

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

A Voice for Ecumenical Congregations and Christians Around the World

VOLUME 69

OCTOBER 2018

NUMBER 1

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President

Harry Foockle

VP for Membership Enlistment

Carter S.R. Garner

VP for Membership Services

Wayne Samuels

Secretary

Abraham Wright

Regional Trustees

Myrtis Brame, Janet Burch
Glenn Clay, Sharyon Cosey,
Charles Addison, Doris Marcisak,
Kenneth Young, Bruce Jones

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Harry Foockle

Treasurer

Nicholas Brame

Secretary

Abraham Wright

VP for Planning

Jerry Brown

VP for Financial Development

Roberta Smith

VP for Regional Relationships

Doris Landis

VP for Membership Enlistment

Carter S.R. Garner

VP for Membership Services

Wayne Samuels

VP for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

Herman Harmelink, III

VP for Leadership Development

Stephen York

VP for Informational Services and Outreach

Michael Donahue

Auxiliary Representatives

Wayne Samuels, Carolyn Nichols,
Carl Davis, Sr.

AUXILIARY HEADS

Youth: Andrenae Brown

Samaritans: Wayne Samuels

Women's Christian Fellowship:

Carolyn Nichols

Ministerium: Carl Davis, Sr.

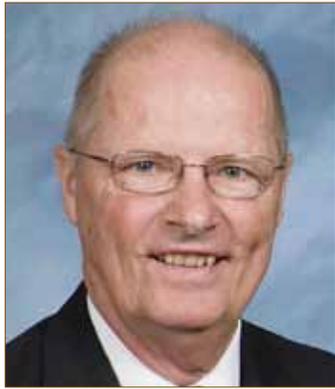
Reflections of Annual Conference 2018 – St. Louis, MO

by Jerry Brown, V.P. for Planning

What a great conference we had in July. If you missed it, you missed an outstanding, spirit-filled week! The preaching was powerful, the workshops were insightful, and St Monica's choir was inspirational. Now the Conference Planning Committee faces a formidable task; to improve on that conference. But we welcome the challenge. In fact, our first meeting took place even before we left St Louis, and we've been coordinating arrangements ever since.

continued on page 5





President's Message

Harry Fooockle

Grace and peace to the people of the ICCC in the name of Jesus our Christ.

If I may, as I write the first time as your President, share the "Cotton Patch" version by Clarence Jordon of Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

"Every thought of you makes me thank God for you, and all my prayers for you are flooded with joy because of your partnership with me in the good news from the very first moment you heard it until the present. (verses 3-4).

And this I pray: that your love may keep growing until you have such an understanding and keen perception that you can sort out the truly important matters. I pray too that you may overflow with the goodness that comes from following Christ, to God's credit and honor". (verses 9-11).

Indeed I am thankful, humbled and grateful for the opportunity to serve with you in God's movement and mission called The International Council of Community Churches.

I fully embrace and believe this is a God called and God answered

movement. A movement needed today as much as it was needed in the 1950's. We are in position to witness to a world a love and acceptance of each other through the grace of the risen Christ.

My friends, our ICCC provides many "tools" in making the witness happen in our local communities. During Annual Conference we experience worship and the hope it brings. We enjoy workshops, bible teaching, the work of organizations such as the National and World Council of Churches. We take these "tools" back home to our local community to share the possibilities of ministries.

We experience places where people in missions labor for the Lord and local churches can plug into. Support is provided for our pastor

such as available financial help with education. When a church is looking for a pastor the ICCC can provide help for the search committees.

So many "tools" are available to us. Our ICCC office has wonderful brochures that tell the stories of the ministries we provide. All of this to support the vision of this God inspired and needed movement: "To live the inclusive love of God that overcomes divisions. To work towards peace, justice, mercy and love."

Join me in inviting others to our local churches to tell our stories as well as the stories of the ICCC. Indeed we are needed today to witness God's Grace and inclusive love.

Glory!!!





Executive Director's Message

Can We All Just Get Along?

Phil Tom

“There is neither Greek nor Jew, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus” Galatians 3:28

On March 3, 1991, Rodney King, an African American resident of Los Angeles, was violently arrested by Los Angeles police. A bystander videotaped the event, and the incident raised a public outcry among those who believed it was a racially motivated attack. The acquittal in a state court of the four police officers, charged with using excessive force, provided the spark that led to the 1992 Los Angeles riots/rebellion. Rodney King made a public plea appealing for calm during the riots saying - “People, I just want to say, you know, can we all just get along? Can we get along? Can we stop making it horrible for the older people and the kids?... It’s just not right. It’s not right. It’s not, it’s not going to change anything. We’ll, we’ll get our justice....”

