



THE KEYSTONE CHRISTIAN

THE INSIDE WORD

NEWS AND INSIGHTS FROM THE REGIONAL MINISTER
REV. DR. JACK SULLIVAN, JR.



With the Lenten season upon us, I write to you as a fellow traveler on the road of faith, one who is both beneficiary of the strong tradition that has sustained the church for generations, and a servant leader who seeks to be open to the Holy Spirit's constant urging for deeper relationship with God and broader expressions of faithfulness for these times.

There is something quite subversive about Lent. Lent calls us to a clearer, more consistent and credible affiliation with Jesus' life, even as we contend with the realities of our world and our ways of functioning within our world, even the uneasy truce we often make with many of those realities and functions in order to preserve mutual comfort. It pushes us to embrace a concept

of being amphibious, similar to that advanced by the late Rev. Dr. Samuel DeWitt Proctor as he described the ways African Americans live in two realms within society.

Expanding Rev. Dr. Proctor's idea a bit, when Christians live amphibious lives, we live out the scriptural directive as laid out the Apostle Paul: *I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect* (Romans 12:1-2 NRSV).

As I consider the Apostle Paul's words about presenting our bodies as living sacrifices, at-once I know that a Lenten fast through which I give up candy bars may help me to lose a few pounds, yet the real weight reduction plan of Lent is that we eliminate or sacrifice any alliance or agreement we have made with life the way it is, and instead deepen our commitment to Kingdom or Reign of God values that inform the world of the way it is supposed to be.

One of my favorite Lenten texts, Isaiah 58, the prophet gives divine counsel about righteous living to Israel and therefore to us: *This is the kind of fast day I'm after: to break the chains of injustice, get rid of exploitation in the workplace, free the oppressed, cancel debts. What I'm interested in seeing you do is: sharing your food with the hungry, inviting the homeless poor into your homes, putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad, being available to your own families. Do this and the lights will turn on, and your lives will turn around at once. Your righteousness will pave your way. The God of glory will secure your passage. Then when you pray, God will answer. You'll call out for help and I'll say, 'Here I am'* (Isaiah 58:6-7 The Message).

It is my prayer that the spiritual disciplines we practice during Lent draw us closer to God through Jesus Christ, and that we experience the awesome, transformative power of God in ways that deepen our commitment to lifestyles and ministries of love, peace and hope in the world that God continues to love so very much. Amen.

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SPOTLIGHT

DISCIPLES MINISTERS RELEASE BOOKS



The Rev. Dr. Marsha Brown-Woodard, lecturer of Christian Ministry at Palmer Theological Seminary, released her latest book, *I Was Tired Today: Readings and Reflections on being an African American Clergywoman*. The book captures important insights from the author's personal journey as an ordained, female, African-American minister in the 1980's--and how that role has changed over 30 years. She also inspires others to keep going forward - even when they are tired. Dr. Woodard's book is available on Amazon.com (\$12.99) in both paperback and for download on Kindle (\$9.99).

The Rev. Dr. Sandra Jenkins is an executive life/spiritual coach, who engages people across disciplines to move forward into success. Her newest book, *Life After Hell: Reflections of a Bag Lady*, explores a real life transformational process, using a variety of techniques, including psychology, spirituality and life's experiences. That



is, any transformed grief-stricken life possesses meaning and usefulness, and can be a powerful approach to positive psychology, vision and leadership. Dr. Jenkins' book is available on Amazon.com (\$20.00) in paperback.



Disciples ministers converge at annual Clergy Consultation
Approximately 50 ministers from the Pennsylvania region came together in early February for the annual Clergy Consultation at Antiochian Village.

Fellowship Christian Church calls Jerome Goodson as pastor

Fellowship Christian Church, Philadelphia, extended a call to Jerome Goodson to become their pastor. The Pennsylvania region warmly welcomes Pastor Goodson and offers its prayers and support.

DISCIPLES PASTOR NAMED "PROCTOR SCHOLAR"



The Rev. Dr. Beverly Dale, who served for 21 years as an ecumenical campus minister at the University of Pennsylvania, has been named a "Proctor scholar" at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, for the spring semester in 2012. This honor affords the opportunity to access the seminary faculty, the theological libraries of the Boston seminaries as well the ability to enroll in a wide variety of seminary classes. "It is an honor to be named and to experience such an intellectually stimulating environment," she said. Her plan is to work on her book.

