

Disciples Making Disciples

**Celebrating the
Retiring Class
of 2013**



Western PA Conference
The United Methodist Church

Congratulations!

In recognition of their years of faithful service, the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference has prepared this booklet to celebrate the ministry of members of the retiring class of 2013.

Included is a summary of their annual conference relationship and the congregations or ministries they served. Some chose to accept the opportunity to offer some parting thoughts.

Each of the retiring class members was given the opportunity to submit a "Last Sermon" for this booklet, including advice on the disciple-making theme of the 2013 Annual Conference, if they wished. They were limited to 350 words, something several noted was difficult for a preacher.

The Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference is grateful to all the members of the Retiring Class of 2013 for their time of service in ministry.

We offer best wishes as your journey continues.

Ralph C. Ciampa



Conference Relations: Admitted on Trial Evangelical United Brethren 1962; Full Member 1966; Elder 1966;

Academic Records: A.B. Otterbein 1963; B.D. United 1966; S.T.M. Union 1972

Appointment Records: Sewickley: Little Hill 1966-1969; Sewickley: Little Hill/Blackburn 1969-1971; To Attend School 1971-1975; ABLC: Chaplain: Cumberland Memorial Hospital 1975-1988; ABLC: Chaplain: Presbyterian Medical Center of Philadelphia 1988-1990; University of Pennsylvania Health Systems, Philadelphia, Director of Pastoral Care 1990-2002; Chaplain: 2002-.

I go through most days with background music playing in my head -- it is usually the beautiful sacred music that we have been rehearsing in choir practice for the week. That music and the stories of scripture shape my life and my calling. But when I step off the train and plunge into the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania each day, I enter an inter-faith world symbolized by the day our chapel saw our Rabbi explaining the High Holidays on one side, while an elderly woman prayed the rosary at a kneeler on another side and a Muslim man bowed toward Mecca on a third side. In this place of last resort for so many, where we daily confront ravaging disease and catastrophic trauma, we speak a universal language of faith and hope.

We have discovered that it is not loss that destroys us, but loss plus isolation. In this place, we cure and fix and maintain many whose lives might have been cut short not so long ago. Nevertheless, we cannot always fight off the inevitable losses of our finite, mortal human state. But we can, through our pastoral presence, relieve the crushing combination of loss and isolation. I have been committed to this ministry -- and fulfilled in the rich relationships it has blessed me with.

It has been a further gift to have Clinical Pastoral Education students of many denominations and faith traditions join us in this ministry and catch the vision of pastoral care as the art of helping persons to experience themselves as children of God. We stir up in each other a commitment, confidence and skill to hear, and to reverently acknowledge, the often untold stories of our sisters and brothers. In those encounters, our own healing and hope are deepened.

Most of us benefit from stunning advances in medical care. Spirituality is increasingly recognized as a critical component in healing and caring. I look forward to the day when such wholistic health care will be equally accessible to all God's children. I am grateful for the support of the church in this ministry.

Ralph Culp



Conference Relations: Part Time Local Pastor, 1997.

Academic Records: University of Maryland; Prince George Community College; Pennsylvania Institute of Banking; Duke University Divinity School, Graduate Course of Study 2000.

Appointment Records: Grand Valley/Sanford 1997-.

In the 17 years I have been in ministry, we have emphasized building relationships with all the people around us-- especially those outside our churches who are perceived as people who have not committed their lives to Jesus Christ. We have done this in many ways.

Our prayer ministry has about 30 people committed to praying for the many concerns of the people in our area and people regularly call us with their prayer concerns. It is an amazing ministry. We have canvassed our communities and given out Bibles, a brochure and a magnet with pictures of the churches and contact information. This enabled us to try to get to know our neighbors and invite them to worship.

Our church initiated a "Grand Valley Homecoming" with the local Volunteer Fire Department. It drew about 800 people and has been held annually for nine years. We always ended the event with a Christian concert at the church.

