

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY



October 2019

Volume 70

A Voice for Ecumenical Congregations and Christians Around the World

Number 1

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Harry Fooockle

Treasurer

Nicholas Brame

Secretary

Abraham Wright

VP for Planning

Jerry Brown

VP for Regional Relationships

Wendy Childress

VP for Financial Development

Roberta Smith

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

Rhonda Blevins

VP for Informational Services

and Outreach

Michael Donahue

Auxiliary Representatives

Wayne Samuels, Carl Davis, Sr.,

Connee Fitch-Blanks, Adrian

Wallace, Javori Moore

Immediate Past President

William Samuels

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President

Harry Fooockle

VP for Regional Relationships

Wendy Childress

VP for Membership Enlistment

Carter S.R. Garner

VP for Membership Services

Wayne Samuels

Secretary

Abraham Wright

Regional Trustees

Myrtis Brame, Sharyon Cosey,

Doris Marcisak, Kenneth Young,

Bruce Jones, Sandra Nelson,

Julia Powe, Linda Hopkins

AUXILIARY HEADS

Youth: Javori Moore

Samaritans: Wayne Samuels

Women's Christian Fellowship:

Connee Fitch-Blanks

Ministerium: Carl Davis, Sr.

Young Adults: Adrian Wallace

Reflections from the Annual Conference 2019 – Jacksonville, FL

Harry Fooockle, President, ICC

So, e-mails and texts just kept "pouring" in after the Conference in Jacksonville. They were each giving thanks for the wonderful Annual Conference and leadership.

Let me add my thanks to those in leadership; it was indeed a great conference, but let me also thank all of those who made the effort to attend. We are blessed by you and your presence and faithful response to the Gospel and the ICC.

My friends, we have a story to tell to our communities....let us do so in such a way that God is blessed and the Annual Conference in Dublin, Ohio 2020 will be full of wonderful folk like you.





Executive Director's Message

Phil Tom

The dictionary defines a social movement as “a group of diffusely organized people or organizations striving toward a common goal related to human society or social change.” People join a movement because of its vision and values such as the civil rights movement, Black Lives Matter and the Me Too movement.

Rev. Robert Fread, ICCC clergy member and Pastor of Ripley United Church of Christ, Hudson, Iowa, has taken on a labor of love to write about the history and development of the Community Church movement as ICCC will celebrate its 70th anniversary in 2020 and the Community Church movement will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2021. Wikipedia says that the Community Church movement “aims to bring together and support local community churches. Community churches have existed in the United States since the early nineteenth century. Small communities did not always have the population or finances to sustain churches of all Christian denominations, so community leaders would cross denominational lines and pool their resources to support a single church. By the early twentieth century, with the ecumenical movement in full swing, community churches were ready

to cut formal ties with denominations and to demonstrate Christian unity through diversity. Community churches began to understand themselves as post-Protestant and post-denominational.”

I visited and worshipped with two of our ICCC congregations last month. After the worship service, I heard from their members how proud they were to be members of ICCC because they valued ICCC’s mission – honoring and supporting congregations that were non-denominational, independent, ecumenical, international, welcoming, and interracial.

The banner on our ICCC website reads – “Committed to Community, Treasuring Diversity, Living Our Faith in Service and Love.” The challenge before our ICCC family is how shall we continue to sustain and grow the Community Church movement in an

increasing secularized society? Like every national religious body, ICCC membership is aging and shrinking. Most denominations seek to grow their membership by assisting their congregations to reach out to/with their communities or by planting new congregations. ICCC and the Community Church movement will grow only if we invite and welcome other congregations and clergy to join our movement. If we do not share our passion for the Community Church movement, then who will? During the next year, take time to talk with at least 1-2 congregations and/or pastors about ICCC and invite them to attend one of our regional events or our Annual Conference in Dublin, Ohio next July.

Let us proudly lift the banner of the Community Church movement and keep it vibrant and alive!

