

# THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

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

VOLUME 65

OCTOBER 2014

NUMBER 1

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### President

Richard O. Griffith

### VP for Membership Enlistment

Virginia Wendel

### VP for Membership Services

Wayne Samuels

### Secretary

Abraham Wright

### Regional Trustees

Vermelle Barnes, Denise Sager

Nanci Harris, Janet Burch

John Carroll, Glenn Clay

Victoria Wells, Sharyon Cosey

Charles Addison

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

Richard O. Griffith

### Treasurer

Nicholas Brame

### Secretary

Abraham Wright

### VP for Planning

Harry Foockle

### VP for Financial Development

Roberta Smith

### VP for Membership Enlistment

Virginia Wendel

### VP for Membership Services

Wayne Samuels

### VP for Ecumenical and

### Interfaith Relations

Herman Harmelink, III

### VP for Leadership Development

Bruce N. Merton

### VP for Informational Services

### and Outreach

Michael Donahue

### Auxiliary Representative

Ella Clay

### Immediate Past President

Bruce N. Merton

## AUXILIARY HEADS

**Youth:** Juanita Green

**Samaritans:** Wayne Samuels

**Women's Christian Fellowship:**

Ella Clay

**Ministerium:** William Samuels



## A Conference Sermon

*The following was given by Tianna Mantone, a youth conference attendee from Chapel By The Sea, Florida, at the Youth Worship Service in July.*

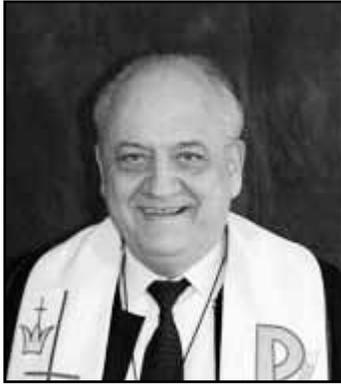
This summer's conference was focused on the verse Isaiah 43: 18-19 which states, "Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past, See I am doing a new thing!"

Many of you are probably thinking about the meaning behind the verse, as was everybody at the conference. It was mentioned every day and was hanging on a large poster during every worship.

But what does this actually mean? What is God doing? What does he need done and how will he achieve it? All of these questions make each and every one of us think differently, but all and all, change comes to mind.

Isaiah 43: 18 says that we can't dwell on the past and in order to change, you have to learn how to move on. This "new thing" that God is talking about is change; change in ourselves, in others, and in faith.

*Continued on page 8*



## *A New Thing – Really?*

*(The Importance of Affirmation)*

### *President's Message*

**Rev. Dr. Richard O. Griffith**

*Behold, I will do a new thing...* (Isaiah 43:19a, KJV) was the Scriptural foundation of our 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Many of us were moved by what was offered us – the Bible Study led by Tex Sample, the preaching of Emanuel Cleaver, and the wonderful Workshops (I attended two excellent presentations – well worth my time, and I savored the expertise of the presenters). And the worship experiences! Souls were nourished.

I also appreciated the Business meetings. It is good to hear what is happening in the Council, the ministries we are attempting to accomplish, and the passion expressed and affirmed, even though some of the votes were extremely close. We were able to disagree without being disagreeable – an evidence of collaborative Christianity.

But as we look at the Isaiah passage through the interpretation of different translations, we learn even more. The New Revised Standard Version quotes Isaiah 43:19a, *I am about to do a new thing*, while the Revised Standard Version has God saying, *I am doing a new thing*.

Yes!

When we talk about God's action in life, it is about what God has done, what God is going to do, and what God is doing, even now. I see this in the Council. From the beginning witness of Joseph Evans and Roy Burkhardt to the current day, from the presidencies of our first president, J. Ruskin Howe, through

our most recent president, Bruce Merton, from the original formal and informal leaders of long ago to those who today who carry the mantles of responsibility, we have endeavored to be "...a fellowship of ecumenically minded, freedom-loving congregations cooperating in fulfilling the mission of the Church in the world. ... (Throughout its life) the Council has witnessed and worked for Christian unity, justice and reconciliation in human society."

I believe that God is ready to do a new thing when people take an honest and open look at how they have been blessed by their abilities and interests, and how they can be used in their lives, their local congregations and for the Council. I believe God will do a new thing as we expend our giftedness in service, empowerment, mission, and ministry.