We offer monthly free dinners for the community. Grand Valley and Sanford churches are located in small rural communities. We coordinated people from various churches to perform a Passion Play at various locations every year for about 15 years, enabling us to touch many lives for Jesus Christ. We also started Victory in the Valley, a support group for people with addictions and their families.

In all things, we rely on prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit to be our guide and give us the direction and words we need to communicate with those who need Jesus. Our churches take seriously Jesus great commission to all Christians everywhere.

I would like to thank those who mentored me and continue to do so. I especially want to thank my wonderful wife, who has walked with me through these years in ministry. She has been a wonderful soul mate and partner in ministry--the love of my life. Jesus is the love of both of our lives. I pray that we will be able to be his faithful disciples until God calls us home or Jesus comes again.

Paul C. Freidhof



Conference Relations: Certified 1978; Full Time Local Pastor 1999; Probationary Elder 2001; Full Member 2005; Elder 2005
Academic Records: B.S. University of Pittsburgh 1986; M.Div. Asbury 1999.

Appointment Records: Mahaffey Charge: LaJose 1978-1980; New Millport Charge: New Millport/Mount Zion/ Bloomington/O'Shanter 1980-1982; Pittsburgh: Albright 1982-1986; Indian Creek Charge: Indian Creek: Calvary/Davistown/Mount Salem 1999-2013.

In Acts 20: 22, Paul says, “*And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there.*” This passage is about Paul coming to the end of his ministry and saying goodbye. This is what I have been feeling about retiring. I feel compelled to take this next step in my life, but I don’t know what will happen when I get there. But this I do know, I felt compelled to go into ministry when I was 30 years old after a few years of being discipled by a United Methodist pastor. He invited me to a Bible Study and it was there that I began learning about a personal relationship with Jesus and the Christian faith.

My walk with the Lord grew and with much prayer and study, I took the first tentative steps to seek His will for my life and felt God’s Spirit compelling me to go into ministry as a United Methodist pastor. For over 20 years, I have been serving UM churches and have lived an exciting and fulfilling life with God’s people. Through worship, weddings, funerals, baptisms, youth groups, Sunday School, revivals, covered dish meals, visits, work projects and all the Bible studies, I have been able to disciple God’s people, and invite them to come along on a journey that changes them and gives them answers for life. Out of God’s great love and grace for them, they told others and invited them on the journey.

Discipleship is as simple as sharing what Jesus means to you with someone else. In Acts 20, verse 24, Paul goes on to say that his aim was to finish the race and complete the task Jesus had given him – the task of testifying to the Good News of God’s grace. The story still compels me and even though I don’t know what retirement holds for me, I do know that Jesus’ plan for me will still be sharing the Good News with others. My deepest thanks for all those who have discipled me along the way.

Betty Lee Hollabaugh



Conference Relations: Part Time Local Pastor 1997.

Academic Records: Graduate Course of Study, Duke 2002.

Appointment Records: Hydetown/Tryonville April 9, 1997 - August 1, 1999; Enterprise/Hydetown/Tryonville August 1, 1999-2002; Enterprise/Titusville: First Associate 2003-2005; Mill Village/Millers Station 2005-2013.

I was extremely blessed to serve the Enterprise UMC for six years and for part of those years to also serve as program director/associate pastor of Titusville First UMC. From there I went to Mill Village and Millers Station churches and enjoyed seven and a half years there.

I believe we made disciples of Jesus Christ simply by reaching out into the community around us with helping those in need, those experiencing illnesses and loss. All these churches are very much aware of the needs around them and do attempt to help others by giving to food cupboards, other community outreach programs, doing funeral dinners, etc.

At Mill Village we also began an after-school program with elementary children. We car-pooled them from the school to the church on Wednesday afternoons, gave them a snack and taught them about the love of God and Jesus Christ. Over half the children in the program had no prior affiliation with any church and knew the names of God and Jesus only as swear words. What a joy to teach them about a real God and Savior.

We planted many seeds which we may never really see what grows from them but isn't that a disciple's call? We plant and let God grow and others nurture.

