



THE CHRISTIAN

ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA

A Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) In Alabama-Northwest Florida Publication

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER

- 8 Committee on the Ministry (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
11 Reconciliation Committee (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
11 Executive/Personnel Committee (11:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
14 Staff Planning meeting (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
12 - 19 Christmas Offering (for ministries of the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region)

JANUARY, 2011

- 10 - 12 Ministers and Mates Retreat - Hilton Garden Inn, Orange Beach, AL
14 - 16 Young Adult Retreat - Camp Chandler
18 - 25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
19 Licensing and Ordination I (9:15 a.m.) - Regional Office
21 - 23 Youthtopia (for youth grades 6 - 12) - Camp Chandler
24 - 25 Colleague Group Kick-Off Retreat - Holiday Inn Resort, Ft. Walton Beach, FL
29 Regional Convocation Board (10:00 a.m.) - New Hope Christian Church

FEBRUARY, 2011

- 1 Licensing and Ordination II (9:15 a.m.) - United Christian Church, Montgomery
4 Senior Adult Ministry Cabinet (Noon) - Regional Office
5 CWF/Disciples Women's Cabinet (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
11 Division of Administration and Stewardship (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
12 Regional Board (10:00 a.m.) - Grace Christian Church, Helena
18 - 19 "What If...?" - Congregational Transformation Event - First Christian Church, Birmingham
20 - 27 Week of Compassion Offering
24 - 25 College of Regional Ministers - Indianapolis, IN
26 - March 1 General Board of the Christian Church - Indianapolis, IN

GOD'S ACTIVITY AMONG US

(stories of how God is using the Christian Church to touch and transform lives)

God is at work in the lives of the Chastain family of Auburn, Alabama. Barbie Chastain grew up in church, but fell away after her mother's drawn-out and agonizing death. Barbie had quit her job as an RN to care for her mother in her final days. She found herself feeling empty and seeking to ease her pain, tried drugs, alcohol, and relationships that became abusive. During this time, she allowed her nursing license to lapse. When she came to herself, she moved to Auburn to be closer to family. Making the move meant leaving behind what little she had left after the years of addiction and starting over with almost nothing. The next two years were hard on everyone in the family, with no income other than irregular child support.

Two years ago, Barbie and her four children lived in chaos in a low-income housing project. Barbie was contemplating moving her family again because she was unhappy and she thought that a change of place might give them a chance to start over. Instead, she brought her children to Village Christian Church and "it immediately felt like home." Barbie says "the church loved us and did not judge us, and anchoring our week around church has greatly decreased the chaos in our household. Learning about the Bible each week, singing the faith, hearing sermons that seem to speak directly to me, all encourage me to focus on God and not on my problems. It works. The congregation feels like family to us." Diane Wood, the pastor of Village CC reports that the arrival of the four Chastain children brought a new energy to the congregation and resulted in the formation of a children's Sunday School class for the first time in many years. This gave the church the impetus to begin an adult SS class also.

All four children went to traditional camp this summer and had a great experience. Barbie reports "I don't know what happened there, but that camp saved my oldest son. He had begun heading down the wrong path but now he is back on track."

Thanks be to God for bringing this family back from the brink!

—submitted by Diane Wood, Pastor, Village Christian Church

[Editor's note: This story reminds us that our congregations do indeed make a difference in people's lives. The message we proclaim about God's unconditional love is not an empty message. It is the truth. And the truth of that message is confirmed again and again as people experience communities of faith that bear witness, by their actions and hospitality, to the power of God's love.]

GOD'S ACTIVITY AMONG US

(stories of how God is using the Christian Church to touch and transform lives)

The Sunday worship services at Grateful Life Community Church, Huntsville, communicate God's care and compassion for all those who gather, no matter what background or social status they occupy. Not only are all invited to the table of the Lord each Sunday, they are also invited to come forward for the healing service that is incorporated into worship. Each person brings his or her own special needs to God in a time of prayer and anointing. As persons come forward they receive, individually, a prayer of blessing and an anointing with oil from Pastor Sherry Birney. The healing service and the communion service are powerful moments where individuals are reminded of the great value that God has placed upon them.

