



Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia **NEWS**

Volume 42, Issue 1

January– February 2008

News of the Order of Ministry



The Reverend Joshua Patty began service as the pastor of Central Christian Church in Fairmont, WV by preaching on January 6th, Epiphany. Joshua is a graduate of the Divinity School at the University of Chicago. Welcome to Reverend Patty and blessings to Central Christian Church.

Rev. Andrea Brownlee was installed as the minister of the Big Run Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on January 13th.

Disciples Men's Lenten Gatherings

Speaker: Tom Jewell

The men of the region will meet in district gatherings for fellowship, worship, a great dinner, and a challenging word from Tom Jewell, Regional Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma. Many will remember Tom as a keynoter at the last regional assembly, a good friend of our region, and a long-time leader in men's work of the General Church. The cost for the evening is \$12. Registration begins at 6:30, followed by dinner at 7:00. A mailing will be coming to each church with reservation information. All men (and boys) of the church, and their friends, are most welcome to attend.

Sunday March 9	District V	Mannington FCC
Monday March 10	District I	Moundsville FCC
Tuesday March 11	District II	New Martinsville FCC
Wednesday Mar 12	District IV	Princeton FCC
Thursday March 13	District III	Charleston-United DOC

WEST VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) NEWS

Published by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia, in the interest of Christ in the West Virginia Region.

Phone: 304-428-1681 Fax: 304-428-1684

Thaddaeus B. Allen, Managing Editor and
Regional Minister

David Chafin, Associate to the Regional Minister
Laura Foust, Administrative Assistant to the
Regional Minister

Parris Witte, Staff Secretary
Jennifer Allen, Newsletter Editor

Spring Women's Gatherings

Theme:

"Listening to God"

Dates: April 5-8,

Speakers:

**Rev. Andrea Brownlee,
Dorothy Brownlee**

Locations:
to be announced.



February 17-24, 2008

Beloved Friends in Christ,

We greet you in the name of Christ! We are excited about this year's offering theme, based on ancient advice to the Hebrews, "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have." (Hebrews 13:16a). Many of our actions and activities are rooted in our desire to serve and love God. We try to live in a way that reflects God's will for our lives and our world. This is our journey as disciples and Disciples of Christ! For the Israelites of the Old Testament, pleasing God began with burnt offerings and sacrifices in the temple.

Instead of asking for burnt offerings, God counts our generosity toward our neighbors as an offering of praise. Matthew's gospel tells us, "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Or as The Message translates it, "Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me — you did it to me."

Through our gifts to Week of Compassion, we respond to God's call by sharing what we have:

- offering the hospitality of a temporary home in a refugee camp or tent city, where people fleeing war or natural disaster find shelter and the support to begin rebuilding their lives
- doing good with our resources to provide a clean cup of water to a thirsty young girl, and to dig wells and sanitation systems that ensure her community lives in better health
- sharing what we have to bring food to the hungry, and strengthening programs that teach sustainable methods of agriculture that help families lift themselves out of poverty

Week of Compassion offers us a way to water our flower of faith, returning us to the "growing medium" of our Christian attitudes and actions. Participating in this offering nourishes the soil in which our faith grows and thrives by remembering and intentionally practicing our response to God's love — singing songs of praise and sharing what we have, pleasing God by celebrating God's grace and by doing good, sharing our resources and changing people's lives.

With deep gratitude for our partnership in the gospel and in service to others, we remain,

Your friends and servants,
Johnny Wray, Director
Amy Gopp, Associate

WITH OUR CONGREGATIONS

Beckley, First (Donald R. Snyder, Pastor) The church will participate in the New Beginnings assessment offered by Church Extension. The youth offered a Christmas treasure, "Bethlehem Speaks." New officers have been installed. 2008 begins with a new roof on the main church building. A fund has been established with the Beckley Area Foundation on behalf of the church. A new bible study and fitness program, *Giving God First Place*, began. The church directory is being updated.