Would you be open to God doing a wonderful thing with your interests and abilities? How about using interests and abilities in (please read slowly) creativity, collaboration, computers, building relationships, encouraging others, ecumenical interest / commitment, encouraging commitments to Christ and Christian living, financial interest / expertise, liking to learn, liking to be stimulated, liking to see the "big picture," liking to work with details, media interest / ability, personnel skills, planning, promoting meaningful activities and events, research, theological sensitivity / commitment, working with agencies and institutions who are, or want to be, related to

the Council, and interest in creating and discovering meaningful worship opportunities? And this is only a beginning!

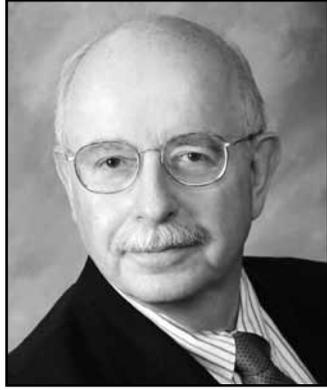
Are there other ways God may be leading you?

I am convinced that one of the ways God can and will do a "new thing" is as we are able to "own" why the Council is important to us. Some of us are from the tradition of giving testimonies; others are not. Regardless, what is our own personal "testimony" about the council? Why is it important to us? What can we say to others, maybe in about 15 seconds, why it is "worth it" to be part of the Council's mission and ministry?

Why is it worth it for me? What is my testimony? Why is it a privilege for me to be where I am at this time and this place in the Council's life? I believe more than any other organization of which I am aware, the Council endeavors to live up to the Biblical ideal: *There is neither Jew nor Greek, male or female, slave or free (and may I add) black, white, pink, purple, gay, straight, young, old, liberal, conservative, angel or adversary – we all try to be one in Christ Jesus.*

This is our call; this is my commitment – to do all I can to help us do all we can, to fulfill what God is calling us to do.

*Dick*



## *Choosing Sides*

**Don Ashmall**  
Council Minister

Who's "in" and who's "out"? When we were children the two biggest kids chose their teams for pickup baseball games. One at a time, the crowd of the un-chosen was thinned until just a very few were left. Even when they were selected at last for one team or another, those final few knew they were "out." In social situations there are always superstars and wallflowers. The awkward and the shy know who's "in," and it isn't them. In academic competition (and if the teacher grades on the curve, the competition can be fierce) there are those who excel and those who fail.

Even raising the issue of in and out is cause for some of us to tense up and become very uncomfortable. We remember being the littlest kid on the playing field. We recall being edged out of first place in the science fair by some student whose project and presentation had far too much input from doting parents. And which of us former Cub Scouts doesn't have a memory of the Pinewood Derby that was won by a kid whose vehicle featured a faultless enamel paint job and super-fast wheels, perhaps because his dad had a complete machine shop in his basement? It didn't matter. That Scout won and everybody else lost. In losing we were "out."

With all that in our background, the message of Jesus seems incredible. Whoever will, may come? Does that mean everybody? God so loved the world? Does that mean the entire world? There is neither Jew nor Greek, male nor female? Without some hidden preference? We're both attracted to and repelled by the message. A part of us wants to know that we

are in, and that all of us are in. But there's another piece of us that wants to know who is really in, so that we can determine who's out.

We think we can't be sure we're in unless there's a boundary. We can't assign anybody to outsider status unless there's a line. And we crave those boundary lines. In the realm of what some call faith – but which may actually be religiosity – we'd like to know who's worthy and who isn't. Of course as we consider the boundary lines, we'd like to be sure that those lines are just the other side of us, so that we are among the blessed, and too bad for the outsiders.

But what if the circle of God's love is so wide that no matter how far we traveled we could never reach its bounds? What if the height and depth of God's mercy is so great that it extends above the heavens and reaches down beyond the bottom of the cosmos? And what if the presence of God's care fills every dimension and every time? What if in the will of God there are no outs; no wallflowers; no losers?

We protest. But what about people who are really, really evil? What about those who seem immune to understanding? What about...? What about it? Is not God able to do whatever God wants? Is not the God who has declared Divinity and love to be the same, capable of pouring out that love everywhere and to everyone?

Our sense of justice is outraged. Somewhere along the line we'd like to see that kid who won the Pinewood Derby get smacked upside the head – twice. And

shouldn't that big kid who chose us last for the baseball game get his pitching arm pierced by a demon's pitchfork – three times and he's out? We would never do those mean things that they did – except for that one time when we did, or at least wanted to. But they.... And if God is more forgiving than we know how to be, then what?

When Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane that his followers "might all be one," I doubt that he was thinking about grading on a curve or wallflowers at the high school dance. But then again, maybe he was. Maybe that line in the New Testament about Jesus breaking down the walls of separation was meant for us. Maybe the first step toward fulfilling Jesus prayer is for each of us and all of us to let go of the boundary lines that we use to define ourselves. Maybe instead of picking teams and picking fights, we need to be expanding our own circles again and again until we've finally lost track of where the lines are, and we know that everybody's in and nobody's out.

Growing up is hard. We've all been the little kid on the block, and we've all been the wallflower, and we've all lost the contest. Those moments hurt then, and if we're honest with ourselves the memories are painful still. But there is healing for each of us in God's love that is so deep and wide, high and low, that it encompasses all our past, all our present and all our future. In that love there are no divisions and no boundaries. There is only God's grace, so amazing and so freely given.

Go in peace; go in love.

# REVIEWS



**Dr. Robert M. Puckett**



**MY NEIGHBOR'S FAITH: Stories of interreligious encounters, growth, and transformation;** Jennifer How Peace, Or N. Rose, and Gregory Mobley, Editors; Orbis Books, Maryknoll, New York; 2012, Paperback, 279 pages, \$25.

One of our in-laws is preparing to be a lay minister in the Episcopal Church, and this is one of the books required in that process. It is a collection of more than fifty testimonies of people who represent a wide diversity of religious commitment and whose lives have been enriched by interfaith dialogue. "In this book seekers from every dimension meet together and begin to talk things out. They tell of meeting someone whose very life taught them something about God, despite the fact that they were frighteningly Other. They begin to see different dimensions of their own faith that call them to learn from the Other." (p. xii)

Unfortunately we live in a world which Jonathan Edwards once described as one in which "We have just enough religion to make us hate, but not enough religion to make us love one another." (P. xiii) That is true partly because we often do not know our neighbor as friends and human beings who struggle with the same problems that we do. Getting to know our neighbors, particularly those of a different faith than our own, often leads to deeper understanding of our own faith.

Jennifer Howe Peace describes how her brief encounter with a Muslim scholar named Mohammed, planted a seed which eventually blossomed into the insight that "whether I liked it or not, that my personal experience did not give me full knowledge or exclusive rights to God. God is greater than my experience." (p. 29)

Arthur Green, a professor of Jewish Philosophy and religion at Hebrew College, tells how Japanese Zen Buddhist Monk's statement: "A Christian who says 'Christ is the only God' is like a man who says, 'My wife is the only woman.'" (p. 66) He made it clear how his teacher Abraham Joshua Heschel could be very involved in Vatican II negotiations. It helped him see how he could remain fully engaged in his own faith and respect the faith of others as well.

Michael Lerner credits Rabbi Abraham Heschel, his mentor's teaching of the ancient Hebrew prophets, with a spiritual vision merged with a passion for social justice. "Heschel's work with Martin Luther King, William Sloan Coffin, and many other religious activists remain for me a shining example of the transformative potential of interfaith cooperation." That led me to

feel secure in "asserting the idea that God cares as much for non-Jews as for Jews and that as a religious Jew I must seek to embody the oft-repeated commandment in the Torah to 'love the stranger.'" So that I spent time building ties with Christians, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindus, Jews, UUs and others who believe in the sacredness of all life ... to discover the divine presence in everyone." (Pp 152-153)

Ruben L. F. Habito, a Jesuit seminarian learned from a Zen Buddhist Master to hear the Christian message of God's love as a "voice of unconditional acceptance of all that was, is, and ever will be, just as it is...it is a voice that urges me all the more to live in a way that I can be of some help in alleviating the pain and suffering of my fellow living beings, in the best way I can." (P. 169)

Zalman Schachter-Shalomi encountered Reverend Howard Thurman, the black Dean of Marsh Chapel at Boston University and learned the value of solitude.