One Sunday a woman who lives in the nearby mission was at church. She had been very sick with pneumonia and other illnesses. She had been led to believe that she would never leave the hospital due to how sick she had become. But here she was – back at church. She came to Pastor Sherry and told her that the lesson from Psalm 23 that they were studying that day was true. Her life was a living testimony to its truth.

The woman went on to explain that even though she had been very sick she had managed to make it to church the week before and was part of the healing and anointing service. During that week her health had improved and she was back in attendance the next Sunday as a witness to God's power. She said that the portion of Psalm 23 that says, "thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over," is true and could have been taken from her own experience. She referred to the healing and anointing service from the week before and the power she had felt from receiving God's blessing.

This woman's story is evidence that God does, indeed, touch people's bodies, hearts, and minds as they open themselves to God in our worship services.

— story based on a recent conversation between the Regional Minister and Pastor Sherry Birney

[Editor's note: Stories, submitted by our readers, are needed for this regular feature of our newsletter. Pastors, in particular, are asked to share stories that celebrate the ways that God is working in the ministries of Disciples congregations in Alabama-Northwest Florida.]

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us."

— 2007 Disciples Identity Statement



2011 MINISTERS AND MATES RETREAT

All ministers with standing and persons in ministry care, and their mates, are encouraged to make their plans to attend the 2011 Ministers and Mates Retreat, which will be held January 10-12, 2011, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Orange Beach, Alabama. Rev. Ron J. Degges, President of Disciples Home Missions, will be our guest leader. He has offered the following theme for his presentations, "Fifty-four Years, Four Months, Seventeen Days: Relationships That Enhance Our Living." Commenting on this title, Rev. Degges says, "At the heart of religion are the twins called celebration and trouble. They intersect most noticeably in the life of the religious leader. They have the ability either to empower the leader to develop broader relationships with others or to withdraw into a 'rather lonely' existence. To go it alone or together, that is the question."

Ron Degges is gifted with a deep, joyous, articulate, and always respectful-of-others faith that has been a constant inspiration to his parishioners, colleagues in ministry, and ecumenical and interfaith partners. Ron motivates and inspires people. He sees the qualities of others and taps into them, inviting and guiding them to contribute. He then helps them be successful. Through his 30-plus years in ministry serving churches in Maryland, Iowa, Delaware, Virginia, and California, Ron has seen and experienced the Disciples from coast to coast.

Ron Degges is a graduate of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., and Yale University Divinity School in New Haven, Conn. Until January 2009, when Ron began his service as DHM President, he lived in Los Angeles with his wife of almost 22 years, Deniese Ruth Degges. Ron is father of five children: Joshua, Randall, Joey, Hope and Michele.

The Ministers and Mates Retreat is sponsored annually by the Region's Committee on the Ministry. The event is subsidized through special donations and through the Ministerial Education and Support funds of the Region. Participants are asked to pay a nominal cost of \$30 per person. Information was mailed to persons with ministerial standing and those in Ministry Care in October.



REFLECTIONS FROM THE REGIONAL MINISTER

In April of 2010, the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region approved a “Statement of Mission Priorities” at its 2010 Regional Assembly. This statement helps the Region understand where to place its energies and resources during the next decade. It specifies certain areas in which congregations are seeking to partner with the Region. As a result, there are commitments the Region will make in being faithful to those partnerships.

But who is “the Region?” By “Region” do we mean some “other” entity that is going to be a partner with our congregations in these major areas? It is important to understand that the Region is NOT an outside entity, but rather it is an extension of each congregation’s own ministry. We are a Region together. The Region is an expression of our commitment to work together in the mission and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. If the Region is to be faithful and effective in pursuing these mission priorities that were passed in April, it will be because Disciples individuals and congregations in Alabama-Northwest Florida are committed to those priorities.

