

# Behind the Windshield

with Dr. Zena S. McAdams  
zena@gadisciples.org



## Making Beautiful Music Together

When I was in high school, living in Denton, Texas, I was in the band. We were a really great band. We always took sweepstakes in marching band, symphonic band, solos and ensemble contests. We frequently received invitations to perform because we were an exceptionally good band. In today's school language, we were exemplary!

There were a lot of reasons for our outstanding reputation. First, we had access to one of the top music schools in the country at North Texas State, now the University of North Texas. Each semester, we would have numerous student teachers working with sections and teaching private lessons. For our spring concerts, we would have a guest soloist from the faculty at the music school. Our band also garnered the gifted and talented children of the music school faculty.

However, the primary reason for our excellence was the leadership of our beloved band director, Mr. Carroll McMath. Mr. Mac, slender built and wiry, was intense and driven, pressing our band to be the best high school band possible. He expected us to be on time, but if you were on time, you were late. On time meant that you were there ahead of schedule, ready to play when Mr. Mac stepped to the podium and raised his arms. This enormously gifted conductor taught 150 plus students each year, molding us to make beautiful music.

During the board retreat this weekend, Dean made the comment that the staff had learned to work harmoniously. He is right. Our staff has learned to make beautiful music together. I would take that one step further. The region has been learning to live in harmony as well. The richness of our music together has been melodic to my ears. We still have discordance from time to time, a sour note or notes played in the wrong order, but we sound better all the time.

Every conductor of a band, choir, or orchestra brings a unique flavor and sound to the musical expression of its members, making a harmonious sound that is particular to that time and place based on the gifts of all the musicians. Just as we have shared together in this creative process called church, the future shines bright for the Georgia Region as Rev. Ray Miles steps up to the podium to make music with the rich resources of time and talent among the good people of Georgia. Will it be different? Yes. Will it be faithful to God's call on our lives? Absolutely!

I am thankful for the diligent work of the Search Committee in extending their call to Ray. I believe that the Holy Spirit has been present in their prayerful deliberations and decision-making. Their faithful work as a committee was readily apparent in their presentation of the candidate on Saturday at the board retreat. As a result, I continue to be hopeful for the people of Georgia.

2370 Vineville Ave.  
Macon, GA 31204-3163

THE NEW CHRISTIAN MESSENGER



# THE NEW CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

www.gadisciples.org

VOLUME 82, ISSUE 2

MARCH 2005

## Board Confirms Miles

*Candidate to be presented at called assembly, April 16*

The Regional Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), meeting at Camp Christian Conference Center on Saturday, March 5, voted to present Dr. Ray Miles to the regional assembly as the candidate to become Georgia's next regional minister.

In a separate action, the board voted to call a special assembly of the Christian Church in Georgia for the purpose of electing Dr. Miles. The assembly will be held in Macon on Saturday, April 16 at 3:00 p.m.

Dr. Miles has a strong background in regional ministry. In addition to serving local congregations in Kentucky, Kansas, Colorado and Iowa, Ray has served as the Regional Minister for the Christian Church in Canada. He has also served the Central Rocky Mountain, Oregon and Upper Midwest regions as an associate regional minister.

He received the Doctor of Ministry degree from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Chicago in 1993. He earned the Master of Divinity degree from Lexington Theological Seminary in 1978. Ray's doctoral work concentrated on stewardship studies, and from 1970 - 1974 he worked as an elementary school teacher.

Ray and his wife, Wendy, currently live in Altoona, Iowa. They have grown children and grandchildren who live in the St. Louis and Chicago areas. Wendy is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and currently serves as senior minister of Altoona Christian Church.

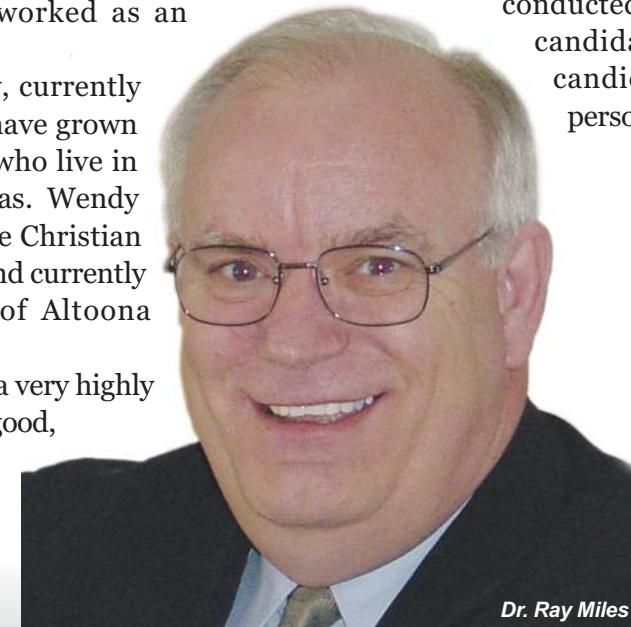
Dr. Miles comes to Georgia very highly recommended. Dr. Chris Hobgood, General Minister and President, says of Ray, "I know Ray Miles quite well, and I have great confidence

in him. I believe his experience and temperament are excellent and are a good fit for Georgia. I have great confidence that, by God's grace, you have made the right choice for the church in Georgia."