Or N. Rose learned something about Holy Chutzpah from William Sloan Coffin who was a speaker at the memorial service of Abraham Joshua Heschel. His reference to the work they had done together for justice revealed a thin line between righteous indignation and self-righteousness. "Work for social change, he warned, could breed in one a dangerous arrogance disguised as holy impatience. ... "Never hate evil more than you love the good" Because the result is that you will become a damn good hater! And the world has enough of that kind of activist" (P. 226)

Jim Wallis says that his faith calls him to love his neighbor, especially when he does not agree with them, and he points to the example of Steve Stone, pastor of Heartsong Church in Cordova, Tennessee who passed that test of character. When the Islamic Center's new building was under construction next door to his church, rather than protest, he put up a sign that said, "Heartsong Welcomes Memphis Islamic Center to the Neighborhood," and when the center was under construction Islamic prayer services were held at Heartsong.

The testimony of these witnesses is a challenge to all of us to engage in loving dialogue with others beyond the borders of faith!!!

## THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

A Voice for  
Ecumenical Congregations  
(ISSN - 0145-3297)

A periodical of news, reviews, and reflections for ecumenically oriented and community-minded churches, ministry centers, and clergy.

Published Oct., Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., June by the International Council of Community Churches. Home Office: 21116 Washington Parkway, Frankfort, Illinois 60423-1253. Periodicals postage paid at Frankfort, Illinois and at additional mailing offices. Subscription rate: \$12.00 per year.

### Editors:

DeAnn Chatlosh  
Don Ashmall

### Circulation:

DeAnn Chatlosh

### Book Reviews:

Robert M. Puckett

Telephone: 815/464-5690

Fax: 815/464-5692

### E-Mail:

ICCC60423@sbcglobal.net

www.ICCCUSA.com

### POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to :  
ICCC, 21116 Washington Pkwy.  
Frankfort, IL 60423-3112.

## Mission Statement



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

## Ecumenews

by Herman Harmelink III, Vice-President for  
Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations



The civilized world was shocked and appalled by the barbarism of the extremist Islamist group, ISIS, in its treatment of an American journalist, of soldiers captured from opposing forces, and of religious minorities in the areas they conquered. Their ruthlessness was illustrated by their behaviour in Mosul, a city with a Christian presence for at least 1800 years, where all Christians were ordered to convert to Sunni Islam or be killed. Fortunately many of them were able to flee to other areas for safety. Less fortunate was the Yazidi sect, one almost unknown to the rest of the world, which was regarded by ISIS as a heretical group, an almost more dangerous status than that of the 'infidel' Christians. Other groups which have almost been wiped out are Aramaic-speakers (the language of Jesus), one Christian and one Jewish. Such intolerance borders on genocide, and brings back memories of previous atrocities in the Balkans and in Hitler-occupied Europe.

When we see such wickedness in our world, we may be tempted to take in return a harsh view of Muslims. To do so, however, would not only be a violation of our own belief that all humans our children of God, it would betray a kind of amnesia about the crimes which have been committed in the name of Christianity. We should remember the fighting between Protestants and Catholics in Ireland, between Catholics and Eastern Orthodox in the 90s in the Balkans, and between Russian Orthodox and Ukrainian Orthodox at the present time.

It will help us to be less judgemental toward other religions who have members behaving badly, when we remember Christians who have behaved badly. Our aim might be to judge others, if we must judge, by their best representatives rather than their worst. Would we prefer Christianity to be judged on the basis of Westboro Baptist Church's behaviour, or on that of Archbishop Tutu?

About 40 years ago the community where I live established an interfaith council as a successor to a council of churches. At first there were just Protestant, Catholic and Jewish congregations. But as time went by Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and Bahais joined as well. And when the events of 9/11 occurred we were able to meditate and pray together because of our experience of walking together for years. If your community does not yet have a forum for interfaith conversation and joint action, now would be a good time to begin.

### 2014 Conference Sponsors

The International Council of Community Churches is grateful for the following 2014 Annual Conference Sponsors for their investment in the community church movement:

**We-Mac Manufacturing Company, Kansas City, MO**

**Antioch Community Church, Kansas City, MO**

**The Ministers & Missionaries Benefit Board, New York, NY**

We thank you for your financial support of a conference program.

## Jordan Scholarship Fund Recipient

The Jordan Scholarship was recently awarded to Jamarquis Poole.

Congratulations and best wishes in his educational endeavors!



Jamarquis Jimier Poole  
**Tennessee Valley  
Community Church  
Florence, AL**

Jamarquis is pursuing a major in Biomedical Sciences.

## KNOWLEDGE IS GOLD

Would you like to go further  
with your education?