To that end, the clergy in Alabama-Northwest Florida have been challenged to make specific commitments to help us be faithful to these stated priorities. Each minister was given a commitment sheet in August with many options listed as ways that he or she can contribute to the priorities. I think it is significant that many of our ministers have made thoughtful responses and have returned their forms to the Regional office. I want to honor them, and thank them, by acknowledging them by name. They are:

Dale Braxton	Carl Gebhardt	Franklin Nettles	Sarah Draper
Ana Diaz	Jose Diaz	Betty Wright	Willie Timmons
Edd Spencer	Ben West	Roger Peadro	Bob Stegall
Ken Whisenant	Bill Bagby	Kathy Menser	Diana Hodges-Batzka
Susan Diamond	Mary Pat Spencer	Tommie Means	Danny Barfield
Diane Wood	Carl Flock	Nisha Warbington	John Lambert
Wallace Robinson	Phillip Hayes	Tommy Morgan	James Clifford
Paul Ingram	Cameron Douglas	Otis Head	Danny Reeves
John Gregory	John Mobley	Vivian Oliver	

These clergy leaders are indicating their own understanding that this Region can only be as strong and meaningful as we, together, help it to be strong and meaningful. By working together, with each one of us doing our part, we can become an effective instrument for carrying out the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If there are other ministers who have not yet turned in their commitment forms, I encourage them to do so after prayerfully considering their own roles in helping us address these priorities.

Your partner in ministry,

John P. Mobley

REFLECTIONS FROM THE ASSOCIATE REGIONAL MINISTER

"Love without Limits"



We live in a world that is filled with many opportunities for rejection and hardships. That is why many persons spend so much time and money trying to be accepted by what they perceive to be the societal norms, because rejection is difficult to accept. That perhaps is why there are so many auxiliaries within the body of the organized church—to provide opportunities for many who would otherwise feel all alone to find acceptance of themselves by others within a safe and close environment. Parents often try to have their children involved in many activities—upward basketball, upward soccer, piano, jazz, ballet, girls scouts, or boys scouts as a means of having them learn how to fit in.

If you have ever experienced any feeling of rejection as a child or as an adult ; if you can recall a time when you did not feel particularly welcome as a part of a group, then perhaps you can identify with the central character of the story of the Samaritan woman. As Jesus came by, on this day this Samaritan woman was about to draw her water, about one o'clock in the afternoon, about midday, when the sun was high and sweat was pouring down her brow. This day Jesus had a trip to make. He had several choices but he had a need to go through Samaria. The one who directs all steps and our paths, the Guiding Light, found himself with a choice to make. He could follow the same route that the Jews before him had taken, which means by passing Samaria altogether, or he could take a more direct route in which he would have to confront Samaria and all of its problems. As Jesus traveled he became thirsty and in need of water and as divine providence would have it, the only one at the well was a woman of Samaria, who others had intentionally ignored.

As Jesus approached the well, the woman probably assumed that he, being both a Jew and a man, would not confer with her, a woman of Samaria. But love changes the way you handle every life situation. Love grows out of forgiveness. The greater the forgiveness, the greater the joy and gratitude, and out of that gratitude and joy comes greater love. We are confronted with decisions to make and we should ask the question, "do I take the same route others have taken or do I follow the path Jesus has for me?"

Jesus loves us without limits. Therefore we should love no matter who they are what they do. Love people regardless of their faults. Love them unconditionally. God's love draws people, but our attitude often pushes them away. But if there is love, then that love draws and keeps them. Love is the strongest bonding agent in the universe. Love without limits. Jesus did.

Glad to serve,

Dale C. Braxton

Deadline for the next issue:
January 1, 2011

Christmas Special Day Offering

**God so loved...
that God
Gave.**



This offering will be received on December 12 and 19, 2010, and supports the ministries of the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region.

THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE OF THE LABYRINTH IS NOW AVAILABLE TO THE ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA REGION



The Santa Rosa Labyrinth ® Lea Goode-Harris, Ph.D.

The Division of Nurture recently approved the purchase of a 24-foot Santa Rosa canvas labyrinth for use throughout the Region. Walking the labyrinth is an ancient spiritual practice that has recently been revived, but not every community has a labyrinth available. The only one at a Disciple church in our Region is at Village Christian Church in Auburn. The Chartres-style outdoor labyrinth was constructed as a Miracle Day project in 2006.

Diane Wood, pastor of Village Christian Church, received grants this year from DHM and from the Regional Ministerial Education and Support fund to become a Veriditas-trained labyrinth facilitator. She is available to provide programs about the labyrinth and to bring our new Regional labyrinth to be used at your location. Labyrinth walks are suitable for all ages and can be incorporated into special worship services, leadership retreats, community events, and Taize-style worship, just to name a few examples.