In referring Dr. Miles, Richard Guentert, Regional Minister in the Upper Midwest, wrote, "Ray Miles' strengths include his commitment, loyalty, ability to do a ministry that keeps him on the road long hours, and his people skills. Dr. Miles can be quite enthusiastic in communicating an ideal or in building support for a project. I'm pleased to be a reference in behalf of this fine servant of Christ and the Church."

The call of Rev. Miles completes a year-long process by the Search Committee, which was chaired by Bob Alvarez, a member of Iglesia el Aposento Alto in Jonesboro. Other members of the committee were: Rev. David Everton, Dr. Cynthia Hale, Kathie Howell, Dr. Jeannie May, Steve Shewmaker, and Rev. Barbara Sims-King. The committee received 44 referrals and reviewed eleven applications. The committee received written materials from seven of those applicants and

conducted telephone interviews with four candidates. Dr. Miles was one of two candidates who came to Georgia for personal interviews with the committee.



Dr. Ray Miles

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Letter from the candidate ..... page 2
- Photos from board retreat ..... page 3
- Testimonials ..... page 3
- Behind the Windshield ..... page 4

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO 1235  
ATLANTA, GA

# UPCOMING EVENTS:

## MARCH

- 19 Northwest District Women's Spring Conference Tucker, Atlanta First, 9:00
- 22 Northwest District Clergy Atlanta, Peachtree, 12:00

## APRIL

- 2 Northeast District Women's Spring Conference Athens, Friendship, 9:00
- 2 Reconciliation Task Force Macon, Regional Office
- 4 Northeast District Clergy Winder, Golden Corral, 12:00
- 9 West Central District Women's Spring Conference Macon, St. Andrew, 9:00
- 16 East Central District Women's Spring Conference Dublin, First, 9:00
- 16 Regional Assembly Macon, First Christian Church, 3:00
- 23 Southwest District Women's Spring Conference Valdosta, First, 9:00
- 23 Camp Counselor Training Atlanta, Brookhaven, 10:00
- 26 Northwest District Clergy Atlanta, Peachtree, 12:00
- 30 Southeast District Women's Spring Conference Glennville, First, 9:00

## MAY

- 2-4 Spiritual Journey Retreat, Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island
- 7 Work Day Camp Christian Conf. Ctr., 9:00
- 7 Women's Ministry Commission Macon, Regional Office, 10:00
- 9 Northeast District Clergy Winder, Golden Corral, 12:00
- 15 Southeast District Assembly Camp Kicklighter, 3:00

# To the Disciples in Georgia

*An open letter from Dr. Ray Miles*

Excitement and anticipation fill me now as I think of the possibility of sharing in ministry with you in the Georgia Region. I am grateful and humbled at the trust and faith placed in me by the Search Committee and Regional Board in their nomination of me as your regional minister.

A call by the Regional Assembly will enable us to begin this pilgrimage together. Great opportunities await us as we discover what God has in mind for this Region and the future. Prayer for God's wisdom and discernment must undergird all we do as the Region in our journey together.

As I said to the Regional Board in early March, the first thing I would anticipate doing is getting to know the ministers and the congregations within the Region. The definition and description of the Disciples of Christ are based upon relationships. Our individual relationship with God, through Jesus Christ, and our covenantal relationship with each other make us the Disciples of Christ. Developing those relationships with congregations and clergy will enable us to hold together and rejoice in the differences we have.

As I look at the Disciples of Christ in Georgia, one of the exciting things I see is the differences we have been given by God. I see them as contributing aspects to the richness of who God has called us to become. As we come to the table with our differences yielded to Christ and our desire to be one, we will become a powerful church.

During the first months I will endeavor to be present in as many congregations of the region as I possibly can. One of the most important things I can do is assist congregations to find and keep dynamic, enthused, clergy who have been touched by God's Spirit.

I am eager to get to know the regional staff and the programming they are leading in this region. Camp ministries will continue to be important as they touch young lives with God's love and draw congregations together in a valuable and visible ministry.

I intend to highlight ways congregations can be strong posts of mission and ministry in their communities and in the world beyond. By working in covenant, we can help congregations be vital and effective in ministry.

The future looks bright for the Christian Church in Georgia, and I look forward to working with you in this ministry. In humility and in recognition of my need for your support and prayer I await your call to do this ministry together. Thank you for this opportunity. May God bless and guide us.