*"Committed to community,
treasuring diversity,
living our faith in
service and love."*



Attend to Reading! (1 Timothy 4:13)



Book REVIEW

By Rev. Kenneth N. Nelson

Pulpit and Politics: Separation of Church and State in the Black Church,

by Marvin A. McMickle. Judson, \$22.99 trade paper (: 24p) ISBN 978-0-8170-1751-4



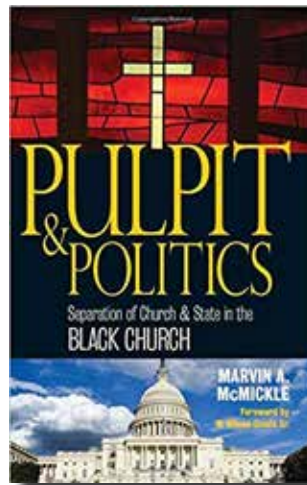
Marvin A. McMickle is familiar to some of us because of the recent discussion of his book ***Be a Witness*** at the 2019 Annual Conference. If you are seeking to become politically active, you will find his book *Pulpit and Politics: Separation of Church and State in the Black Church*, an excellent resource.

Pulpit and Politics reflect on McMickle's political and spiritual journey. McMickle offers a sound foundation for understanding the issues of the separation of church and state and religious participation in politics. McMickle begins his book with a foreword by the Reverend Doctor Wilson Goode, Jr. a senior minister and former mayor of Philadelphia. Then McMickle offers twelve chapters of insights in a four-part discussion on how clergy and congregations may participate in the political process.

In PART I: The Preacher/Politician: A Model of Clergy Leadership, McMickle explains that Preachers Have a Place in Politics (Chapter 1), My Own Experiences in Politics (Chapter 2), and "Politics Is a Dirty Business (Chapter 3)." These chapters provide the reader with an excellent orientation to politics today.

In PART II: The Evolution of Religious Liberty and the Separation of Church and State, McMickle discusses The Quest for Religious Liberty (Chapter 4), The United States as a Secular Society (Chapter 5), and What the U.S. Constitution Actually Says (Chapter 6). In these chapters, McMickle explains the meaning of the separation of church and state in a way that challenges some current thinking. Nevertheless, McMickle discusses how the conversation should occur before taking part in political participation.

In PART III: The Rise and the Role of the Black Preacher/Politician, McMickle explains the Moral Conflict in the New United States of America (Chapter 7), the Four Models of Black Clergy Leadership for the Twenty-First Century (Chapter 8), and the Black Preacher/Politicians as Public



Theologians (Chapter 9). McMickle discusses four historical clergy/political leadership models. His examples are Joseph H. Jackson of the National Baptist Convention USA (priestly model), Martin Luther King Jr. (prophetic model), Malcolm X and the Nation of Islam (nationalistic model), and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. (political model). McMickle explains how these political leadership models shape our communities today.

In PART IV: The Black Church and Political Activism, McMickle explains The Dos and Don'ts That Every Church Should Know (Chapter 10), The Marks of a Politicized Congregation (Chapter 11), the Political Churches and Campaign Finance Laws (Chapter 12). McMickle outlines what it means to be in the political process, what are some do's and don'ts, and what laws and procedures congregation should follow.

Finally, McMickle concludes the book with a call to action, A Concluding Word: Calling All Interested Persons! Here the author invites all people to become part of the political process. I recommend this book to understand the separation of church and state concept and how to engage in the political process.

Best Reads this fall: 5 of 19 Christian Non-Fiction Books You Must Read from the <https://thepurposefulmom.com/18-books-read-2018.html>

1. **Fight Back with Joy** by Margaret Feinberg
2. **The Crucified Life: How to Live Out a Deeper Christian Experience** by A.W. Tozer
3. **Best Year Ever: A Five-Step Plan for Achieving Your Most Important Goals** by Michael Hyatt – I like Michael Hyatt's approach to goal setting. It's very unique from what I've heard before. He has a warm and encouraging approach but also gets you motivated!
4. **Adorned** by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth – This book goes through the different principles of Titus 2 (with a gospel focus) in relation to mentoring and building friendships with other women.
5. **Love Your Life, Not Theirs** by Rachel Cruze – This is a practical book on saving and spending well, written by Dave Ramsey's daughter.

Conference Gathering in Jacksonville, FL

*Jerry Brown, Antioch Community Church
VP for Planning*

What an outstanding conference we experienced in Jacksonville! If you were not inspired and uplifted... check your pulse.