My advice to those just beginning their ministry is to simply stay true to the call God has put on your life and stay true to yourself. Grow in faith along with those you are called to serve and then allow God to fashion the end results.

Although I am no longer serving a local congregation, I believe God will use me as long as I am on this earth. We never stop making disciples if we follow God's call.

Roger Johnson



Conference Relations: Deacon 1977; Elder 1980
Academic Records: B.A. Houghton 1974; M.Div. Asbury 1979.
Appointment Records: To Attend School 1977-1979; Kittanning: Union Avenue 1979-1983; Townville/Troy Center 1983-1993; Hyndman Larger Parish: Bethel: Gravel Pit/Cooks Mills/Hyndman: First/Hyndman: Grace/Palo Alto/ Wellersburg 1993-2001; Ebensburg 2001-2013; Cresson Charge: Cresson/Gallitzen/Amsbry 2013-.

1 Timothy 1:1-2. *"This letter is from Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus, appointed by the command of God our Savior and by Christ Jesus our hope. It is written to Timothy, my true child in the faith."*

What brings us to this point, where one we have disciplined is not only a child in faith, but becomes, as Timothy did, a disciple maker? It seems that there are many investments we make to see this process through to full development.

First we make the investment of relationship. While the pursuit of numbers seems to be the recognized measure of success, we discover in the scriptures that a depth of relationship between the disciple-teacher and the disciple-learner is paramount. Paul and Timothy had developed a relationship that had been nurtured over time and shared travels. This relationship allowed Paul to say the encouraging words, as well as the challenging words to this young man.

Paul as a disciple-teacher was also instrumental in the development of character in Timothy. For those who know me, the phrase "builds character" often comes from my lips. The times that build character are when we are challenged to our limits, and then discover that God is there with us. Timothy went through such times. His youthfulness was challenged and his character was challenged. Paul was there to pray for this young man, listen and encourage him.

We also see that disciple-teachers assign responsibility to disciple-learners. Paul knew that Timothy would make some wrong decisions. Yet Paul also recognized that this is part of the growing process. In the pathway of sanctification there will be some stumbles, yet Grace goes before us.

A disciple-teacher is also one who sees the maturity of the disciple-learner and encourages continued growth by example and words of encouragement. Paul often spoke of Timothy with words of respect and honor. Receiving a "blessing" from a spiritual mentor can spur us on toward continued growth.

The disciple-teacher is also called to be one who is daily coming before the Lord with an open heart to hear and obey His word. A learner seldom rises above the level of the teacher.

Hear again the words of our Lord, "Go and be a disciple, and make disciples."

Ron Libengood



Conference Relations: Part-Time Local Pastor 1996; Student Local Pastor 2001; Full-Time Local Pastor 2002; Student Local Pastor 2005; Provisional Member 2009; Commissioned 2009
Academic Records: B.A. Human Services, Seton Hill College 2002; Asbury Seminary 2005-.

Appointment Records: Derry: New Life Community 2000-2001; Luxor 2001-2002; Ceres/Shinglehouse 2002-2005; McKeesport: Christy Park/Buena Vista: Bell Chapel 2005-November 7, 2010 (Bell Chapel closed November 7, 2010); McKeesport: Christy Park November 7, 2010-2012; Redband Valley UM Ministry:

Fairmount City/New Bethlehem: First/Hawthorn: Calvary/Leisure Run/New Salem/Oak Ridge/Putneyville Associate 2012-.

Through my years in ministry there was one tool for making disciples that proved extremely successful; that tool was small group ministry. I found that there are many people who are reluctant to speak in a large congregational setting, so they sit there frozen to their pew with thoughts and questions that go unaddressed.

I held my first small group meeting in the parsonage, a much more relaxed atmosphere.

We began our time together with a prayer. I prayed at the first meeting and this was the last time I prayed at the beginning. I relinquished that task to one of the group; slowly each member began to take their turn. Those who were once afraid to speak were now praying out loud in front of a group.

We discussed scripture, but this was not a conventional Bible study. We looked at the events of the day and then searched for scriptural teaching on the subject. This led to some very good discussion.

