

**Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
in North Carolina**

P.O. Box 1568 509 Lee Street NE Wilson, NC 27894



# *Regional News*

2-21-2017



Dear God of Heaven and Earth,

Thank you for being good, kind, and merciful to your creation. When we are hurting God, so are you. You feel our every care, and so we call on you today to infuse us with more love and endurance than ever before. The battle for right and righteousness has become heated, because evil wants enthronement, which will cause all of your people to suffer, but we heartily believe God, that your goodness will always overcome evil, through solidarity and the unity of purpose.

We need you, God, to keep our feet on positive productive paths towards justice. We need you, God, to help us forgive those who hurt us, hinder us, and obstruct our rights. We need you, God, to empower us to keep fighting, so we may back down selfish agendas.

We need you, God, to grant us justice in religious freedom, family services, women's rights, health care, and every area that affects our wholeness as your creation.

Holy Spirit, we plead for your wise counsel and direction as we march today, and after this march ends. Lead us in days ahead, so that our choices may please you, and further your good will in the earth.

We appreciate that you are a God who feels our pain, and we believe today that you are marching with us! We thank you for your restorative grace in all things and at all times, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*The Prayer of Bishop Valerie J. Melvin on the occasion of the 11th HKonJ (Historic Thousands on Jones Street) March, Saturday, February 11, 2017, Raleigh, NC.*

## GRIFFIN INSTALLED

Dr. J. David Griffin was installed as Minister of Wake Forest Christian Church by Bishop Valerie Melvin on Sunday, February 12th. Honored guests included Dr. Laura Johnson, Chair of the Commission on Ministry for the Region of North Carolina, Mr. Richard Ruggero, Board Chair of Hillyer Memorial Christian Church, and Dr. Tom Jackson, Minister Emeritus of Wake Forest Baptist Church. All guests and members were invited to a reception following the Service of Installation.

David is a Timothy from Hillyer Memorial Christian Church, and Hillyer was the church that gave birth to and has helped sustain the Christian Church in Wake Forest.



## SUPPLY MINISTER'S LIST UPDATE

The congregations of our region deserve the best ministers possible. As congregations transition to new leadership, good supply ministers provide reassurance to the members through the grace of the gospel. If you are available and interested in serving as a supply minister for the Region of NC, please submit your name, address, phone number, and church affiliation to [valerie@ncdisciples.org](mailto:valerie@ncdisciples.org).

To get registration forms for Disciples Men Regional Retreats, go to the Regional website [www.ncdisciples.org](http://www.ncdisciples.org) and look under Adult Ministries for CMF.

*North Carolina Disciples Men on the Move!*

Camp Caroline Retreat is scheduled for June 2-4, 2017. The schedule was approved by the Executive Committee, and registration forms will be out shortly. There are two wonderful speakers scheduled, Rev. Kenny Hooker on Friday, and Rev. David Kays on Saturday.



## Regional "Voting Representatives" for the Indianapolis General Assembly

- ⇒ All clergy are certified voting representatives. Clergy must be confirmed and have "standing" based on their listing in the *Year Book and Directory*.
- ⇒ Regional voting representatives and other non-clergy representatives will receive a voter certification form with their registration receipt/badge. To receive their voter ribbon, they must complete this certification form and take it to the registration booth/kiosks located in the Convention Center.
- ⇒ **No "VOTER" ribbons will be mailed in advance.**
- ⇒ **Reminder: On April 1, 2017** the registration rate will increase from \$150.00 to \$190.00.

Thank you for your help in making this representative process work.

*General Assembly Staff*



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**JOHN 17: 20-21a**

## *Heads Up...It's Application Time!*



The Phillips University Legacy Foundation is pleased to announce it is accepting new applications for its Undergraduate Scholarship and Leadership Development Program for the 2017-2018 academic year. The Legacy Foundation's Undergraduate Scholarship and Leadership Development Program makes annual awards of up to \$5,000 per year to full-time undergraduate students pursuing a liberal arts education at any of the 17 colleges or universities currently or historically affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Recipients are chosen based on their academic achievements, their present and potential leadership in the church, their chosen vocation, and their community. It is not a requirement that recipients attend a church that is affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The program is available to incoming freshmen as well as college sophomores, juniors and seniors.

