Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
1011 North Main Street
Bloomington, IL 61701

The Christian

Winter / Spring 2015

A Disciples of Christ (IL-WI Region) Quarterly Publication

WEEK OF COMPASSION

In her arid region of Kenya, Matee Kakoo and women in her community had to walk over six miles in order to collect water, wait in line for four to five hours to draw the water and then start the journey home. Their children could not attend school. Often, families went hungry as there was no water for cooking, watering the crops….the most vulnerable suffered the most.

Together, Week of Compassion's partner DWS and the people of Mbangulo built a sand dam and shallow well. The community worked hard to collect local materials. And, they banded together and built the sand dam within a month. One month and their lives were changed forever.

Children are now attending school regularly and do not even have to carry water with them to school. They are drinking safe, clean water from the well dug by their classes. There is now water for vegetables and fruit trees. Families' nutrition is improving and the younger children are thriving. This is truly your compassion put into Action.



"Good News" Stories

On November 2, 2014, 36 members and friends of the Lynnville Christian Church gathered at the Gregory Farm to glean the fields for the produce left after the Farmer's Market season had ended. There were 36 people attending to pick, pull, clean, sort and pack slightly more than two tons of produce. The bags and crates of potatoes, squash, turnips and onions were donated to the Salvation Army, food pantries and soup kitchens in Jacksonville. The gleaning was followed by a wiener roast provided by the Gregory family.

Dear Youth of CCIW,

Thank you for your giving hearts for the kids of St. Jude. We are so thankful for the huge donation of school bags that your kids packed for our sick kids.

The St. Jude kids loved looking through all of the bags and choosing their favorite one. Many of the gift bags went to the inpatient units to help the kids in the hospital who deal with long boring days. Some of the patients chose to journal in the notebooks, too.

Again, we are so thankful for all that you have done for our kids of St. Jude. You make the work we do so much easier on the children. Thank you!

Shelley Lee CCLS, For the kids of St. Jude

(Note: The Regional Assembly Youth packed 80 bags that were delivered to St. Jude, the Peoria affiliate.)



REGIONAL MINISTER'S MOMENT

Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker

All Lives Matter

When I was growing up, I learned to love football. It was the family pastime. I had four older brothers, and a father who would wake us up for church with "Rise and Shine," and make sure we made it home for a beef roast dinner, prepared by our mother, and the Lions game. It wasn't just the Detroit Lions; we also followed the Friday night High School RP Rocket football team, and the Saturday Michigan games. There was a lot of yelling at the TV screen in my house. I was among the loudest. (I have been in recovery for a long time.)

Among the important lessons learned from football and my father---it's important to support your team, but when they lose (which they often did) you give your support to the team that beat them. So, if the Ohio State Buckeyes, nemesis on the last Saturday in November, beat our beloved team we supported them as they entered the Rose Bowl to play the Pac 10 Champions. We were taught to admire good effort and outstanding play no matter who the winner was. It would have been easy to fall into hating those other guys (trust me, it would have). Instead my father taught us to celebrate the well-played game no matter the uniform. It was about raising the level of play and most important---sportsmanship.

It seems old fashioned these days. There are too many people who want to vanquish the opponent, hurt and humiliate the other, or are unwilling to see the value in differences, who target the uniform. This failure to recognize the "God-image" in each other, to simply be good sports, to seek the well-being of our neighbor tears at the common good we need to live the abundant life Christ offers us.

"Black Lives Matter" is a cry in the midst of this common un-good season. It comes from a daily experience of embodied hatred, fear, mistrust, and unwillingness to recognize the good in the other. It comes from a competitive worldview in which there is only room for a few at the top. It comes from either or thinking that posits that there can only be one right way; my way or my groups way. It comes from seeking after privilege for ourselves at the expense of others. It comes from a history and system of favoring some and dishonoring others---for no good reason. When you favor and favor and favor one group, while un-favoring, un-favoring and un-favoring the other groups, even assuming a level playing field at the start, the outcome is going to be a gap that is unbearable. We are living in that gap time today. (Read Michelle Alexander's "The New Jim Crow.")

As old-fashioned as it is, what if we started to see each other as part of a well-played game where the intention is to do our best while also seeking to be our best? What if we celebrated the best effort in one another? What if we began to see that the outcome of the game depends on each other as partners, not just those on our team, but those who play against us? What if we learned to see the God-image in each other, and sought to be good sports? What if we remembered the game ends, and what matters most to the Host of the awards ceremony and banquet feast is the way we played the game? What matters most to our Host---justice, mercy, faithfulness and righteousness---working together as a team for the outcome of peace.

