

February 2019



Regional Updates

The Light in their Eyes!

Casey Perry serves our region as the manager of Camp Caroline. In this season of his life, his daily work is augmented by caregiving for his parents. Boyd and Bonnie Perry are two delightful pragmatists, whose moral practices, hard work and love of country has provided them with a rich life.

Recently, I traveled to Richmond, thinking I would encourage Casey and his parents as they continue to navigate their pursuit of health and quality of life. Much to my surprise, I was the one encouraged and inspired.

Like many parents, Boyd and Bonnie have come to a point in their lives when health and the future might consume their thoughts. Instead, they revel in the gift of life that each day brings, sharing authentic love through hugs and laughter. The visit turned into several hours of Immanuel; God was truly with us! It was not just conversation that revealed the nature of Bonnie and Boyd, but it was the light in their eyes. Bright, flickering light. Akin to the embers of flames in a fireplace! A light in their eyes that sparkled each time they spoke. That light caught my attention in an ethereal way.

I reflected on Christ's light symbolized each time the acolytes light candles at the beginning of worship and about how often we speak of the light, but rarely look for it. And there it was, right before my eyes, the light of Christ, the joy of strong faith, the peace of trusting Christ, the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not yet seen, twinkling in the eyes of Bonnie and Boyd, like a star.

Although the challenges of late have been tough for these two, the light in their eyes hides the toughness of their challenges, and pushes forth a radiance that makes aging a grace-filled experience. May it be so for the rest of us!

Peace,

+Regional Minister Valerie Melvin



Treasurer's Report for period Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2018

Operational Income

General	\$221,164	
Program	\$38,355	
Camp Caroline	\$241,954	
Total Income		\$501,473

Operational Expenditures

General	\$231,077	
Program	\$47,351	
Camp Caroline	\$302,780	
Total Expenditures		\$581,208

Net Loss (\$79,735)

Thanks to all – congregations and individuals – who gave so generously in 2018! December income in the "General Fund" was \$38,562, which was well above any previous month in 2018. In addition, the Camp received about \$24K in donations in November and December. Do you remember that the Treasurer's report through October showed a deficit of \$116K? And now it is \$79K. Look what God made possible through you in just two months!

Also note that while expenditures in the Operational Fund exceeded income by about \$19K for the combined Office and Program Funds and \$60K for the Camp, approximately \$30K of the Camp deficit will be covered by transfers from designated Camp funds. (These funds can be transferred because some of the Camp expenses meet the donor's designation.)

Your Executive/Finance Committee and Board continue to look for ways to meet the financial challenges that we face. We are watching carefully to assure that all designations placed on gifts by the donor are honored, while at the same time assuring that all financial obligations are met. A new Financial and Stewardship Plan will be presented to the board on February 9. Please continue to give generously throughout the year!

Prayerfully submitted,
Kathy Smith
CCNC Treasurer



Submitting Disciples Mission Fund and All Other Giving

*Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops. **Proverbs 3:9***

- All DMF, Blessing Box, Special Offerings (Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, Christmas), Reconciliation, and Week of Compassion monies should be remitted to the Office of the General Minister & President in Indianapolis. You have the option to send it online or make checks payable to Disciples Mission Fund and mail along with a remittance form to: **OGMP-Treasury Services, PO Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206.**
- Your gifts to the Christian Church in North Carolina, including Camp Caroline, should be mailed to the regional office with the CCNC Remittance Form with checks made payable to: **Christian Church in North Carolina (CCNC), PO Box 1568, Wilson, NC 27894.**
- Gifts to Barton College, Lexington Theological Seminary, Christmount, Church World Service (blanket & tools), district dues, etc., should be mailed directly to them. Their address is on the CCNC Remittance Form.

Both of the remittance forms can be found on our website:

ncdisciples.org > About Us > DMF Remittance Form > CCNC Remittance Form

⇒ The Chi Rho Spring Retreat is March 1-3 at Camp Caroline. The events starts at 8pm on Friday, Marc 1 and ends at 10am on Sunday, March 3. The costs is \$90. All middle school youth are invited to attend.

Please register for this event here: [www.http://bit.ly/2019chirhospring](http://bit.ly/2019chirhospring).

⇒ Summer camp registration is live! We have 8 amazing opportunities at Camp Caroline and Christmount for youth of all ages from K-12. You can sign up now here: <https://ncdisciples.org/summer-camp/>.

⇒ Luke Miles, our Regional Youth Director, would love to come meet with the youth and families of your church to talk about camp! We have so many great camping ministries, and he wants to share them with your congregations. Please consider inviting him to speak, give a sermon, or come to your youth groups! You can reach him at Luke@ncdisciples.org or 336.202.1354.



