

# THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

*A Voice for Ecumenical Congregations and Christians Around the World*

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## Discovery

*by Harry Fockle, Antioch Community Church, Conference Chair*

In the past several weeks I have made an amazing discovery that can help us fund our 2014 Annual Conference.

I really did not discover it – actually if you are a Delegate and/or Clergy member of our Annual Conference you should have the same material.

It is a “handout” entitled “ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIPS.” My discovery is that it is effective and it works!

At Antioch this past week we received two checks totaling \$3,500 to use toward Annual Conference expenses via these “handouts.” Of course, like anything else, they will not work if we do not use them.

I ask you to pray about it – seek out a business or companies or individuals you see as potential sponsors and see that they have an opportunity to give.

I was wondering are you ready to make the Discovery?



## Life in Christ Circus to Worship at Conference

Life in Christ Circus is a clown ministry troupe founded and led by Dr. Dick Hardel “Dr. H.”. Life in Christ Circus has performing units in Minnesota, Florida, Nebraska, and Poland. They spread the Gospel of Christ through laughter and joy.

Traditional circus clowns, at their best, serve up generous portions of the foibles of our own human nature for our amusement. Christ Clowns add a new dimension to the circus clown. They are “fools for Christ” in the best sense of those words of St. Paul (1 Cor 4:8-13). With their colorful antics they reveal our human frailties and allow us to laugh at ourselves.

Life in Christ Omaha clowns have performed throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, South America, and Africa. We have shared the art of Christian Clown ministry with the world, teaching and performing in homes, clown alleys, conventions, parties, picnics, family gatherings and schools.

Most importantly, we are Servants, not stars! Our ministry of love and giggles is contagious!





## *Guidance for a Meaningful Lent and Life!*

### *President's Message*

**Rev. Dr. Bruce N. Merton**

He lived at the corner of "Happy" and "Healthy." He was healthy. He wasn't happy!

He was a prince. He had all the possessions a person could think of or want- toys, books, money, clothes, access to all kinds of entertainment, an I Pod, an I Pad, an I Phone, and the best Mac Book available. Everybody was kind to him. He was at the center of a very good world! But, he was very unhappy!

Something had to be done!

He went to his mom, the queen. "Mom, why are you so happy," he asked.

She replied, "I guess I am so happy because I am so busy being queen that I do not have any time to waste."

The prince decided that busy people were happy people and so he said to himself, "I must work."

Early in the morning he rose, grabbed some tools and spent the entire day laying a stone path from his door to the sitting area in the garden. The day ended and he was dirty, sweaty, tired and still unhappy.

He went to his father, the king, and asked, "Dad, why are you so happy?"

His father answered, "I guess it is because I get to keep building the kingdom by telling people what to do and how to do it."

The prince left his father's presence deciding that those who were in charge and had authority were happy people. All day long he politely ordered the people on the palace grounds to do things for him. They did as directed. He was catered to with every command that was spoken and when evening fell his authority had been exercised, his demands had been met, but he was still unhappy!

He next went to the man who managed the king's wealth. "Why are you so happy?" he asked the wealth manager.

"It is because I prudently conserve and save the king's fortune."

The prince thought happy people are those who save and keep their resources!

And so for an entire week he did not spend a single cent. In the end he had more money than he started with and he also had continuing unhappiness.

The prince went to the king's treasurer. "Answer me this. Why are you so happy and I am so sad?" he asked.

"It is because I enjoy spending money!" the treasurer replied.

The prince took all the money out of his account and went on a spending spree believing it held the key to happiness. He returned to the palace with hundreds of things and discovered he had no room to put them and that he was as unhappy as ever.

The prince began to think that the cure for his unhappiness was to be found beyond the palace grounds. He left unnoticed and made his way towards the town.

A short distance from town and at the edge of a large field he found a small boy crying. The prince asked the boy, "What's wrong? Why are you crying? You're unhappy just like me!"

The youngster said, "My kite will not fly. It just spins and spins and then falls quickly to the ground."

The prince said, "I can help! He tore some material from his robe and fashioned them as bows on the kite's tail. He lifted the kite as high as he could, held against the wind and told the small boy, "Run! Run! Run!"