Each week we prayed for the concerns of the church and once again I took a back seat to the laity. There was one young woman in the group who was very quiet, but very interested. As our group progressed, she not only became more vocal, but was at times the facilitator. This quiet woman was now eager to pray for the sick and any other need that was expressed. I realized that I had made a disciple when one week she came to the group and told everyone that she had shared the message of Jesus Christ with a family member.

If your congregation does not have small group ministry, don't be afraid to start one. If you are not experienced in this type of ministry, don't let that stop you. Pray to the Father for guidance and the Holy Spirit will direct you and soon you will be making disciples for Christ.

Scott Richard McCormick



Conference Relations: Supply Pastor 1975; Deacon 1977; Elder 1983

Academic Records: B.S. University of Pittsburgh 1973; M.Div. United 1981.

Appointment Records: Wilkinsburg: Ross Avenue 1975-1978; Glassport Associate 1978-1979; To Attend School 1979-1981; Hopwood/Brownfield 1981-1991; Scottsdale: Christ 1991-1996; Pittsburgh: McKnight 1996-2006; Monroeville: Garden City 2006-2013.

How did “discipling” happen during the past 37-plus years of ministry?

At the risk of over simplifying things - discipling happened through the developing of relationships. And those relationships (both inside and outside the church) happened and will continue to happen through worship gatherings, the teaching of small groups, the one-to-one relationships with confirmands, the fellowship events, the time spent in people’s homes, the time spent in family support (bereavement, illness, surgeries, weddings, counseling).

In my experience, discipling cannot happen without relationships.

Celebrating the journey!

Kathleen A. Mikesell

Conference Relations: Certification: Director of Christian Education 1997; Director of Evangelism 1997; Consecrated 1997, Full Member 2000; Deacon 2000.



Academic Records: B.S. Clarion State University 1973; M. Ed. Slippery Rock State University 1975; Foundation and Certification Studies at Pittsburgh, Drew and Wesley seminaries.

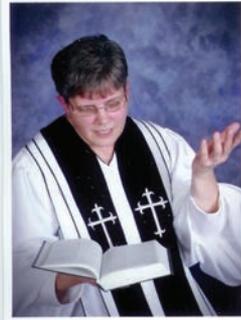
Appointment Records: Butler: Christ Community Congregational Care 1995-2000; Deacon of Congregational Care 2000 - 2004; Butler: Christ Community Deacon and Sarver: Zion Associate January 2004-2007; Associate Sarver: Zion 2007 - 2011; Consultant in Education and Evangelism 2011-2013.

For a Deacon in Full Connection (who rarely ever preaches) a “Last Sermon” assignment was odd, but helping “*Disciples Make Disciples*” was a topic about which I could get excited. At the Christ Community (Butler) and Zion (Sarver) congregations, I continually tried to help folks connect into the “Discipleship Continuum.” One prong consisted of being ready for the “guests” the Lord would send each week. We paid careful attention to everything a first-time visitor would encounter: from parking, greeters, narthex presentation, information, signage, and visitor- friendly bulletins to training pew greeters and ushers to ensure all received a friendly welcome. When this first step succeeded, it was my honor to work with hundreds of families as they established a new church home. Discerning where they were in their faith journey helped us to provide programs to assimilate them into the life of the congregation, and more importantly grow in their journey of faith.

Helping people of all ages grow spiritually in small groups is a tremendously important part of helping *Disciples Make Disciples*. My greatest joy was leading 250+ persons through the Disciple Bible Study program over a 20-year period. There is no greater blessing than seeing an in-depth encounter with scripture and prayer transform the lives of people you have grown to love. I marveled as each one discovered their spiritual gifts, and then bravely deployed them in a multitude of ways, as they went about the kingdom work of being the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

I have many to thank for the joys of ordained ministry, including friends and mentors who helped me embrace a call that was so overwhelming. I am grateful for the trust placed in me as I was asked to serve 12 years on the District & Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. I have great respect for the integrity of the members of the Boards on which I served. Most importantly I would like to thank my family, especially my husband Bob. I consider it all joy, for the indescribable treasure of knowing Jesus Christ as my Lord & Savior. May you also experience the blessings Our Lord has waiting for those who serve Him.