Regional Youth Ministry

Over the next several weeks, members will begin receiving 1099s for the 2018 tax year. Pension Fund is sending a special reminder this year due to the \$48 million in Good Experience Credits and \$96 million in Special Apportionments awarded to member accounts in 2018, which resulted in additional taxable income.

To help members understand what forms Pension Fund provides, we have created a comprehensive list of notes regarding applicable tax forms, along with our annual Ministers' Tax Guide. 1099 Forms will be post-marked no later than January 31, 2019:

- **Pension recipients – Form 1099-R**
- **Benefit Accumulation Account (BAA) holders - Form 1099-INT**
- **IRA and/or Tax-Deferred Retirement Account (TDRA) holders who received a distribution in 2018 - Form 1099-R**

For additional dates, information on Retiree Housing Allowance for Clergy, Charitable Contribution receipts, or to access our annual Tax Guide, visit <https://pensionfund.org/2018-tax-resources>.

Pension Fund's Member Relations team is available to answer questions regarding Pension Fund's tax reporting documents by phone at 866.495.7322 or e-mail at pfcc1@pensionfund.org. Please remember that we are not able to provide tax or legal advice. If you have tax questions, please consult a tax professional.



Pension Fund

of the Christian Church
strong. smart. secure.



Race: From Brokenness & Fragmentation to Wholeness —Racial Equity Training for Clergy—

Trainers



Rev. Dr. Rodney Sadler, Professor of Bible
Union Presbyterian Seminary (Charlotte)

Ms. Nikkeia Lee, Executive Director
The Possibility Project (Charlotte)

Rev. Jason Williams, Pastor
Hood Memorial Christian Church (Dunn)

Registration Information

The Registration Fee covers the training and cost of meals during training hours. **You must secure your own lodging.**

Check should be made payable to:
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in NC.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 15, 2019.

Registration Cost: \$120 per person

Date & Location:

February 22-23, 2019
Charlotte, NC

Host Site: SouthPark Christian Church
6650 Park South Dr, Charlotte, NC 28210

This 16-hour anti-racism/pro-reconciliation training is an interactive experience that explores the myths, the mystery, and the making of race in the United States. Based upon core concepts from national anti-racism training models, this training is specifically designed with biblical and theological foundations for people of faith. Practical tools for pastors and lay leaders are offered through cultural analysis, bible study and reflection. Emphasis is given towards the way churches can integrate anti-racism/pro-reconciliation concepts in missions and ministry.



Race: From Brokenness & Fragmentation to Wholeness —Racial Equity Training for Clergy—

Resolution 116, passed at the 2016 Regional Assembly held in Greenville, NC, requires all commissioned and ordained ministers who desire to maintain their standing to complete this training.

February 22-23, 2019 - Charlotte, NC

Host: SouthPark Christian Church
6650 Park South Dr, Charlotte, NC 28210

Registration Deadline: February 15, 2019

Training begins promptly at 10:00 am Friday, February 22 ending at 6:00 pm. It resumes at 8:30 am Saturday, February 23 concluding approximately 4:30 pm. Participants are responsible for their own lodging and must be present during the entire training session. To request a scholarship, please call the Regional Office.

Cost: \$120 per person

Cost includes 2-day faith-based anti-racism/pro-reconciliation training plus lunch and refreshments each day.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Congregation: _____

Race: _____ Gender: _____

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Christian Church in North Carolina
PO Box 1568
Wilson, NC 27894

Registration is also available online at:
ncdisciples.org



2019 CAMP SCHEDULE

Sponsored by the Christian Church in. N.C.

Choose Camps by Grade Completed

Camp Caroline location address: 3398 Janiero Road, Arapahoe, NC 28510

Uno for Grades K-2 *(with one parent)	June 14-16	\$250.00
CYF Conference for Grades 9-12	June 16-21	\$390.00
Sailing, Arts & Spirituality for Grades 4-7	June 23-28	\$390.00
Created to Be Me for Grade 8	July 14-20	\$465.00
Delta Camp for Grades 6-7	July 21-26	\$390.00
Alpha Camp for Grades 1-2	July 28-August 2	\$390.00
Beta Camp for Grades 3-5	July 28-August 2	\$390.00

Christmount location address: 222 Fern Way Dr., Black Mountain, NC 28711

Jr. Camp for Grades 3-5	June 17-22	\$395.00
Jr. Hi. Camp for Grades 6-7	June 17-22	\$395.00
CYF Conference for Grades 9-12	June 24-29	\$395.00

If you have any questions, please call or email Luke Miles (336.202.1354, Luke@ncdisciples.org).