**Completed application forms are due March 10, 2017 and award notifications will be sent out April 10th.**

The forms can also be accessed online at [www.pulf.org/scholarshipforms](http://www.pulf.org/scholarshipforms). The forms are fillable adobe files. It is important to note that the application and all three reference forms be submitted to be considered complete. So that more current and prospective students could be aware of our program, could you:

Add [www.pulf.org/scholarshipforms](http://www.pulf.org/scholarshipforms) to your organization's website  
Announce the Phillips University Legacy Scholarship and Leadership Development Program and post the link on both your organization's Facebook and Twitter pages.



**THE NC COMMISSION ON MINISTRY CONGRATULATES:**

***Rev. Catherine Campbell on her ordination, February 19th at  
Hillyer Memorial CC , Raleigh***

***Rev. Monica Banks , FCC, Winston-Salem &***

***Rev. Abby Catoe, Seeds of Grace, Bethania***

***on their upcoming graduation from Wake Forest University  
Divinity School and successfully completing their ordination  
process.***

***And, Rev. Todd Higginson, a member of Wilson Mills CC, who has  
completed the process for Standing in the Region. Well Done!***

## Breaking News...



**Woman-to-Woman Worldwide**  
travels to

### **INDIA - October 2017**

*Cost: \$5,000 (Not including personal  
airfare to and from city of departure)*

*For the guidelines and an applica-  
tion, refer to the DWM link at:*

[www.ncdisciples.org](http://www.ncdisciples.org)



### ***A New Chapter for FCC, Lincolnton***

There is a wonderful group of people in Lincolnton, NC. Their rich history and loving nature make them an ideal congregation for 21st Century Ministry. It was good to spend time with Pastor Kathy Naish and the Pastor Relations Committee as they celebrated her five years of ministry. The list of ministry developments and improvements under Kathy's leadership are many. As Kathy engaged her

exit interview, the emotion was deeply sincere. This pas-

tor's trust, integrity, and love have ushered the family and friends of FCC, Lincolnton to a new level. She will be missed! On March 1st, the Rev. Dr. Diana Spangler-Crawford, will begin as Interim Minister. Best wishes to Lincolnton as they embark on their next phase of ministry.





DHM provides a FREE Lent Devotion.  
 Go to [www.discipleshomeemissions.org](http://www.discipleshomeemissions.org),  
 find link: Congregations, & find link:  
 Faith Formation/Christian Education.

**North Carolina Disciples Women  
 Human Trafficking Update**



**Show support for the Trafficking  
 Survivors Relief Act**

Trafficked people are often charged with offenses that give them criminal records for the rest of their lives. This makes it difficult for them to find housing, jobs, and get access to loans. In return, these consequences leave them vulnerable to being trafficked again.

The Trafficking Survivors Relief Act would allow courts to erase survivors' nonviolent federal criminal convictions resulting from being trafficked.

Show your support by signing the petition!

Go to: [www.actpolarisproject.org](http://www.actpolarisproject.org). Scroll down to Support the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act. A form letter appears. Fill in your name, email and address - Click Submit

Questions: Please contact Rev. Melissa Acres  
 NC DWM Service Project Director  
 Email: [melisacr9@aol.com](mailto:melisacr9@aol.com)  
 Phone: 919-738-8798



**Pension Fund**  
 of the Christian Church  
*strong. smart. secure.*

**2016 Special Apportionment & Good  
 Experience Credits Announced**

The Board of Directors of Pension Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Inc. approved a 0.5% Special Apportionment for all U.S. and Puerto Rico Pension Plan participants (active, inactive and retired), effective July 1, 2017. The Board also approved Good Experience Credits, of 0.5% for the Tax-Deferred Retirement Account (TDRA) and Legacy IRAs and 3.25% for the Benefit Accumulation Account (BAA), effective March 31, 2017. Read the full press release by visiting our website: [www.pensionfund.org](http://www.pensionfund.org).