Ruth Ann Moore



Conference Relations: *Hired by Superintendent/Supply Pastor 2000; Part Time Local Pastor 2001.*

Academic Records: *Graduate Course of Study (Appalachian Local Pastors' School) 2009.*

Appointment Records: *Johnstown: Six Churches Under God: Bowserdale/Cramer/Albright/Cooper Avenue/Garfield Street/ Mount Olive: Cramer/Mount Olive: Jackson Associate 2000-April 7, 2001; Six Churches Under God (name changed to United For God): Johnstown: Albright/Bowserdale/Cramer/Garfield Street/Mount Olive Associate April 7, 2001-2006; United For God: Johnstown: Albright/Bowserdale/Cramer/Garfield Street/Mount Olive Associate and Chaplain: Johnstown: Memorial Medical Center 2006-2009; United For God: Johnstown: Albright/ Bowserdale/ Cramer/ Garfield Street/ Mount Olive Associate 2009-.*

Harry Denman's gift of evangelism is legendary. To meet him was to encounter Jesus Christ. No Harry Denman, this Licensed Local Part Time Pastor. Harry was direct. He was often one on one. His questions hit their mark and lives were transformed. I am different, serving with a team in cooperative ministry for all of my thirteen pastoral years. Denman mentored my mentor professor, Rev. Dr. George Morris. Morris taught me to listen in the manner of Denman. I follow in their footsteps.

I listened when Rev. Rita said there are no lone rangers in ministry (especially in cooperative ministry) and learned valuable lessons about partnership.

Today's celebration is of Judy (names of parishioners all used with permission) and her amazing transformation... the work of the Holy Spirit as we cooperative pastors listen, pray, teach, and encourage her. It is an ongoing labor of love.

Our celebration is also of an older gentleman. The God whose love and protection kept him safe during years of rebellion and not listening transformed his life. I love to listen to him as he praises God that his eyes were opened!

Our celebration is with prayer warriors in the cooperative and with the lasting relationships formed as the cooperative spirit has grown. We are not lone rangers, but together, united for God, we have partnered in ministry to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

We share tears in loss, we share Denny's pumpkin pancakes, and we make disciples through the prayer shawl ministry. Mary joined the church because she loved making prayer shawls. Mattie found comfort when her mother passed and celebrates her friendship with Mary. Mary even taught Mattie to make prayer shawls.

We celebrate music—the cooperative choir sings each Christmas and Easter (altos outnumbered sopranos for the last one), and we love hymnsings. The melody of God's love rings in our hearts. We listen and pray as God continues to transform lives through us.

No—Harry Denman, I am not. But then, he probably was not an alto.

William Parker



Conference Relations: Candidate 1984; Licensed to Preach 1984; Student Local Pastor, 1985; Probationary Member 1988; Full Member 1995; Deacon 1988; Elder 1995

Academic Records: M.Ed. West Virginia University 1984; M.Div. Pittsburgh 1991.

Appointment Records: Carmichaels Associate 1985-1987; Bobtown/Mount Calvary 1987-1988; To Attend School 1988-1991; Bobtown/Mount Calvary 1988-1990; Throckmorton 1990 (1/2 Time) August 1, 1994; Throckmorton (1/2 Time)/Director: Christian Life, Waynesburg College (1/2 Time) August 1, 1994-1996; Mapletown Larger Parish: Mapletown/Greensboro: Mount Pleasant/Shordon Chapel 1996-2004; Conference Approved Evangelist 2004-2005; Good Shepherd Charge (Washington

District): Rogersville/Throckmorton/Graysville: Fairview 2005-2006; Good Shepherd Charge: Rogersville/Throckmorton/Waynesburg: Washington Street 2006-2013; Washington Street/Throckmorton 2013-.