We are already preparing for next year's conference in Dublin, OH. We are reviewing the evaluations, and planning accordingly. One comment I heard was that some families take this opportunity to make it a family vacation. There could be no better location for that than the Embassy Suites hotel. With two-room suites and a great breakfast every morning, you can bring the whole family (we are looking forward again to great programs for the children and youth as well).



A quick check of the Columbus web site will show a number of outstanding opportunities for families to share. Our Youth visited COSI, the science museum the last time we were in Dublin, and would highly recommend it. There are a number of parks to visit; several have evening concerts on the weekends if you're there before or after the conference. And if you have a high-schooler in your family looking at colleges, you might want to coordinate a visit to The Ohio State University while in Columbus (this year, their day-long "Scarlet and Gray Exploration Day" was scheduled for Friday, the day after we concluded our conference, perfect timing – if interested, check their website for next summer's activities). One of the nation's top-20 public universities, OSU will celebrate their sesquicentennial next year when we are there.

From the German Village and the Wagner-Hagens Auto Museum to the Columbus Zoo, as well as the many parks and other various attractions, there is so much to do in Columbus. But that's just in your spare time. We're planning on a great conference with a focus on evangelism, to bring the good news of Jesus to a hungry, hurting world. Our country and our world need to hear our message of love and reconciliation now more than ever; and Jesus commissioned us to be his messengers. We plan to inspire you, renew your faith, and send you home to be local missionaries in your own community; to carry out the final instructions of Jesus. Our studies and worship will echo His final message to His followers from the last two verses of Matthew, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations...and surely, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." He left us with a Purpose and a Promise.

See you in Dublin.



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., Feb., Mar., Apr., May, 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: ICCCNOW@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.ICCCNOW.org



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



International Council of Community Churches

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

An ICCC Congregation in Action

*Chapel by the Sea in Clearwater Beach, Florida—a
Church on Mission*

By Rev. Rhonda Abbott Blevins

Chapel by the Sea sits two blocks away from one of America's top-ranked beaches, but the proximity to fun in the sun hasn't kept us from engaging in mission and working hard at being the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

I am proud to be the pastor of a church that serves meals to the homeless each month through a project called Peace Café. A BeachWalk is held each year, raising significant funds to support a local food bank and domestic violence shelter. Talks are under way about hosting a family forced to relocate from the Bahamas after Hurricane Dorian, and a medical mission trip is in the works.

But I want to highlight one project in particular, because other ICCC churches might enjoy participating in this project as well. Chapel by the Sea works with an organization called "Rise Against Hunger" to package meals that are shipped all over the world into areas where food insecurity is prevalent. Each year, beginning in 2015, we have packaged over 15,000 bags of rice and nutrients at a meal packaging event. At each event, a Rise Against Hunger representative brings all necessary materials including rice and nutrients, scales, scoops, bags, boxes, and fashionable hair nets. The Rise representative helps set up, offers instruction and manages the dozens of volunteers we provide. One of the things I love about this project is the fact that it's intergenerational—we've had kids as young as three-years-old working alongside nonagenarians. We complete our meal packaging within about three hours on the scheduled Saturday leaving everyone feeling good and happy to have played a small role in alleviating hunger.

If you are interested in learning more, check out the Rise Against Hunger website at www.riseagainsthunger.org.



Why I Support the ICCC

*by Mary Summers
ICCC WCF Treasurer,
Balt/Wash Council Fellowship Secretary*

When I was asked to write about how much I love and support the International Council of Community Churches, many pleasant and beautiful memories came to my mind.



I thought about my first conference in 1990 in Bethesda, MD and realized that in 2020, hopefully, I will be celebrating my 30th year attending conference. Since then I have only missed 2 conferences. I had been at Douglas Memorial Community Church about 5 years or so when Rev. Marion Bascom chose me to be a delegate in 1990. On that day in July 1990, as my daughter dropped me off at the Hyatt in Bethesda, I was greeted so warmly by Rev. Burton from Park Road Community Church in Washington, DC. I did not know who he was at the time, but he introduced himself. He always asked how I was doing all week. I'm sure Rev. Bascom had his friends looking out for me. That is why the folks at Park Road have a special place in my heart. I am still a member of Douglas Memorial Community Church in Baltimore, MD where Dr. Rev S. Todd Yeary is Senior Pastor.

