



Vol. 15 No. 1  
Spring 2000

# Keeping you informed of our mutual ministries

# EXTENSION

BOARD OF CHURCH EXTENSION OF DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

## A Time to Remove Barriers

**E**d Allender knows all about Board of Church Extension. After all, he grew up in the Irvington area just a few blocks from Downey Avenue Christian Church and the old Missions Building in Indianapolis. He even knew BCE past president, John Booth.

“Since I grew up at Downey Avenue Christian Church, I have always felt a part of Board of Church Extension. In fact, I became an ordained minister because of my relationship with the church at an early age. My family and I joined Downey and were active members for many years,” Ed stated.

### Meeting the ‘Love of His Life’ and Serving the Church

After attending Butler University in Indianapolis, Ed received a degree from Lexington Theological Seminary in Christian Education and soon after served as associate minister of High Street Christian Church in Akron, Ohio. “Akron holds a special place in my heart since I met my wife there,” Ed stated.

The year was 1944 and World War II was in full motion. Ed joined the Navy and served as a chaplain for two years. In 1946, he married Nellie—“the love of his life.” Ed attended the University of Chicago on the GI Bill and lived at the Disciples Divinity House while Nellie taught in Akron.

In 1948, Ed served as minister of First Christian Church in Sidney, Ohio and later served at High Street Christian Church in Hamilton, Ohio. In the early '60s, Ed joined the regional staff of the Christian Church in Indiana. Nellie became a teacher in the Indianapolis Public School System.

### Noticing Accessibility Challenges

Even though Ed “officially retired” from First Christian Church in Massillon, Ohio in 1981, he served as interim minister of several Disciples congregations throughout central Indiana.

He added, “While serving 10 congregations throughout the years I became aware of accessibility problems. Four were full-time pastorates and six were interim. Only two of those churches were accessible. That’s when I became interested in BCE’s Accessibility Loan Fund.”

Ed and Nellie became BCE investors in 1991. “Nellie and I noticed our checkbook balance was too high so we invested \$10,000 at BCE.



*An antique grandfather clock and other family heirlooms help Ed Allender remember how blessed his life has been.*

*(continued on page 2)*

# Honoring the life of Vernon Blankenship

With this issue of *BCE Extension*, we celebrate the life of N. Vernon Blankenship, who died on March 27, 2000. From June 1966 to retirement in 1993, Vernon served on the staff of Board of Church Extension. He held more than 3000 consultations with congregations and units of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and raised more than \$32,000,000 in fund raising campaigns.

Often he spoke with congregational leadership about the need for accessibility and the removal of barriers in our churches so that everyone could enter, worship and fellowship together. In the last years of his life, Vernon suffered from Amyotrophic

Lateral Sclerosis or Lou Gehrig's disease. Accessibility took on a new, personal meaning for him and all those around him. In 1997 the N. Vernon Blankenship Named Fund for Accessibility was created. Today, gifts to this fund not only honor Vernon's life but help congregations remove barriers and become accessible.



Vernon Blankenship

“  
*It is time to remove  
barriers and see  
that our churches  
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who enter.*

”

## Remove Barriers

*(continued from page 1)*

We earned more than \$6,000 in interest over 9 years, which was an excellent return,” Ed stated.

### Taking Action to Remove Barriers

In 1999, following the death of Nellie, Ed decided to take action to remove barriers, so he took their investment note and created the Nellie and Edwin Allender Named Fund for Accessibility. According to Ed, “This

was a way to pay tribute to my wife as well as support the accessibility issue which has been a big part of my ministry.”

Ed now lives an active life at Robin Run Retirement Village in Indianapolis. He is past president of the resident council and serves as chairperson of the spiritual life

committee. He attends Crestview Christian Church in Indianapolis.

His home is filled with antiques and family pictures that help him remember a life full of wonderful memories.

Ed's strong faith helped him through two personal tragedies. Their beloved daughter died in 1981 of cancer and Nellie passed away just a few months ago. Ed says, “Nellie loved being a minister's wife. She had a way of making people feel good about themselves. She was also a gifted teacher and so was our daughter.”

Ed is one of many who know that BCE investments provide the needed resources for loans to congregations, units, colleges and seminaries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He also realizes the importance of accessibility.

Ed added, “It is time to remove barriers and see that our churches are accessible and welcoming to all who enter.”



*Ed lives at Robin Run Retirement Village and is pleased with how accessible the apartments and garden homes are. Ed created a BCE Named Fund for accessibility in honor of his wife, Nellie.*

# Building Highlights

**H**ighlights of some of the hundreds of building projects you and Church Extension are helping through your gifts and investments.



*A \$25,000 BCE loan will assist the congregation of First Christian Church, Mesa, Arizona, with a remodeling project and parking lot expansion. BCE also assisted with a building fund campaign. The congregation's goal was \$110,000; they achieved \$115,866, with more than \$20,000 going to the Arizona regional capital campaign.*



*More than 100 volunteers from seven states have been in Florida to help construct a new building for Misión Cristiana de Palm Bay, a growing Disciples congregation outside of Melbourne. BCE approved loans totalling \$300,000 for the project.*



*A \$435,000 BCE loan helped finance a new addition at Longview Chapel Christian Church, Lee's Summit, Missouri. The congregation also raised \$203,000 in three year pledges during a BCE-directed capital fund campaign. The expansion project was constructed in a way so the building could keep its eligibility for the National Registry of Historic Places. The new addition features more fellowship and classroom space.*

## Will That Be On Your Credit Card?

“  
*We fly a lot on frequent flyer miles. By using our credit card to make a donation to BCE, we got the benefit of the frequent flyer miles plus it was a convenient and handy process.*  
”

It is great when a charitable contribution not only benefits the cause but the donor as well.