You may mail in a form or register online at www.ncdisciples.org/summer-camps

Church Leadership Series - March 8-9

The Church Leadership Series is a collaboration between Christmount and Lexington Theological Seminary and is designed to engage leadership on all levels of the church. The featured Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Leah Schade from LTS. The Church Leadership Series offers church leaders training in vital lay ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Leaders of the church can benefit from this event in many ways:

- ◆ Gain new perspective on your service through presentations by professors of Lexington Theological Seminary on Friday evening and Saturday morning.
- ◆ Gain a deeper understanding of the work you do.
- ◆ Attend workshops specific to their area of leadership within the church, such as Elders, Deacons, Stewardship, Property, Youth, Education, Board, and more!
- ◆ Share concerns with and learn from other church leaders.
- ◆ Fellowship with other Disciples.

Get more info or register online at www.christmount.org/church-leaders



Music Workshop - June 13-16

Join others who love church music as together we grow spiritually through the ministry of music. This year's music is selected for small to medium size choirs. Learn singing and ringing techniques to enhance your skills. The event culminates with leading worship through music at First Christian Church, Black Mountain. Whether you're an experienced musician or a Sunday singer, there's a place in the choir for you!

Dr. Harry Gilbert returns to direct the choirs, accompanied by Handbell Director, Katie Gilbert, and pianist Ida-Anne Clarke.

More information and registration can be found at www.christmount.org/musicworkshop

Camp Matters at General Assembly!

This summer at General Assembly, Christmount is hosting a booth for ALL Disciples Camp & Conference Centers! If you are interested in representing Camp Caroline at the #campmatters booth this summer, please contact Rob Morris at Christmount to ask him how you might help. Email: rob@christmount.org



171ST Regional Assembly

“BACK TO THE BASICS”

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2019

Registration Opens at 8:00AM

Barton College–Wilson, North Carolina

FEATURED KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Purcell Bible Lecture



**Matthias
Henze, Ph.D.**
Professor, Rice University
Houston, Texas

Sprinkle Preaching Lecture



**Anna Carter
Florence, Ph.D.**
Professor, Columbia Theological Seminary
Decatur, Georgia

Fellowship

Business with Strategic Focus
Lunch Cafeteria Style

CHILDCARE PROVIDED

Represent - Wear your church, camp,
retreat or christian t-shirt!

For More Information: Rev. Gary Walling, Planning Chairperson at gwalling@fccwilson.org or (252.237.4125)
Bishop Valerie J. Melvin, Regional Staff at valerie@ncdisciples.org or (252.291.4047)



Missions • Ministry & Outreach • Stewardship • Biblical Foundation

BACK TO THE BASICS



**171st Regional Assembly of the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in North Carolina**

“Back to the Basics”

Barton College, 400 A.C.C. Drive NE, (Howard Chapel) Wilson, NC

Saturday, April 27, 2019

Registration Deadline: April 21st

Everyone is required to register by the April 21st deadline to ensure your meal.

Although there is no registration fee* for our Assembly this year, churches and individuals wishing to support the Regional Assembly and Camp Caroline are invited to give a free will offering.



The E.G. Purcell, Jr.
Bible Conference
Lecture
Dr. Matthias Henze
Professor
Rice University
Houston, Texas



The Thedford G. &
Woodrow W. Sprinkle
Lecture
Dr. Anna Carter Florence
Professor
Columbia Theological
Seminary
Decatur, Georgia

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____ Church _____

Vegetarian _____ Food Allergies: _____

Are you Barton/ACC Alumni? _____ If so, year of graduation? _____

Return this form before deadline to:

Christian Church in NC, PO Box 1568, Wilson, NC 27894

**171st Regional Assembly of the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in North Carolina**

Barton College, 400 A.C.C. Drive NE, Wilson, NC
Saturday, April 27, 2019

Childcare

Please fill out this form and return it with your assembly registration form by April 21st!

Staff and volunteers will offer childcare to **registered** participants for the Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in North Carolina. All parents will be asked to sign a waiver of responsibility for any children placed in the childcare program.

Please note: Childcare is available for children ages 2 through fifth grade. **The cost is \$20.00 per child** (4yrs to 5th grade); children under 4 are FREE. Parents need to bring snacks for their child(ren).

Also, and very importantly, the childcare providers **WILL NOT** administer any medications; children with contagious illnesses should not be placed in childcare.

PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN NAME____
ADDRESS_____CITY/STATE/ZIP_____
CELL PHONE (_____)_____EMAIL_____

Parents will eat lunch with their child(ren). You will need to pick your child(ren) up and take them with you to the cafeteria and then bring them back to childcare after lunch.

Child 1 Name_____Age_____Food Allergies____
Child 2 Name_____Age_____Food Allergies____
Child 3 Name_____Age_____Food Allergies____
Child 4 Name_____Age_____Food Allergies____

‘Back to the Basics’

171st Regional Assembly of the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in North Carolina
Barton College, Wilson, NC Saturday, April 27, 2019
Schedule

8:00amRegistration Opens at Howard Chapel Narthex
9:00am Worship
9:30am The Purcell Bible Study with Dr. Matthias Henze
10:45am Break
11:00am Business Session
12:15pm Lunch
1:30pm The Sprinkle Lecture on Preaching with Dr. Anna Carter Florence
2:45pm Closing Worship with Communion
3:30pm Closing Prayer



Howard Chapel awaits our arrival!

