

Christian Church in IL & WI

CCIW News December 5, 2006

In This Issue -

- The Winter Christian
- Christmas 2006 Special Day Offering
- Miracle Day Application Deadline
- Taking The Next Step
- Request for Deacon Emeritus Pin
- Church Finance Council News
- The Nativity Story
- Alternate Gift Giving for 2006
- Eureka College Announces New Chaplain
- Regional Prayer Concerns

The Winter Christian The Winter Edition of *The Christian* is off the press and will be coming to you soon. To view the edition on-line, go to: http://www.cciwdisciples.org/beth/xn/Xian_Winter06.pdf

Christmas 2006 Special Day Offering-New Minutes for Mission Share information with your congregation! What does the Regional church do in its ministry? A couple of brief "minutes for mission" specifically about our Region - read about the power of church camp - feeling close to God, making great friends, changing lives! Read about strengthening local congregations - how Regional Ministry helps churches to be more effective.

You can download these articles at: http://www.cciwdisciples.org/christmas/minute_s.htm

Miracle Day Application Deadline The deadline for turning in applications for Miracle Day 2007 is quickly approaching. **Applications must be turned into the Regional Office by December 22, 2006.** The site will be chosen by the Miracle Day planning committee in January 2007. If you have any questions, you can contact the Miracle Day coordinator, Doris Carter, at 630-668-2135 or email her at dcarter340@aol.com

Applications can be obtained on the Miracle Day page of the region's website <http://www.cciwdisciples.org>.

Taking the Next Step You've worked and worked with your congregation to help them be more loving, both of God and others. They've embraced the Great Commandment. But is that enough? Learn how to lead your church to become a Great Commission Church. This one-day conference, to be held January 27, 2007, will address how to change the culture in your church to desire to share faith and will also provide you with the tools for your congregation to become more evangelistic.

Early Bird registration deadline is January 5. For the brochure and registration form, go to: <http://cciwdisciples.org/scott/TakingNextStep.pdf>

Request for Deacon Emeritus Pin First Christian Church in Marion is in need of a Deacon Emeritus Pin. They have contacted Cokesbury, who no longer carries them. If you have an extra one, please contact Rev. Bill Rucker, pastor, at 618-997-6277.

Church Finance Council News Church Finance Council is making some changes in the way they distribute the special offering mailings. If you have been receiving an automatic shipment, beginning January 2007, you will need to go on-line where possible, and register your congregation and place orders for the materials.

By now, you should have received your regular mailing of poster, bulletin inserts and envelopes. Enclosed in that packet was a bright cherry-colored sheet explaining the process. If you do not know your church's pin number, please call Dana or Beth at the Regional Office and they can give it to you. Remember, after January 1, 2007, there will no longer be standing orders. For more information, call Enid Arey at Church Finance Council, 317-713-2444.

The Nativity Story Ken Moore, Regional Minister of the Christian Church in Nebraska, shares this review of the new Advent movie "The Nativity Story."

"The new PG film "The Nativity Story" offers a Protestant perspective on Mary the mother of Jesus. In the film she is seen "no longer as an icon but as an ordinary being of extraordinary character" according to Nancy Haught, who writes for The Oregonian in Portland, Oregon. Mike Rich, the Portland Oregon screenwriter, whose films include "Finding Forrester," "The Rookie" and "Radio" says, "I followed a kind of reverse process: taking Mary the icon and stepping back to Mary the woman and stepping back again to Mary the child." The film recounts the circumstances of Jesus' birth, mostly through the eyes of Mary, played by 16-year-old Keisha Castle-Hughes, the radiant heroine of "Whale Rider."

Quote was taken from "Nebraska Disciple News" Monday, December 4, 2006 edition.

Alternate Gift Giving Save the bother of wrapping. Save the hassle of shopping. Save the dilemma of decision-making. Save the hopes of refugees and immigrants! By giving your friends and relatives an alternative gift this holiday season, you can save yourself a lot of trouble and at the same time, give the gift of hope to refugees and immigrants caught in difficult situations, stuck in refugee camps overseas, or struggling to begin new lives in the United States.

For an Alternative Giving Catalog, or for more information, go to: <http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/rim/AlternativeGiving.htm>

Eureka College Announces New Chaplain On Monday, December 4, 2006, Dr. J. David Arnold, President of Eureka College, announced that Rev. Bruce Fowlkes has accepted the Chaplain position and will start at Eureka College in early January. Rev. Fowlkes comes to EC with pastoral experience that includes six years at the University Christian Church at TCU.

When you see members of the search committee (listed here), please thank them for their intense efforts to secure a chaplain appointment for January: Ken Baxter, chair; Dr. Jerry McCoy and Dr. Kathy Whitson, faculty; Terry Vaughn and Sarah Little, students; Jennifer Ostlund, staff.

Regional Prayer Concerns H Leon Harter, retired clergy from Champaign, will be having open heart surgery this Thursday, December 7. It is to be at least a triple bypass and an aortic valve replacement. The surgery will be in Champaign. Please keep Leon in your prayers.

Now that "winter" has come with it's covering of ice and snow, please remember all those in the CCIW Region without power, heat, food or water. Please drive safely.