Blessings, Teresa

Pastor Changes

Neal Kentch to Centennial in Bloomington
Eli Rolon was ordained 12/13/14
Jennifer Kottler to Interim Presbyterian in Geneva, IL
Carter Aiken to Religion Dept. Chair at Blackburn College
Karen Fraser Moore to Interim UCC
Jim Turner to Chaplain at Eureka Hospital
Judith Redlin—retired
Michael Bever—retired
Raymond McLaren—retired

Prayer Concerns

Health Concerns: Gretchen Barron, Sharon Patton's daughter Sherry, Jim Holiman, Rev. Mary Belew, Rev. Dawn Victor's mother,

Deaths: Charlotte Hartman, mother of Rev. Dr. Beth Rupe
Dorothy Leet Billin Fraser Mann, mother of Rev. Paul Fraser
2 family members of Rev. Jim Watterman
Brother of Rev. Jeff Nielsen

Regional Clergy Staff

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Christal Williams, Associate Minister	pastorchristal@cciwdisciples.org

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Regional Moderator
Cheryl Jackson — cpjackson77@att.net

Global Mission Partners
Rev. Angel Luis Rivera-Agosto

Ecumenical Council of Churches in Guatemala
Rev. Dr. Vitalina Similox and Gloria Vincente

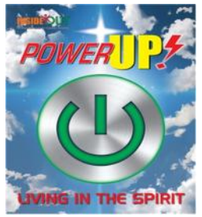
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CCIW OUTDOOR MINISTRIES CAMP DATES FOR 2015

Make plans now to attend one or more of the many camping opportunities offered in 2015

FAMILY WEEKENDS

Church Family Reunion Memorial Day Weekend	*Jane Cahill*	May 22-25
Church Family Reunion Labor Day Weekend	*Jane Cahill*	September 4-7

JUNE

Camp Acts 20:35 (CWS – Work Week)	*Jackie Summers*	June 7-13
CYF (CWS)	*Jim Summers, Amy Gillespie*	June 14-20
JYF (PP)	*Jonathan Grant, Terri Grove*	June 21-27
Grandparents & M3 (CWS)	*Arvil & Jennifer Bass*	June 21-24
Beginners (CWS)	*Ed Taylor, Kris Light*	June 24-27

JULY

Beginners (PP)	*TBD*	June 28-July 1
Chi Rho (PP)	*TBD*	June 28-July 4
CYF (PP)	*TBD*	June 28-July 4
JYF #1 (CWS)	*Nicole Fauser, Donna Gladson*	July 5-11
Chi Rho #1 (CWS)	*Tracy Armstrong*	July 5-11
Post-High Weekend Retreat	*Tim Akers*	July 24-26
JYF #2 (CWS)	*Rebecca Nevius, Evan Williams*	July 26-August 1
Chi Rho #2 (CWS)	*Jared Reno, Ruth Erickson*	July 26-August 1

CWS – CAMP WALTER SCOTT **PP – PILGRIM PARK**

Summer Camp T- Shirt Design Contest

Design the official CCIW Outdoor Ministries Camp 2015 Camp T-shirt! Use your creativity and show off "Power Up – Living In the Spirit". Daily themes include: **Power up** with the promise of peace, …and celebrate the spirit, …to imitate Christ, …with the fruit of the spirit, …as one community. We all know how to power up our devices. At camp this year you will learn to Power Up with the Holy Spirit and communicate with God. Communication is everywhere today from Twitter to Instagram to Pinterest and more. With all this constant communication a week communicating with God and a different type of Powering Up could make a big impact in your life.

1st Prize is a scholarship to attend the camp of your choice—FREE!
2nd and 3rd places will receive partial scholarships to the camp of choice.

Email Gwen Peebles (jpeebles67@aol.com) if you have questions or want additional information.

Clergy Ethics Training

Completing the Clergy Ethics Training at least once every three years is a vital part of maintaining your standing with the Christian Church Disciples of Christ.

These educational events provide opportunities to refresh your knowledge on continuing ethical issues and learn new information about hot topics such as social media ethics, financial ethics and other 21st century issues. You may also learn self-care tips to prevent burn-out and keep the minister and congregation healthy.

For clergy entering the Search and Call system, completion of at least one course every three years is required to obtain a letter of reference or verify good standing from the any of the Regional Ministers.