About the Purcell & Sprinkle Barton College Annual Lectures

The E. G. Purcell, Jr. Bible Conference Lecture was established in honor of the Rev. Purcell following his retirement from Barton College (ACC).

Theford Sprinkle and Woodrow Sprinkle were members of Salem Fork CC, Dobson and this lecture was established by Dr. Steve Sprinkle in their memory.

These lectures are sponsored by Barton College and offer to the church opportunities to learn the latest biblical scholarship and ways to use this knowledge for spreading the good news.

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

Dr. Matthias Henze was born and raised in Hanover, Germany. In 1992 he earned a Master of Divinity from the University of Heidelberg, Germany, and moved to the United States to pursue a Ph.D. in Harvard's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. After completing his doctorate in 1997, Dr. Henze joined Rice's department of religion, where he is now the Isla Carroll and Percy E. Turner Professor of Hebrew Bible and Early Judaism.

His areas of interest include the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, Jewish literature and thought at the time of the Second Temple, apocalyptic literature, and the Qumran fragments. In particular, Dr. Henze focuses on those early texts that never became part of the Jewish Bible - often subsumed under the labels 'Apocrypha' and 'Pseudepigrapha' - and what we can learn when these texts are read side by side with the canonical writings.

Dr. Henze has written and edited ten books. While at Rice he has won five teaching/mentoring Awards. He was also named a founding fellow of Rice's Center for Teaching Excellence. In 2009 he founded Rice's Program in Jewish Studies, of which he continues to serve as director.

The Theford G. & Woodrow W. Sprinkle Lecture

Dr. Anna Carter Florence is the Peter Marshall Professor of Preaching at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. She is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and holds degrees from Yale University and Princeton Theological Seminary (M.Div. and Ph.D.). Before joining the Columbia faculty in 1998, Dr. Florence served as an associate pastor for youth and young adults at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis. Her books include *Preaching as Testimony*, *Inscribing the Word*, and *Rehearsing Scripture: Discovering God's Word in Community*, based on her 2012 Lyman Beecher Lectures on Preaching at Yale Divinity School; her current book project is *'A' is for Alabaster: A Preacher's Alphabet*. She has also published numerous articles and chapters in books and journals, including a year's worth of lectionary text commentaries for www.WorkingPreacher.com.

Dr. Florence's research focuses on testimony, preaching pedagogies, and creative strategies for communities to engage and encounter the biblical text, so she is happiest when sitting around a table with a group of people, a big passage of scripture, and a big block of time to dive into it. She is a frequent teacher and lecturer in the U.S. and abroad. She and her husband, the Rev. David Carter Florence, have two grown sons. They also have two dogs, two cats, and way too much knitting yarn.

Boundaries 101 Workshop

All commissioned, ordained, active retired, and pulpit supply ministers serving in congregational, institutional or regional ministries are required take a training class every 5 years.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Congregation you are serving: _____

(If you are not serving a congregation, put congregation you are a member of)

Other ministry employer: _____

Friday, April 26, 2019*

Boundaries 101 – *Facilitators: Regional Minister Bishop Valerie Melvin and Rev. Dr. Laura Johnson*
First Christian Church, 207 Tarboro St. NE, Wilson, NC 27893

Class begins promptly at 10 am and typically ends by 4 pm.
Cost is \$35 per person and includes your workbook and lunch.

*For the convenience of traveling clergy, this class is being offered in Wilson, one day prior to the April 27 NC Regional Assembly at Barton College. The Commission on Ministry plans to offer Boundaries 201 in the Fall of 2019. You may attend either of these classes, even if you have already taken it in the past. You may take 201 even if you haven't had 101. The only requirement is that you attend a boundary class every 5 years.

Please make check payable and mail with this completed form with fees to:

Christian Church in N.C.

PO Box 1568

Wilson, NC 27894

Invited  *Inspired*
IGNITED
READY TO SERVE IN UNITY

“ ”

A Day Apart

Keynote Speaker:

Pat Montgomery

North Carolina Disciples

Women's Ministries



Camp Caroline Retreat - March 8-9, 2019



Deadline: March 1 (must be IN the regional office, not postmarked)

Registration for Overnight Retreat: \$80 (includes Friday Lodging & Supper, Saturday Breakfast & Lunch)

Registration for Saturday Only: \$55 (includes Saturday Lunch)

Please note we are not charging a late fee, but encourage you register on time to guarantee meals.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ZIP: _____

PHONE: (____) - ____ - _____

EMAIL: _____

CHURCH: _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Registration begins on Friday at 3pm for overnight attendees OR Saturday at 8:15am.