MISSION PROJECT 2012 CAMP LAURELVIEW

- Who:** Skilled and general workers needed (both youth and adults)
- When:** One day or entire week
- Work Projects:** Skilled projects of all types and sizes. Interior and exterior painting, landscaping
- Special Projects:** Converting main floor of Director's Cabin into six smaller bedrooms for adult retreats and workshops. Dorms upgraded.
- Registration:** Deadline for fees and registration form: June 1, 2012 (by mail or on line)
- Cost:** \$25 day fee. Additional fee for over night lodging at Laurelview. See Registration Form
- Donations:** Monetary contributions needed to defray the \$60,000 cost of the project. Items needed for the project and camp.

Contact Steve and Janet Hellner-Burris,
Project Managers

Email: sburris@mbawpa.org
Phone: 412-225-7350

Call the Regional Office at 724-834-5023 for registration forms or check with your church office. You may also download info at www.padisciples.org.

DISCIPLES CONGREGATIONS HONORED IN ANNUAL SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

The First Church of Christ (Disciples) in Williamsport, PA, placed first in the state among Disciples churches in the annual Souper Bowl for Caring. Nationwide results total \$6,957,745.81. Total amount raised in Pennsylvania was \$265,977.

Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) in PA top three for 2012:

- 1 First Church of Christ (Disciples) Williamsport, PA
2012 Collection: \$357.00
- 2 Millville Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
2012 Collection: \$297.51
- 3 Covington Church of Christ (Sunday School)
2012 Collection: \$297.00

Trinity United hosts puppet ministry workshop

Trinity United Christian Church in Lower Burrell, PA invites you for a weekend Creative Ministry Festival to be held at on April 13-14, 2012. This Friday night and all day Saturday event features workshops, performances, competition, demonstrations, excitement, and a spiritual challenge.



You will be taught, challenged, and equipped to effectively use puppets and other creative ministry tools to advance the gospel. You'll also save on great resources at sale prices. Come to be challenged and inspired!

Call 724-230-0866 for more information.

JEFF'S JOTTINGS

NOTES FROM THE MODERATOR, REV. DR. JEFFREY T. MOORE

Greetings from the Executive Committee for the Christian Church in Pennsylvania! Having just returned from the annual Clergy Consultation held at Antiochian Village, I was once again renewed by the opportunity to visit and have fellowship with my friends and colleagues. Not only is this time a wonderful time for personal renewal and spiritual reflection, but we often have the opportunity to listen to ideas and ministries that will enhance our own. This year we were ably led by Rev. Jim Yost, pastor of Westlake Christian Church in Ohio, who spoke on the continuing challenges of transformation at the local church level. Special music by Greg Capozzi and outstanding worship led by one of our newest clergy in the region, Rev. Diana Hodges-Batzka from Lemoyne, made for one of the finest events I have attended in a long time.

Installation for Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr.

With spring around the corner, we are soon to celebrate the six month anniversary of our new Regional Minister, Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr. Jack has been busy crossing our vast region and meeting with many clergy and congregations, as well as attending events for the Christian Church and ecumenical community. We continue to be excited about his leadership and are now preparing for what we anticipate to be a Saturday, May 26, installation service. We are hopeful this date will work, allowing our congregations to gather together and celebrate a new passage in our regional history.

2012 Regional Assembly

Our First Vice-Moderator, Rev. Bob Jackson, is busy working on our 2012 Regional Assembly, to be held at Antiochian Village, June 29-July 1. Outstanding guest speakers have been chosen to present at the Assembly, and our closing worship on Sunday will unite us a region with our Regional Minister presenting the morning message. We hope that this Assembly will truly be a family event, as Antiochian Village offers swimming, canoeing, and horseback riding, and is close in proximity to other amusement venues in the Pittsburgh area.

Laurelview Mission Project

I am also excited about the Laurelview Mission

Project scheduled to take place June 25-29, preceding the Assembly. This opportunity is available to all of us to come and share in the renewal and repair of our beloved camp facility. Rev. Janet Hellner-Burris and her husband Steve, along with our regional Property Committee, and Regional Minister, have been working hard to create an event that will enable us to "get our hands dirty," and do something highly productive.

