

September 2004

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# THE CAPITAL AREA CHRISTIAN

## Hurricanes Devastate Florida Region

Four hurricanes have swept through Florida and the south-east US in the last six weeks. Any number of Disciples members have been severely affected. Some of the congregational homes have been damaged. The damage actually has moved as far north as West Virginia and Pennsylvania where 10-18 inches of rain has fallen as each storm moved through the east. We have also had severe damage among our members

in Puerto Rico.

You have already been there! Your gifts to **Week of Compassion** have already been at work, expressing the care of our denomination for our people and others devastated by all that has occurred.

Contributions are always accepted. Send them as general gifts or mark them for "Hurricane victims".

We are taking one more step

to help with the relief effort.

*An offering will be taken during the Regional Assembly for Hurricane Relief earmarked for the Florida Region which is holding its Regional Assembly at the same time that we are holding ours.*

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## Assembly Speaker to Have Surgery

### Rev. Randall Being Replaced by Rev. Nadine Burton

The Rev. Eugene Randall, Church Extension, learned that he was to have surgery to remove his parathyroid less than two weeks before the Assembly. Because of the recovery time, that means that he is not going to be able to deliver the Friday evening address at the Assembly. We offer our prayer support to Rev.

Randall through the surgery and in the recovery period.

The Rev Nadine Burton, New Church Specialist for African-American Church starts at Church Extension will take Rev. Randall's place. We welcome Rev. Burton to our Assembly and are very grateful for her willingness to step in to speak on such short notice. Rev. Burton served at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church before moving

to our General Unit, Church Extension. Her work includes coaching new church pastors and is leading the effort to begin African-American Churches, including the upcoming summit on African-American new church starts. Thank you Nadine, for coming on such short notice!

## A CAPITAL COMMENT: Telling the Story in New Ways

*“These twelve Jesus sent out, charging them ‘go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel...Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons.’” (Matt 10.5a,6 and 8 RSV)*

One definition of insanity is doing the same thing again and again, but expecting different results each time. When our corporate memory is filled with images of full churches, large youth groups and huge financial contributions building new and better facilities, we fixate on repeating the past to get things back to the way they were. But the reality is that the period from 1950-1965 is an anomaly in the history of Christianity.

**Seldom has Christianity been popular. More often, it has been the leaven in the lump.** The conditions which created that era historians call “Christendom” are no longer present. Gone are the Cold War, the immediate threat of nuclear annihilation, the return of a generation of men who had made foxhole promises to God, the introduction of mass communication used to help spread the Good News and most importantly, a culture in which the language, images and metaphors were Christian AND which urged people to participate in Church..

Our success was due mostly to the circumstances around us and little to the activity of Church folk in telling the stories of Jesus and inviting people to Church. That is to say, most mainline Protestants did not know how to evangelize anyone. In fact, *because of our Biblical ignorance, it is harder for many to even tell the faith story.*

To change this, I believe three things must occur. **First, we have got to get back to studying the Scriptures.** We need to relearn the stories, but also recapture the whole story of God’s love. The Bible is not a weapon, but rather the history of God’s love for humanity and efforts to redeem, renew and reconcile us to each other and especially to God.

**Second, we must begin to be evangelical, which means we must tell people why WE are Christians and WHY others should be.** This begins by creating communities in which everyone is safe and valued. It is about eternity, but it is about tomorrow as well. Until we can tell people why the value system of the community of faith matters, and prove it by living it as best we can, it will be difficult to attract anyone else to the faith.

**Finally, we must find the mission that God is calling us to do. In so doing, we act out our conviction that behavior matters.** I have a few creative suggestions, that some of you are doing in our Region! Are these things your congregation would like to do or inspire you to do something different

**Aspen Hill** resettled two Columbians; **First Hagerstown** tried to gather 1,500 book bags for inner city youth to start the school year. The **Lansdowne** congregation has built a patio with a large Disciple Chalice and does free outdoor concerts for the neighborhood. **Hyattstown** is developing Camp Starfish, a camp for children of county-incarcerated adults. **Christian Temple**

keeps Kaleidoscope going, a summer arts camp; while **Heritage** has a puppet ministry that is enlarging their children’s ministry. **Falls Church** and **Mt Rainier** have nested an Hispanic congregation; **National City** has developed the Gethsemane Project, and **Twelfth Street** has housed the Bradley Christian Mission Center. **Pilgrimage** has become a satellite feeding center, as well as continuing its children’s ministry. **Winchester Ave** has a strong scouting program, including a number of God and Country award winners. **Michigan Park** is gathering shoes for Africa and trying to start a shoe factory there. (The list is not exhaustive!)