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

Attend Event at Camp Caroline:
3398 Janeiro Road
Arapahoe, NC 28510



We are reaching out to the Ministers in and around the NC Region asking for you to do one devotion in whatever format you are comfortable using. This devotion can be written or videoed or both. The hope is that these devotions will help take us as the NC Region through the 40 days of Lent together as a Prayer-Driven and Spirit-Led body.

These 40 days take us from *Ash Wednesday on March 6* to *Easter Sunday on April 21* and hopefully beyond the initial 40 days to our *Regional Assembly held at Barton College on Saturday, April 27*. These devotions will be collected up and then one will be shared daily on our Regional Facebook page as well as via the regional emails sent out so that as many people as possible have access to them.

Why is this being asked of us, as ministers in the region? Because it is a means of sharing the basics fundamentals of our faith as a body of believers, and who better to tap in to than the amazing ministers in our region? We have a wealth of resources in our people and need to share these resources with one another. The hope and prayer is that we can connect to one another across our region by hearing the many different voices that are doing such amazing things as leaders of faith.

So what will we each need to do if we are willing and able? Get creative by writing, videoing, or both a devotion that takes us **Back to the Basics** (our Regional Assembly Theme) as a Prayer-Driven and Spirit-Led Region. Consider what getting back to the basics means to you: personally, as a faith leader, and in the body of faith with which you are joined.

By February 28, please email these devotions to Rev. Kara Swartz at minister@hm-cc.org, who will be collecting and arranging them together. Please contact her directly if you have any additional questions.

Thank you in advance!

Rev. Kara Swartz, Pastor

Hooker Memorial CC, Greenville

An Online Lectionary Course

Come and Learn the ABCs of Preaching from Lectionaries

Lectionary Learning Opportunity will answer these questions:

What is the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL)? Spoiler: The Revised Common Lectionary lists readings from the Bible for use in Protestant Christian worship, making provision for the liturgical year.

How was the RCL created and by whom?

How was the RCL intended to be implemented and used?

Who uses the RCL?

What are the strengths and weaknesses of the RCL? (Bring your Bibles!)

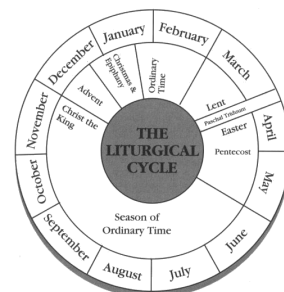
What other lectionaries exist (many—ancient to contemporary!), and how do we access them?

About the instructor:

Rev. Dr. Laura Johnson, Chair of the CC (DOC) NC Commission on Ministry, earned the Doctor of Ministry degree in 2013 at Campbell University Divinity School. Her D. Min. project and report focused on the Revised Common Lectionary and alternative lectionaries, including two she wrote—Route 66 and The Progressive Dinner Lectionary. She has since begun writing two additional alternative lectionaries: All Living Creatures Lectionary about animals of the Bible and Night-Light Lectionary about redeeming the darkness with stories of God working during the night.

Interested persons should email:

revlaura@nc.rr.com



The Commission on Ministry

By Rev. Dr. Laura Johnson, Chair



I am often asked why I named my wire fox terrier Parson Brown, with many people mishearing me and baby-talking to my dog, “Carson Brown,” despite the fact that she is obviously an elderly female in a pink or purple outfit. For the record, I did not name her after a Christmas song’s character. When I selected Parson Brown, I quasi-ordained the rescued, brown-faced dog as a fellow minister to whomever arrives at our house, hoping they would get at least one fair shake. Jokingly of course, I can always legitimately call my private dwelling the parsonage since at least one actual Parson lives there.

Americans these days seldom-use the term “Parson,” but the 1990s Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman often highlighted the importance of a highly respected one in the show’s town. Geoffrey Lower played Reverend Timothy Johnson (no relation) and appeared in many episodes, as did the church at the town’s center. Watch some of the show on your favorite e-viewing platform, and you’ll notice that unless a stranger to town immediately needs a doctor, they typically first see the Parson because that’s what Parson previously meant—“THE PERSON” with whom everyone in town would want to be familiar, who could offer immediate assistance,

and who could be the most helpful regardless of the circumstance.

These days, a NC town with 30,000 people might have more than 100 churches, and many of those have half-empty pews. While it might seem that an individual Parson’s influence is waning, your Commission on Ministry does not approach persons called to ministry with any less regard or respect. For us, a set-apart calling to interact with town folk and country folk on behalf of Jesus Christ continues to be critically important to the church, the community, the region, and the world. We know this is so, because our Lord continues to call people from easier paths to this challenging, albeit fulfilling one.