The young boy ran forward and immediately the kite jumped into the air and began a steady flight upward as the string as released. He hollered as he ran and watched the kite go higher and higher, "Thanks! You made my day! You really made me happy!"

As the prince turned to continue his journey he found himself whistling a merry tune. He was feeling good. He was happy!

He made the discovery of his life! He discovered the key to his happiness and he believed it was the key to happiness for all! One's greatest happiness and joy is to be found in forgetting self while bringing happiness to others.

---

"I slept and dreamt that life was joy.  
I awoke and saw that life was service.  
I acted and behold,  
service was joy!"

Rabindranath Tagore, Indian Poet

---

Who gives, and hides the giving hand,  
Nor counts on favor, fame, or praise,  
Shall find their smallest gift outweighs  
The burden of the sea and land.

---

Who gives to whom hath naught  
been given,  
Their gift in need, though small indeed  
As is the grass blade's wind- blown seed,  
Is large as earth and rich as heaven.  
John Greenleaf Whittier, American Poet

---

Out in the highways and byways of life,  
many are weary and sad.  
Carry the sunshine where darkness is  
rife, making the sorrowing glad.  
Make me a blessing;  
make me a blessing.  
Out of my life may Jesus shine.  
Make me a blessing, O Savior, I pray.  
Make me a blessing to someone today.  
Ira B. Wilson, American hymn writer

---

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one  
of the least of these who are members of  
my family, you did it to me."  
Jesus, the Christ, as quoted in Matthew  
25:40 (NRSV)



*Keeping  
a Holy Lent*

## *Ash Wednesday and Lent*

**Don Ashmall**  
*Council Minister*

In the church of my childhood, Ash Wednesday and indeed (for the most part) Lent were lightly noted and observed usually only in the most passing fashion. In my family we did not go to church on Ash Wednesday to receive a symbolic spot of ashes on our foreheads. It was not until a new pastor came to serve our church that we began a series of Wednesday night worship services during Lent. (An earlier tradition of year-long Wednesday evening services had shrunk to a prayer meeting attended only by a faithful few, one of whom drove off other prospective attendees with his "testimony" about his long-ago conversion, the accounting of which took at least fifteen minutes and was repeated weekly.)

Maybe it was because I didn't encounter some of the seasonal traditions until later in life that I have found them particularly compelling and oddly disturbing enough to provoke reflections on my own faith. I've had ashes imposed on me and imposed them on others, with the words about life, death, ashes and dust repeated as we received what our local deli owner would call a dark "schmear" wiped onto our foreheads. But at least for me, the preparation for that moment has been more significant than the moment itself.

Traditionally, the ashes used on this year's Ash Wednesday are prepared by burning palms from last year's Palm Sunday. Palm ashes can be purchased from church supply houses, but to me that option has always seemed almost like cheating. And besides, leftover palms are always available if one thinks to gather them after Palm Sunday services. Then it's just a matter of storing them until burning in preparation for Ash Wednesday – which storage and fire-making was my personal task for many years.

Burning palms have a singular and pungent aroma; the smoke is dark and thick; the palms burn quickly but rarely completely. The slightest breeze threatens to spread the ash across the countryside. Here more than in the formal ritual I have felt Ash Wednesday's message of life's travail and brevity. And since I always burned the palms outdoors (no church kitchen's oven exhaust hood is sufficient to handle the smoke and believe me, I've tried) there were always nearby trees that by their yet-to-emerge buds provided in the background a distant premonition of the Easter message of resurrection.

For more years than not during my ministry with different churches, Lent has involved ecumenical worship shared among congregations representing a variety of Christian communions. Moving from one church building to another on successive Wednesdays in Lent, we have learned something of one another's hymnody and experienced a variety of worship styles and orders. Different years brought different sermon series and worship themes. But always there has been in the background the over-arching understanding that Lent is a time for reflection and repentance. Again and again the reflection that has first presented itself has been one on Christian unity lost and only partially re-discovered.

