



Keeping you informed of our mutual ministries

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EXTENSION

BOARD OF CHURCH EXTENSION OF DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

A Day of New Beginnings

The crispness of a bright March morning greeted members of First Christian Church, Black Mountain, North Carolina, to a day of new beginnings and joyous celebration on March 15.

It was moving day at last. It was the day the congregation celebrated its first worship service in a new 5,000-square-foot facility in the heart of North Carolina mountain country.



First Christian Church,
Black Mountain, North
Carolina.

Nearly 100 members began the special worship service at Christmount Retreat Center, just two miles from their new location.

After a reading from the Old Testament, Mike Murphy, co-chairperson of the construction committee, invited the congregation to “caravan to the new church building.” Almost 70 cars trekked down the hill to the new four-acre site where members greeted the Rev. Ralph Messick, interim minister.

What a difference the new facility has made. “Our old two-story building was so hard to get around and was in a remote location,” explained Neal Wyndham, steering committee chairperson. “In recent years, the building’s tiny narthex, remote restrooms, small

fellowship hall and inadequate parking stifled our ministry, fellowship and outreach.

“We had church folks that couldn’t come to worship because of the building layout,” Wyndham added. “We knew if we didn’t do something soon, our congregation would dwindle. That’s when we called Board of Church Extension.”

For the first time in the congregation’s 48-year history, there is a building that is accessible for all. The new facility features a round narthex with natural lighting, a sanctuary paneled with North Carolina knotty pine, flexible seating for worship, a covered portico, accessible restrooms, classrooms, administrative space and a kitchen. There is also ample parking space and room to expand for other building projects.

“This was a relocation project that went without any hitches or problems,” stated Murphy. “From working with the building contractors to our own faithful church leadership, everything worked well. We were not in this alone. We had support from BCE and from our total congregation.”

(See “New Beginnings” page 2)

New Beginnings *(From page 1)*

Not only did the congregation raise \$135,000 during a BCE-directed capital fund campaign for the relocation project, but also obtained a 15-year BCE loan that was repaid in 18 months.

The congregation also participated in the Board of Church Extension Loan Support Plan (LSP). The program enabled members of the church to invest funds with the Board in support of the congregation's loan, thereby qualifying for a lower interest rate.

Added Wyndham, "A number of things were impressive to me concerning the LSP program. First of all, BCE handled all of the correspondence with our members. All we had to do was give them our mailing list.

"Secondly, the campaign had a personal touch as BCE staff members made trips to our church to talk about details of the loan. There was also a guaranteed interest rate for three years which was attractive to me and other investors from the church."

The work and challenge continues for members of First Christian Church, Black Mountain. Already, they are planning to launch another capital fund campaign this spring to help pay back the loan.



More than 100 members of First Christian Church attended the worship service in their new accessible sanctuary.

BCE Heritage Society Adds 16 Members

Sixteen members 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 and wills, which help assure ongoing services to congregations. To date there are 40 members:

**N. Vernon and LoAnn Blankenship,
Lexington, KY**

**Eldred E. Brown, Woodbine, IA
William Carlson, North Mankato, MN**

**Jovita Dreisbach, Port Ludlow, WA
Carl and Georgia Flock,
Birmingham, AL**

**Helen E. Goble, Dallas City, IL
John and Marie Goodson, Raymore,
MO**

**Nora Pauline Hamlett, Wichita, KS
Louis and Mary Hartley, Martinsville,
IN**

**Robert and Marilyn Howard,
Nashville, TN**

**Jim R. and Oletta Keown,
Greenwood, IN**

**Gary W. and Judy H. Kidwell,
Carmel, IN**

**Norm and Elaine Ketner, Iona, MI
Wayman W. and Mary Ida**

**McReynolds, Orange, CA
Ellen and Lennis Mitchell,**

**McCordsville, IN
William and Claudine Nichols,
Decatur, IL**

**James L. and Margaret A. Powell,
Lebanon, IN**

**Erick and Denise Reisinger,
Greenwood, IN**

**Don L. and Sally Roberts, Lenexa,
KS**

**Wanetta Rohrbach, San Diego, CA
Robert and Virgie Lee Shaw, Coral
Gables, FL**

**Laura Frances Sheafor, Jacksonville,
FL**

**Harold R. and Evelyn N. Watkins,
Indianapolis, IN**

Kathryn Williams, Corpus Christi, TX

To become a member of the BCE Heritage Society you need only to inform us that you have remembered BCE in your will or estate arrangements. For further information, contact Ellen Mitchell, 1-800-274-1883.

Converting a Sleeping Asset into Life Income

What is the most widely held security today?

The answer is U.S. Savings Bonds. Would you be surprised to learn that more than 55 million Americans own U.S. Savings Bonds valued at more than \$170 billion?



If you are part of the “World War II generation,” then likely you own bonds. Yet many bonds purchased in the 1940s, ’50s and ’60s no longer earn interest. What’s more, bonds may be subject to heavy federal income taxes and state and federal “death taxes” in a person’s estate if left for heirs.

For many, U.S. Savings Bonds represent sleeping assets that can be used to fund charitable gifts while providing the donor with income for life. Here are two ways this can occur:

1. Bonds can be converted into a “life income” gift by using the resource to fund a Gift Annuity. This arrangement provides support for BCE, life income for the donor(s), a charitable deduction and may eliminate all taxes caused from cashing the bonds.

2. Charitable Remainder trusts as either Annuity Trusts or Unitrusts can assist a donor with substantial quantities of bonds to select payouts and trust terms, as well as possibly offsetting interest reported from cashing the bonds.

In addition, bonds may be left through a will or revocable living trust to BCE, if there is no surviving co-owner or death beneficiary. Bequests made of Savings Bonds to a tax exempt organization avoid income taxes and qualify for an estate charitable deduction. It is noteworthy that denominations and serial numbers must be listed unless all U.S. Savings Bonds are to be used to make the bequest.

In summary, U.S. Savings Bonds are “tax-cursed” assets that when left to family members will be subject to “death taxes” based on the date of death value and income taxes on accrued interest. Bequests of bonds or use of them to fund a Gift Annuity, for example, can mean putting the full value to use, possibly free of taxes.

For more information, contact Ellen Mitchell.

The Passing of a Past President

The ever present light blue cap, the always affirming smile, the many captivating stories will no longer grace our lives. Dr. William T. Percy has died at the age of 96. He passed away quietly on March 31 in Tucson, AZ, after telling his daughter that he was going on a long flight and he wouldn’t be coming back. She said with confidence, “You’ll have a good trip.” We agree.

Bill greatly influenced the Board of Church Extension and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) during his 34-year term at Board of Church Extension (18 years as president). He continued that influence in his 31 years of retirement. Bill, you will be missed, you continue to be loved, and could you tell us the story about the time you . . .

—Jim Powell,
BCE President

Recent donations have helped to establish a memorial fund in Bill’s honor.



Bill Percy (center) greets BCE past president Hal Watkins (left) and Jim Powell, current BCE president (right) during the 1997 General Assembly.

Three Percent Added to Named and Extenders Funds

Net operating income and gains in securities during 1997 allowed the Board to add 3% to our Named and Extenders Funds at year's end.

Named Funds (\$5,000) and Extenders Funds (\$25,000) help Board of Church Extension provide loans at the lowest possible rates and offer services at little or no fee.

A complete listing of the Board's various funds is in the just released 1997 Annual Report. Contact us if you did not receive a copy.

Building Accessibility Fund Goal is \$500,000

"We have \$20,805.67 now in the new Low Interest Congregational Accessibility Fund," stated Ellen Mitchell, Assistant Vice President for Development, "but we need to reach the goal of \$500,000 so we can begin to assist congregations renovating their facilities to remove barriers to persons with physical disabilities."