Where the Region Stands

As a region we hope to tie-up several financial loose ends, but with that said, I would say that our regional finances are still extremely fragile. Our Christmas 2011 special offering, which accounts for more than 40% of our regional budget, was significantly down this year from previous years. This is a challenge to us all that we must look at our churches and those who have given personally to the region to step up to the plate and once again dig deeply to keep our vibrant ministries and programs moving forward. Our regional budget is a bare-bones budget, but does reflect in 2012 the calling of a full-time regional minister. Let us allow him to do his ministry by supporting the work of his office, and certainly those programs that benefit children and youth through Laurelview. If our Regional Minister could come to your church and share the regional message, then please take the opportunity to invite him – get acquainted with him, and get on board this bold and vital regional ministry program. If I, as Moderator, can come and share with your church, please don't hesitate to contact me as well. I will make myself available to share my experience and knowledge of how our church is fairing in these difficult economic times.

Our Executive Committee connects through conference calls, and will be gathering with the Regional Board in May. If you have suggestions, thoughts, or ideas, please share them with me as we seek to work together for God's glory and grace in this great Pennsylvania region.



Blessings,
Rev. Dr. Jeffrey T. Moore, Moderator
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
in Pennsylvania

BLACK MINISTERS RETREAT SET FOR MARCH 5-8



Two Disciples congregations, Raytown Christian Church and New Vision Christian Church, are co-hosting the 38th Annual Black Ministers Retreat, to be held March 5-8 in Kansas City, Mo. In addition to opportunities for fellowship and worship, this year's retreat will include interest forums and clinics on transformational preaching led by the Rev. Preston T. Adams.

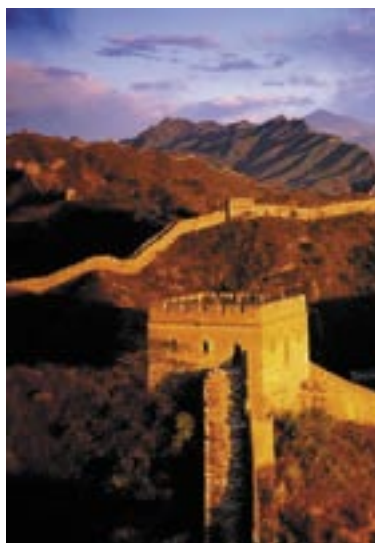
Printed promotional material and registration information has been mailed, and online registration is available. For more, visit:
www.discipleshomemissions.org/pages/CV-Black-MinistersRetreatSpirit.

We will worship God in quiet devotions, with energetic song, by Spirit-filled preaching, and reverent worship. (Courtesy of Disciples News Service)



The National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS is the inclusive, expansion of the highly successful Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS, which concluded its 20th year anniversary in 2009. The Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS was the nation's FIRST national mobilization campaign that specifically focused on HIV/AIDS. The campaign has provided AIDS information to well-over 5 million African Americans through the engagement of Black congregations of every sector across the United States. To participate, or to get more info:

www.nationalweekofprayerforthehealingofaids.org



2012 WOMEN TO WOMEN APPLICATIONS TO CHINA AVAILABLE ONLINE

Applications for the 2012 journey to China are now available. Deadline for submission is April 1. Recommendation by regional Disciples Women's staff or constituency president is required. In regions without staff, the Disciples Women's president or the regional minister may recommend. Applications and letters of recommendation may be emailed. Candidate Guidelines must be read and met by each applicant.

Please read the Candidate Guidelines for WWW – please be sure the woman you are recommending can meet the guidelines. This matters to the other participants.

Women to Women applications (PDF) may be downloaded on the Disciples Women website, www.discipleswomen.org.

A Word version of the application is available by request from Beverly Ledwon at bledwon@dhm.disciples.org.

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PA Disciples of Christ Regional Assembly
June 29 - July 1, 2012

Antiochian Village Conference Center
Bolivar, PA

Capturing the

Joy

of the Church

Featuring



Tony Campolo

Keynote Speaker



Bonnie Thurston

Bible Study Leader



Dr. Jack Sullivan

Regional Minister
Sunday Worship Leader

Additional activities include swimming, canoeing and horse back riding.

For more Information
contact the Regional Office 724-834-5023 or padisciples.org



REGIONAL ASSEMBLY Q+A

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

What time does the Assembly start and when is it over?

The assembly begins Friday with dinner at 5 p.m. Check-in begins at 3 p.m. The assembly ends with lunch after worship Sunday. Check out time is 11 a.m.