The friends that I have made at conference are many. I want to thank them for their love and kindness. Every year I can't wait to see them again. My family always ask me the date and the place of conference. They know that I would not miss attending conference every year. I get so excited to see what conference has to offer each year. The programs, the bible study (my favorite time), workshops, the services, etc. and of course, DeAnn, who reminds me of myself at that age. Tireless energy and more.

I enjoy keeping up to date and reading the articles in the monthly newsletter, the Christian Community. More and more I enjoy the book review articles.

My love and support for the International Council of Community Churches stretches far and wide. I hope that my support and love will continue for many years to come. My history and service with the council makes it worthwhile. My prayer is that more people will consider supporting the ICCC more to help it strive, be more productive and prosperous. Hope to see you in Dublin, Ohio in 2020.

When I asked Mary to send me a photo of herself electronically, she said she didn't have any and that I could use the one of her from this year's annual conference's photo booth. "I like my picture with the glasses. Adds some humor." I just LOVE her spirit! ~ DeAnn

Ecumenews

By Herman Harmelink III, VP for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

ICCC has been a member of the Consultation on Church Union (COCU) and its successor, Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC) for many years. Every several years a Plenary is held by CUIC, and this past June was one of those times. Six ICCC members of the Committee on Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations represented our church at the Plenary held in Montgomery, Alabama: Bob Fread, Robert Griffin, Myself, Karen Neely, John Woodcock and Abraham Wright. Abraham serves as Vice-President of CUIC, and Karen Neely is chair of the Young Adults Task Force. They, along with myself, serve on the governing Council.



Montgomery was chosen because of its new museum on racism, one of the finest museums anywhere; and for its memorial to the many Americans who were lynched in the years between the Civil War and 1950.



BE ALERT for OPPORTUNITIES

By Roberta Smith,
VP of Financial Development

As VP of Financial Development for ICCC, I am always on the lookout for ways we can benefit our organization. At my employer, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, we are currently running the COMMUNITY SUPPORT CAMPAIGN. The company marshals the power of its vast workforce and encourages volunteer efforts by team members in the communities we serve. We have a system to log in our hours of volunteer work – whether they are for our local Rotary chapter or an area food bank or activities at our church. Then the company gives Community Support “grants” based on our hours of service AND on our own payroll deducted contributions.



So – I ask you – 1) do you work for Wells Fargo ? Then join me to benefit ICCC through the Community Support campaign. And – if you work through another company – do they have something similar? Perhaps a program to match contributions to non-profit organizations?

Be our eyes and ears in your area to benefit ICCC ! We thank you !!



NEW!

Shop with Script

**NOW
AVAILABLE**
Pay online with
a credit card

VISA



Credit Card types

Visa and Mastercard
are accepted

Rebates

The rebate amount is the
same any way you pay

Purchases

2.6% fee on each transaction

Shop and earn with gift cards
today at ShopWithScrip.com

Contact the ICCC Office if you need
more information.

Sharing Joys with:

- Congratulations to the newly ordained **Rev. Brian Rowe, Crystal Beach Community Church, FL.** On July 28th, **Senior Pastor Melody Kidd** with the congregation affirming Brian's spiritual formation and intellectual preparation, ordained Brian. Brian has a history of parish ministry and pastoral care ministry, and is working towards chaplaincy.
- The **Second Community Church** in Columbus, OH announces its successful hiring of **Rev. Brian Holland** as their new Bi-Vocational Pastor. Brian began his tenure on Sept. 15th and looks forward to learning more about the ICCC. Welcome!
- Congratulations to **Rev. Ken Nelson, Seneca Community Church, MD.** as he was the Guest Chaplain for the U.S. House of Representatives on September 6, 2019. To view, visit <https://www.c-span.org/video/?463929-1/house-pro-forma-session>.
- Congratulations to **RC and Gail Fleeman, Peace Community Church, FL** and their daughter and son-in-law, Lindsey and Roger. On May 31st, in Atlanta, RC and Gail attended Lindsey's commencement ceremony, where she received the highest award from The Salvation Army College - The Commissioner's Award. Both Lindsey and Roger were ordained, and will begin their new chapter in their lives of ministry.