Beech Bottom (Larry Grimes, Pastor) Welcome new member: John Kokosinski. An annual congregational dinner will be held in February. New board members were elected. The church now has an active website. The CWF held a Super Bowl Sunday vegetable soup sale. The Prayer Shawl Ministry is blessing the congregation in a time of love and prayer.

Bethany Memorial Church (Sarah Webb, Pastor) New officers were elected. The CWF continues to meet faithfully. The church held a coffee hour in honor of the new Bethany College President and his wife. There will be a BMC Prayer Retreat March 28-29. A new church directory is being created. The church continues to support mission giving to the Wheeling Soup Kitchen and the Florence Crittenton Home. The youth had Christmas for the residents of Vic Manor. The Nursery Room now has new carpet and is fully renovated. The church is constructing a new Vision-Mission statement. The BMC Bible Study Group continues to meet.

Bluefield, First (Aaron Watkins, Pastor) The youth sent cards and made goodie packages for those serving in the military. The church went Christmas caroling. The new pastor is holding listening sessions to assess congregational future planning. A Ladies exercise class continues to meet at the church. A Men's Spiritual group is being held. The Elder's continue to meet weekly.

Cameron Big Run (Andrea Brownlee, Pastor) New Member: Marilyn Wendt. Rev. Brownlee was installed as the pastor with a church supper following. A "Raise the Roof" campaign has begun. The church roster is being updated. New officers have been elected and installed.

Cameron, First (Walter McNutt, Pastor) Monthly dinners continue to be a wonderful community outreach of the congregation. A Christmas program was held. The ladies of the church assembled gift packages for the YWCA who shelters homeless women in Wheeling. A new fence is being constructed. The men continue to meet for breakfast and do community service projects through this ministry.

Clarksburg, Central (Delma Parris, Pastor) New Committees and board positions have been elected formed. A love sing-along will be held. The church is selling cookbooks and continues their e-fundraiser through www.watkinsonline.

Huntington, Central The new Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to meet at Central. The women continue to meet monthly for reachout/dineout. The church has promoted the Read The Bible In One Year program. The church continues its ministry to the Cridlin Food Pantry.

Huntington, Madison Avenue (Russell Smith, Interim Pastor) New Member: Sara Wilson. The Foundations class continues the Spirit of Giving Project. The Yada, Yada Book Club has begun a new book. The church supported "Operation Christmas Child" by filling 40 shoeboxes.

Thank you to the following for donating to the William B. Allen Ecumenical Ministry Fund:

Judith D. Hudson	James and Lois Drum
Reo H. Gifford	Doris J. Will
Bety Jane Mlcom	Robert L. Friedly
Frances A. Meador	Isotello V. Long
Nancy F. Wade	George T. Harman
Mary Lee Baum	Irene A. Nichols
Jack E. Harris	W. H. File, Jr.
Sharon E Yoho	Richard & Emily Guentert
Virginia L. Marston	Douglas & Jane Aspy
Margaret A. Green	Disciple Women of WV
M. Lynn Humphrey	Margaret E. King
William A. Fink	FCC- Moundsville
Arthur & Angela Joy	Eva F. Benedum
Kenneth Gibson	Georgia D. Wynns
FCC Grafton	Ruth A. Fletcher
Ray and Mary Uhl	FCC -Cameron (CMF)
Wilma Chapman	Angela K. Leach
Charlotte A. Jones	Theodore and Amanda Feitt
Connie L. Neely	FCC -Mannington
Carolyn Scharf	Robert A. and Nancy L. Sandercox
John R. Taylor	Don and Linda Shelton
George & Beva Rhodes	William and JoAnn Chambers
Glynda Marie Walker	Madison Avenue Christian Church
Sue DeVaul	Charlotte M. White
Margaret Conner	Marquis and Susan Johnson
Peggy Howery	Don and Jackie Riggerbach
Faye A. Holley	Oscar E. Moran
Melba C. Crank	Nicholas and Wadeanne Nardo
Louise Kocher	Dollie H. Martin
Donald & Nancy Allen	Willie A. Hancock
Rev. J. D. Lowe	Ray and Mary Uhl
Dolores A. Marshall	Martha and Greg Bane
Patricia Harris	Jerald and Vicky Fuqua
Loretta M. Mooney	Mildred H. Wolford
James E. Moran	Thaddaeus B. Allen Family
Jon A. Howard	Betty Fisher
Joyce Lee Wight	Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Vincent, Jr.
Sarah Laws Spence	Charles and Gertrude Mumper
Peggy E. White	Claudia Lyons
Mary L. Mash	Richard & LeAnn Wickert
Nicholas Winowich	Lawrence & Judy Pyle
Bonnie B. Thurston	Disciple Women of WV
Albert A. Ficca	Joe and Betty Beeson