“WHAT IF...?” - FEBRUARY 18-19, 2011
(A Region-wide Congregational Transformation Event)

The Program Committee on Church Development for the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region is planning a dynamic weekend event for all leaders and members of Alabama-Northwest Florida congregations. “What If...?” is the theme of the fourth annual congregational transformation event. This event will be hosted by First Christian Church, Birmingham, on Friday and Saturday, February 18 and 19, 2011. The Committee has been able to enlist some impressive leaders for both the worship and workshops that will be a part of this gathering.



On Friday evening, the Region will gather in worship at 7:30 p.m. **Rev. Todd Adams**, Associate General Minister and President for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), will be preaching during this worship service. On Saturday morning, there will be a morning worship service that will expose participants to some different approaches to worship that have been effective in attracting younger generations. The service of worship will be led by the **Rev. Suzanne Castle**, Associate Minister for THE SEARCH (an emergent worshiping community) and Campus Ministries at University Christian Church in Ft. Worth, TX. Following the opening worship on Saturday morning, a variety of workshops will be offered in three different workshop times. Participants may choose to participate in three different workshops during the day.



Rev. Todd Adams has served as Associate General Minister since June, 2007. Prior to that he served in Houston, Texas, as senior minister with Memorial Drive Christian Church. Rev. Adams has done extensive work in stewardship, including a doctoral dissertation entitled, “The Steward as Leader: A Model for Leadership in the Modified Congregational Context.” In his role as Associate General Minister, Rev. Adams has given leadership to the church’s promotion of Disciples Mission Fund and he has been involved in helping the church grow in its commitment to financial stewardship. Much in demand as a preacher and keynoter, Rev. Adams has been the featured speaker in 22 of 33 Regions and also in university settings.

Rev. Adams received his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Chapman University in Orange, CA, and his Master of Divinity from Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, OK. He received his Doctorate in Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. He has been married to Kimberly for 16 years and they have two children, Claire and Jackson.

Rev. Suzanne Castle is currently completing her Doctorate in Liturgical Studies and Worship from the Institute for Worship Studies. She received her bachelor’s degree in music, dance, and theater from West Texas A&M, and she received a master of divinity degree from Claremont School of Theology. In addition to her leadership with the emergent worship service at University Christian Church, her other areas of ministry include worship and the arts and evangelism. Rev. Castle has authored articles and devotional material, and has served the greater church community as a Worship Consultant and as a featured workshop leader and keynote speaker. She has also had the honor of serving in worship planning for Regional Assemblies and two General Assemblies with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Rev. Castle has served churches in California, Florida and Texas.

She enjoys spending time with her two adopted human daughters—Lizzie and Ava; and her canine daughter—Gidget.

This Region-wide event is aimed at helping congregational leaders imagine new ways of ministering in the name of Christ in today's world. As Disciples, we claim to be "a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world." What if we were truly such a movement? What might be different? What would need to change? Who would we need to pay attention to that we are currently ignoring? These are the tough questions that can lead to congregational transformation.

Congregations may pay a \$250 registration fee to cover the cost of any number of persons that wish to participate from that congregation. Lunch is included for all participants. The cost of an individual registration is \$25, which includes lunch. Registration forms were included in the November Leader's Packet and are also available on-line at <www.alnwfldisciples.org>

BOUNDARY TRAINING OFFERED ON FEBRUARY 19

The Alabama-Northwest Florida Region is sponsoring a Boundary Training workshop for all church volunteers or employees who work with youth and children. This workshop will be offered at First Christian Church, Birmingham, on Saturday morning, February 19, 2011, in conjunction with the "What If...?" congregational transformation event.

The Region provided boundary training for church volunteers in 2007. Such training is required for congregations that operate under "safe church" policies and it is highly recommended for all congregations. Nisha Warbington, Youth Ministries Staff Person for the Region, will give leadership to this boundary training workshop. Please encourage all volunteers from your congregation who work with children and/or youth to participate. There is no additional registration fee for this workshop. The registration fee for "What If...?" will cover participants who choose to come to this workshop.