**Join our Conference Call  
 Feb. 23, 2017**



Pension Fund staff will be hosting two conference calls on Feb. 23, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. EST. To join, please use the following call-in information:

11:00 a.m. EST Dial: 866.216.6835 Access Code: 996877	7:00 p.m. EST Dial: 866.216.6835 Access Code: 349412
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This week has been exciting from a community-building vantage point. In the new gym, we are now offering Pickleball 5 days per week, and basketball 2 days per week, and will begin volleyball next week for the community. It is truly an honor to work with volunteers to help this special nurture and outreach ministry to continue to grow at Camp Caroline.



Recently, I met with two local journalists, whose main focus was to cover stories about how Pickleball is being embraced by the community. I often hear people say, “Oh, my, I had no idea you all had such a great camp and so many great resources;” to which I say, “well, let me encourage you to dream about how we can nurture your interests and be a fun place for you and families and your churches to come and build community together.”

We are excited about hosting our largest one-day conference in quite a while, with 150-160 United Methodist Women’s Ministry leaders. This is generating lots of energy and enthusiasm for Camp Caroline. We’ve started our

spring cleaning early, and we look forward to hosting the UMW, our Chi-Rho early spring retreat, the DWM Day Apart retreat, and the Emmaus Planning retreat in the coming weeks.

With the work-day coming up on March 18, we hope our early attention to Camp will allow for projects and improvements to be our focus. Please encourage your church members and groups to call Casey at 252-299-3157 to plan projects to benefit camp.

We are also EXCITED that on that same day, March 18, there will be a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Westview Cottage. Please plan to join this momentous event in the life of Region. The event will occur at 3:00pm, and I am excited to meet all of you!

Get your Chi-Rho Youth and their friends to register for what promises to be an exciting and fun weekend retreat March 3-5, 2017 at [www.campcaroline.org/youth-retreats/](http://www.campcaroline.org/youth-retreats/)

Online registration is <http://bit.ly/ChiRhospring17>

Get your ladies to register for DWM Women’s Day Apart at [www.campcaroline.org/dwm-retreats/](http://www.campcaroline.org/dwm-retreats/)



**NC DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRIES  
YOUNG ADULT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION  
FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017**



**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:**

The General Assembly will be held on July 8-12, 2017 in Indianapolis, Indiana. NC DWM will be awarding one scholarship in the amount of \$500 to a highly motivated young adult woman. Please complete the application form to apply for the General Assembly Scholarship and submit it by **April 1, 2017**. Late applications will not be accepted. Please email your application, if possible, to: [valerie@ncdisciples.org](mailto:valerie@ncdisciples.org) or mail application to:

DWM Young Adult Scholarship  
CCNC Regional Office  
PO Box 1568  
Wilson, NC 27894  
Attn: Bishop Valerie J. Melvin

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- ◆ Should be between the ages of 19-35, and self-sufficient
- ◆ Should be a member of a local Disciples of Christ congregation
- ◆ Must be able to travel independently
- ◆ Must submit two letters of recommendation with one being from a pastor
- ◆ As a Disciples Woman, share how you have grown in your faith
- ◆ Share volunteer activities and leadership positions in your church/community
- ◆ Should agree to serve with the NC DWM Cabinet for one year as a young adult, encouraging and engaging Disciples Women between the ages 19 –35 in Regional activities. #DWConnect
- ◆ Must promise that if for some reason you do not attend the General Assembly you will repay the scholarship in full

We look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely,

Joann W. Williams  
NC DWM President

Mary Evans  
NC DWM Vice President

**The Scholarship Back Story**

Every four years, DWM SERF (Disciples Women's Ministries Southeastern Regional Fellowship) gathers for leadership development. This gathering is for current and potential leaders. The 2016 SERF scholarship was designated for a young adult woman, but was not used, so in the Spring Board meeting, the NC DWM cabinet approved offering a General Assembly Scholarship for the same age group 19-35, in an effort to build lasting relationships with



# APPLICATION FORM

**PERSONAL INFORMATION:**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Citizenship Status: \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Citizen \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Race:

\_\_\_\_\_ Caucasian \_\_\_\_\_ Asian \_\_\_\_\_ Hispanic \_\_\_\_\_ African American \_\_\_\_\_ Other

**COMMUNITY, CHURCH, VOLUNTEER, and LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES and POSITION(S) HELD:** (Note: If more space is needed for these items, please attach the information on a separate sheet of paper with the information labeled for each category.)

