

# *the* Kentucky Christian

Volume CXIII No. 1 | November 2019



## Your gifts to the 2019 Special Christmas Offering Support the Work of the Region

Offering received December 15 and 22 in many congregations



## Our REGION...

connects  
congregations to each other

### Fosters

faith development

### Assists

churches  
in calling new  
ministers

*gathers* Disciples in camps,  
conferences, and assemblies

*interprets* the global mission  
of the church

**Nurtures** the development  
of a new generation of pastors

*represents*  
the church in ecumenical gatherings

### Counsels

and prays with those  
who are troubled of spirit

*walks* with those in conflict

**Inspires** leaders  
to experiment and create

*leads* the church  
to address racism

*witnesses* to the power of God to make things new



# TWO COPPER COINS

## Come, They Told Me

*Dean Phelps, Interim Regional Minister*

*Come, they  
told me;  
see and  
experience  
the life and  
ministry of  
the clergy and  
congregations  
that make up  
the Christian  
Church In  
Kentucky.*

Come, they told me.

I love the invitational nature of this popular Christmas song. The lyrics do not make it clear who is offering the invitation. It comes from an anonymous “they,” but the story is told from the perspective of the one receiving the invitation.

Come, they told me.

The invitation is offered as a witness. Come and see this newborn king. The invitation is not contingent on what you have to offer. The invitation comes even in the storyteller’s contemplation of what gift they could possibly offer when others are bringing their finest gifts.

As a musician, I appreciate the narrator’s response. Ask musicians and most, if not all, will respond that music is not just something we do. It’s part of who we are. “Shall I play for you” is an offering of self.

Come, they told me.

Last spring, I received an invitation from the CCK board to serve as your Interim Regional Minister. Come, they told me; see and experience the life and ministry of the clergy and congregations that make up the Christian Church In Kentucky.

I gladly accepted the invitation, even as I wondered what gift I might bring. Since then, pastors have extended invitations to preach and even to pick and sing as we share Good News together.

The Committee on Ministry extended the invitation to sit with them as we prepare candidates for ministry, as we review and certify the standing of ministers, and as we address some of the challenges facing clergy.

Search committees have extended invitations to work with them as they seek pastoral leadership and ministry partnership.

Church leaders have offered invitations to share conversation about ministry, call, and mission in the local congregation.



Come, they told me. I am grateful for each of the invitations, for each witness that calls me to see the ministry of Kentucky clergy and congregations.

First Christian Church in Bardstown extended the invitation to lead a workshop on the ministry of elders in the local congregation. Not only did they extend the invitation to me, but they invited other churches in their district to come. Elders from Midway Christian Church and First Christian Church, Danville,

*First Christian Church  
in Bardstown*

# TWO COPPER COINS

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connected with the Bardstown elders about the gifts of self they offer. First Christian Church in Berea, First Christian Church in Winchester, and others have invited me to share my thoughts on the work of regional ministry.

I counted it a blessing when the regional board invited me to preach as part of the called regional assembly at First Christian Church in Glasgow.

Come, they told me. The work of the Gospel through the clergy and congregations of the Christian Church In Kentucky is alive and well.

Wherever I am invited, my message is the same. The ministry of the Region is not the work of a person or a staff or an office. The ministry of the Christian Church In Kentucky is a work that we share. It exists in the ways we connect with one another, how we keep one another in view, how we don't lose sight of one another. Together, we are the Christian Church In Kentucky, called to care, connect, and equip.

When we give to the Christmas Offering, we are not supporting the work of a person, a staff, or an office. Through the Christmas Offering we support one another.

Come, they told me. Come, see the Good News at work through Kentucky's Disciples.



*First Christian Church in Berea*



*Together,  
we are the  
Christian  
Church In  
Kentucky,  
called to care,  
connect, and  
equip.*



*First Christian  
Church In Glasgow*

# THE PULSE

## What Gift Do You Bring?

Come, they told me...