Apply for a Jordan Scholarship  
Contact the Council Office  
for an application.

[ICCC60423@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ICCC60423@sbcglobal.net)

or 815-464-5690



### Sharing Joys:

- **Rev. Rose Tressel of Bethany Church**, Bethany, CT attended the July 2014 seminar on Old Catholic Theology in an Ecumenical Context sponsored by the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands and the Old Catholic Union of Utrecht. The seminar featured excursions to illustrate Dutch church views on conciliar Catholicism have been influenced by local history and culture. Tressel observed that differences in American and Dutch culture and theology have produced churches that share a theology but not necessarily a shared outlook or self-image. The seminar highlighted the amount of effort and work expended by the National Council of Churches and similar ecumenical groups in bringing together churches with different views.
- **Longboat Island Chapel**, Longboat Key, FL and Senior Pastor **Rev. Dr. Vincent Carroll** welcome **Rev. Bill Friederich** as their Associate Pastor. Bill has brought his musical talent to the chapel, represents the chapel on Ecumenical meetings and will co-host a trip to Israel in April 2015.
- **Rev. Carter S.R. and Mary Frances Garner, Park Road Community Church**, Washington, DC celebrated 50 years of marriage on August 17<sup>th</sup>! They renewed their vows after morning worship and a reception followed. Congratulations!
- **Rev. Carla Dietz, Greendale People's Church**, Worcester, MA was installed as their new pastor Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>, with a reception following the service. **Council Minister Don Ashmall** was present along with other ICCC members. Welcome!
- **Christ Church of Peace**, Jacksonville, FL, has called **Rev. Kendall J. Guthrie**, M.Div. as our pastor, succeeding **Rev. Dr. Harvey Carr**, who retired in March. Pastor Kendall was a founding member of Christ Church of Peace, and has returned in service officially on July 13, 2014.
- **Roser Memorial Community Church**, Anna Maria, FL, called **Rev. Robert O'Keefe** as pastor Aug, 24<sup>th</sup>, succeeding **Rev. Gary Batey** who has retired. We congratulate Roser on their selection.
- **Bishop Jonathan Blake** of the **Open Episcopal Church, UK** recently published "*That Old Devil Called God Again*," calling on his readers to abandon inherited religious dogma that leads to violent extremism with a vibrant spirituality. You can find the book on Amazon.com.
- **Revs. Fran and Tony Begonja, Heart of Jesus Ministries**, Des Plaines, IL hosted a conference on *Inner Healing and Deliverance* at the Mundelein Seminary Conference Center in Chicago Sept. 19-21<sup>st</sup>. Its title, *UNBOUND*, is a safe, loving and reproducible model that helps people to respond to the good news of the gospel and apply the truth to their lives using the Five Keys of Repentance & Faith, Forgiveness, Renunciation, Authority and The Father's Blessing.
- On June 22, 2014, **Historic First Community Church of Nashville, TN, Rev. Glenn Clay Pastor** celebrated a long-standing event, "Family and Friends Day" at the 11:00 a.m. service. Family and Friends Day has been held at the church for over 20 years. It is one of several cherished community events, where everyone is invited. A special tribute was presented to civil rights activist, Kwame Leo Lillard for his outstanding contributions to the Civil Rights Movement. Poignant and compelling testimonies were given by those who knew him personally during that time with the challenges of the movement.



- **Christian Catholic Rite of Community Churches**, Quebec, Canada wishes to share the following joys: Sister **Leona Hartman**, *St. Stephen's, Montreal*, has completely recovered from a broken ankle. In January she slipped on a small step while on a mission trip in South Africa; **Rev. Ray Henson**, *Military Chaplaincy, White House, Tennessee*. His granddaughter Elaina did her First Communion on May 4. Rev. Henson also has set up a chapel in the Nashville Hope Lodge and is saying Mass there every Sunday; **Rev. Willard Dionne**, *St. Bernard & St. Gregory, Ottawa*, will tour the Holy Land in July with his wife Suzanne, walking in the footsteps of Jesus; Ms. **Catherine Hoen** joined the parish of *St. Bernard & St. Gregory, Ottawa*, on July 27 with her children Josephine and Alexander; On August 3, we welcomed back Mr. **Marius Girard**, who was a parishioner in the 1980s; A Memorial Eucharist was held for the repose of the soul of late **Bishop O'Neill Côté** who passed away on July 30, 1986; **Rev. Robert Butterworth**, *Eastern Ontario Pastorate*, officiated at the wedding of Gilbert Grandmaison and Nicole Charlebois in Rockland on August 16. May their married life be filled with happiness and lots of love; **Rev. Willard Dionne**, *Society of the Precious Blood*, resumed the regular SBP service of Morning Prayer & Eucharist held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month on August 17 at the Dignity Chapel in Ottawa; **Council Minister Donald Ashmall** made a well received presentation on the work of the International Council of Community Churches August 15, at *St. Philip's African Orthodox Church* in Sydney NS (sister church); We gave thanks to God for the life and ministry of our first bishop **René Vilatte**, whose passing (07-01-1929) was remembered at Mass on June 29.