Our prayers are with:

- **Pastor Ella Clay, First Community Church, Nashville, TN** and her family, with the passing of her husband and ICCC Leader, **Elder Glenn Clay** on Sept. 12th. Glenn has served the ICCC graciously since 2008, and will be greatly missed. Please keep his family in your prayers.

Upcoming ICCC meetings:

- **The Eastern Zone, Region A** will hold its *ICCC Northeast Region Autumn Get Together* at the Local Greek (44 Leigh Ave, Princeton, NJ) on October 11th at 12 Noon. Please let **Regional Trustee Doris Marcisak** know if you plan to attend. Mist8993@gmail.com
- The Fall **Ohio Fellowship** Meeting will be held on October 19th at **New Covenant Community Church**, 1587 W. Exchange St., Akron, OH. Please email office@covenantakron.org if you plan to attend.
- The **Eastern Zone, Region B** will meet on November 9th at **Palisades Community Church**, 5200 Cathedral Ave. NW, Washington, DC. For information, contact Regional Trustee **Myrtis Brame** myrtisjb@aol.com

Recently, we've come across in our archives, stacks of Roy Burkhardt's sermons, starting from the 1930's thru the 1940's. If anyone is interested in these, please contact the office.

Scholarship Fund Recipients

The Jordan Scholarship

The Jordan Scholarship was recently awarded to Andrenae Brown, Brian Januzzi, Heather Januzzi and Ariel Gibbs. Congratulations and best wishes in their educational endeavors!



Andrenae Brown
Park Road Community Church
Washington, DC

Andrenae is pursuing a degree in Business Administration.



Heather Januzzi
Wilson Memorial Union Church
Watchung, NJ

Heather is pursuing a degree in Psychology.



Brian Januzzi
Wilson Memorial Union Church
Watchung, NJ

Brian is pursuing a degree in Chemical Engineering.

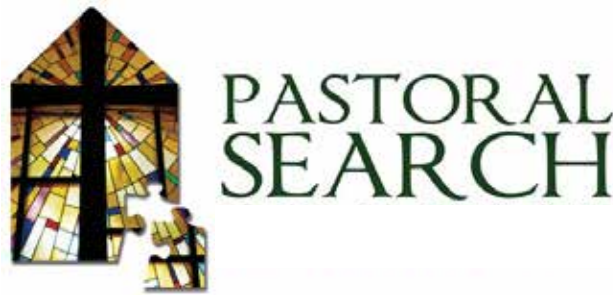


Ariel Gibbs
St. Anne Woods Chapel Community Church
Pembroke Township, IL

Ariel is pursuing a degree in Sociology.

Ministerium Effectiveness Training Fund Recipient

A scholarship award from MET was recently given to **Shirley B. Corbin** in pursuit of her graduate studies toward greater ministry effectiveness. The ICCC Ministerium prays God's blessings upon you and your studies.



Pastor

Annisquam Village Church <https://annisquamvillagechurch.org>, a nearly 300 year old independent interdenominational church in Gloucester, MA. is seeking a full time pastor. We are a congregation with many theological understandings, bound by our devotion to the timeless teachings of Christ. "Connecting a Spiritually Diverse Community to God and to the World" is our vision and purpose.

We seek an experienced pastor with divinity degree credentials who recognizes the value that different perspectives and cultures bring to our church. Our pastor will embrace the unique character of this faith community, the Annisquam Village community, and greater Gloucester, and must bring a message of hope to help navigate these changing times. With a sense of enthusiasm and energy our pastor will take on opportunities to bolster the success of AVC, and paint a compelling picture of our vision as a faith community so that we continue to grow spiritually, numerically, and in relevance.

The AVC Pastor will be responsible for weekly worship services, providing pastoral care and counseling for the congregation and Annisquam Village Community. Our pastor will be a facilitator for connecting the church to the larger community of Cape Ann and will have a leadership role in increasing membership. Our pastor will be responsible for managing the church including staff (administrator, sexton, music director, children's minister, nursery leader), creating a climate where all are motivated to do their best. Our pastor will be a resource for programs and mission activities, develop and oversee annual budget with the treasurer, and direct the annual meeting and monthly board meetings.