The racial tension and divide that faced our nation in 1992 is alive and well today, and it was the same environment when ICCC was organized in 1950. ICCC was organized in 1950 with the merger of the predominantly African-American body called the Biennial Council of the People’s

Church of Christ and Community Centers, and the primarily European-American body called the National Council of Community Churches. Leaders of both organizations saw that neither denomination nor race should separate the people of God. Following their shared vision, the leaders of both organizations worked for the reconciliation and the healing of divisions in the church of Jesus Christ and American society.

The vision that led to the creation of ICCC was a bold and profound statement at its time when racial segregation and division prevailed in much of American church life and society. For such a time as this in the year 2018 when our nation continues to experience major racial and other social divisions, the role of the ICCC’s voice in the public arena for human

reconciliation, justice, dignity, and healing is ever more needed today!

As members of ICCC, God has called us to work for racial and social unity and harmony, affirming unity amid God’s beautiful diverse creation. We need to lift God’s Good News that every person, regardless of race, gender, nationality, immigration status, sexuality is a child of God, and each person should be respected with dignity and compassion. Let us continue to stand up in and with our communities to build God’s beloved community.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Phil".



Attend to Reading! (1 Timothy 4:13)

BOOK REVIEWS

By Rev. Kenneth N. Nelson



JUST MERCY: A Story of Justice and Redemption

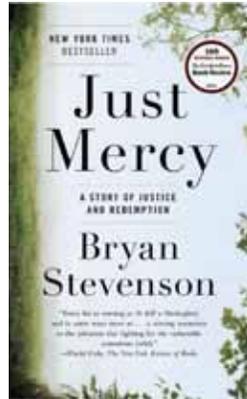
by Bryan Stevenson **** 1/2 stars.

Audiobook, narrated by: Bryan Stevenson, Length: 11 hrs. and 5 mins, rated 5 stars, \$12.99

with Amazon Kindle purchased of \$14.99, Google Play, \$14.99

Barnes & Noble, paperback, \$12.49; 336 pp. Spiegel & Grau. \$28.00 Copyright © 2014.

Byron Stevenson's memoir, *Just Mercy*, reveals a fascinating truth: "My years of struggling against inequality, abusive power, poverty, oppression, and injustice had finally revealed something to me about myself. Being close to suffering, death, executions, and cruel punishments didn't just illuminate the brokenness of others; in a moment of anguish and heartbreak, it also exposed my own brokenness. You can't effectively fight abusive power, poverty, inequality, illness, oppression, or injustice and not be broken by it" (p. 288).



Just Mercy contributes to the body of literature on mass incarceration such as Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow* or Ruth Wilson Gilmore's *Golden Gulag*, or John Grisham's *An Innocent Man*. *Just Mercy* explores the origins of mass incarceration and offers an intriguing understanding about how people are intertwined in the system of change and status quo.

As a valuable educational tool for young adults and clergy, *Just Mercy* has a study guide that help readers understand fully its 16 chapters. *Just Mercy* is an excellent resource for anyone's library for understanding the criminal justice system and

understanding redemption. Here's a couple of discussion questions and activities from Chapter 1, Mockingbird Players and Chapter 15, Broken.

Stevenson's narrative reveals our brokenness as we pursue mercy and justice in an unjust and cruel criminal justice system. At every turn in this pursuit, Stevenson reveals the contradictions and paradoxes of our times. Stevenson tells us he is from a ... poor, rural, racially segregated settlement on the eastern shore of the Delmarva Peninsula, in Delaware, where the racial history of this country casts a long shadow... unapologetically Southern (p.14).

Stevenson's family history in faith guided him to studying philosophy at Eastern University, a Christian university, near Philadelphia Pennsylvania. After graduation, he realized the practical limits of his philosophy degree, but he also realized it was excellent preparation for a successful tour at Harvard Law School and the Kennedy School of Government, where he earned his law and public policy degrees.