*Ray Miles*

### WORK DAY AT CAMP CHRISTIAN

Saturday, May 7, 9:00 – 4:00, free lunch at noon. For more information or overnight accommodations, contact the camp at (478) 628-2850.

### 2005 SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

Date	Camp	Grade completed
<b>Camp Christian Conference Center</b>		
June 5-10	Trail Camp	9-12
June 6-10	Junior 1	3-5
June 10-12	Chrysalis 1	1-2
June 13-17	Chi Rho	6-7
June 17-19	Genesis*	Kindergarten
June 20-25	CYF	10-12
June 25-26	YADA	Young adults
June 27-July 2	Mid Hi	8-9
July 6-10	Work Camp	9-12
July 11-15	Junior 2	3-5
July 15-17	Chrysalis 2	1-2
July 17-21	Balaam	10-12
* Genesis campers must be accompanied by an adult family member.		
<b>Camp Kicklighter</b>		
June 12-17	Senior High	9-12
June 17-19	Young Adults	
June 19-24	Chi Rho Camp	6-8
June 26-July 1	Junior Camp	3-5
<b>Christmount Christian Assembly, NC</b>		
July 10-16	Created to be Me*	8

\*Created To Be Me is exclusively for campers who will complete 8<sup>th</sup> grade this year. The camp teaches a mature, Christian perspective on human sexuality.

### Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale

Senior Pastor, Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur, GA

"The thing that impressed me most of all about Ray and his wife, Wendy, was the wonderful way they talked about the leading of God throughout their life, their call to ministry and their love for God and for the church. Ray is like a breath of fresh air, while at the same time deeply rooted and grounded in the tradition of the Word and of the Church. I believe he is called to the Region of Georgia for such a time as this."

### Steve Shewmaker

General Council, University of Georgia  
Member of First Christian Church, Athens, GA

"Ray is thoughtful, spiritual, and displays the compassion and the communication skills our regional minister will need to reunite and to strengthen the region. Ray will be with us to support each other and the General Church and help us reinvigorate the Disciples in this region."

### Kathie Rae Howell

Secretary of the Search Committee  
Member of Peachtree Christian Church, Atlanta, GA

"Throughout the search process the Search Team has consistently acknowledged that the 'right' candidate was out there and prayed that God would lead us to each other. I truly believe that Ray Miles is the person that God led to us. As we spoke with him in interviews and afterward reviewed the multitude of notes on town hall meetings, surveys, and Search Team input, the priorities set by the people of the Region of Georgia seemed to reflect the person that Ray is.

His experience in regional ministry and his interest in people are evident in his life. The dimensions of his solid faith, his spirituality, and his sincerity are obvious.

Ray is sensible and resourceful, knows where the real power lies in the day-to-day maintenance of a variegated flock, and will likely approach any task with prayer, humility and a fine sense of humor. He is submissive to God's authority yet seems to have confidence enough in his spiritual relationship to be a discerning and enabling leader."

### Rev. George Bennett

Moderator of the Christian Church (DOC) in GA

"Rev. Ray Miles immediately made me relax and know that I was in the presence of a man of God. I do not know where he will lead the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia. I do not believe that Ray knows. I do believe that he has surrendered his personal will to that of the higher will of God in Jesus Christ. I believe that the Christian Churches in Georgia under his leadership will become a more faithful church."

### Rev. Michael Weeks

Associate Regional Minister  
Executive Director, Camp Christian Conference Center

"I want to affirm the process by which Ray Miles was selected as candidate for Regional Minister. I trust in the diligent God led, prayer-filled work of our search committee. I trust the process used to collect information from Disciples all across Georgia and to compile that information so the search committee would have a clear picture of what type of person was needed as regional minister. I have faith that the search committee brings before us a person with the skills and talents needed here in Georgia.

I did not take part in the search process, but I did have the opportunity to meet with Ray prior to his interview with the committee. I was encouraged by his knowledge of regional ministry, his understanding of the importance of summer camping, and by some of the questions he asked about our retreat and conference center ministries."



Bob Alvarez, chair of the Search Committee, gave the committee's report during the business meeting on Saturday.



Worship on Friday night included music and celebration.



Rev. Ray Miles talks with Search Committee member Jeannie May following the board meeting.

## THE NEW CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

A publication of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia  
2370 Vineville Ave., Macon, GA 31204  
Phone: (478) 743-8649 or 1-800-755-0485  
E-mail: ccinga@bellsouth.net

Lead Editor.....Rev. Linda Whitmire  
Copy Editor.....Rev. Dean Phelps  
Graphic Design.....Outreach Graphics

REGIONAL STAFF  
Dr. Zena McAdams.....Interim Regional Minister  
Rev. Michael Weeks.....Associate Regional Minister  
Rev. Betty Brewer-Calvert.....Dir., Women's Ministries  
Rev. Dean Phelps.....Dir., Church Development  
Pam Mikovitz.....Administrative Assistant  
Brooke Ostberg.....Financial Administrator