The question is, “With the human potential that your congregation has and the neighborhoods in which both your members and the Church house exists, what is God asking you to do to bring the Good News to life in word and deed?” Unless and until we do this, we will be doing the same thing again and again! And the wineskins will burst allowing those hearing the Good News to pour through our fingers and not join the community of faith..

*Seeking to Sew New Wineskins for God*

*And Tell the Old Story in New Ways,*

*Lari*

## Sir Walter Scott Installed at Bethany Beach

Labor Day Weekend is always a busy weekend at Bethany Beach, DE. This year it included the installation of **Sir Walter Scott** as the **Pastor at Bethany Beach Christian Church** in Bethany Beach, DE.

Rev. Scott has served as the

Pastor since May, serving part time as Senior Pastor and part time as Manager at the Bethany Beach Conference Center. Rev. Scott's call represents the first time that the congregation has had full time presence in the community in the six year existence of the congregation.

We congratulate Rev. Scott for all that he is doing to grow the new congregation as well as to serve the guests at the Bethany Beach Conference Center.



**YAC 2004  
(Bethany Beach, DE)**

**Marek Ulicny , Lari Grubbs,  
Martin Saral, Sir Walter  
Scott, Evgueni Stoupinski**

## New Pastors Called to Capital Area

**Henson Valley Christian Church in Fort Washington, MD** has completed the search and call process and September 1<sup>st</sup>, the **Rev. Patricia (Pat) Rizer** has begun her ministry there. Pat is also serving the Region as a *member of the Commission for Congregational Life*. Her husband, **George**, served as a Licensed Minister in the Pennsylvania Region and has done some pulpit supply around the Region. Welcome Pat and George!

**North Chevy Chase (MD) Christian Church** has called the **Rev. Laird Thomason** as their interim

pastor while the search for their next settled pastor continues. Rev. Thomason **resigned** as the part time pastor at the **English Consul Christian Church in Baltimore, MD** to accept this position. Welcome back to full-time congregational ministry, Laird.

The **Rev. Hal Dungan** has been called as the **Intentional Interim at Springfield (VA) Christian Church**. Hal has begun the process of the Intentional Interim program and will be with the congregation no less than a year. The **Rev. Dr.**

**Valeria Eley** has also been called to serve the **Education position** on staff. Congratulations, Hal and Valerie.

The **Rev. Lee Hull Moses** has accepted the call of **First Christian Church, Falls Church, VA** as the **Associate Minister for Family Life**. We welcome Lee to the Capital Area and are pleased to have her as a part of the Ministerial Team serving in the Region.

## Two Candidates to be Ordained

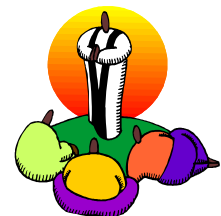
The month of October will be very busy. Two ordination services will be held in the Region. **John Cheadle** will be **ordained at Christian Temple in Baltimore MD on Sunday, October 10 at 2:00 pm**. The public is welcome and all Regional clergy are encouraged to be a part of

the service.

**Robin Moscati** is to be **ordained at the First Christian Church of Alexandria, VA on Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.**

Again, this is a public event and everyone is welcome to help celebrate the latest two lives

called by God and received by the Church into the Order of Ministry as an ordained minister.



*Sir Walter Scott  
installed at Bethany  
Beach as Senior  
Pastor and  
Part-Time Manager  
at Bethany Beach  
Conference Center!  
September 2004*

# The 22nd Peter Ainslie Lecture on Christian Unity



**Dr. Peter M. Morgan**

Retired President, Disciples of Christ Historical Society

## "Life after the 'Last Will and Testament': The Stories of Two Faithful Executors"

**Saturday, October 30, 2004**

National City Christian Church  
5 Thomas Circle, Washington, D.C.

**Dinner at 5:30 pm - \$15.00 per person**  
(Reservations Required for Dinner Only)  
**Organ concert at 6:45 pm in Sanctuary**  
**Lecture at 7:00 pm in Sanctuary**

Presented by Council on Christian Unity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

For information and reservations contact:

Rozanne Robertson at [rozanne@ccu.disciples.org](mailto:rozanne@ccu.disciples.org) or call 317-713-2586