I was a young child when I first heard "The Little Drummer Boy." Some of my first reflections on the song included wondering why this kid got his own song; he's not even in the Biblical accounts of Jesus' birth in any way!

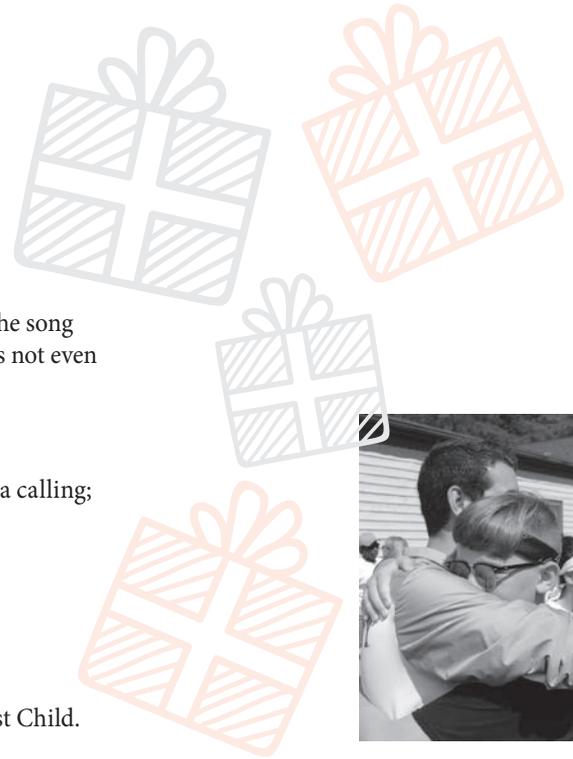
Our finest gifts we bring...to lay before the king.

As I matured, I heard the song differently. I heard it as a calling; a blessed invitation to bring the best of ourselves.

How is God calling you?

What gift do you bring?

The song—which is the theme of our Christmas offering this year—calls us to bring our best to the Christ Child.



Let's take a look at some of the ways we offer our best in our work together as a region.

## Faith Formation for Children & Youth

When asked what the Region does, many people cite camp as their first answer. Camp is a vital part of our life together, but it isn't "camp" that matters. It's the faith formation the Region carefully crafts for children as young as 1st grade all the way through high school and into young adulthood. It's not just about camp—it's about shaping our kids to be disciples of Christ.

How is God calling you to participate and invest in this ministry?



## Lay Education

The vast majority of those who make up the Christian Church In Kentucky are not pastors; they are lay people. Together, we provide opportunities for leaders to learn and grow, in order to be better servants in their home congregations. From Elder Workshops to retreats and Worship and Wonder training, the Christian Church In Kentucky wants leadership of the local church to be vital and vibrant!

How is God calling you to participate and invest in this ministry?

## Women's Ministries

Women across the Christian Church In Kentucky gather regularly to love, learn, and encourage one another. They gather in conferences, retreats, creative weekends, and choral experiences. They even gather annually in silent prayer.

How is God calling you to participate and invest in this ministry?

## Men's Ministries

Perhaps the most visible way Men's Ministries is present in Kentucky is through the Regional Men's Chorus. But men gather regularly throughout the Region. They form work groups, provide a monthly breakfast for the community, study together, pray together, and have retreats.

How is God calling you to participate and invest in this ministry?

## Search & Call and Congregational Support

Regional staff work to place ministers in congregations where God is calling them. Nearly all of our congregations recognize the gift of this work, at one time or another. From walking future ministers through the ordination and commissioning process to meeting with search teams across the Region, your regional staff works hard to make sure congregations have what they need.



## How is God calling you to participate and invest in this ministry?

The Region is not an office on Red Mile Rd in Lexington. The Region is you and me—your church and mine, and all of us together, working for a greater good. When you give to the Christmas Offering, you bring your gifts not to CCK, but to the Christ child. Our gifts may be small—but when we all bring our best, it adds up to something miraculous.