While completing his law degree, the curiosity of his grandfather's murder started to take shape when an internship led to his employment at the Southern Prisoners Defense Committee (now the Southern Center for Human Rights). From these experiences, and an unsuccessful start of a legal clinic, Stevenson founded the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), a private, nonprofit organization that challenges poverty and racial injustice, advocates for equal treatment in the criminal justice system, and creates hope for marginalized communities. *Just Mercy* records his transformation.

Stevenson's life purpose emerges with the case of Walter McMillian. McMillian was convicted by the partiality of life and not the facts of a courtroom. Stevenson discovers why McMillian was wrongfully convicted and works for McMillian being released after 6 years on death row.

Chapter 1, Mockingbird Players.

Discussion Question:

What famous novel was written in Monroe County, Al, and how is it relevant to *Just Mercy*? (Hint: Actor Gregory Peck was the Academy Award for Best Actor for his role as Atticus Finch in this 1962 film adapted from the novel).

Chapter 15, Broken.

Discussion Question

Discuss the ways in which the system failed Jimmy Dill. Discuss the ways the system is failing in your community.

Activity

In this chapter, Stevenson feels overwhelmed and is ready to quit. Write him a letter outlining all the reasons you would encourage him to continue on at the EJI.

OR

You have a friend who is overwhelmed with ministry and is ready to quit. Write them a letter outlining all the reasons you would encourage them to continue.

Great!

For next month, if you are willing to share your answers, we will post them and in the next installment of *Attend to Reading*. We will look at other discussion questions and activities from key chapters in *Just Mercy*.



Be sure to visit our Facebook page
to see many great things
happening at ICCC Churches!
www.facebook.com/icccnow/

Seeking a Senior Minister

Historic non-denominational community Christian church in northeast Ohio seeks a full-time Senior Minister. Established in 1809, The Church in Aurora (www.tcia.cc) has an engaged congregation, four full-time staff including Associate Minister, and part-time staff that helps administer vibrant CE, youth and music programs. Church activities include Women's Guild, Stephen Ministries, Work Camp and Bible studies. Founded in 1799, Aurora is part of the historic Western Reserve and equidistant from Cleveland and Akron. Interested candidates should submit cover letter, resume and statement of faith to SearchCommittee@tcia.cc.

Seeking a Music Director



Norris Religious Fellowship (Norris, TN) is seeking a Music Director. Salaried, part-time position. The Music Director works in initiating programs, rehearsals, special music, etc.; provides piano and/or organ accompaniment for the hymns. Ability to lead a choir and congregation, directing and inspiring others through a ministry of music. Excellent vocal skills a plus. Please provide a resume and cover letter along with recording demonstrating your skill set via audio CD, DVD, or link to digital materials online (YouTube, Vimeo, professional website). Submit via email to norrisreligiousfellowship@comcast.net. More information about NRF www.NorrisRF.org.

Seeking Supply Pastor (Part-time, May 1-Dec 31, 2018)

Orchard Park Community Church is a non-denominational church located in the quaint village of Orchard Park, NY in Western New York, approximately 15 miles from Buffalo. We are blessed to be a diverse, all - inclusive, and family oriented church with an active membership of approximately 100 people and is an active affiliate of the International Council of Community Churches.

The qualified candidate shall: Be an ordained and licensed minister, Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to teach the Holy Bible, Be an empowering educator with strong skills in discipleship, homiletics, pastoral care and community building, Demonstrate godly character and integrity, Share our church's vision of equipping Christians in the mission of Christ, Have a minimum of a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, Have attended an accredited seminary (seminary degree preferred), Have a minimum of 1 - 3 years experience in preaching and church leadership (negotiable). 3 years experience preferred. Demonstrate excellent verbal, written, and presentation skills, Demonstrate leadership, organizational, strategic planning and time management skills.

Job Description:

Pastor will be responsible for weekly worship service, conducting funerals and special worship services and programs, Oversees pastoral care to the sick and shut – ins and to those in personal crisis through visitation, counseling and prayer, Administers the ordinances of the Lord's Supper and Baptism, Officiate weddings as agreed upon with couples both heterosexual and same - sex, Adheres to OPCC Constitution and By – laws, Actively engages in community sponsored events and, Other duties as required

If you have been led by the Holy Spirit to seek the position of Supply Pastor of the Orchard Park Community Church, please submit your cover letter and resume to: Becky Middaugh, 9 Worthington Lane, Lancaster, NY 14086