120th
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
*Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
in West Virginia*



Dr. Peter Morgan



Dr. Sharon Watkins

“Where is
the Body of Christ?”



Rev. Gloria Hernandez



Rev. Arnold Nelson



Rev. Gary Kidwell



Dr. Glenn Carson



Dr. Larry Grimes



Rev. Thaddaeus B. Allen



Rev. Gary F. Lyons

Thursday—Saturday
April 24-26, 2008
Madison Avenue Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) - Huntington, West Virginia



*Registration forms available through your church office,
or download at www.WVDisciples.org*

Please find enclosed registration forms for the upcoming Regional Assembly & Pre-Assembly Elders Event. Please detach these, fill them out and return to the Regional Office:

Christian Church in WV, 1402 Washington Avenue, Parkersburg, WV, 26101.

Beloved in Christ,

It is my joy to both invite and welcome you to this assembly! God has been faithful to us as a Regional Church, and we are blessed indeed to look forward to these exciting days together.

My deep hope is that you will make plans now to be with us for the weekend, and that you will be in much prayer as we prepare to renew our baptismal vows and our various callings to ministry in Christ's body and the world.

The planning and program for this sacred time of assembly are excellent. Through our time together we will grow, learn, share and be invigorated in the faith that keeps us close in the Church and in our Lord.

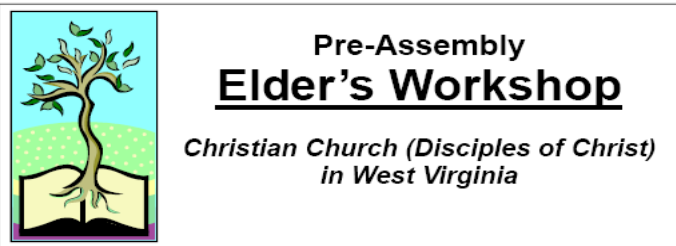
We will be gathering in a fine town and in a most excellent host church. I commend this assembly of God's people to both your calendar and your prayers. So come and be a vital part of the Body of Christ.

Grace and Peace!

+ *Thaddaeus E. Allen*

Special Needs

If there is a condition which requires special attention (mobility or otherwise), please note here:



Thursday, April 24, 2008 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Vinson Memorial Christian Church

Huntington, West Virginia

Elders/Spiritual Leaders:
Questing for
Spiritual Roots



Rev. Dr. Peter M. Morgan
 President Emeritus—Disciples of Christ Historical Society
 Historian in Residence—National City Christian Church

Elders Workshop Registration

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in WV

Name: _____ Attend-
ing Assembly? Y N

Print as you want it to appear on your badge

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Congregation: _____

Enclosed: ___\$20 (includes lunch; book extra, available on site)

Accommodations

Rooms have been reserved in the name of

the WV Region of the Christian Church in the following hotels. Be sure to mention the region when you call to reserve.

Please note reservation deadlines for price guarantees:

Reserve your room soon!