FRANKLIN NETTLES IS RECIPIENT OF A SCHOLARSHIP GRANT FROM THE MILDRED B. WATSON MEMORIAL FUND

Established in 2008, the Mildred B. Watson Memorial Fund is a special fund of the Region which assists Disciples leaders, particularly young adults, as they develop leadership skills and gain greater awareness of the ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The recipient of a grant from this fund in 2010 is Franklin Nettles, who serves as licensed minister with Mt. Zion Christian Church in White Hall, Alabama. The committee that administers this fund received Franklin's application for assistance to attend the General Assembly of the Christian Church in 2011 and recognized that his attendance would not be possible with this grant. The grant was awarded to Franklin as a means of helping him develop as a Disciples leader by having this exposure to the many and varied ministries of the church that are represented at a general assembly.

Grant applications are considered in October of each year. Please contact the Regional Minister for an application if you would like to make a request for consideration in October, 2011.

DISCIPLES MEN - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!
MEN'S RETREAT - MARCH 18-19, 2011

The annual Men's Retreat is planned for March 18-19, 2011, at YMCA-Hargis. The Men's Cabinet has put together a great retreat filled with fun, fellowship, and challenge for all men in the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region. The theme for the 2011 Men's Retreat is "Living Generously." The guest leader for the retreat will be Rev. Bruce Barkhauer, Minister of Faith and Giving for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). More information will be provided as we get closer to the date. Please protect this date on your calendars.

A promotional flyer and registration form were included in the November Leader's Packet and will be included in the January Packet also. Please contact the Regional office if this information is needed.

Congregations that have formally committed to expressing "true community" through intentional efforts to work against racism and toward reconciliation.

First Christian Church, Anniston
Primera Iglesia Cristiana Hispana, Anniston
First Christian Church, Birmingham
Valley Christian Church, Birmingham
First Christian Church, Ft. Walton Beach
First Christian Church, Huntsville
Mt. Pleasant Christian Church, Mathews
Snow Hill Christian Church, Mt. Willing
First Christian Church, Pensacola

STATEMENT AFFIRMING AN ANTI-RACIST IDENTITY

Recognizing the division that exists within the human family due to the sin of racism, the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region confirms its commitment to the call of the gospel of Jesus Christ to be an ambassador of unity and reconciliation. The Alabama-Northwest Florida Region confesses its own participation in the sin of racism and is committed to the dismantling of racism wherever it exists in its own institutional life and in the life and witness of its congregations.

Therefore, the Regional Board, on February 23, 2002, affirms all current and future efforts within the Alabama-Northwest Region to become an Anti-Racist manifestation of the Body of Christ. This affirmation will be demonstrated through prayer, allocation of resources, and organized efforts to challenge racism wherever it exists within the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region.

NEWS OF THE CLERGY

Danny Reeves was presented with a ministerial license for his ministry as pastor with Mt. Pleasant Christian Church in Mathews, AL, on Sunday, October 24. **Franklin Nettles** was presented with a ministerial license for his ministry as pastor with Mt. Zion Christian Church in White Hall, AL, on Sunday, October 31. **Betty Wright** was ordained into Christian ministry at Union Christian Church, Tuskegee, on Sunday, October 24. **John Willis**, who had been serving as pastor with Roebuck Christian Church, Birmingham, died on October 27. **Shadeed Shareef** concluded his ministry as pastor with United Christian Church, Montgomery, on Nov, 7. **Larue Smith, Jr.** began serving as supply pastor with United Christian Church, Montgomery, on Nov. 14.

CONGREGATIONS SEEKING A MINISTER

Athens, First
Birmingham, Roebuck
Hartselle, First (Jerry Ridling is Interim)
Pensacola, Westwood
Tuscaloosa, First (Phillip Hayes is Interim)

OUTREACH GIVING UPDATE

The giving, through October, 2010, by congregations in Alabama-Northwest Florida to the Disciples Mission Fund and the four Special Day Offerings (Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, and Christmas) is showing a 1.82% decrease from the amount given in 2009. Church-wide gifts to Disciples Mission Fund and the four Special Day Offerings decreased by 6.97% from the amount given year-to-date in 2009. Week of Compassion giving in Alabama-Northwest Florida (regular and designated) increased by 132.73% over the amount given through October, 2009. The 2010 Easter Offering total in Alabama-Northwest Florida has grown by 11.29% over the 2009 year-to-date amount. The Pentecost Offering total in Alabama-Northwest Florida has grown by 43.14% over the 2009 year-to-date amount. The Reconciliation Offering is showing a year-to-date increase of 54.48% over 2009.