### Our Prayers are With:

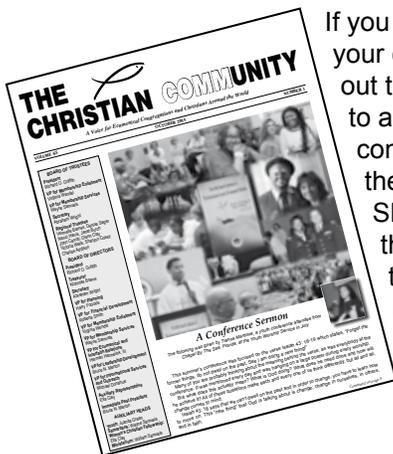
- **Rev. John Woodcock**, Senior Pastor at **Church of the Loving Shepherd**, Westtown, PA. His mother, **Bernice Woodcock** passed away Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> peacefully with John by her side.
- **Veronica Theriault**, *St. Bernard & St. Gregory, Ottawa*, whose nana, Mrs. **Christine Antle**, passed away. Her homecoming celebration was held April 18. • **Dr. Marilyn Z. Rossner**, *International Institute of Integral Human Sciences*, for the success of her conference "Global Peace Enchanted by Divine Love and Higher Consciousness" to be held in Montreal August 1-10, 2014.
- **Ms. Christiane Hoen**, *St. Bernard & St. Gregory, Ottawa*, whose mother, Mrs. **Maria Hoen-Gelissen**, passed away on August 31 in the Netherlands. • **Justin Theriault**, **Christian Catholic Rite**, who started a new job with TD Canada Trust in Mississauga. • **The people of the Middle East**: May God calm the minds; console those who suffer and give them the strength to face the days ahead.
- Lebuwe Centre in South Africa, the **International Institute of Integral Human Sciences** and the community of Atteridgeville as criminal activity to that area continues.
- Are prayers are with **Rev. George W. Davis** and family, Pastor Emeritus **St. Paul's Community Church**, NY, with the passing of his wife, Alice Faye.

## Gifts have been received for the following:

- As a Memorial to Sancta Sophia Seminary from Connie Swan
- As a Memorial to the Salone & Pelletier Families from Jean Pelletier
- As a Memorial to Mrs. Betty J. Campbell from Greater Faith Community Church
- As a Memorial to D.J. Nelson Sr. from Sandra Nelson
- As a Memorial to Elizabeth Glenn-Locke from James & Ruth Glenn
- As a Memorial to Olivia Brown-Murphy from James & Ruth Glenn
- As a Memorial to Barbara Harmelink from Herman Harmelink III
- As a Memorial to Ralph Shotwell from Ron & Lonnie Miller
- As a Memorial to Olivia Brown-Murphy from Ruth & James Glenn
- As a Memorial to Joan Rigby from Mary Frances Garner (2)
- As a Memorial to Cedeno (Stretch) Richardson from Elaine Richardson
- As a Memorial to Leona P. Moore from Vermelle Barnes

- In Honor of Chaplain Bradley Walgren from Harold Walgren
- In Honor of Simmoine Brown from James & Ruth Glenn
- In Honor of Greendale People's Church from Rev. Carla Dietz
- In Honor of Rev. Carol E. Parrish from Elizabeth J. St. Angelo
- In Honor of Joan Rigby from The Garners
- In Honor of Raymond Jennings from James W. Jones
- In Honor of Vernell Jones from James W. Jones
- In Honor of Willie Jones, Jr., from James W. Jones (2)
- In Honor of Joan Rigby from Rev. Carter S.R. Garner
- In Honor of Marguerite Kimbrow from Clementine Johnson
- In Honor of Eva Jones from Barbara Ratliff
- In Honor of Denny Landis from Doris Landis
- In Honor of Marion Henley from Barbara Ratliff
- In Honor of Margaret Stewart from Bill & Allene Grossman

Have the people of your church or ministry center seen this issue of **The Christian Community**?