For more information or to submit your resume, please contact the Annisquam Village Church Search Committee at avcsearchgroup@gmail.com.

Senior Pastor

Park Road Community Church, 1019 Park Road, NW, Washington, DC, is in need of a senior pastor. Prefers a graduate of an accredited seminary or school of theology. Will consider candidates with equivalent training or experience, or with a concrete plan for completion of seminary training.

Candidates should have experience as a pastor or experience performing the seven primary pastoral responsibilities with a willingness to spend an average of at least 20 hours weekly attending to the needs of the church.

A commitment to abide by the Community Church concept as outlined by the International Council of Community Churches is a must.

Salary range: \$30,000 - \$40,000. For more information visit the church's website: www.parkroadcommunitychurch.org.

Resumes should be forwarded to the Search Committee, Park Road Community Church, PO Box 29523, Washington, DC 20017.

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.

Senior Minister

The Historic People's Community Church (PCC) fosters a tradition of being a singing, praying, tithing, teaching, serving, and loving church, and is guided by one of its golden text 'I am come that they might have life and that they may have it more abundantly.' – John 10:10.

This Historic Church, a member of the International Council of Community Churches (ICCC) and located in the vibrant city of Detroit, Michigan is currently seeking an experienced Senior Minister to be the Spiritual Leader of its Congregation. The Senior Minister is responsible for leading and moving the Congregation toward the fulfillment of God's mission for PCC. The Senior Minister will have an unwavering faith and a firm relationship with Jesus Christ and is dedicated to cultivating others in Christ.

For complete information visit <http://www.icccnow.org/careers/> or contact People's Community Church office (313) 871-4676.

Full-Time Pastor

Flossmoor Community Church, a 90-year-old multi-denominational congregation, is seeking a full-time pastor. We are located 27 miles south of Chicago in Flossmoor, Illinois. This church, where Christ is central and diversity is cherished, is a welcoming and affirming church committed to faith in action. Candidates must have a Master of Divinity Degree, be ordained in a Protestant denomination, and have served as a pastor for five years or more. The Pastor shall lead the people of God in the ways of Jesus Christ, working in partnership with staff and lay leaders to accomplish the mission and ministry of Flossmoor Community Church. For more information, please visit our website www.fccfaithful.org. Click on the link pastor search, which will provide information for applying for this position. You may contact the Pastor Search Committee at pastorsearch@fccfaithful.org.

Gifts have been received for the following:

As a Memorial to:

Claude R. Swanson
from Brenda Swanson (2)

Timothy Barta from Joseph Barta

Bernice Smith from Maxine Gaskins

Peggy Ashmall from Bruce Merton

Peggy Ashmall from Bob Fread

Peggy Ashmall
from Herb & Lorraine Freitag

Jim Duke from Antoinette Cook

Lawrence & Cecil Millben
from Janet Burch

Persavel Bright, Jr.
from Rev. Carter S.R. Garner

Vermelle Barnes
from Rev. Carter S.R. Garner (2)

Al Andrews from Louis Joy

Mary Meese from Louis Joy

Rev. Eugene W. Burton
from Mary Frances Garner

Peggy Ashmall from Marilyn Stevenson

Glenn Clay from Bruce Merton

In Honor of:

Rev. Phil Tom from Barbara Peters

Norris Religious Fellowship
from Ed & Jean McEleney

Rev. Phil Tom
from Mary Frances & Carter Garner

DeAnn Anzaldi
from Mary Frances & Carter Garner

Marty Singley from Don Ashmall

Harry Foockle from Don Ashmall

Vermelle Barnes
from James W. Jones (3)