This Christmas, the Christ Child calls us once again to ask, "What gift can you bring?" May we, like the little boy in the song, bring our very best to lay at his feet. And may the Christ Child smile gratefully on our generosity.

# KENTUCKY DISCIPLES

**P**astor Syvoskia Bray Pope of Louisville recently spent 12 days in Morocco as the Kentucky Disciples Women's Ministries representative to this year's Woman-to-Woman Worldwide journey. Woman to Woman Worldwide (W-2-W) offers a way to respond to the call for Disciples Women to experience solidarity with one another, to affirm the unity of the Church in Jesus Christ, and to join the common struggle for justice and peace in the world today by educating and advocating for those needs. The trip is sponsored by Disciples Women and Global Ministries. Kentucky Disciples women have sponsored and helped fund Woman-to-Woman experiences for some 45 women to 29 countries since it began in 1985. Throughout 2020, Pastor Bray Pope will be available to visit your congregations and women's gatherings upon request to tell you all about her trip and what she learned about the culture and the lives of the women and children she was able to spend time with while there. To obtain information on contacting Syvoskia, please call Linda at the regional office at 859-233-1391.



*Syvoskia Pope (second from left) visits with some of the women and children she met during her recent travels to Morocco with Woman to Woman Worldwide.*



*Jeffersontown Christian Church honored long-time administrative assistant with a retirement celebration on November 10, 2019. Mary Catherine Selby has faithfully and loyally served the congregation in her position for 50 years. On hand to offer Mary Catherine their thanks and wish her well in the next phase of her journey are from left to right Beth Dobyns, the congregation's Interim Minister; Dave Carr, Christian Church In Kentucky; Glenn Birkett, former Minister at JCC; Mary Catherine; Doug Meister, recently retired Minister of the congregation; and, Linda Jones, Christian Church In Kentucky and church member.*



*Youth and adult sponsors from Beargrass Christian Church in Louisville spent a weekend at Camp Wakon'Da-Ho to build a Ga Ga pit for campers to play Ga Ga Ball. Ga Ga Ball is a variant of dodgeball that is played in a Ga-Ga pit. The game is very popular, and the pit will be enjoyed at youth events throughout the year. While there, the group also built new camp fire benches. Thanks, Beargrass!*

# KENTUCKY DISCIPLES

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*This fall, Kentucky Disciples men gathered at St. Meinrad Archabbey in Indiana for their annual men's spiritual life retreat. Picture are attendees of the retreat assembled around a beautiful worship center set by Sterling Staggs of FCC, Covington.*



*During October, sixty Disciples women from across the region joined their sisters in Christ for the Kentucky Disciples Women's Fall retreat held at Barren River Lake State Resort Park. Shown leading singing are musicians for the weekend, Deborah Garr, Seventh Street Christian Church, Paris, and Andra Moran, Disciples singer/songwriter and commissioned minister, of Nashville, TN.*



*On September 14, 2019, several women from West Area congregations had a Cane Ridge and Bourbon County day. The group enjoyed visiting Cane Ridge Meeting House and learning its history from Curator, James Trader, having lunch together at the Trackside at the Depot restaurant, visiting a local museum, and local businesses before stopping at New Union Christian Church to meet with Pastor Debbie Phelps and Interim Regional Minister, Dean Phelps. Kim Zarley, Associate at Frist Christian Church in Hopkinsville, organized the trip and Associate Regional Minister, Linda Jones, joined the women for the Cane Ridge visit, lunch, and some shopping.*



*Women from across the state (both Disciples and non-Disciples) gathered in July for the Kentucky Disciples Women's Ministries sponsored Quilters and Knitters Retreat at the Kentucky Leadership Center in Jabez, Ky. This increasingly popular ecumenical retreat is facilitated by Petie McLean from FCC, Bowling Green, and Lisa Caldwell-Reiss, FCC, Berea.*

## 2019 West Area All Disciples Sing and Installation Service

On September 29, 2019 Disciples from congregations throughout the West Area gathered at First Christian Church in Madisonville for the annual West Area All Disciples Sing and for the installation of the new Transitional West Area Minister, Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler.

