

ODF Generosity Workshop Inspires Clergy & Laity

On September 15, 2012 more than 40 clergy and laypersons gathered at First Christian Church in Edmond to study, contemplate and advocate the concept of generosity. Rev. Bruce Barkhauer facilitated the workshop, open to anyone interested in “the practical tools and ways to acquire and encourage the living of a generous life in response to a generous God.” Rev. Barkhauer is Director of the Center for Faith and Giving for the Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church.

This workshop is one in a series of forums sponsored by Oklahoma Disciples Foundation focusing on the concept of generosity with an emphasis on developing a *congregational culture* of generosity. (Previous events are described in ODF newsletters at <http://www.okdisciplesfoundation.org>.)

“Stewardship as a celebration of God’s abundance” was the underlying theme of the morning’s presentation. Rev. Barkhauer made the point that stewardship is not fundraising. Rather, stewardship is a faith discipline and a “whole life” issue that deals with how to respond to a Loving God who has, in abundance, provided all that we need not only to survive, but to thrive. In this framework, Christian stewardship is grateful and responsible use of God’s gifts in the light of God’s purpose as revealed in Jesus Christ.

“I personally liked the afternoon session ... focused on methods, problems, solutions and relevant statistics associated with Generosity and Stewardship.”

—Lyle Amos ~ Elder, Western Oaks Christian Church

Christian stewards, empowered by the Holy Spirit, commit themselves to conscious, purposeful decisions. Stewardship is lived out in:

- living and telling the Good News
- sharing God in seeking justice, peace, and the integrity of creation in an interdependent universe
- wisely employing God-given human resources, abilities, and relationships
- sharing the material resources we hold and giving them in service, justice, and compassion



- providing for future generations
- sharing in the life, worship, and responsible stewardship of the Church and of its mission
- both for the individual and for the community, stewardship is a joyful act for the sake of God’s world.

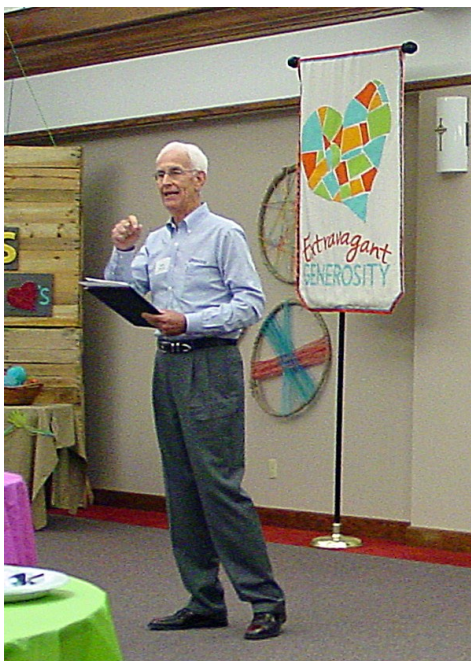
The biblical basis of this perspective on generosity was underscored by colorful banners in the meeting area and Bible verses displayed on tables.

*“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”
Galatians 5:11-13*

For more information, contact Kyle Maxwell, kvmaxwell@okdisciplesfoundation.org or 405.525.6530.

“... I have the job of preparing a congregation for the future with a new minister. Rev. Barkhauer helped me with an important piece of my work through his good teaching.”

— Romney Nesbitt, Transitional Minister



“All elders, church treasurers and stewardship committee members would benefit from participating in a workshop like this one.”

*— Bernie McNickle
Elder, First Christian Church, Edmond*

ODF Staff News

Oklahoma Disciples Foundation is pleased to announce Melissa Moss has joined our staff as a part-time administrative assistant.

Melissa comes to her position with 20+ years of experience, including as a loan secretary at a bank and as an administrative assistant for two churches. Her background is a good match with increasing administrative needs at the Foundation, given the growth in named endowment and custodial funds over the past five years.

Melissa’s time is filled with her family, children’s school events, church activities and doing pretty much anything outdoors. She enjoys working in the yard and making improvements around the house. A favorite family vacation destination is Colorado, where her parents own land.

Melissa and her husband, John, are originally from Western Oklahoma and have lived in Yukon since 2005. They have three children: Jessica (19), Nickie (13), and John (6), who attend Mustang schools.

Melissa and her family are active at First Christian Church, Yukon.



Melissa & John with Jessica,
“Little John” & Nickie

If you have received this newsletter in error, or no longer wish to subscribe, please email vrose@okdisciplesfoundation.org or call Vicki Rose 888.525.6530

The Jewell Endowment for Practical Parish Ministry

On August 29, 2012,
the Rev. Dr. Thomas R. Jewell, Regional
Pastor of the Christian Church (Disciples of
Christ) in Oklahoma, announced his
retirement, effective December 31, 2012.

August 1, 2012 marked the beginning of
Rev. Jewell's 20th year of regional church
ministry in Oklahoma.



The Jewell family has initiated the establishment of a named endowment fund in ODF to honor Rev. Jewell on his retirement from ministry: **the Jewell Endowment for Practical Parish Ministry Skills**. On November 17, a celebration, including lunch and a worship service, was held at Southern Hills Christian Church. During worship, an offering was collected, the proceeds of which were donated to the Jewell Endowment. The Foundation's board of directors voted to match that offering total. As this newsletter goes to press, contributions to the Jewell Endowment total \$24,974.



Honoring A Friend or Loved One

What better way to honor a friend or loved one than to make a gift in her/his honor or memory?

Gift donations to Oklahoma Disciples Foundation can be made in honor of friends and relatives for any occasion — including birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, celebrating achievements or just to say you care!

At the death of a loved one, many families prefer charitable donation as expressions of sympathy rather than flowers.

Regardless of the amount, your honoree or (if a memorial gift) the family will receive a personalized card with a message of gratitude from the Foundation, advising them of your thoughtful gift.

Gifts may be designated to benefit any named endowment fund. For a complete list, go to www.okdisciplesfoundation.org and click the [Named Endowment List](#) link. If you wish to support the operations of the Foundation, gifts may be designated for Disciple Club.

Gifts to Oklahoma Disciples Foundation are tax-deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law.

The perfect gift

*Perfect for the special
hard-to-buy-for recipient.
Ideal as a last-minute Christmas gift.*

My Enduring Gift

I/we wish to make a perpetual gift to the Oklahoma Disciples Foundation, Inc.

Please select the endowment fund(s):

- ☐ Camps & Programs
- ☐ Senior Adult Care
- ☐ Pastoral Care
- ☐ ODWF ☐ ODMF
- ☐ Disc. Scholarships & Institutions
- ☐ Regional Ministries
- ☐ Other _____
(Full list at www.okdisciplesfoundation.org)

Tax-Deductible Gift Enclosed:

Check \$ _____ Cash \$ _____ Pledge \$ _____ # _____ installments @ \$ _____
(Gifts are recorded in the calendar year.)

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Name on Credit Card _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Questions? Call 888-525-6530 (toll-free)

Return to:
Oklahoma Disciples Foundation
301 NW 36th
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Donor Information:

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Disciples Club

Annual Gift \$ _____