The reasons why the unity for which Jesus prayed has eluded Christians so long are as murky and – yes, let's say it – smelly as the smoke ascending from burning palms. We have argued over churchly forms and Biblical interpretations. We have strained at the gnats of what names to call various ecclesiastical offices (as though those titles will make a difference when Jesus asks if we fed the hungry or clothed the naked.) We have paraded our petty differences in a way that the apostle Paul cau-

tioned the early church against. We know that we are called to reconciliation, but it seems that what we want most to do, we find that we cannot do.

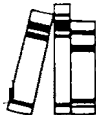
The experience of ecumenical worship has been inspiring during Lent and at other times too. But it is increasingly obvious that the theme and the content of every ecumenical worship experience needs to include a healthy helping of Lenten repentance. We need to bow our hearts as well as our heads in prayers of repentance that we barely dangle our toes in the sea of God's overwhelming love for us all but are unwilling to plunge our congregations and our communions beneath the flood in faith, so that like the children of Israel emerging from the Jordan will find ourselves on the side of God's land of promise.

It seems that each year, someone has approached me during the Lenten season to complain about what a "downer" it is. Up to a point, they have a point. Ashes, death, reflection and repentance are unlikely to become the themes for the next Disney attraction ride. But then, life isn't Disney. For many the smoke of burning dreams obscures any vision of the future. For more, the schmear of failing health, failed plans or failure of relationships points only to dying hopes. It is precisely to these (which sooner or later means all of us) that the church's circle of love and life, centered on Jesus, is most precious. We need something like Lent to remind us of all that.

And then there are the trees. Beyond the fire and smoke and smell of the moment, God's buds of resurrection life are swelling. Lent is not endless. Easter is coming.

May God bless your Lenten season.

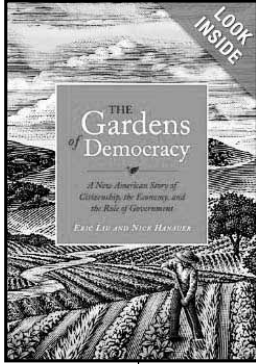
# REVIEWS



**Dr. Robert M. Puckett**

**THE GARDENS OF DEMOCRACY: A New American Story of Citizenship, the Economy, and the Role of Government**, Eric Liu and Nick Hanauer, Sasquatch Books Seattle, 2011, Hardback, 173 pages, \$12.95.

Eric Liu is an author and educator based in Seattle. Nick Hanauer is a Seattle-based entrepreneur and venture capitalist. They are the co-authors of *The True Patriot*. They are progressives who think outside the box whose small book **THE GARDENS OF DEMOCRACY** is a treasure chest of wisdom bringing renewed insight into some of the most difficult problems facing modern society.



Their insight uses the metaphors of gardens and gardeners as a way of seeing these problems in a different light which provides the option of revealing new and better solutions. Great gardeners take responsibility for their gardens. "Human beings, it is said, originated in a garden. Perhaps that is why all of us understand so intuitively what it takes to be great gardeners" (Forefront)

They begin with the observation that America is an experiment in democracy which is constantly changing and evolving and requires the ability to adapt. "From the founding onward, this nation has reckoned with its own internal contradictions and with external threats--the insufficiency of the Articles of Confederation, the poison pill of slavery, the rise of the Robber Barons, the emergence of totalitarian enemies- and it has evolved successfully in response to such circumstances." (P. 5)

Our present challenges include such things as "climate change, debt and deficits, worsening schools, rising health care costs, the shriveling of the middle class" The question now is whether we have the will or nerve to deal adequately with these problems "and the failure to address these challenges isn't just a matter of politics, but of survival." (PP 5-6)

The ability to adapt depends upon the ability to conceive of things in a new

way. "History shows that civilizations tend eventually to get stuck in the patterns that brought them success. They can either stay stuck and decay, or get unstuck and thrive." (P. 10) Liu and Hanauer suggest that what is needed now is to switch from seeing things in a Machinebrain way to new mode of imagination which they call Gardenbrain, and they proceed to show how this new approach can help to find solutions to contemporary problems.

Our problem today is based in the cult of the self-made-man which encourages us to think that each individual should be able to do whatever he pleases, so long as it doesn't directly harm someone else. This results in an attitude of every man for himself. A better approach that is taking shape is that:

- The better you do, the better I do.
- It's survival of the smartest--only the cooperative survive.
- teamwork wins.
- there's no such thing as a self-made person.
- All for one, one for all.