Candidates may also learn more about our church by visiting our website: www.opcommunitychurch.org



Gifts have been received for the following:

As a Memorial to:

Archbishop E. Brian Carston from
Bishop John Newbauer

Rev. Frank Sanders from Debora Ellen Brown

William & Ruth Fitch from Connee Fitch-Blanks

Nancy MacVicar from Marty & Sandy Singley

Timothy Barta from Joseph Barta

Nancy MacVicar from James MacVicar

Nancy MacVicar from Bob Harris

Jarrell Mack & Joan Rigby from
Lester & Dorothy Barry

Olivia B. Murphy & Elizabeth Locke from James &
Ruth Glenn

Nancy MacVicar from Saundra Nelson

Clementine Johnson from Celeste Darey

Dick Griffith from Bob Harris

Richard Griffith from Marty & Sandy Singley

Claude Swanson from Marty & Sandy Singley

Harold Walgren from Leanne Walgren

Dick Griffith from Bruce Merton

Rose Addison from Charles Addison

Sandy Singley from Helen Nicholson

Sandy Singley from Susan Miller

Sandy Singley from Ronald & Charlene Frohock

Sandy Singley from Carolyn Purcell

Sandy Singley from Kathie Agrell

Sandy Singley from Brian & Mary Ellen Strand

Rev. Marion Bascom from Beverly Reid

Serena F. Smith from Sandra L. Roberts

Joan Martin from Jeff Archambeault

Sandy Singley from Terry & Rhonda Blevins

Dianne Chouinard from Jeff Archambeault

Sandy Singley from Louis Joy

Vermelle Barnes from Mary F. Garner

Sandy Singley from Bruce Merton

Sandy Singley from Rich & Marge Planzo

Sandy Singley from Herb & Lorraine Freitag

Sandy Singley from Christine Corbin

Nancy Norris from Gussie Mae Fuller

D.J. Nelson from Gussie Mae Fuller

Claude Swanson from Brenda Swanson

In Honor of:

Donna O'Sullivan from Maureen Rafa

Dr. William H. Samuels from Janice McFadden

Elia Saidi Perez from Archbishop Patrick Trujillo

Rose Addison from Charles Addison

Blessings in the New Year from Carolyn Willey

Don Ashmall's ICCC Ministry from Bruce Merton

Clara Ann Cheatham from Ron Scarborough

Carl Burke from Caroline Burke

Jarrell Mack from Dorothy Barry

Joan Rigby from Dorothy Barry

Sandy Singley from Carla Dietz and John Carroll

Marion Henley from Barbara Ratliff (2)

Ikey Harris from the Daughters of Antioch, Antioch CC

Rev. Dr. Shirley B. Cooper from M. Frances Garner

Park Road Community Church from Rec. Carter S.R.
Garner

Church of the Loving Shepherd from Rev. & Mrs.
Karen Neely

Bishop Serge Theriault from Jeff Archambeault

Rev. John Woodcock from Rev. & Mrs. Karen Neely

Persavel Bright, Jr. from Marion Bright

Vermelle Barnes from James W. Jones

Ann Garner Brown from Mary F. Garner

Ms. Vermelle Barnes from Rev. Carter S.R. Garner

Rev. & Mrs. Eugene W. Burton from Mary F. Garner

***You can now
download the
Give + app on
your smart-
phone, and
contribute to
the ICCC in
one easy step.
Visit your app
store for Give
Plus Church
and download
today!***



Reflections of Annual Conference cont'd. from page 1

Our 2019 theme focuses on the very basis of the Christian faith, John 3:16. *“For God so loved the world, that whosoever believes in Him, shall not perish, but have eternal life.”* The significant message for us is not only God’s grace demonstrated here, but also God’s inclusiveness...very much like our own Council. All are invited to God’s table of grace. And so, we are God’s *whosoever* people.



Jerry Brown

We will meet next July in Jacksonville, Florida to praise, worship, give thanks, share fellowship, and learn with each other. We look forward to taking home not only an enhanced faith, but also practical perspectives we can use to carry out our commission to spread the good news of Jesus in our world.

And what an outstanding venue for our conference next year! Jacksonville was ranked in the top 50 meeting destinations in the US by Cvent and the number 8 best summer vacation destinations by Travelocity. Jacksonville has the largest urban park system in the nation, and more shoreline than any other city in Florida. Our location, the Hyatt Riverfront, is a beautiful hotel nestled along the St Johns River in downtown Jacksonville with Jacksonville Landing, a center of dining, shopping, and entertainment, just a short 5-minute walk from our back door.