Rachel is a co-convener of Potluck Church in Madisonville, co-convener of the Kentucky region's New Church Ministry Team, and a certified new church planter through Hope Partnership's Leadership Academy. She has previously served as the First Vice Moderator of the Christian Church In Kentucky Board, Board Secretary of the Christian Church In Kentucky-West Area, Chair of the Camp Kum-Ba-Ya advisory team, Ecumenical Regional Representative to the Ecclesia Movement of the Mid-Kentucky Presbytery, and Interim Youth Minister at First Christian in Madisonville.

Rachel is a graduate of Transylvania University and Vanderbilt Divinity School. She was ordained in 2001 at First Christian Church in Madisonville. Rachel, her spouse, Eric, and their daughter, Virginia, make their home in Madisonville.



*Rachel Nance Woehler, newly installed Transitional West Area Minister, shown here with Bill Roberts, West Area Board Chair.*



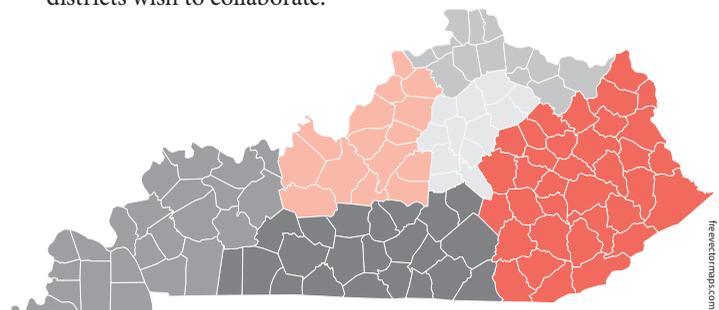
*Congregations featured during the West Area All Disciples Sing were First Christian Church, Benton; Second Christian Church, Mayfield; First Christian Church, Hopkinsville; Millbrooke Christian Church, Hopkinsville; Crofton Christian Church; Liberty Christian Church; First Christian Church, Mayfield; and First Christian Church Madisonville. Special musicians were Amanda Groves and J.W. Groves from Millbrooke Christian Church and CCK Interim Regional Minister, Dean Phelps.*

## Regional Board Restructure

On Saturday, August 17, the Region gathered for a called Regional Assembly at First Christian Church in Glasgow. That Assembly unanimously approved a report and amended proposal from the Restructure Task Force that changed the size of the regional board as well as how the board is populated. The new board structure will take effect with the board members elected at the 2020 Regional Assembly at First Christian Church in Owensboro.

Until now the regional board consisted of three elected officers, 22 district representatives, and eight at-large members along with two ecumenical representatives. The district representatives were selected by their respective districts. The new board structure will include three elected officers, ten at-large members, one representative from the Kentucky Christian Missionary Convention, and one ecumenical representative.

The newly approved method for selecting at-large board members uses six geographical areas to ensure that the board includes members from throughout the different areas of Kentucky. These geographical regions are used only in populating the at-large members of the board. While the previous and current structure of eleven districts is no longer used to populate the board, these districts still exist and function for district clergy gatherings and any other efforts for which those within the districts wish to collaborate.





On August 25, 2020, Chris Cash was installed as Pastor of First Christian Church in Georgetown with Dean Phelps, Interim Regional Minister, on hand to represent the Region.



Rachele Royale Holmes was installed as Pastor of Stamping Ground Christian Church on September 22, 2019. Pictured with Rachele the day of the service is Larry Cassity, the church's Board Chair, and Dean Phelps, CCK Interim Regional Minister, representing the Region.