"True self-interest is mutual interest." (PP. 38-39)

"In a sense, the latest wave of scientific understanding merely confirms that what we, in our bones, know to be true: that no one is an island: and that someone who thinks he can take for himself, everyone else be damned, causes a society to become too sick to sustain anyone....True self-interest is mutual interest." ( PP. 40-41)

Using this approach **THE GARDENS OF DEMOCRACY** goes on to deal such questions as economics, the role of government, etc. with the Gardenbrain mentality.

"When it's every man (or state) for himself, no one stays free for very long. Freedom is just another word for *we're all in it together*. If it is to mean anything, freedom must mean responsibility. In the end, freedom is responsibility. (P. 164)

## THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

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## Mission Statement



*"As people devoted to following Christ we are committed to community, to treasuring diversity, to living our faith in service and love."*

## 2014 Annual Conference Monday Night Entertainment by the Beach Nuts of Kansas City, MO

Group members Rod Fleeman, Jurgen Welge and Walter Bryant are world class musicians and entertainers. The three have been working together for the last decade and a half, performing songs from the late '50s-mid '70s, mostly instrumentals that include songs recorded by The Ventures, Dick Dale, Cannonball Adderly, Mason Williams, Ramsey Lewis, The Beach Boys, Fats Domino, Santo and Johnny, The Monkees, The Surfari's, Chuck Berry, The Beatles, Booker T and the MGs, Quincy Jones and Henry Mancini.

Fleeman, one of Kansas City's most noted jazz guitarists, is in constant demand. He currently records and tours the world with jazz vocalists Karrin Allyson and Diane Schuur. He also serves as an adjunct educator for the University of Missouri-Kansas City and Kansas City Kansas Community College.

German-born drummer Welge graduated in 1989 from the Hilversum Jazz Conservatory in the Netherlands before he came to Kansas City on an invitation from KC's late blues and jazz singer Richard Ross in 1992. He quickly became a well-respected member of the Kansas City jazz community and currently performs with Dave Stephens, The Wild Women, Lynn Zimmer, Tim Whitmer, Bram Wijnands, Don Accurso Orchestrina and Beach Nuts. Welge also teaches applied percussion and band classes at KCK Community College.

Bryant, keyboards, is a graduate of the UMKC Conservatory of Music. He composes and produces music for TV and radio commercials and has served as musical director for Worlds of Fun in Kansas City since 1976. He plays a number of different instruments with a variety of ensembles in musical styles ranging from classical to rock.

You want to make plans to share a delightful evening on Monday!

### ECUMENEWS

Among the biggest religious news stories of 2013 was the resignation of Pope Benedict and the consequent election of Pope Francis. Almost larger than the story of the transition was the continuing story of Francis' pronouncements on such topics as concern for the poor, the defects of pure capitalism, and the over-emphasis in the church on such topics as homosexuality and abortion. The tone of the new pope's comments was vastly different from that of his recent predecessors, and was welcomed by Catholics and non-Catholics alike. His approval ratings were among the highest any pope had ever received, and he was named Man of the Year by Time magazine and other publications. At the same time, critics rightly pointed out that nothing had been changed doctrinally or organizationally by Francis, only the tone was different.



## 2014 Children's Program Director Returns



(Photographed above: Antwnasha Jackson, 10 years old, created a diorama of a house built on a solid foundation as mentioned in one of Jesus' parables she learned at last year's conference in Grand Rapids, MI)

At this year's conference in Omaha Nebraska, Sister Shyreece Pompey, Children's Coordinator for ICCC conference, has created meaningful learning experiences and projects that encourage children to live their faith in Christ. Children, K-6th grade, will be structurally engaged from 9 AM to Noon Tues., Wed. & Thurs. during the life of the conference. Lessons will be age appropriate and centered on the conference theme. Worship, praise, make it/take it activities and field trip opportunities will ensure practical application of the Bible lessons and conference theme. Furthermore, children's work/dioramas will be displayed in a gallery walk.