I first encountered a “Parson” reading Geoffrey Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales* in Middle English (one of my least-often needed skills and one that needs some dusting off). The author introduces him as “a good man of religioun... a poure PERSON of a toun.” Unlike Chaucer’s Monk or Friar, who fail to practice what they preach, the Parson lives a holy and virtuous life according to the Gospel. He is a “lernerd man” and “his parissheis devoutly wolde he teche,” “full pacient” and “diligent.” It’s easier in modern English to tell you that the Parson gives to the poor while living a life of poverty himself and visits his spread-out congregants even in rain and thunder. He walks blamelessly because he knows people watch “The Parson,” explaining his exemplary behavior in the General Prologue this way: “if gold ruste, what shal iren do?” His presence on the pilgrimage provides an opposing example to the other religious characters; without the Parson, we who read Chaucer, or just journey in life, would have no idea what a religious figure ought to be, but with him/her we can hopefully see Christ.

Blessings from Storms

Bruce Williamson, Assistant Manager
Camp Caroline, Arapahoe, NC

Hurricane Florence downed nearly 100 trees on the beautiful campus of Camp Caroline. For weeks, volunteers came as far away as Fredrick, Virginia with chainsaws to help. The force of the storm was powerful enough to move several of our neighbors waterfront cottages from their foundations. Our frontal fence was littered and there was no room for our own vegetative debris. We obtained several 30-day burning permits that allowed us to burn on-site the vegetative debris, such as logs and limbs.

Rock Holiday, Chairman of the CC Property Committee brought a professional pole saw and his wood splitter and left it for our use. I am pleased that everyone exercised extreme caution when operating equipment, and we had no incidents. We had to make choices concerning how much wood we would try to preserve and keep at camp. Our campers, staff, counselors and directors enjoy a long tradition of campfires and s'mores. Volunteers cut and split wood and placed the wood on mini pallets that would enable staff to move it to camp fire sites with our tractor and forks. A group of eight college students came on a Sunday and spent several hours sawing, splitting and stacking wood.

It appears that we will have plenty of firewood for the upcoming camping season and perhaps plenty for 2020 camping season. There is much more chainsaw work that needs to be accomplished before it is safe for our campers to use the walking trail, the Woodland Chapel and the Windley Low Ropes Course. The longer these trees remain on the ground, they become homes for snakes and foxes and other animals. It is my hope that there will be an outpouring of volunteers at our next scheduled Camp Caroline Workday on Saturday, March 16, not only to work in the woods, but also to care for their camp adoptions.

I want to share a true story. Two weeks ago I was in a local building supply warehouse and one of the salesman pointed to an elderly couple and stated that they were scraping for any wood, boards or planks to burn in their wood

stove. With tears in my eyes I asked them if I could bring them some split oak firewood. Their answer was a resounding, "Yes" and they said, "you are an answer to our prayers, bless you!" The next day I delivered split firewood to this elderly couple. Their place of residence was in the country and their small modest house, yard and shed was immaculate. Barbara directed me to where she would prefer that the wood be stacked under the



shed. As I began to unload the wood, I realized that the only other source of heat was the boards they got from the building supply warehouse and a wash tub with pinecones. Victor arrived and he struggled to gain strength to unload and stack the wood. Victor suffered a stroke last year. They continued to thank me as I left and I promised to bring more firewood.

The next day in church, the pastor asked the question, "When was the last time you shared your love for God by doing something special for someone?" I wiped a tear and thought about the many expressions of God's love and blessing from so many volunteers at Camp Caroline and how we were able to bless a family in need of wood for their source of heat with wood recovered from a storm.

In conclusion, I want to thank everyone for their many contributions to recovery at Camp Caroline and most especially for providing split firewood that would bless Barbara and Victor.

Matthew 25:40

"The King will reply, 'Truly I will tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these



16th Annual Caregiver Education Conference All day programming, March 6, Hamlin Student Center. For additional information, please contact Dr. Steven Fulks, director of the Gerontology Program, at sfulks@barton.edu or 252-399-6570.

For more Barton news click on the link:

<https://www.barton.edu/pdf/calendar/2018-2019-public-events.pdf>



Please share this with your congregation or any other person you may know that is dealing with an appeal with FEMA.

Free clinics for FEMA appeals handled by pro bono NC attorneys. You must register in advance (free) at ncprobono.org/assistance.

