** of Tuscaloosa, Alabama will begin his ministry in WV as the pastor of the Bethany Memorial Church on Aug. 23. The Regional Church looks forward to getting to know him and his family.

**Ken Hardway**, who is under care of the Commission on Ministry and a seminarian at L.T.S., has been called to serve as pastor of the First Christian Church in Logan. He began there in July.

**Buffalo Seminary**, a ministry learning event provided by the WV Commission on Ministry and Order of Ministry, gathered at the Bethany Memorial Church for 3 days in June. Attendees came from our region (**Rae Browning, Judy Bennett, Rodney Hubbs, Phil Auten, Pat Trader, and Joel Potts**), and from the Pennsylvania and Capital regions. Presenters included: **Rev. Don Snyder, Mrs. Judy Pyle, Rev. James Trader, II, Rev. Dr. Bonnie Thurston Bowman, Rev. David Chafin, Rev. Robert Brooks, Rev. Dr. Larry Grimes, Rev. Thaddaeus Allen, and Rev. James Trader**, Dean of the Seminary.



## ***As the Faithful Have Gathered,...***

I have been impressed over and over again, by the trust and love shown towards and in God. Throughout the summer—be it at camp, conference, the buffalo seminary, in congregational meetings, or in personal conversations—I have been touched (and I dare say rather deeply touched) by the expressions of our relationship with Jesus Christ. And praise God, this holds true for our members of all different ages.

This summer I have been strengthened by being with people who know Jesus.

This deep and abiding faith is yet one more sign of God's abiding grace in the world. It has become crystal clear to me that one of the signs of being a *Disciple* is a deep and abiding trust in God, and the unshakable hope that God is with us always in all the moments (for better or worse) of the mystery of life. May this always be so!

Love,



**Our Calling:** Through the grace of God, the mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia is to glorify God by sharing the gospel and love revealed to us in and through Jesus Christ. As people of God we are called to model faithful servanthood and live in the covenant that binds the Church of Jesus Christ together in all of its manifestations.

**Our Identity:** The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia claims and affirms its Appalachian heritage and values in light of the Christian gospel. God continues to bless us as a Region with dedicated leaders, faithful stewards and a variety of human, spiritual and physical resources.

**Our Purpose:** God calls and directs the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia to empower its members and congregations: to make disciples, to grow spiritually, and to develop leaders, in order to: engage in ministries of love and reconciliation, acknowledge sin and oppose evil, promote Christian unity, and minister together in worship, community, and mission.

**Your Gifts to the Annual Fund** remain in the Region to enable this vital work.

*We give thanks to God for you and your faithful stewardship!*

## **Return Service Requested**

**Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
in West Virginia**

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