- **Ramada Ltd.** (8 rooms)
\$89.95+tax before Apr. 21
3140 16th St. At I-64 Exit 11 (5 miles from church) Call 304-523-4242
- **Super 8** (20 rooms)
\$69.98+tax before Mar. 1
3090 16th St. At I-64 Exit 11 (5 miles from church) Call 304-525-1410
- **Ramada Ltd.** (10 rooms)
\$83.32+tax before Mar. 1
6000 Crider Dr., Catlettsburg, KY,
I-64 Exit 191 (9 miles from church)
Call 606-739-5700

We will mail a full list of hotels, along with directions and other helpful information, after registration.

2008 Assembly

Registration

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in WV
 Name: _____

Print as you want it to appear on your badge

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Cell: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Congregation: _____

Please Note:

Registration and Meal Reservations must be made through the Regional Office.

Deadline for Meal Reservations: April 10

This includes reservations made by the hosting congregation's members.

Detach and mail along with payment to:

Christian Church in West Virginia
 1402 Washington Ave.
 Parkersburg, WV 26101

<u>Registration Fees</u>		
Number	Cost per person	Total
___ Adult.....	(\$30)	\$ _____
___ Youth Lock-In.....	(\$25)	\$ _____
___ Non-Attending:		
Assembly Book Only.....	(\$10)	\$ _____
Friend of the Assembly Donation... .		\$ _____
<u>Meals</u>		
Number	Cost per person	Total
Ministers & Mates Luncheon, Fri.		
___ Registered for Assembly.....	(\$12)	\$ _____
___ * Non-Registered.....	(\$20)	\$ _____
All-Assembly Dinner, Fri.		
___ Registered for Assembly.....	(\$15)	\$ _____
___ * Non-Registered.....	(\$25)	\$ _____
Family Pancake Breakfast, Sat.		
___ International Day of Pancakes.....	(\$6)	\$ _____
Disciples Women's Luncheon, Sat.		
___ Registered for Assembly.....	(\$12)	\$ _____
___ Non-Registered.....	(\$22)	\$ _____
Disciples Men's Luncheon, Sat.		
___ Registered for Assembly.....	(\$15)	\$ _____
___ Non-Registered.....	(\$25)	\$ _____
Grand Total.....		\$ _____
<p><i>* In order to contain expenses for the assembly, a \$10 surcharge is added to meals for those who choose not to register.</i></p>		

Interest Groups

___ Worship and Wonder

*Rev. Martha Rucker
 Minister of Christian Witness
 Madison Avenue Christian Church*

___ All-Assembly Choir

*Bill Bradley & Judy Lambert
 Madison Avenue Christian Church*

___ Spirituality and Your Gifts

*Revs. Steven & Rosetta Smith
 Pastors, United Disciples of Christ
 Church, Charleston, WV*

___ Be a Global Mission Church

*Rev. Nancy Pickell
 Treasurer: Global Ministries*

___ Stewardship Today and Tomorrow

*Rev. David Chafin
 Assoc. Regional Minister: CCWV
 Christian Church in West Virginia*

___ Your Historical Society

*Dr. Glenn Thomas Carson, President
 Disciples of Christ Historical Society*

___ Discerning the Call

*Kenny Hardway, Former Youth
 Mentor at Madison Avenue Christian
 Church; Timothy of First Church,
 Moundsville; Student at Lexington
 Theological Seminary*

___ Child Safety & Risk Management

*Tim Graves, Chair of Education
 First Christian Church, Wheeling, WV*

___ Caring for Your Minister

*Rev. Thaddaeus B. Allen
 Regional Minister: CCWV*

WITH OUR CONGREGATIONS

MACC Continued...The youth held a White Gift Service and Christmas Program. The youth also volunteered their time to help with the Big Brother, Big Sister Christmas Tree Sale. The Disciples Women continue to sponsor needy children and families at the local elementary school. Weekly Men's Breakfasts continue to be held at local eateries.

Logan (Charles Wood, Pastor) The CWF held a hot dog sale. The Men's Fellowship rang the bells for the Salvation Army during December. A monthly men's breakfasts continue. The Elders and Deacons held a retreat. A new church pictorial directory and website are under construction.