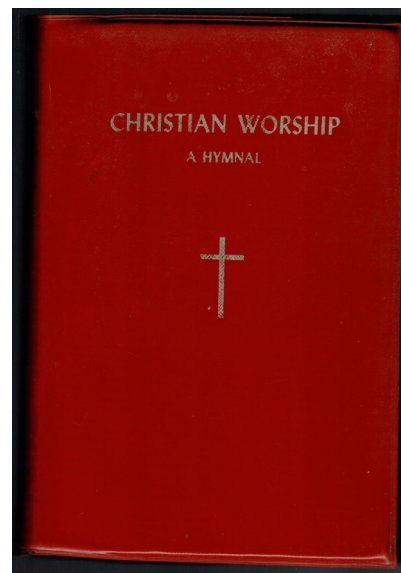
**Sat, Feb 9 · Wilmington
Cape Fear Community College
411 North Front Street
Morning: 9:30 am – 12 pm
Afternoon: 12:30 pm – 4 pm**

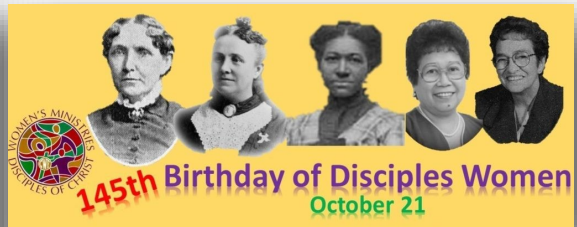
**Sat, Feb 23 · Morehead City
Carteret Community College
3505 Arendell Street
Morning: 9:30 am – 12 pm
Afternoon: 12:30 pm – 4 pm**

First Christian Church, Rocky Mount is seeking a new home for approximately 45 hymnals. If you cannot use them, perhaps you know of someone who can. Perhaps a nursing home, youth group, summer camp, a musician or group could probably use some or all of them.

The cover says "Christian Worship A Hymnal", Special Edition, Christian Board of Publication, The Bethany Press, St. Louis, copyright 1953, and they have been reprinted many times, this edition is the eighteenth printing, 1975. It has 542 pages, and includes: 1) Responsive readings, 2) Calls to worship, 3) Invocations, 4) Scriptures for baptism and The Lord's Supper, 5) Benedictions and the hymns go from numbers 94 to 650. Most are in excellent condition with a burgundy-colored hard cover and a golden cross on the front. It says inside that "it is an event of special significance that Baptists and Disciples jointly offer our churches this new hymn book," so it was a joint effort for both.

For more information, contact Lloyd Christianson at 252-446-8078 or email landechris@aol.com





Disciples Women is celebrating our 145th birthday in 2019. This is a celebration marking October 21, 1874, as the day that Caroline Neville Pearre organized the women to address the mission and ministry that was then lacking in the church. Convicted during her prayer time in April of that year, she recognized her call to initiate the Christian Women's Board of Missions (CWBM) that would be organized and managed exclusively by women. One support described the CWBM as knowing no distinction between home and foreign missions—its field was the world. Since then Disciples Women have been organizing and advocating to serve the needs of God's people across time, culture and geography.

Click on the link for finger labyrinths instructions.

<https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/wp->

Search and Call Updates

We gratefully share with you the results of recent local church ministerial searches. Please pray for graceful transition upon each church completing their search, and those who will continue.

Bath CC-Called Youth Minister
 Mill Creek CC
 Eden CC, Snow Hill
 Hillyer Memorial-Called Senior Pastor

Minister Phil Patrick
 Pulpit Supply Provided
 Rev. Buddy Turner, Interim
 Rev. Troy Tatum

If you are interested in more information about opportunities for ministry, please contact the Regional Minister. We kindly ask that churches and clergy respect the boundaries and ethical guidelines regarding the Search process.



In this winter season, thank you for the warmth of your spirit and faithful companionship of your members at our medical center. We are very aware of the healing power of your ageless compassion and Spirit. We wish that every single one of our patients felt the embrace of both science and faithful compassion. In the meantime, we are grateful to you for coming and caring. We are launching our 2019 Clergy Educational Events with Dr. Chris Gambill, Director of the Center for Congregational Health. His topic will be "Characteristics of Healthy Congregations." As a Baptist pastor and consultant, he has experience with the challenges of today's faith institutions. He will speak from this experience and share what he has learned about flourishing congregations. Chris has been with the Center for Congregational Health since its beginning in 1992 and currently directs the Center's work. He is a graduate of Wake Forest University (B.A.), Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div.), and Capella University (Ph.D.).

We will meet in the Hubbard Learning Center on the ground floor of the Sticht Center from 9-10 a.m. on Thursday, February 14th. A light breakfast will be served. Please R.S.V.P. to Karen Kimbrell at kkimbrel@wakehealth.edu. I look forward to seeing you. And if we do not cross paths on the 14th, please know of our constant appreciation for your ministry of care for your members and neighbors.