Shyreece Pompey is a passionate educator. She has served and taught in the Covert Public Schools for the past 12 years. She has implemented several student-centered programs which have brought joy and academic interest to the learning environment on her job and in her church. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Western University Michigan in Education and plans to complete her master's degree in Educational Leadership and become a certified K-12 Principal in April 2014. Shyreece (Also Known As: Sister Pompey) has been using her gift of teaching in the youth ministry at Emmanuel Community Church in South Haven, Michigan for the past eight years. She currently serves as Sunday School Superintendent at the church.

If you would like more information regarding these hands-on / minds-on activities for your grandchild or children to participate in during the conference, please contact Sister Pompey on her cell phone at (269) 849-6419 or at her work number (269) 764-3730.

As we all prepare for our conference participation, let us remember the words of Jesus "whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name, welcomes me." (Matthew 18:5)

# 2014 Optional Conference Meal Programs

The 2014 Annual Conference offers 4 optional meal program opportunities: the Welcome Luncheon, the Koinonia Luncheon, the Mission Luncheon and the Prayer Breakfast (hosted by the Women's Christian Fellowship). The Conference Banquet Dinner is included in your registration fee. Additional quantities can be reserved for a fee.

**Monday, July 14, 2014 at 12:00 p.m.** is the **Welcome Luncheon**. This meal includes: Chicken Salad on a Croissant, Fresh Fruit, Pasta Salad, Doubletree Cookie, Iced Tea and Water. *Vegetarian option:* Substitute Chicken Salad with Tuna Salad. *Kid's Meal Option:* Grilled Cheese and a Fruit Cup.

**Tuesday, July 15, 2014 at 12:30 p.m.** is the **Koinonia Luncheon**. This meal includes: Grilled Chicken Breast with a Swiss Cheese & White Wine Cream Sauce, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetable, Chocolate Chip Cookie Cheesecake, Freshly Brewed Regular and Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea and Water. *Vegetarian Option:* Grilled Portabello Mushroom sautéed and grilled with Garlic Butter, Roasted Fingerling Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetable, Chocolate Chip Cookie Cheesecake.

**Wednesday, July 16, 2014 at 12:30 p.m.** is the **Mission Luncheon**. This meal includes: Crisp Romaine Lettuce tossed with Creamy Caesar Dressing, Grated Parmesan Cheese, Croutons and Grilled Chicken, Raspberry Sorbet, Regular and Decaf Coffee, Assorted Hot Teas, Iced Tea and Water. *Vegetarian Option:* Substitute Grilled Chicken with Grilled Salmon.

**Thursday, July 17, 2014 at 8:00 a.m.** is the **Prayer Breakfast**. This meal includes: Fluffy Scrambled Eggs, Sausage Patties or Bacon, Pan Fried Potatoes, a Fresh Fruit Cup, Basket of Assorted Breakfast Pastries, Fresh Orange Juice, Assorted Hot Herbal Teas, Regular and Decaf Columbian Coffee.

Also on **Thursday, at 6:30 p.m.** is the **Conference Banquet**. This meal includes: Spinach Salad with Strawberries, Almond Pepper Confetti, Orange Vinaigrette, Crown Roast Pork, with Sweet Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Rolls & Butter, Classic Tiramisu Cake, Regular and Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea and Water. *Beef Option:* Roasted Strip Loin, Pinot Noir Sauce, Red Duchess Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables. *Vegetarian Option:* Bowtie Pasta, Capers, Tomato, Black Olives, Red Onions, Spinach, Parmesan and a Champagne Cream Sauce. *Kid's Meal Option:* Chicken Strips and French Fries

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## 2014 MEAL RESERVATION FORM

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

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$18.00 each for **Monday's Welcome Luncheon**  
 Check for Vegetarian Option preference                       Check for Kid's (under 12yrs) Option

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$24.00 each for **Tuesday's Koinonia Luncheon**  
 Check for Vegetarian Option preference

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$24.00 each for **Wednesday's Mission Luncheon**  
 Check for Vegetarian Option preference

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$20.00 each for **Thursday's Prayer Breakfast**

**\*\*Please reserve add'l. \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$40.00 each for Thursday's Banquet Dinner**  
 Check for Vegetarian Option preference                       Check for Beef Option preference  
**\*\*Please reserve add'l. \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$15.00 each for children under 12yrs.**  
**\*\*A Banquet ticket is already included in registration. Mark only if additional ticket(s) is needed.**

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If paying by check: make check payable to: International Council of Community Churches (ICCC)

If paying by credit card:  VISA     MASTERCARD     AMERICAN EXPRESS     DISCOVER

Account Number on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with your payment to: ICCC, 21116 Washington Pkwy, Frankfort, IL 60423

**Deadline for meal function reservations is June 20th.** There will only be a VERY LIMITED supply of tickets available at Conference registration, so please purchase your tickets before the deadline. After the June 20th deadline meal reservations will not be accepted in the Council Office.