Disciples outreach ministries are carried out in partnership between general ministries, ministries of higher education, Regions, congregations, and other related ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The financial support given by your congregation enables this partnership to be effective in carrying out the ministry of Jesus Christ. Your commitment to our shared ministries is greatly appreciated.



Danny Reeves was presented with a ministerial license for his ministry as pastor with Mt. Pleasant Christian Church in Mathews, Alabama, on Sunday, October 24, 2010. Pictured on the left is Pastor Danny Reeves with Associate Regional Minister Dale Braxton.

Women's Fall Retreat was held October 8-10, 2010, at Camp Chandler, near Wetumpka. Rev. Ayanna Johnson (center) was the Resource Leader. Rev. Johnson is a Disciples minister and is currently on the staff of Chicago Theological Seminary. Rev. Johnson provided excellent leadership during the week-end event. Those in attendance participated in workshops, outdoor activities and crafted prayer bracelets. Pictured with Rev. Johnson (left) is Betty Wright, Regional Women's Ministries Staff, and (right) outgoing President of the CWF/DW Cabinet, Kathy Mason, Tuscaloosa, First.



The Ninth Annual Senior Adult Retreat was held on November 4-5, 2010, at Rolling Hills Camp and Conference Center. The theme was "Sweeter As the Years Go By." Twenty-eight persons participated in the retreat.



Betty Wright was ordained into the ministry at Union Christian Church on October 24, 2010. Pictured here are participants in the service. Row one (l-r): Betty Wright and Jeremy Harbin (host pastor). Row two (l-r): Kay Stegall (Regional Moderator), Stuart Price (Congregational Board Chairperson and Regional Moderator-Elect), and Hilda Story (Committee on the Ministry Representative). Row three (l-r): John Mobley (regional Minister), Dale Braxton (Associate Regional Minister), and Terry Harper (former minister at Union Christian Church who preached during the service).

Ambassadors for Christ received a certificate recognizing its full affiliation with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on October 17, 2010. Pictured here are (l-r): Willie Wilson (Board Chairperson), Dale Braxton (Associate Regional Minister), Pamela Wilson (Pastor), and John Mobley (Regional Minister).



Franklin Nettles was presented with a ministerial license for his ministry as pastor with Mt. Zion Christian Church in White Hall, Alabama, on Sunday, October 31, 2010. Pictured here are (l-r): John Mobley (Regional Minister), Franklin Nettles (Pastor), Teresa Nettles (Pastor's Wife), Moses Bandy (Board Chairperson), and Solivia Jackson (Elder).

Mark Underwood was presented with a ministerial license as Student Associate Minister at Madison Christian Church on Sunday, November 21, 2010. Pictured here are (l-r): Beth Thomason (Pastor), Mark Underwood, and John Mobley (Regional Minister).



Special acknowledgment is given to **Rev. Bob Stegall** for his work in beautifying the frontage of the Regional office. Over the past few months, his donation of plants, his creativity, and his hours of hard labor have resulted in an appealing yard in front of the office on County Road 52 in Helena.

Thank you, Bob, for so generously sharing your time and your gardening skills with all who visit the Regional office.

THE ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA REGION EXPRESSES ITS SINCERE GRATITUDE TO ALL WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE 2010 ANNUAL FUND

(* denotes a Board member, **denotes a staff person)

David Aichele
John & Frances Alford
Mr. & Mrs. William Bagby
Moses Bandy
Mr. & Mrs. Deryll Banning
Melanie Barton
Dorothy Battle
Patricia Betts
**Mr. & Mrs. Dale Braxton
Lou & Carolyn Brown
Steve & Allison Brown
*Rickie Brunner
Mack & Libby Carpenter
Mr. & Mrs. George Castillo
Ray & Bonnie Cates
H.E. & Elise Christiansen
Stephen Chun
Jim & Janice Clifford
C.J. & Nancy Cobb
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Coffey
Annie Lee Cole
Lucile Colee
Charles & Cherion Crow
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Cunningham
Dan & Vicki Curnutt & Family