Matoaka (Craig Hammond, Pastor) A Christmas Card day and Christmas program were held. A sweetheart dinner is being planned. The food and toy boxes continue to be filled for those in need.

Morgantown, First (Richard Howard, Pastor) "Sip and Chats" are being held monthly before worship. A Christmas With Music celebration was held with a supper following. The Morgantown Share Program @ First Christian Church had its first distributions. An all church bowling outing was held. The CWF continue to hold a monthly hymn sing and bingo game at the local nursing home. The DMF are planning a Sweetheart Luncheon.

Moundsville, First (Charles Kemp, Pastor) New Member: Debbie Durbin. The church has started a church transportation ministry. The pastor held his annual Superbowl Party. New officers were installed. The church celebrated its 139th year. New sanctuary members have been installed. The church linked with Appalachian Outreach to recycle Christmas cards. The Elders are planning their Lenten Prayer Room. The church is building their Relay for Life team. The Sanctuary Beautification Committee held a chicken dinner. The church is planning a "Murder, Mayhem, and Marshmallow Salad," murder mystery evening.

New Martinsville, First (Robert D. Brooks, Pastor) The church is beginning to follow The Uncommon Lectionary. Sermon partners, a discussion group, and worship planning teams will be instruments to help deepen the faith of the congregation during this new series. Christmas Jars were assembled and presented to those in need. The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues.

Parkersburg, First (Sanford Downs, Pastor) New Member: Charlotte Peters. The church hosted a CPR class. A healthy living lecture was offered. Undie Sunday was held. The children's Sunday school program has been reorganized. Family Fun nights continue to be held. The church continues to do outreach for the Marie House.

Princeton (Gary F. Lyons, Pastor) New member: Nicholas Stinson. New youth groups have been organized. The King's Kids are heading to Florida. The twelve week "Experiencing God" program is being offered. A blanket Sunday was held. Brown bag fellowships and bible studies are held weekly.

United Disciples of Christ (Steven Smith, Pastor) The CWF will be making Easter eggs. The CWF hosted the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. A Valentine's Dinner will be held. The church went Christmas Caroling, held a Bazaar and a Christmas dinner. A Christmas Program was offered. Christmas baskets for the needy were assembled.

17th World Convention
Christian - Church of Christ - Disciples of Christ

Together in Christ
July 30th - August 3rd 2008
NASHVILLE CONVENTION CENTER
TENNESSEE USA

speakers

Cynthia MALE, Bob RUSSELL, Mike KLOPFER, Robert WETZEL

worship leader
Ken TOONG

study leaders
Ari LALL, Rhonda LOWRY, B.J. HOPFU

PROUD SPONSOR PARTNERS

ACU, Evangelical Free Church of Christ, EMMANUEL School of Religion, First Christian Church Nashville, GLOBAL MINISTRIES



**2008 Oreon E. Scott Lectures-
Your Invitation**

You are invited to attend the 53rd Oreon E. Scott Lectures to be held March 31 - April 1, 2008, at Bethany College. This year, our lecturer is Marvin Meyers.

WITH OUR CONGREGATIONS

Wheeling, First (Magdalyn M. Sebastian, Pastor) New Members: Nichole Lewis, Rev. & Kathy Flewelling, Kayla Davis. After receiving a \$150 grant from the WV Women, Kayla Davis in on the Women's Blitz Build. 12 men and youth of Men of the Big Round Window leave Feb 2 for Lake Charles, LA for a mission trip. Tim Graves is off to the ACCE conference. Jacob Wolen will be representing the WV youth at the General Youth Council Meeting in California.

Wheeling Island (Judy Bennett, Pastor) New member: Ann Lasch, Shirley Pickering The weekly prayer and sharing group is still meeting. Weekly "Get Movin'" jazzercise classes have begun. The church elders, deacons and members of special committees met for a yearly planning meeting that included breakfast provided by Pastor Judy and her husband Fred. Outreach projects and special events were planned and financial concerns were discussed. A "Souper Sunday" lunch was held on "Super Sunday."