If you received this issue via your computer, will you print out the pages and give them to another member of your congregation and/or post them on a bulletin board? Share the good things that are happening in the community church movement!

Thank you.

## Seeking a Senior Pastor

Community Church at Tellico Village is seeking a Senior Pastor to lead our pastoral team and congregation following the retirement of our pastor who served for seventeen years. CCTV is a 1400 member interdenominational church located SW of Knoxville, TN in a planned community on Tellico Lake in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains. The church is affiliated with the International Council of Community Churches. The ideal candidate possesses a deep personal faith in Jesus Christ and demonstrates a true desire to shape their ministry by the Great Commandment. S/he values Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation. S/he is a mature "people-person" with leadership skills who has a passion for: preaching, developing fellowship, and spiritual growth ministries. Ministers from all denominations may apply. M. Div. required. If interested, visit us at [www.tellicochurch.com](http://www.tellicochurch.com) and post resume to [search@tellicochurch.org](mailto:search@tellicochurch.org). Otherwise mail to TVCC Search Team, 130 Chota Center, Loudon, TN 37774. The deadline for submission of application materials is November 15, 2014.

The ICCC's Facebook page is open to you!

Join the group, learn what's happening around the Council, and post notices and photos of your church's exciting ministries!



## *A Conference Sermon cont'd. from pg. 1*

As teenagers, we're constantly changing, growing and learning; that's what the conference and life is all about. "God is doing a new thing" and it's starting with ourselves through the personal experiences we encounter.

Before God even created Adam and Eve, I think that he already had an idea in his mind about humans and how he wanted his human world to be.

I'm going to take a moment and go back to the very beginning of everything; Genesis. Genesis 1: 3-4 states that "God said let there be light and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness".

Literally, he meant that he created night and day, but it has a much deeper meaning than that. Everybody in here has light and darkness inside of them. And we can see this through their attitudes.

Sometimes we're excited, happy, helping others and walking with our heads held high. Other times we can be rude, grouchy and selfish. And I can relate due to the simple fact that I use hateful words to the people I love most and I lie, and sometimes I just shut people out. Having the knowledge that I do this, makes positive change in myself one step closer.

But did God even separate the light from the darkness? Or did he merely create two contrasting ideas? Not doubting or questioning Him in any way, but, if He separated the dark completely from the light, than why is it that on a bright and sunny day we can still slightly see the moon?

It's because God didn't create the gap between darkness and light-He created the change between the two. The moon and stars slowly progress into the sun and blue sky; and that's exactly the same for humanity.

Humans slowly realize their faults and can move past them and that's when the most positive change occurs. Going from a bad situation to a good situation is the most important lesson to learn.

Everybody, no matter who you are, can find something or someone to be your light- for some it's family, food, cars- and of course, we all have the Lord.

Whatever it is, something makes you come from the pitch black and into the sun. For me, going to conference this year and becoming a TWISTED teen has been a huge part of my light.

I have not always lived the easiest life. I have lived for days without running water, or with little food to eat. I have gone days without seeing my family, staying at a friend's house. I have such a big family, so money seems to always be a struggle for me.

Despite having these events happen to me, I know that I have God and you great people to be my light.

When I first came to Chapel, I was nervous that I wouldn't have many friends here, but that wasn't the case at all. I've bonded with each and every person here, and I have such a love for every member of this church. When I come here, I'm happy and safe and I know that no matter what I'm feeling, I can count on you guys to put a smile on my face. Being a TWISTED teen has made me such a huge part of the community, I love giving back. Serving at Peace Memorial or packing bags for Stop Hunger Now has made me realize that we're all so important to so many people! And I've stood in lines at food banks, I know what it's like to feel like you'll never have money for anything. At ICCC I was around so many people that all had God in their hearts, and it was so eye opening. Being with those twenty teens this summer made me realize how much good we're actually capable of doing; it was amazing. If you help somebody go through a change in their life, they'll help you change yours.

God separated the light from the darkness, but it's our job to do that within ourselves and our neighbors.

## *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*

"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).