We anticipate another outstanding gathering of “God’s *whosoever* people next July. Plan now to join us as we praise God, share the love of Jesus, and seek His guidance for our lives, our churches, and our communities.



2018 Installation of Officers



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: Phil Tom, DeAnn Anzaldi

Circulation: DeAnn Anzaldi

Telephone:
815/464-5690

Fax:
815/464-5692

E-Mail:
ICCC60423@sbcglobal.net
www.ICCCNOW.org

ICCC Endowment Fund Status As of September 6, 2018	
Gifts Goal by 30 June '19:	\$15,000
Gifts since 7/01/18:	\$7,668
Help us meet our goal, need:	\$7,332
Total Endowment Gifts to ICCC since inception:	\$46,373
Current Fund Assets:	\$341,452
Current Investment Mix: 50% stocks, 45% bonds, 5% Cash	

From the Desk of Reverend Carl J. Davis, Sr. President of the ICCC Ministerium

I greet you in the name of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We love all of you and your congregation. As the new President of the Ministerium Auxiliary of the ICCC, I am so proud to serve all of the ministers of this Council.



Our role as pastors, ministers, preachers and teachers has become more difficult in our complex society but we must meet the challenge with the Word of God.

Paul said in Romans 10:14, "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a Preacher?"

Please feel free to call on me at any time in the future, because we are here to help support you and your congregation. Remember, you are loved and wanted in this Council! See you in Jacksonville, Florida for the 2019 ICCC Annual Conference.

Peace and Love,
Reverend Carl L. Davis, Sr.

Ministerium Officers ~ 2018-2019:
President, Reverend Carl L. Davis, Sr., Pastor
Email: counselor4405@gmail.com

Vice President, Reverend Marcus Tillery
Email: ccew@optonline.net

Secretary, Reverend Vicky Kirkman
Email: vkirkman07@gmail.com

Treasurer, Reverend Rhonda Blevins
Email: revblev@chapelbythesea.net



Pictured from left, back row: Rev. Eloise Crenshaw (Metropolitan CC, AL), Rev. Leroy McCreary (People's CC, OH), Rev. Andrew Holloway (Covert CC, MI), Rev. Harry Foockle (Antioch CC, MO), Rev. Bill Samuels (Commonwealth CC, IL), Rev. John Woodcock (Church of the Loving Shepherd, PA), Chaplain Derek Ross (VA), Rev. Carter Garner (Park Road CC, DC), Rev. Ken Nelson (Seneca CC, MD).

Pictured from left, front row: Rev. Vicky Kirkman (Tennessee Valley CC, AL), Rev. Carl Davis (New Harvest Christian Church, AL), Rev. Marcus Tillery (CC of East Williston, NY) and Rev. Rhonda Blevins (Chapel By The Sea, FL).

Welcome to the new VP of Regional Relationships - Doris Landis!



"I have been an active member of Antioch Community Church for many years. Currently I serve as an Elder and a member of the Church Council, the governing body of the church. In the past I have served as Chairman of the council. I am active in the music programs and am treasurer in the women's group at Antioch."

Doris has attended Annual Conference since 1997 and has served and supported the Council ever since. Thank you, Doris and good luck!

Mission Statement



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

ICCC: A Higher Purpose

By Roberta Smith, Wilson Union Memorial Church, NJ

I believe it was 2007 when I bought my first hybrid vehicle. I must admit ... I was a little hesitant at first. You hear the stories of problems – the big expensive batteries wearing out, not enough power for the vehicle to climb hills, limited range of travel, and on and on but I forged ahead and bought the dealer demo model of a Toyota Highlander Hybrid. I am on the road a lot for work as well as personal stuff so I LIVE IN my car. As I began to drive the vehicle – live with the vehicle – I become familiar with all its systems, I found that the “stories” were not true. The car had GREAT power, a 10-year maintenance free battery, great gas mileage, no limits on range (didn’t need to be recharged like an electric car) and, most importantly – IT MADE SO MUCH SENSE. A hybrid vehicle: a car powered by an engine that can produce all the power of an internal combustion engine but can automatically switch over to an electric motor while idling at a traffic signal or in heavy traffic when less power is needed – thereby reducing emissions and saving fuel. Since then I have always owned a hybrid vehicle. And I often say, “**Why aren’t ALL CARS made this way?**” Now stick with me while I bring this home