If your congregation is not listed in this publication, please submit news for the next newsletter to jallen@ccwv.org We cannot print the wonderful news of our people if we do not have any. Keep up the great ministries in our Region!

**News Donations for January:
Brenda Keyser**

Dear Friends in Christ:

Words cannot express the depth of love and gratitude that I feel for you all and your faithful service to our God through your life in the church.

I have worked with you since 1970 as a pastor of the Region and for over nineteen years I was privileged to serve as your Regional Minister. Now in the days of retirement I will continue to have you in my prayers and to seek new ways in which to serve Christ in the church.

The wonderful celebration on November 17, 2007, was an amazing event for Gwen and me. The large gathering of dear friends and family from far and near, whom we have known and with whom we have served over the years was truly thrilling. The beautiful banquet hall and excellent feast helped to complete the setting for a perfect evening.

Your gifts were just overwhelming. The named fund for Ecumenical Ministries will enable the Region to pursue engagements that are very near to my heart. The gifts of the beautiful quilt, the portrait and the angel from our Women's Ministries and the handsome sign on Washington Avenue from our Men's Ministries have touched us deeply. The crosses presented to Gwen and me will serve as constant reminders of God's care and your love for us. The gift of the Regional automobile that has transported me over the many beautiful miles of our state and region in my ministries on your behalf is overwhelming. And the kayak will be a special addition to my life that will bless this new chapter in ways that I can only imagine!

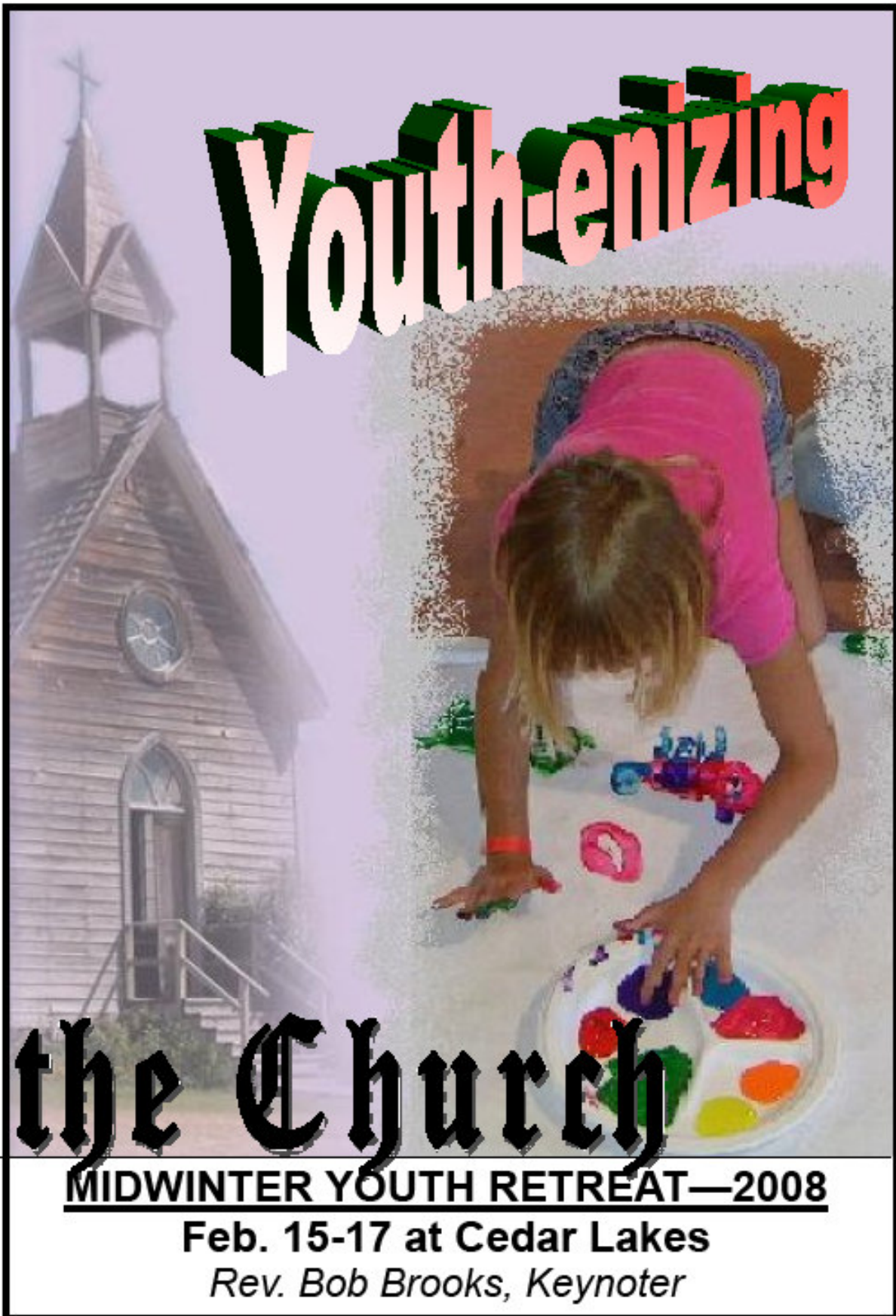
Your kind remarks that were made publicly and in private conversations are hidden in our hearts and the according of the title Regional Minister Emeritus is a most important sign of the bond that exists between us. Thank you for all these gifts.