What will my children do during the Assembly?

We have supervised events planned for all ages. The older youth will join the adults for worship sessions, but enjoy their own activities at other times. Graded activities are available for other children. There are events for older youth and younger youth, Elementary children and pre-school aged children.

How much does it cost?

The cost for early-bird housing and meals is \$184.60 for two people sharing a room. Children under 12 pay \$48.50 for their six meals. Children under 3 are free. Additional costs for registration is \$60 per person, with a family rate of \$125. Horseback riding is additional. Commuter rates are meals (\$96.60 for the entire event, \$48.80 for one day) and the registration fee.

Why are we sending our monies to two different places?

Housing is being supervised by the Village itself. However the Regional Office is supervising registration. This secures against mistakes to the Village

Are there activities during free time?

Yes, there are. There are athletic fields, a mile long prayer walk, a museum, a bookstore, swimming and canoeing available at no additional charge. Horseback riding is available for an additional cost of \$16 an hour. A reservation is necessary.

If swimming and canoeing are included in my registration fee, why do I need to make a reservation?

We need reservations in order to insure enough lifeguards.

What if I want to register for both swimming and canoeing?

There is time to do both. You can register for both, we simply need a safe count. If you are not sure at the time of your registration, it is safer to register for the event.

How many meals are included?

There are six meals included in the entire event. This is one more than Villanova in 2010.

How does the registration fee compare with past registrations fees and what does it pay for?

Unfortunately, we have expenses to cover. However, the registration fee is nearly 30% cheaper than the 2010 registration fee, plus a family can pay the family rate for a substantial savings.

Do family members who do not live together count as family?

Unfortunately, family only includes the nuclear family.

How many people can you have in one room?

There are two double beds and one single bed per room. Cribs are available upon request with housing.

What if I'd like to share a room, but have no one to share?

We need you to find your roommates this year. You may call Christine at the Regional Office to check if anyone else needs a roommate.

Will there be any special sessions meals?

Yes, there are three. They include a Saturday morning clergy and spouse breakfast, a Saturday luncheon for women and a picnic Saturday evening for youth. The price for youth is included in their fees. There is an additional fee of \$5 per person for the other two meals.

Can I make payments?

Unfortunately this year, payment in full is due at the time of your housing and assembly registration. This insures that the Regional Office not end up with a bill. You may pay with credit card or check.

Where can I get directions to Antiochian Village?

There is a map sent in the registration packets to the churches. www.antiochianvillage.org/camp/about/directions.html

Will there be exhibits? Who do I contact if I'd like to be an exhibitor?

Yes. Contact Christine Johns at the Regional Office to be an exhibitor.

Will there be a staffed nursery?

Yes, for the hours that there are events for adults. Parents will have their children during meal times and free times. Volunteers are welcome.

Is the facility handicap accessible?

Yes. This was one of the reasons the Village was appealing.

When is the latest I can register?

March 29 is the date that the Region needs to release rooms in case the Village needs them for other events. It is best to secure a room early.

If I register and can't come, will I get a refund?

Right now, this is possible only if another person is willing to take your room. We are sorry for this inconvenience.

THE KEYSTONE
CHRISTIAN

PO BOX 90 - GREENSBURG, PA 15601

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



EASTER OFFERING

2012

Received in most
congregations on
April 1 and 8, 2012.

2012 REGIONAL EVENTS

April 13-15: Spring Youth Retreat, Camp Laurelview
May 19: Spring Regional Board Meeting
May 26: Installation Service for Jack Sullivan, Jr.
June 1-3: Young Adult Retreat, Camp Laurelview
June 17-23: Conference II, Camp Laurelview
June 24-29: Pre-Assembly Mission Project, Camp Laurelview

June 29-July 1: PA Regional Assembly, featuring Tony Campolo and Bonnie Thurston, Antiochian Village Conference Center

July 8-14: Conference I, Camp Laurelview
July 15-21: Chi Rho, Camp Laurelview
July 22-28: Junior Camp, Camp Laurelview
July 29-Aug 1: Mini Camp, Camp Laurelview
Aug 3-5: Family Weekend, Camp Laurelview
Sept 22: Laurelview 50th Anniversary/Reunion

Sept 28-30: DWM Fall Retreat at Bethany Beach

Nov 9-11: Youth Fall Retreat, Camp Laurelview