Jonathan Webster was recently installed as Pastor of First Christian Church in Princeton, KY. Pictured the day of the installation from left to right are Dennis Gray, Pastor, Second Christian Church, Mayfield; Jonathan Webster; Donna Webster, Disciples Pastor and Jonathan's spouse; Rachel Nance Woehler, West Area Transitional Minister; Ken Godshall, Pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, Princeton; and Doug Bird, pastor and Jonathan's uncle.

## Ministerial Changes

### GREG ALEXANDER

to Interim Minister, Hodgenville Christian Church

### DAVID CLIFFORD

to Transitional Minister, First Christian Church, Henderson

### BETH DOBYNS

to Interim Minister, Jeffersontown Christian Church

### JONATHAN WEBSTER

to Pastor, First Christian Church, Princeton

### RACHEL NANCE WOehler

to Transitional West Area Minister

### KEITH ODITT

to Interim, Eminence Christian Church

### MERIDETH SPRIGLER

to Associate Minister for Children and Their Families, First Christian Church, Louisville

### JOSH SNYDER

to Pastor, First Christian Church, Liberty

### JOHN POWELL

to Interim, Burgin Christian Church

### CAITLIN SIMPSON

to Pastor, New Life in Christ Christian Church, Louisville



Cadiz Christian Church recently installed Kevin Deibert as their pastor with Dean Phelps, CCK Interim Regional Minister, in attendance representing the Region.

## Kentucky Disciples, Make Your Plans to Attend the 2020 Joint Convocation

Join your brothers and sisters of the North American Pacific/Asian Disciples, Obra Hispana, and National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for their biennial gatherings centered on the theme "It's Real!" (Rev. 7:9-17) in Fort Worth, Texas. Visit the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) website at [www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org) for further information.



## Disciples' Men

The General Conference of Disciples Men invites you to join us at TCU July 10th to 12th for Sessions 2020! The weekend will be filled with opportunities to learn and grow as a man, as a disciple of Christ and as a Disciple of Christ! Rick Lowery will be presenting three keynote presentations on the theme "I Am My Brother's Keeper." We will lift our voices in praise with music led by John Malget and Dean Phelps and have Bible study led by Warren Carter. Sessions 2020 also features workshops on the Wounded Warrior project, Week of Compassion, Male Spirituality, and The Jesus Way. And, you won't want to miss out on the Saturday afternoon presentation by Santiago Piñón. Visit [www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org) for more information and to register online.



## SERF Women's Retreat 2020

Mar 13-15, 2020 at Christmount - Black Mountain, NC.

Featured speakers are the Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale and the Rev. Terri Hord Owens.

It will be a mountaintop experience to remember!

This retreat is for Disciples Women in regions which comprise the Southeastern Regional Fellowship, which includes Kentucky.

Registration fee after Feb 18th increases from \$75 to \$100 per person.

For further information and to register online, visit the Christmount webpage at [www.Christmount.org](http://www.Christmount.org). You will find the form under Program and Event section of the webpage.

## Come to the Water

Christian Church In Kentucky  
2020 Biennial Regional Assembly  
October 16-17, 2020

First Christian Church, Owensboro, KY  
More information will be sent closer to the date!



**For more information on an event contact the regional office at 859-233-1391.**

## Regional Minister Search Committee Update

The Regional Minister Search Committee received 88 responses to the Regional Minister Search Survey they sent to the Region this summer. Now they have entered the next phase of the process, gathering and sorting through the responses to the survey.

The Committee believes the responses have provided good data. The team will summarize the answers to the six questions and begin to put together a regional profile that they can share with potential candidates.

Kory Wilcoxson, senior minister of Crestwood Christian Church, Lexington, chairs the Search Committee. He is joined by: Syvokia Bray Pope, Louisville, First Vice Moderator of the Regional Board; Paul Jackson, Covington, chair of the Personnel Committee; Darrell Hayden, Mount Sterling; Laura Barkhauer, Louisville; Antonio Sherrill, Mayfield; and Linda Creason, Paducah.

The Search Committee shares regular updates about their progress online at [kentuckyregionalministersearch.home.blog](http://kentuckyregionalministersearch.home.blog).