**\*\*The Conference Banquet is included in the registration fee. You do not need to reserve a ticket for this meal, unless you require additional tickets.**

# What is the ICCC Ministerium?

By Dr. William Samuels, President

The Ministerium is a membership organization of clergy within the ICCC. The group exists for prayer, mutual support and the sharing of ideas and resources. As possible at Annual Conference and at other times the group sponsors continuing education experiences for clergy with the awarding of continuing education units for those clergy who complete the experiences. Membership in the Ministerium is open to all ICCC clergy.

What is the Ministerium doing today? What is a "well-being check?" What is a "Latch-key" child. Is good parenting a myth? Are the families we serve getting the nourishment they need? Do they need more pastoral guidance in the community? Do we need to teach them the ways of Christ?

John 21: 15-19 is sometimes called the restoration of Peter. As you may recall, Peter denied Jesus three times before the "cock crowed." In the reading, Jesus asks Peter three times—"Do you love me Peter?" Some interpreters of this story pay much attention to the meaning of love in Jesus' questions. Their attention is fixed around Eros, Phileo and Agape—three Greek meanings of love ranging from sexual desire to brotherly love to unconditional love.

The emphasis has, in the past, been the meaning and type of love Jesus meant. Another look at the restoration could be to look at Jesus' command in the three questions. He said in this order: feed my lambs, my sheep and then repeats feed my sheep—perhaps reminding Peter and the rest of us Shepherds that no matter what Aramaic meaning was attributed to love (Jesus' language was not Greek), the real action of love is nourishment.

We need to feed the lambs, the ewes and the rams—or the "milk" Christians, the frustrated mothers and the men of the flock (rams).

I am asking the Ministerium to join with me in making a triangle of the church, the school and the recreational center—naming the principal of the school, the head of the social center and the ministers to make a nation-wide triangular network of caring shepherds leading our neighborhoods in ethical pockets of activities. If we can identify 10 such pockets across the country, we would have begun the restoration. If you are interested in such a network please let me know. (billsa60@yahoo.com).

# Women's Christian Fellowship

## "Love Is In the Air"

By Ella Clay, President

As we celebrated the month of February our hearts were filled with excitement and great anticipation. Most people eagerly awaited the most romantic day of the year; Valentine's Day! Many all over the world enjoy the affection, intimacy, and joy that the day brings. February 14, has become a very compassionate day filled with expressions of love that include sharing cards, candy, chocolates, flowers, etc. Interestingly, Saint Valentine or the Feast of Saint Valentine began as a liturgical celebration of early Christian saints. As well, the day was associated with romantic love in the 18th century. This ancient romantic tradition still brings excitement to our contemporary society. However, in the process of considering your love one, let us consider implementing love for all humanity. Luke 10: 27 NIV states, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and all your mind and love your neighbor as you love yourself." As we practice loving God and humanity with our total being, the world has the potential of becoming holistic. I hope you enjoyed this Love holiday and remembered to spread love in the air!



Please remember to join WCF for prayer call every second Monday in each month. The conference line number is 1-712-0175, access code 887889. Call times are follows: Eastern, 8pm. Central, 7pm. Mountain, 6pm. Pacific, 5pm.

### ICCC GENERAL FUND JANUARY, 2014

Total Cash Balance  
as of January 1, 2014:..... \$ 59,830.62

Total Income year to date  
as of January 31, 2014:..... \$ 18,234.32

Total Expenses year to date  
as of January 31, 2014:..... \$ 15,702.26

Total Cash Balance  
as of January 31, 2014:..... \$ 62,362.68

**Sharing Joys:**

- **Rev. Dr. Harvey Carr, Christ Church of Peace**, Jacksonville, FL will be retiring March 31st, after nearly 46 years of ordained ministry. He plans to take a sabbatical in April, then will remain active in the ICCC, hoping to especially assist with churches who are seeking our membership.