"It has always been very important to BCE to help congregations make their church facilities accessible for all people," said James L. Powell, President. "We hope more donors will join those who have already helped us get the fund started."

According to Sam and Mary Howard of Tulsa, OK, "We were delighted when the announcement reached us that the Board was creating a permanent fund for the purpose of lending funds so congregations could make necessary changes, and we were pleased to contribute with others toward building the amount set for its activation."

For more information on how to make an annual, memorial, Named Fund or Extenders Fund gift to the Accessibility Fund, contact Ellen Mitchell at 1-800-274-1883.

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Life Income Through Gift Annuities

With new, higher rates in 1997, many people funded Charitable Gift Annuities, not only to benefit Board of Church Extension ultimately, but also to achieve life income and tax

benefits. In fact, 1997 was a record year for BCE in establishing newly funded Gift Annuities; 1998 already is proving to be another good year as well.

To discuss the benefits of establishing a single or two-life Charitable Gift Annuity, contact Ellen Mitchell.



Q I am really interested in funding a Charitable Gift Annuity and supporting Board of Church Extension's new Accessibility Fund. Is it possible to do both?

A Sure! You can fund a Gift Annuity and indicate that ultimately a Named or Memorial Fund be established which supports the Low Interest Congregational Accessibility Fund. This way you will realize life income, tax benefits and know that you will be helping a congregation address their issues of accessibility.

Building Highlights

Highlights of some of the hundreds of building projects you and Church Extension are helping through your gifts and investments



Members of **Filipino Christian Church in Los Angeles, CA**, are gearing up for their 65th anniversary in June. They recently restored windows, restrooms, the kitchen and added a ramp to make the facility more accessible. They also added a 17-space parking lot.

Board of Church Extension provided a \$25,000 loan, \$12,500 of it interest-free, to assist the congregation with the project.

The original structure was built in 1895 but was rebuilt in 1910 after the 1907 earthquake. Portions of the building were again repaired after the 1971 earthquake. Applications are being filed to make the church an historic site in the city of Los Angeles.



Members of **Foothills Christian Church, Glendale, Arizona**, have a new building for worship. Board of Church Extension provided a \$370,000 loan to help fund the project. The congregation also raised \$152,000 during a BCE-directed capital fund campaign to underwrite costs.

Foothills Christian Church, Glendale, AZ.



The new ramp is a welcome addition for members of Filipino Christian Church.

To further assist with the project, the congregation is participating in the Loan Support Plan through BCE. The goal of the plan is to seek investments at 5.5% that will result in a reduced loan interest rate and subsequent savings.



Community outreach is important to members of **Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro, NC**. The congregation recently purchased a 26,000-square foot building located on a five-acre site. Board of Church Extension provided a \$500,000 loan to assist with the project.

The congregation will use the property for a preschool, a job training program, a library, a drug prevention program and a counseling center.

In describing the church's vision for community development, the Rev. William J. Barber says, "The Gospel demands that the church stand for justice and be involved in liberation and ministries of empowerment throughout the community. To be influenced by the Holy Spirit is to be in the business of ministry that makes a difference in the lives of people."



Shirley Hauck Retires

Perhaps you spoke with her on the phone or received a mailing she helped to prepare. For more than 12 years Shirley Hauck's work has touched the lives of many and helped BCE provide needed services to congregations,



(Left to right) Nancy Shoen and Shirley Hauck.

colleges, seminaries and units of the Church. But at the end of May, she will retire.

Shirley has been a tremendous asset to the BCE Development Program, providing continuity while working with two presidents and two Development officers.

Nancy Shoen will become the new Administrative Assistant for Development in May. As we welcome Nancy, we also extend best wishes to Shirley who helped this Board increase its funds so that services could be provided now and in the future to congregations facing building issues. Thanks, Shirley!

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