Correction: Under a photo in the last issue of the Kentucky Christian, Amanda Groves was named as the Pastor of Milbrooke Christian Church in Hopkinsville. John Strode is the Pastor of the congregation. Amanda is their Student Pastor, pianist, and choral director.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **West Area Ski Thing**

**January 25-26, 2020**

First Christian Church, Owensboro, KY and Paoli Peaks

### **Regional Men's Chorus Retreat**

**February 14-16, 2020**

First Christian Church, Pikeville, KY

### **Kentucky Disciples Women's Chorus Retreat**

**March 6-8, 2020**

Jeffersontown Christian Church, Louisville, KY

### **SERF Women's Event**

**March 13-15, 2020**

Christmount Christian Assembly  
Black Mountain, NC

### **Spring Youth Retreat**

**April 3-4, 2020**

Camp KBY

### **Kentucky Disciples Women's Spring Conference**

**April 18, 2020**

Central Christian Church, Lexington, KY

### **Kentucky Disciples Women's Spring Conference**

**Location TBD**

April 25, 2020

### **West Area's Disciple Summer Mission trip**

**June 29-July 3, 2020**

Memphis, TN (learn more at  
<https://www.disciplesummermission.org>)

### **Men's Spiritual Life Retreat**

**August 7-9, 2020**

St. Meinrad Archabbey, IN

### **CCK Regional Assembly**

**October 16-17, 2020**

First Christian Church, Owensboro, KY

### **Kentucky Disciples Women's Silent Retreat**

**November 6-8, 2020**

Knob's Haven Retreat House

### **Kentucky Disciples Women's Fall Retreat**

**November 14-15, 2020**

Barren River Lake State Resort Park, Lucas, KY

*May you have the gift of faith, the  
blessing of hope, and the peace of  
God's love at Christmas and always.*

*Merry Christmas!  
Dean, Linda, Terry, Barbara, Rachel, Carol,  
Dave, and Len*



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## Kentucky Regional Ministry Team

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### RACHEL NANCE WOehler

Transitional West Area Minister  
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## 2018-2020 CCK Moderators

### ERIN MILLER CASH

Moderator

### SYVOSKIA POPE

1st Vice Moderator

### JEFF BRUCE

2nd Vice Moderator

### *The Kentucky Christian Subscription Rates*

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## OUTDOOR MINISTRIES 2020 CAMP DATES



### Kum-Ba-Ya

Discovery Camp ..... May 29-31  
Young Disciples Camp..... June 4-6  
CYF Camp..... June 7-13  
Chi Rho Sailing Camp..... June 14-19  
CYF Sailing Camp ..... June 22-26  
Junior Camp..... June 29-July 3  
Chi Rho Camp..... July 6-11

**For further information, including  
age limits for each camp, visit  
[www.campkumbaya.org](http://www.campkumbaya.org) or  
[www.ccinky.net](http://www.ccinky.net) or call the regional  
office at 859-233-1391.**

### Camp Wakon'Da-Ho

Spring Work Weekend ..... March 20-22  
Mini Camp ..... June 5-7  
CYF Camp 1 ..... June 8-13  
Eighthers Camp ..... June 14-20  
Junior Camp 1 ..... June 22-26  
Camp 101 A ..... June 26-28  
CYF Camp 2 ..... June 29-July 4  
Chi Rho Camp 1 ..... July 6-11  
Chi Rho Camp 2 ..... July 13-18  
Junior Camp 2 ..... July 20-24  
Camp 101 B ..... July 24-26  
College Outreach Weekend ..... July 31-  
August 2

### Subscribe to the CCK Email List and Receive Up-to-Date Notifications on Regional Information

More and more, we are sending up-to-date  
information on the happenings throughout  
the Region electronically. If you have not  
yet signed up to receive regional electronic  
communications, you may enter your email  
address to subscribe by visiting the regional  
webpage at ccinky.net