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**ESSAY QUESTION:**

On a separate sheet of paper, tell us why you think you should attend the 2017 General Assembly as a young adult representative for the NC Disciples Women Ministries. Also indicate if you will be serving as a voting delegate for your church, and how you will share the General Assembly experience throughout the region once you return.

**169<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly** of the  
**Christian Church** (Disciples of Christ) in **North Carolina**  
**First Christian Church, 207 N. Tarboro Street, Wilson, NC**

Saturday, April 29, 2017

Registration \$35.00 (includes lunch)

Deadline: April 21st

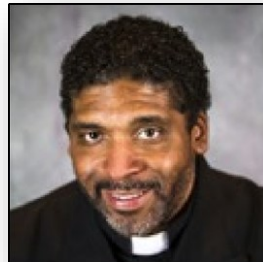
**REGISTRATION FORM**

Check ONE Workshop that you would like to attend:

- Cultivating Cultural Awareness - Facilitator: Rev. Chris Furr
- Mental Health Survival Guide - Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Zenobia Fennell
- Envisioning a Future for the Region of North Carolina: Facilitator: Bishop Valerie Melvin
- Navigating the Commission on Ministry - Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Laura Johnson



The E. G. Purcell, Jr.  
Bible Conference Lecture  
**Dr. Jerry L. Sumney, Ph.D.**  
Professor of Biblical Studies,  
LTS Lexington, KY



The Thedford G. & Woodrow W. Sprinkle Lecture  
**Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II**  
Moderator, CCNC; Pastor, Greenleaf  
Christian Church, Goldsboro, NC

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable & return form to:**  
**Christian Church in NC, PO Box 1568, Wilson, NC 27894**

**169th Regional Assembly** of the  
**Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in North Carolina**

**First Christian Church, 207 N. Tarboro Street, Wilson, NC**

**Saturday, April 29, 2017**

**SCHEDULE**

8:00am .....	Registration Opens
8:30am .....	A Call to Prayer
9:00am .....	Opening Worship
9:45am .....	<b>Plenary Session I</b>
	The E.G. Purcell, Jr. Bible Conference
	Dr. Jerry L. Sumney, Ph.D., Professor of Biblical Studies, LTS
11:00am .....	Break
11:15am .....	<b>Workshops</b>
12:30pm .....	Lunch
1:30pm .....	<b>Plenary Session II</b>
	The Thedford G. & Woodrow W. Sprinkle Lectures
	Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, Moderator, CCNC, President, NC Branch NAACP
2:45pm .....	Break
3:00pm .....	<b>Business Session</b>
3:45pm .....	Closing Worship with Communion
	Bishop Valerie J. Melvin & Interim Regional Minister

**Cultivating Cultural Awareness: Rev. Chris Furr, Facilitator**

*If God created us in all our diverse expressions of humanity, how do we untangle these on-going divisions? This workshop seeks to create a sacred space for dialogue where we learn about ourselves and others, where risks may be taken, relationships deepened, and myths untangled! If you're interested in genuine, positive dialogue that recognizes and values differences in grace-filled ways, sign up and join the conversation!*

**Mental Health Survival Guide: Rev. Dr. Zenobia Fennell, Facilitator**

*In this climate of chaos, division, uncertainty and high stress levels, our churches are facing an overwhelming increase in mental health disorders from the pulpit to the door. What are depression and mood swings? How do I understand the everyday emotional ups and downs that I feel? What does "bipolar" mean and what can I do about it? This workshop is highly recommended if you want clarity, clinical definitions, and a survival guide that will help navigate through mental and emotional behaviors that try to keep us from living healthy, balanced lives!*

**Envisioning a Future for the Region of North Carolina: Bishop Valerie Melvin, Facilitator**

*During this time of transition and adjustments, our region needs focus and unity! Imagine...what we can be if we work together! Where are we headed? What are our needs, strengths and growing edges? What is God calling us to do as we move forward? Register for this workshop and be a part of the vision!*

**Navigating through the Commission on Ministry: Rev. Dr. Laura Johnson, Facilitator**

*What is the Commission on Ministry and what do they do? What is the difference between commissioning and ordination? What are the mechanics of the call that lead to the vocation of Christian ministry? If you are feeling that tug in your spirit or if you simply want information, this is the workshop for you!*

**WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS**

## *The E.G. Purcell, Jr. Bible Conference Lecture*

**Dr. Jerry L. Sumney** is the Professor of Biblical Studies, Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, KY. Dr Sumney received his B.A. at David Lipscomb University; M.A. from Harding University; and Ph.D. from Southern Methodist University.