I was raised in rural Virginia. As a child, I (probably like you) was “taken” to church. My mother was our family’s primary church-goer. She went to the church to which she had always gone - the Mallow Presbyterian Church – right in her little community of Mallow – the church to which her father went. I wasn’t asked for input on this decision. I was a young child and not in the position to say, “I have read the writings of John Calvin, Martin Luther and John Wesley and I have decided I would like to affiliate with the Presbyterian Church.” No I went to the church my family went to, where we mingled with other people of the community of Mallow who we had known for years, where we played softball, had church suppers, made macaroni crafts in Bible School, prayed for each other, sent cards to the sick



... a church that was a faith community within the community. Did it really matter that the sign said “Presbyterian?” Could the sign have said “Methodist,” or “Baptist,” or “Church of Christ” or “COMMUNITY” Church? **Why aren’t ALL churches made this way?**

So, after spending much of my religious life calling myself a “Presbyterian” – after being organist for churches of different denominations – after being re-baptized by immersion in a Southern Baptist church in Richmond, VA (something that was personally meaningful to me) – I now proudly say I am a member of Wilson Memorial Union Church, a congregation of the International Council of Community Churches. We are the sole Protestant church in our community – we seek to welcome all who wish to follow Christ – we also collaborate with the Catholic Church in our area. Instead of being out here alone in the world **we like to be represented by a central office** that seeks to represent all like-minded churches who work under the banner of COMMUNITY CHURCH – creating community wherever

Why aren’t ALL churches made this way?

“**Why aren’t ALL CARS made this way?**”

they may happen to be. **We speak out** to remind our nation and the world that the reason for which we were created is still relevant today – whether black or white – we are ONE in Christ. **We seek to draw the circle wider** – to other races, other cultures, people in other circumstances - and draw in others **under the umbrella of COMMUNITY**. In fact, through our Ecumenical Committee, **we collaborate** with our Presbyterian, Methodist, Lutheran, Baptist, Episcopal, United Church of Christ, et al fellow Christians ... to continue to work for that higher purpose ... WE ARE ONE IN JESUS CHRIST.

The men and women I have met at Annual Conference over the last 15 years representing ICCC churches from all over the country have become my brothers and sisters. I love them. There is no substitute for standing shoulder to shoulder with folks - worshipping, praying, singing, having Bible study, sharing a meal. TOGETHERNESS and RESPECT - makes for community.

Sharing Joys:

- The **ICCC Central Zone, Region B/Ohio Fellowship** will meet in Columbus, OH on Saturday, October 6, 2018. The **Michigan Fellowship** will meet on Saturday October 13, 2018 in South Haven, MI. Please contact **Regional Trustee Janet Burch** for details. Jan.burch@aol.com
- The **ICCC Eastern Zone, Region B's Annual Banquet** will be held on November 10, 2018 at **Douglas Memorial Community Church** in Baltimore, MD. Please contact **Regional Trustee Myrtis Brame** for details. myrtisjb@aol.com
- **Tennessee Valley Community Church** installed Pastor **Vicky Kirkman** as their new Senior Pastor on June 24, 2018. A reception followed. Pastor Kirkman was also appointed the **ICCC Ministerium Secretary** at our Annual Conference this past July. Congratulations!
- **Palisades Community Church**, Washington, DC, senior pastor **Elizabeth Hagan**, celebrates the church's 95th anniversary in October! They have several events planned. Check www.thepalisadescommunitychurch.org for info.
- At the 2018 ICCC Annual Conference, a youth participant (**Morgan**, from **Norris Religious Fellowship**, TN), produced this artwork as part of the Youth Worship Service. Later, it was auctioned off, and proceeds went to the Youth Conference Stipend Scholarship Fund. Morgan has created a digital reproduction of her "Rise and Resist" piece. It is available as a t-shirt, coffee mug, or phone case at <https://mbakaletz.threadless.com/designs/rise-resist>. All proceeds will be donated to ICCC youth for conference next year! Her piece, named "Rise and Resist" is about social justice and injustice. The piece as a whole symbolizes the sun. *"I chose to start the center of the sun in charcoal because this world is hate filled and impoverished. I believe that we can connect through kindness, shown through the honey yellow on the edges of the sun. Kindness is a medicine that we all need more of. Changing where we are right now as a people and as a nation is something that needs to happen fast. So this piece symbolizes that we run the world. More often than not, we run from the world. We decide to get up out of bed each morning, so why don't we decide to make a change? Why don't we open our eyes instead of shutting other people out? Make a difference. Live. Change."*