Thomas Davidson
Ron & Susan Diamond
Sarah & Stewart Draper
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Carl Flock
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Ed & Ginny Guindon
Greenville, Ambassadors for Christ
John & Beth Gregory
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Nathan Hartley
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Mr. & Mrs. William Holcombe
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Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Hughes
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Mary Elizabeth Johnson
*Phyllis Kirk
Inez Knowles
John Lambert

Mr. & Mrs. Alan Lindell
Rebecca Littlejohn
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Lovette
*Guy McCombs
Mathews, Mt. Pleasant
Jose' Matos
Eleanora Mauritson
Jayne Meyer
**Mr. & Mrs. John Mobley
Marylou Morgan
Russell & Mary Morrow
Mrs. Sam Murphy
Hubert Nall
Constance Nealey
Sheryl Nelson
Laura E (Betty) Nolan
Jim & Fran Osborne
Eunice Petrey
Mr. & Mrs. Don Pouncey
*Stuart Price
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Redding
Russell & Linda Reeves
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Renner
Jerry Ridling
Ana Rivera-Acevedo

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*Dick & Nancy Sales
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James & Jerrye Smith
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Mr. & Mrs. Tom Stephenson
Don & Sonja Taylor
Sylvia Ann Teague
Jack Templeton
Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Timmons
Willie Timmons
Margaret J. & Mack Vann
Jo Wagner
**Daren & Nisha Warbington
John White
Ethel Williams
Ethelyn Williams
Gloria Williams & Family
**Preston & Betty Wright

Anyone wishing to make a tax deductible contribution to the Annual Fund may do so at any time. Contact the Regional Office at 205-425-5245 or via email at alnwfl@aol.com for a brochure describing the Annual Fund in Alabama-Northwest Florida.

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT 2011 at CAMP CHANDLER

www.campchandler.org



When: January 14-16, 2011 (Begins at 7:00 pm Friday – ends at 2:00 pm Sunday)
Where: YMCA Camp Chandler, 1240 Jordan Dam Road, Wetumpka

Registration is \$100 and includes lodging, food, and program. The Regional Young Adult Ministry will subsidize this event, so **your cost is ONLY \$50, IF YOUR REGISTRATION WITH PAYMENT IS POSTMARKED BY THE DEADLINE DATE**. Service project will be bushwhacking a new trail for a lakeside worship center. Program will feature the book "Oh God, Oh God, Oh God" from Chalice Press, written by young adults. **Registration Deadline is January 3, 2011.**

2011 Youhtopia
Winter Retreat for CYF & Chi Rho (Grades 6-12) At CAMP CHANDLER
www.campchandler.org



Join us as we enjoy a weekend of games, challenges, and adventures led by your Regional Youth Council to Explore "The Fruit of the Spirit"

WHEN: January 21-23 2011

(Begins at 7:00 pm Friday - ends at 10:00 am Sunday)

Cost: \$100.00 (includes lodging, meals, snacks, and T-shirt)

Each church is expected to provide one paid registered adult for every 1-6 youth attending the event. All adults attending must register and pay fees.

REFUND POLICY

Refund Policy for events sponsored by the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region: 100% refund for emergencies, provided that notification is received prior to the beginning of the event; 50% refund for emergencies in which notification(written) is made after the beginning of the event; 100% refund for non-emergencies if requested in writing at least seven days prior to the first day of the event; No refunds will be given for non-emergency cancellations after seven days prior to the beginning of the event. Written requests for refunds must be received by the Regional Office, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080 (email <alnwfl@aol.com>), within seven days of the last day of the event.

While refunds are not available other than as outlined in this policy, substitutions will be allowed as long as the original registrant, or responsible adult, is able to locate an eligible participant who is able to take the slot and as long as the original registrant, or responsible adult, communicates this information to the Regional office. The Region will not be responsible in assisting in identifying a substitute. Notification should be provided to the Regional Office as soon as possible and any substitute must complete the necessary paperwork prior to arrival at the event.

Approved by the Regional Board, February 20, 2010