From the desk of Rev. Emily Viverette, Director - FaithHealth Education Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center

I have a confession, but first, some background. For the majority of the last 17 years, my ministry focus was spiritual care inside the walls of a hospital. As a CPE Supervisor and chaplain, I immersed myself in the work of education in the context of suffering in the clinic. My curriculum was filled with typical CPE topics: death and dying, trauma and crisis, pastoral identity and pastoral authority. All of these are vital to the development of spiritual care skills. However, do you know what topic rarely made it into the curriculum? Health. Sure, we had the typical conversations about self-care and boundaries for the sake of emotional and spiritual health (also very important), but we hardly ever talked about physical health. When we did, it was only in the context of sickness and how to care for people whose health was failing. We never explored what it means to be healthy or what "causes" life. And, do you know who helps keep people healthy in our communities? You do. While hospitals take care of the sickest of the sick, the majority of healing happens outside of the walls of medicine and in community—in churches. Thank goodness.

So, this is my confession: my ministry has been so centered around illness that I failed to adequately see, learn and teach about how vital clergy and congregations are as agents of health in our communities. Granted, as a life-long church member, I have always seen church as vital to spiritual development and faith. And, churches for centuries have cared for the sick. They invented hospitals. I just never reflected much on the role churches can play in improving health. For the past few years, health care, in general, and my work, in particular, have led me to reflect on the power of congregations to do just that. The strengths of congregations are compellingly detailed in Gary Gunderson's *Deeply Woven Roots: Improving the Quality of Life in Your Community*. The book is over 20 years old, but is still relevant today. It speaks of eight strengths found in congregations: accompanying, convening, connecting, telling stories, offering sanctuary, blessing, praying and enduring. Each of these speaks to what we all know—how churches can bring and give life—spiritual, emotional AND physical life to community. After all, you are following Jesus, who took care of bodies and souls. So, to all the congregational clergy and church members reading this, THANK YOU for all the ways you breathe life and health in your communities. We need medical care when we are sick, but we need you to keep us well.

Emily Viverette is a member of FCC, Greensboro

MISSIONFEST!

Mission is happening all over the Church from congregations to regions to general ministries. We're out to celebrate the many creative and varied ways Disciples are having an impact with and for God's children. Please let us know about your project(s) and you might be invited to share your work at the General Assembly in Des Moines!



MISSIONFEST APPLICATION

MissionFest is intended for congregational leaders. The focus is on mission models that congregations can either directly engage or create.

WHAT IS MISSIONFEST?

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) General Assembly invites applicants for MissionFest 2019! MissionFest Presenters will come from congregations or ministries who: (a) have a model mission or (b) a ministry opportunity congregations can participate in. MissionFest will be a featured component of the 2019 General Assembly. MissionFest presenters will create a display and produce brief mission descriptions around their missional ministry. Those selected to present would be asked to provide a representative(s) to serve in the MissionFest space for four hours on two days of General Assembly. Representatives will answer questions and describe their mission. As well, some missional models will be verbally described during the MissionFest presentational times—small stage, short (6 ½ minute) presentation.

<https://ga.disciples.org/exhibitors/mission-fest/?platform=hootsuite>

Click on the link above to apply for a MissionFest opportunity.

2019 DATES TO REMEMBER

February 9	10:00am Regional Board Mtg.-FCC, Wilson (Fellowship Hall)
February 15	Registration deadline for Racial Equity Training
February 16	10:00am CMF Executive Committee Mtg.-Southwood CC, Kinston
February 17	3:00-5:00pm Mill Creek DWM Gathering - FCC, Goldsboro
February 22	10:00am-6:00pm Racial Equity Training (Day 1)-Southpark CC, Charlotte
February 23	8:30am-4:30pm Racial Equity Training (Day 2)-Southpark CC, Charlotte
February 25	Local Church Delegates list for 2019 Regional Assembly due to the Regional Office
February 27	10:00am-12:00pm Church Growth Commission Mtg.-FCC, Wilson (Parlor)
February 28	Lent Devotional Submissions due to Rev. Kara Swartz
March 1-3	Chi Rho Spring Retreat-Camp Caroline
March 3	Regional Assembly Registration Sunday
March 6	Lent Begins- <i>40-Days of Lent together as a Prayer-Driven and Spirit-Led Region</i>
March 8-10	DWM Spring "A Day Apart" Retreat-Camp Caroline
March 16	Camp Caroline Workday
March 24	3:00pm Ordination of Minister Jamie Haddock-Broad Street CC, New Bern
April 7	3:00pm Ordination of Minister Marilyn Williams-Covenant CC, Cary
April 14	3:00pm Pastoral Installation of Rev. David Harrison-FCC, Winston-Salem
April 21	Lent Ends
April 25	Hookerton District Mtg.-FCC, Greenville
April 26	10am-4:00pm Boundaries Training I-FCC, Wilson (Fellowship Hall)
April 27	171st Regional Assembly-Barton College, Wilson