- **Roser Church**, Anna Maria, FL honored and celebrated **Rev. Gary Batey's** retirement on Feb. 8th with a banquet. Gary started at Roser in January 2000 and announced his retirement last Spring. Many of the church members return to their northern homes during this time, so he decided to postpone the Official Retirement Recognition until most would return for the winter.



- **Serge Theriault, Christian Catholic Rite of Community Churches**, Quebec, Canada held an event of Sunday, Jan. 19th for World Religion Day. The theme was *Serving the Community*. More than 80 people attended from the Canadian Chapter and other religious communities.



**Our Prayers are With:**

- **Pastor Leon Perry III, Metropolitan Community Church, Chicago, IL**, whose father, Mr. Leon Perry, Jr., passed away in January. His homecoming celebration was held Jan. 25th. Pastor Perry's aunt, Anita Herron, also passed away Jan. 21st. Please keep the Perry, Pace & Bell families in your prayers.

**Non-Denominational**

**Church Seeks Full-Time Pastor**

Roser Community Church ([www.roserchurch.com](http://www.roserchurch.com)) is a Lay-Led 400 member church. We seek an energetic Pastor with post-graduate congregational experience. Ability to work within our traditional worship format along with the skills to build on our youth and adult Christian education programs. Applicants must be a graduate of a divinity school recognized by the American Association of Theological Schools and an ordained Christian minister of the Gospel. If interested send resume, salary requirements and recent sermon to Search Committee - Roser Community Church, P.O. Box 2141, Anna Maria, FL 34216.

**Seeking a Senior Minister**

Emmanuel Baptist Church of Ridgewood, NJ has an opening for a Senior Minister. We are a progressive church which emphasizes inclusiveness and social justice as our understanding of Christianity. We are interested in pastoral candidates who are supportive of this philosophy and theology.

The community of Ridgewood is known for its excellent schools, community services, transportation facilities to NY City, the arts, and quality of life. Our church is a member of the American Baptist Churches, and maintains affiliation with the International Council of Community Churches and the Center for Progressive Christianity.

Please contact search committee chair Brent Saardema at 973-427-7310 or [profbrent@juno.com](mailto:profbrent@juno.com) with expressions of interest.

**Seeking a Senior Pastor**

Emmanuel Community Church is seeking a Senior Pastor who must be able to lead church in providing sound Christian education for youth and adults; preach in a style that sticks to scripture and is practical for everyday living; and help all auxiliary officers use their gifts and talents to function effectively in building God's Kingdom.

All interested candidates should mail resume and cover letter to Emmanuel Community Church, 322 Elkenburg St, South Haven, MI 49090. Attention to Pulpit Search Committee.

**Seeking a Senior Pastor**

"I am come that they might have life and that they may have it more abundantly." – John 10:10

People's Community Church is a Singing, Praying, Tithing, Serving and Loving congregation, seeking a spiritual and energetic pastor. People's Community Church was organized in 1954 and is a charter member of the International Council of Community Churches. In response to God's call and through the Power of the Holy Spirit, it is the mission of People's Community Church to be a Community of Faith through which the Kingdom of God might be revealed. The Pastoral Search Committee request your resume along with a video, CD or recording of a recent sermon.

The candidate must be an ordained minister, a graduate of a university and an accredited theological seminary with a divinity degree or its equivalence.

He/she must also have actively pastored for at least three years in a congregation that is recognized by the International Council of Community Churches. Must have the love of the gospel; demonstrating qualities of strong leadership in the areas of preaching, teaching, administration, community relations and be able to relate to all generations of the congregation. He/she must demonstrate the ability to stimulate positive church growth in the inter-city area of Detroit.

Interested candidates may submit requested documents to the attention of the Search Committee for Pastoral Leadership, People's Community Church, 8601 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48202 – Carolyn Ford, Chairperson. Initial interest may also communicate via email at [personaltouch\\_22@att.net](mailto:personaltouch_22@att.net).