- Rev. **Karen Neely**, Senior Pastor at **Norris Religious Fellowship** was the recipient of the Charles A. Trentham Homiletics Award at the July Annual Conference held in St. Louis, MO. Her winning sermon can be read in the *2018 Inclusive Pulpit*, and will soon be available to read at <http://www.iccnw.org/community-church-press/>

- Congrats to **Michael Donahue, ICCC VP for Informational Services and Outreach**, who was recently appointed as Chaplain for the Clarksville Fire Department.
- Prayers of joy and celebration for Rev. **Leroy McCreary** as he retires at the end of September from **People's Community Church**, Berea, OH after 43 years of serving People's Community Church as its Pastor! **ICCC Executive Director, Phil Tom** will be attending his retirement celebrations on September 29-30.

Our prayers are with:

- **Laurence Samuels, Commonwealth Community Church**, Chicago, IL and the families of son **Wayne Samuels, ICCC VP of Membership Services** and brother **Bill Samuels, ICCC Past President** as they determine the right path for Laurence's health trials.
- Rev. **Shirley Cooper**, senior pastor at **Park Road Community Church**, Washington, DC as she continues to experience health challenges.
 - ICCC Regional Trustee **Rev. Bruce Jones**, and his **Imagine Church of the Carolinas** family in Charlotte, NC, and the communities being impacted by Hurricane Florence. We are asking that ICCC members contribute to our mission partner, Church World Service to assist with its relief efforts for the victims of Hurricane Florence.
- Rev. **James Ivy** from **Emmanuel Community Church** in South Haven, MI as he battles health challenges.
- ICCC board member, Rev. **Michael Donahue** from **Speed Memorial Church** in Speed, IN as he continues to address his health challenge, and the recent loss of his wife's (Kari) mother, **Sandra Lee Dowler**, who passed away at age 81 on August 26th.
- ICCC Regional Trustee **Charles Addison, Havenscourt Community Church**, Oakland, CA for the passing of his sister, Ms. **Elaine Zackery** on August 26th.
- **Kay Andrews, The Church at Litchfield Park**, Litchfield Park, AZ and her family with the passing of her husband, **Al**, she appreciates your prayers.
- Rev. **Bob Fread** and his family. Bob's mom, **Bev Fread**, passed away August 13th.
- Pastor Emeritus **Marty Singley** and his family, with the passing of his wife **Sandy**. Sandy went home to God July 12th after a battle with cancer. Former Council Minister **Don Ashmall** and his wife **Peggy** were privileged to be in the congregation for the celebration of Sandy's life at Greendale People's Church in Worcester, MA. Marty gave an eloquent eulogy, in which he said Sandy's love for the ICCC began with her concern for racial justice.
- **Russell Edwards, Emmanuel Baptist Church**, NJ as he continues to recover from quadruple bypass surgery back in June. *"My recovery has been nothing less than phenomenal. I returned to the pulpit this past week (July 22nd, less than a month after surgery) ... things are going just great."* ~Russ
- The family of Rev. Dr. Sister **Claudia Windal**, OSF and her church family, **The Free Episcopal Church USA**, Glendale AZ. Claudia passed away June 15th. She served as an Episcopal priest for decades (one of the first women to become ordained), earned her doctorate and taught in a University, yet even in retirement continued to serve local parishes and ministries. She had a heart for serving Native Americans, the poor, and those in prison. Sr. Claudia established a funeral service to help those that could not bear the financial burden of burying their loved ones. She also served as the very first Servant-General for the Order of Servant Franciscans.
 
- Rev. **Chuck Cooper** as he continues to recover from a recent heart attack and endocarditis. If you remember, Rev. Cooper wrote the book *Safety Harbor*, available on Amazon.
- **RC Freeman**, senior pastor at **Peace Community Church**. He was taken to the emergency room by his wife Gail on September 18 with appendicitis and later that morning had surgery to remove his appendix. Recovery is going well so far.