2015 course options include:

Pro-Reconciliation, Anti-Racism
Tuesday, Feb. 17 from 8:30—3:30
First Christian Church, Bethany, IL

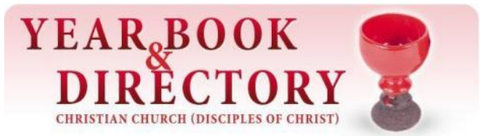
Clergy Self Care
Saturday, March 7 from 8:30—3:30
First Christian Church, Chicago Heights

Healthy Boundaries 101
Thursday, April 23 from 8:30—3:30
First Christian Church, Macomb

Healthy Boundaries 201
Tuesday, May 5 from 8:30—3:30
First Christian Church, Centralia

CCIW and Network Christian Church Reach Agreement

The CCIW Executive Committee and Network Christian Church have reached an agreement on the dissolution of our covenant. Network has agreed to reimburse funds to the University Christian Church legacy trust—the corpus of which is still intact. Dan and Amanda Jassman will also repay a loan given to them to purchase a home. The congregation will also seek a new name for itself. We are grateful for the integrity of these actions and pray for mutual blessings on each other's ministry.



2014 Yearbook Report Forms In The Mail!

Yearbook report forms and instructions for completing them were mailed to every congregation between Christmas and New Year. Reporting insures that your congregation is listed in the 2015 Yearbook and Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) which authorizes your congregation as a 501 c3 non-profit/ religious organization for IRS purposes. It also has a very important purpose of taking the "pulse" of your congregation. Please make sure these forms are returned by filing online or mailing them to the Regional Office.

Quad Cities XPLOR Seeks Young Adults 21-30

A collaborative effort between congregations in the Quad Cities, the NBA (National Benevolent Association) and the two regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is seeking young adults to participate in this life-giving ministry.

The NBA XPLOR Project is a ten-month residential service opportunity for young adults, ages 21-30, who want to explore lives of faith and service. We provide opportunities to serve in cities across the United States, while offering Residents housing, a small living stipend, vocational support, career development, travel opportunities, and more.

Visit www.nbacares.org/xplor or email xplor@nbacares.org for more information.

CCIW BIENNIAL YOUTH EVENT—SUMMIT 2015

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"GOD IS NOT DEAD

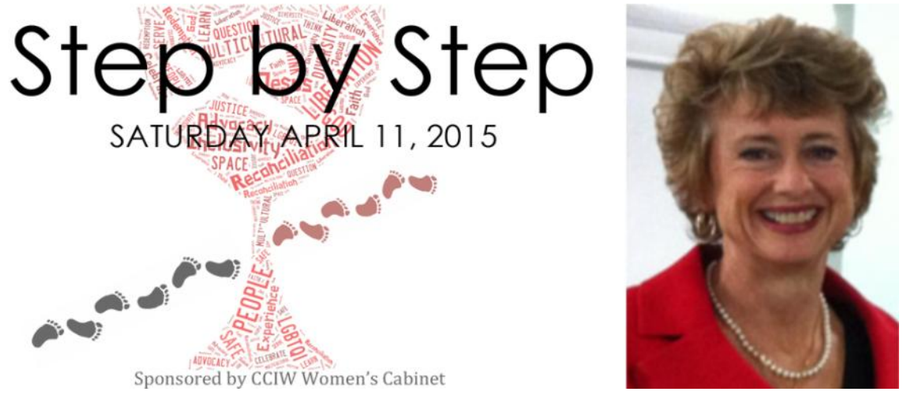
Youth Awakening….Including God In Every Part Of Your Daily Life
Grades 6-12

NOVEMBER 20-22, 2015 Lake Williamson, Carlinville, IL

Early Registration From January—August 1, 2014—$170
After August 1, 2015 - $180

DEADLINE: October 26, 2015 (no exceptions)

Find More Information At- www.cciwdisciples.org
Terri Grove: terri@cciwdisciples.org
Rev. Christal L. Williams: pastorchristal@cciwdisciples.org



CCIW DISCIPLE WOMEN'S EVENT TO FEATURE SHARON STANLEY-REA

The Chiara Center, Riverton, IL
Saturday, April 11, 2015

Sharon Stanley-Rea joined Disciples Home Missions as Director of Refugee and Immigration Ministries in January, 2013. She works now to mobilize Disciples congregations around the country to offer hospitality to immigrants, to provide refugee resettlement assistance to refugees, and to engage in advocacy on behalf of refugees and immigrants.

Registration Forms are available at www.cciwdisciples.org
Deadline for registration is March 20, 2015

For More Information Contact: Rev. Dr. Christal L. Williams, pastorchristal@cciwdisciples.org
Or Terri Grove, terri@cciwdisciples.org