He is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature and is past president for the Southeastern Region of the Society. At the national level, he also served as the chair of the steering committee for the Theology of the Disputed Paulines Group and as the chair of the steering committee for the Disputed Paulines Section. He also chaired the Pauline Epistles and Literature Section of the International Meeting of the SBL. He was elected to membership in the Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas (SNTS) in 2005.

Dr. Sumney has written seven books and is currently working on a book on Paul's use of tradition, a commentary on 1 Corinthians, and the Bible study section of an issue of the *New International Sunday School Lesson Annual*. Sumney has presented papers at regional, national, and international academic conferences. He has also led numerous workshops for elders and deacons, and Bible study workshops and series, including in the Lay School of Theology at LTS and in the school for licensed ministers sponsored by the Kentucky region of the Christian Church. Dr. Sumney and his wife, Diane, have three daughters.

## *The Thedford G. & Woodrow W. Sprinkle Lecture*

**The Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II** is the Pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Goldsboro, NC, and Moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in NC. Dr. Barber received his bachelor's degree in political science from NCCU, cum laude; Master of Divinity degree from Duke University; and a doctorate from Drew University with a concentration in policy and pastoral care.

A highly sought after speaker, he has keynoted hundreds of national and state conferences, including the 2016 Democratic National Convention. He has spoken to a wide variety of audiences including national unions, fraternities and sororities, motorcycle organizations, drug dealer conferences, women's groups, economic policy voting rights, LGBTQ groups, environmental and criminal justice groups, small organizing committees of domestic workers, fast food workers, Christians, Muslims, Jews, atheists and others.

He has served as president of the North Carolina NAACP, the largest state conference in the South, since 2006 and sits on the National NAACP Board of Directors.



***The 170th Assembly Dates:***

***April 27-29, 2018***

***Assembly Location:***

***Greenville Convention Center***

***Greenville, NC***





FMI Contact: [valerie@ncdisciples.org](mailto:valerie@ncdisciples.org) or call 252.291.4047 ext. 204

website: [ncdisciples.org](http://ncdisciples.org)

**THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) in NC**  
proudly welcomes



**The Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Sumney** (left)  
Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington KY  
*The E. S. Purcell, Jr., Bible Lecturer*

and

**The Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II** (right)  
*The Theford S. and Woodrow W. Sprinkle Lecturer*



**Host Church: First Christian, Wilson, NC**  
**Saturday, April 29, 2017 8:00am-4:30pm**

***Save The Date!***

The 169<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in NC  
Assembly to Include: Workshops, Business Session, and All-Assembly Lunch

## ADDITIONAL DATES TO REMEMBER...

- ⇒ 2/23 - 10:30am - Albemarle Minister's Meeting, FCC, Williamston
- ⇒ 2/23 - 6:00pm - Hookerton District Union CMF, Grifton CC
- ⇒ 2/25 - 10:00am-Regional Board Meeting at Regional Office
- ⇒ 2/28 - 169th Regional Assembly Voting and Alternate Delegates due
- ⇒ 3/3-5 - Chi Rho Spring Retreat at Camp Caroline
- ⇒ 3/5 - Assembly Registration Sunday
- ⇒ 3/10-11 - "A Day Apart" Disciples Women's Retreat at Camp Caroline
- ⇒ 3/15 - Yearbook Report forms due to Regional Office
- ⇒ 3/18 - Work Day at Camp Caroline & 3:00pm-Ground Breaking for Westview Cottage
- ⇒ 4/1 - NC DWM Young Adult General Assembly Scholarship Application due
- ⇒ 4/28 - 9:00am - Boundaries Training at Regional Office
- ⇒ 6/2-4 - NC CMF Retreat at Camp Caroline

If you have regional or district news to share, please submit it to [valerie@ncdisciples.org](mailto:valerie@ncdisciples.org) no later than close of business each Thursday.