Persavel Bright, Jr. from Marion Bright

Rev. John Woodcock from Karen Neely

Conference from James MacVicar

Peggy Ashmall
from Mary Frances Garner

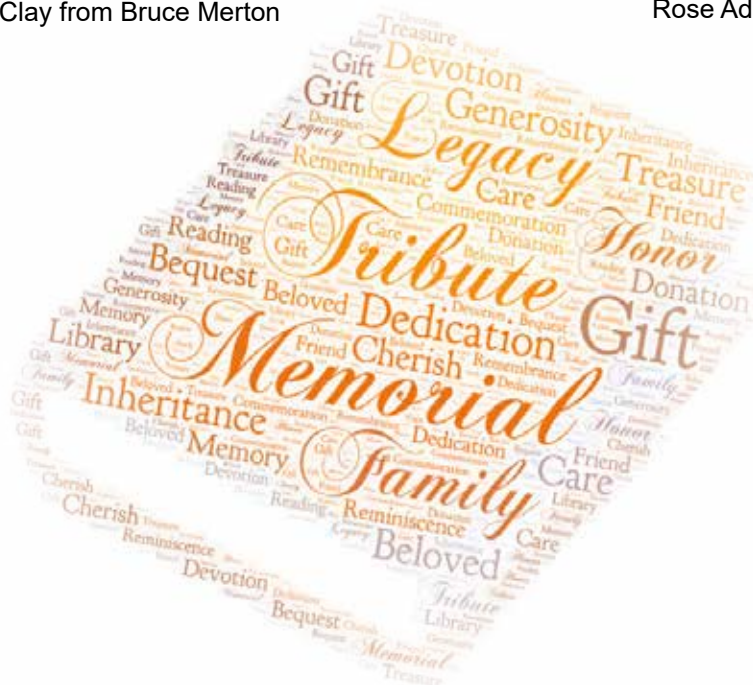
Rev. Karen Neely
from John Woodcock

Rev. Shirley Cooper
from Virginia West

Marion Henley from Barbara Ratliff

Rev. Shirley B. Cooper
from Gladys Pearsall

Rose Addison from Charles Addison



Recently ICCC President sent out the following letter to all ICCC Church members. It is also posted on our website and Facebook page.

A PASTORAL LETTER FROM HARRY FOOCKLE, PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY CHURCHES (ICCC).

TO: THE PEOPLE, CHURCHES AND MINISTRIES OF THE ICCC.

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

My prayer is for you to receive mercy and blessings from God for your local church, your family and you as well.

Let me personally thank you for your gifts and support of our ICCC. Your presence of love, gratitude and giving sustain the ministry of the ICCC. I believe we are a movement sorely needed today.

Every day we wake up to a world of violence and rancor. Resolution of conflict is often found in the pulling of a gun and shooting of another human person.

Not far from where I grew up, another shooting has taken place (Odessa & Midland, Texas). Senseless killing of human lives and wounding of others and once again a young child.

Lately, here in Kansas City, Missouri we mourn the loss of young lives. Teenagers who have access to guns and who resolve their issues by shooting each other.

Our world is plagued by violence, killing and racial injustice. We cannot agree on the issues surrounding sexual orientation. Of course, there is the ongoing debate, with no or little resolution over immigration.

We witness those with ideas that pull us apart. They separate us into opposing groups rather than unite us into acceptance of our differences.

But, it is not all doom and gloom. We have our ICCC. I believe we are needed today as much as we were in the 1950's. We are the religious offspring of a movement unlike any others in our lifetime.

We are living examples of how "right" and "needed" this ICCC movement is and continues to be. We are living proof that we can live and work together. Sure we have our differences, but at the end of the day we come together with love and care for one another.

Our ICCC provides us with resources to use for ministry in our local church communities. We come home from Annual Conference with hopeful ideas and workable gifts to carry out our Lord's ministry.

But we cannot sustain our ICCC without your support. That's why I believe our last Business session at the recent Jacksonville Conference reaffirmed the \$1000.00 membership fee/dues. I prefer to call it a membership gift of love.

Therefore, I write to thank you for your support. We all know it is a struggle for some, while others make the \$1000.00 figure with effort. We are also blessed with those who support the ICCC above and beyond the minimum figure of \$1000.00.

I personally see it as a heart issue. How important is the ICCC to you, to your church and as a living example to a world that needs our vision? I ask you to join me today looking into the eyes of Jesus and hear him say to each of us:

"Give and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed Down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your Lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back."
(Luke 6:38)

God gave Jesus, pressed down on the Cross of Calvary. The running over of His blood was the measure of God's love for all of us. God gave all there was to give.

Can we not do the same? Give our gifts of support and let God's redeeming and reconciling love bless our churches, communities and world.

We are making a difference by your continued support of the ICCC.

God Bless you,