**2004 CCCA Regional Staff**  
**Robert Winter, Stephen**  
**Farley, Rene Wood,**  
**Lari Grubbs, Karen Gee**

## 2004 CCCA Calendar of Events

- OCTOBER** Twelfth Street CC is celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary!
- Oct 4 Trustees Meeting - Reg. Office - 6:00 pm - w/Randy Johnson
  - Oct 7 Assembly Planning Comm. - DoubleTree - 6:00 pm
  - Oct 8-10 Close Bethany Beach for season - Conference Center
  - Oct 9 Anti-Racism Team - Martha Brown Home - 9:30 am
  - Oct 10 John Cheadle Ordination - Christian Temple - 2:00 pm
  - Oct 15 Installation of Ohio Regional Minister, Bill Edwards - Canton, Ohio
  - Oct 17 Robin Moscati Ordination - FCC Alexandria, VA - 5:00 pm
  - Downsville CC - celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary - 10:00 a.m.
  - Heritage CC - celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary - 5:30 pm
  - Oct 22 **CCCA Ministerial Association meeting** - FCC Falls Church, VA -10:00 a.m.
  - Oct 22-23 **CCCA REGIONAL ASSEMBLY** - DoubleTree in Falls Church, VA
  - Oct 23 **CCCA REGIONAL ASSEMBLY BUSINESS SESSION AND CLOSING**  
**WORSHIP** -FCC, Falls Church, VA 2:00 p.m.
  - Oct 25 Jan Linn - North Chevy Chase CC - 7:00 pm
  - Oct 30 **Peter Ainslie Lecture** - Dr. Peter Morgan - National City CC, Wash. DC 5:30 p.m.
- NOVEMBER**
- Nov 1 CCCA Trustees - Conference Call - 6:00 pm
  - Nov 11 Pastoral Relations Committee - Rockville CC - 7:00 pm
  - Nov 13 Regional Board meeting - Christian Temple - 9:00 am
  - Nov 24-25 OFFICE CLOSED - THANKSGIVING
- DECEMBER**
- Dec 4 Lay Institute - Hyattstown - CC 9:00 am
  - Dec 10-14 TLC/CRM - Nashville, TN
  - Dec 24 OFFICE CLOSED - CHRISTMAS

## Regional Minister Visitation Schedule

*The Regional Minister has been asked to preach or be present at the congregations listed below.*

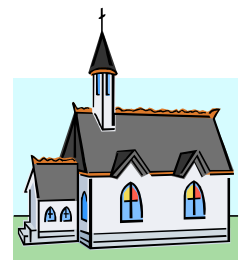
### November

- 7 - Henson Valley CC, Ft. Washington, MD - Install Pat Rizer
- 14 - FCC Baltimore, MD - preach
- 21 - Rockville CC, Rockville, MD - preach
- 28 - Open
- Aspen Hill - 5:00 p.m.

### December

- 5 - Ft. Washington CC, Ft. Washington, MD - preach
- Whosoever Will CC - 9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - 2:30 pm
- 12 - TLC/CRM - Nashville, TN
- 19 - Open
- 26 - National City CC, Washington, DC - preach

*2004 CCCA  
 Regional  
 Assembly to be  
 held Friday,  
 October 22<sup>nd</sup> -  
 Saturday, October  
 23<sup>rd</sup> in  
 Falls Church, VA*



**Fall 2004  
 Regional Minister Visitation  
 Schedule**  
[http://  
 www.cccadisciples.org/  
 calendar/calendar.php](http://www.cccadisciples.org/calendar/calendar.php)



CAPITAL AREA CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)  
REGIONAL OFFICE

11501 Georgia Avenue  
Suite 400  
Wheaton, MD 20902

Phone: 301-942-8266  
Fax: 301-942-8366  
Email: [mail@cccadisciples.org](mailto:mail@cccadisciples.org)

**We're online!**

**[www.cccadisciples.org](http://www.cccadisciples.org)**

## Highlights—Summer 2004 Corn Roast



## Sow Reconciliation, Reap Justice

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was the first denomination to respond to the violence of the 1960's surrounding the effort to gain equal rights for African-Americans. A million dollars was pledged to help end this injustice and work for reconciliation. The effort to raise that money took the form of the Reconciliation Offering. It is received every year in the early fall.

The Reconciliation offering is divided with half going to the Reconciliation Work in the Office of General Minister and President. The Rev. Eugene

Fisher administers this program and because of this offering many Anti-Racism Teams have been trained throughout the whole Church.

But the hard work has just begun. Read the message from our own Dr. Hobgood on the Reconciliation flyer. Our Anti-Racism work gets one half of the offering and will be used to do trainings in congregations and witness against racism. But the hard work of reconciliation can only occur once we stand on equal footing, without advantage of one over the other. We must still plant seeds of reconciliation.

Please give generously!