Now, since BCE can take donations using MasterCard, VISA or Discover card, benefits like frequent flyer miles or bonus points add up for the donor like the gifts add up for BCE.

Also, donors can make contributions by credit card in December and not pay for it until January, earning an income tax deduction in addition to frequent flyer miles.

Bill Eaton of Mesa, Arizona said, “We fly a lot on frequent flyer miles. By using our credit card to make a donation to BCE, we got the benefit of the frequent flyer miles **plus** it was a convenient and handy process.”

So, if you contact BCE about making a donation and we say “will that be on your credit card?” you will know why. For more information on how to make a donation to BCE using your credit card, contact

Ellen Mitchell at BCE, P.O. Box 7030, Indianapolis, IN 46207, 1-800-274-1883, or [emitchell@churchextension.org](mailto:emitchell@churchextension.org).

## Take a LOOK!

If you need an emphasis on Planned Giving and Wills in your congregation, consider contacting Ellen Mitchell at Board of Church Extension. The seminar is one hour, done without fee to the congregation and includes materials, video, handouts and question/answer session.

Interested? Call Ellen Mitchell at 1-800-274-1883 or send her e-mail at [emitchell@churchextension.org](mailto:emitchell@churchextension.org).

## DiscipleData Makes Gift to BCE's Accessibility Loan Fund

In a special action by the DiscipleData (DDI) board of directors, a \$50,000 gift was made

to the BCE Accessibility Loan Fund. According to Delbert Crocker, DiscipleData president, “In 1971, through a grant of \$50,000 made from a special development fund, BCE provided the funding for DDI to get started. It seems most appropriate that we return the favor by supporting the work and ministry of BCE in the new millennium with a gift to the Accessibility Loan Fund.”

DiscipleData provides electronic data processing services for various units of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), as well as Church World Service and the American Baptist Extension Corporation.

*Delbert Crocker, president of DDI, presents a check to Ellen Mitchell, assistant vice president for development of BCE. The \$50,000 gift was made to BCE's Accessibility Loan Fund.*



# BCE Heritage Society Adds Members

**M**embers have been added to the BCE Heritage Society in the past several months.

Membership in the Society exemplifies the importance of gifts made through estates, wills, and Pay on Death arrangements on a BCE investment note. Each intent helps assure ongoing services to congregations. To date there are 35 members:

Pauline Askin, Mesa, Arizona

LoAnn Blankenship, Lexington, Kentucky

William Carlson, North Mankato, Minnesota

John and Rene Carter, Ascunion, Paraguay

Norma Cody, Chicago, Illinois

D. Wayne and Ruth Doolen, Rosemead, California

Harold and Vera Enz, Edmond, Oklahoma

Carl and Georgia Flock, Birmingham, Alabama

Helen E. Goble, Dallas City, Illinois

John and Marie Goodson, Raymore, Missouri

Nora Pauline Hamlett, Wichita, Kansas

Louis and Mary Hartley, Martinsville, Indiana

Robert and Marilyn Howard, Nashville, Tennessee

Roland and Kitty Huff, Jacksonville, Florida

Tom and Alberta Jones, Indianapolis, Indiana

Jim R. and Oletta Keown, Indianapolis, Indiana

Gary W. and Judy H. Kidwell, Carmel, Indiana

Norm and Elaine Ketner, Iona, Michigan

Wayman W. and Mary Ida McReynolds, Orange, California

Ellen and Lennis Mitchell, McCordsville, Indiana

William and Mae Nelson, Bellingham, Washington

William and Claudine Nichols, Indianapolis, Indiana

James and Margaret Powell, Lebanon, Indiana

Erick and Denise Reisinger, Greenwood, Indiana

Don and Sally Roberts, Lenexa, Kansas

Wanetta Rohrbach, San Diego, California

Wayne and Ethel Shaneyfelt, Aurora, Nebraska

Robert and Virgie Lee Shaw, Coral Gables, Florida

Laura Frances Sheafor, Pinehurst, North Carolina

Elizabeth Somer, Jacksonville, Florida

James Suggs, Carlsbad, California

Irene VanBoskirk, Peoria, Arizona

Harold R. and Evelyn N. Watkins, Indianapolis, Indiana

Kathryn Williams, Corpus Christi, Texas

William Zack, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

To become a member of the BCE Heritage Society you need only to inform us that you have remembered BCE in your will, estate or intend to use the Pay on Death options for a BCE investment note. For further information, contact Ellen Mitchell, 1-800-274-1883.

Limited time, special offer!  
Newly invested funds of  
\$1,000 or more!

30-month note **7.00%**  
(7.122% APY)

18-month note **6.50%**  
(6.606% APY)

Call BCE at 1-800-274-1883

This is not an offer to sell or a request to buy these investments. The offer is made only in the offering circular, which should be read carefully regarding any possible risks before investing. Rates may change without notice.



# This Out: Charitable Gift Annuities

With benefits like

- ✓ lifetime payments
- ✓ higher interest rates
- ✓ charitable tax deductions

Many friends of Board of Church Extension are funding Charitable Gift Annuities with cash or appreciated stock to benefit themselves and the Board.

Some of the example rates available, as suggested by the Committee on Gift Annuities, 1998:

<b>Age</b>	<b>Rate</b>
55	6.1%
60	6.6%
65	7.0%
70	7.5%
75	8.2%
80	9.2%
90-over	12.0%

(Minimum amount \$2,500)

Call 1-800-274-1883 and ask Ellen Mitchell or Nancy Schoen to send more information and personal calculations.

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