You and our Regional Minister, Thad, are constantly in our prayers and we look to hear continued reports of your faithful and increasing service to Christ.

Faithfully yours,

William B. Allen

Regional Minister Emeritus
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia



Youth-enizing

the Church

MIDWINTER YOUTH RETREAT—2008
Feb. 15-17 at Cedar Lakes
Rev. Bob Brooks, Keynoter

The Regional Minister's Schedule

February 2008

3rd St. Albans Preaching

4th and 5th Speaker for the Pennsylvania Disciples Ministers Convocation

6th Ash Wednesday Huntington Central Imposition of Ashes

10th Moundsville FCC Preaching

15th Staff Meeting in Ripley

15th - 17th Midwinter Youth Retreat

18th Parkersburg Commission on Ministry

25th Parkersburg Religious Unity Commission

28th Huntington Prestera Center Executive Cttee

March 2008

2nd Ravenswood Preaching

9th - 13th Disciples Men District Lenten Gatherings

15th Regional Board Parkersburg

25th - 27th Fellowship of the Seven Detroit, MI

30th Cumberland, MD Preaching and Congregational Consultation



As the faithful have gathered we have shown the world some of the marks of who we are as Disciples. We promote and value unity in the Church. We proclaim in a whole host of ways that Jesus Christ is Lord. We live into and out of the Scripture and we use our whole selves (heart, mind and soul) as we seek faithfulness. And Disciples assemble. One of the marks of our church, in my opinion, is that we are a people who value and love a good opportunity to assemble as the Body of Christ. We in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are a people of Assembly. In the Spring we will gather at the Madison Avenue Church in Huntington for the 120th Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia. The time together promises to be a real gift. Excellent speakers and leaders from across the life of the Disciples will be present and sharing. The music will be of the finest ever known, and friendships will be strengthened, deepened, developed and made. Whenever Disciples gather a powerful time is had, and a powerful statement is made in the church and in the world. Assemblies remind us that God has given us one another, and that God is made known to all when Christians gather in the name of Christ Jesus. So, ya'll come to Huntington. The Body of Christ will truly be there. I look forward to being with you in all the places where Jesus gathers his church.

Blessings and Christ's Peace,

± *Thaddaeus B. Allen*

Next News Deadline:

February 20, 2008

Return Service Requested

**Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
in West Virginia**

1402 Washington Avenue
Parkersburg, WV 26101

Non Profit Organization

U. S. Postage Paid

Parkersburg WV 26101

Permit # 158