It has been my experience that people who are striving to live a life of faith are looking for a genuine model of faith. They are not interested in a superficial leader who is just all talk and show. They want a real person who struggles in life just as they do, but overcomes because they see his or her dependence on Jesus Christ. You can preach a thousand sermons, teach a decade of bible studies and visit a million homes and not reach anyone if they do not feel that you are really genuine in your own personal walk with the Lord. If they perceive that you are the real deal, then you can begin to share how a relationship with Jesus can make a difference not just in times of crisis, but in every day living. You don't have to be perfect, just committed.

One other thing that I have noticed is that encouragement goes a long way in making disciples for Jesus Christ. There are so many people sitting in the pews who have never been told that they have the gifts and abilities to step out in faith and be involved in ministry. No matter what age, vocation, economic status, gender, race or educational background, they can do exciting things to advance the gospel. Too much of the time people sit in the shadows of a select few who seem to run every aspect of the church. If they are encouraged to step up and step out their faith will blossom and their witness will be infectious to many others.

In my ministry, I have been blessed by so many people. My wife and family, brothers in ministry, laity in the churches and musicians from every church I have served have made this part of my journey an experience that I will never forget. I give thanks for every one of them.

Lee Pomeroy



Conference Relations: Deacon 1974; Elder 1976.

Academic Records: B.S. Houghton 1971; M.Div. Asbury 1974.

Appointment Records: Bethel Park: First Associate 1974-November 1976; Du Bois: Mount Zion November 1976-1985; Erie: Lawrence Park 1985-1994; Erie: Summit 1994-.

When the Apostle Paul wrote his second letter to Timothy, he gave all sorts of encouragement to Timothy and consequently to us. As this retiring class prepares to preach their “last” sermon, what wisdom can we share with others?

First of all, love one another. Pastors, you love those who you are called to serve. Laity, love, support, and pray for your pastor. While it may seem obvious, this is something that is often forgotten. While it is a command of Jesus, and while there may be times when this is hard, we are called to act as his followers, which means there is a certain code of conduct that we must follow. While there may be times in which we think others cannot be related to us (being children of God), just know we are family. We just need to act like it.

Second, be faithful to God where you are. Listen to God; listen to each other; laugh and let people be drawn to Jesus because of your love.

Ellen M. Rezek



Conference Relations: Deacon 1976, Elder 1979; Full Time Local Pastor 1995; Readmitted as Full Member 1997.

Academic Records: B.A. Clarion 1973; M.Div. Pittsburgh 1978; M.S.W. University of Pittsburgh 1984.

Appointment Records: To Attend School 1976-1977; Bellevue: Northmont United Presbyterian 1976-1977; McMurray: Trinity Associate 1977-1978; Conway/Economy 1978-1981; Economy 1981-1982; Pittsburgh: Beechview 1982-May 1, 1984; Chaplain: Mount Lebanon Home (renamed Asbury Heights) May 1, 1984-1986; Coordinator: North Side Coop Ministries/Perry North 1986-1987; Honorable Location 1987-1995; Meadville: Chaplain: Wesbury United Methodist Community 1995-

So one more time I find myself answering the question that is most frequently asked of me these days: "What do you plan to do when you retire?" Depending on who's asking, I have a few different responses. Sometimes I simply say: "I'm only retiring from one of my fulltime jobs. I'll still be working as a housewife and mother, and now even a grandmother, which, by the way, I love. Other times I tell folks: "Nothing! I'm looking forward to doing NOTHING." That isn't altogether true, but it sounds nice on those days when my life seems so very chaotic. My least favorite thing to acknowledge is that I'll be spending more time than I'd like sitting in doctors' offices and waiting on tests to be done; but that has become a reality too. The truth is that I am looking forward to continuing my ministry like it started-- Following God's lead wherever that takes me.

When I felt God's call into the ministry, I didn't believe women should be ordained. I certainly wanted to take Jonah's lead and run to Tarshish. As you recall, God told Jonah to go and preach to the Ninevites. Jonah pretty much told God: "No way, Lord. Not me!" Then he headed in the opposite direction. That's when I remember praying and telling God if I was really supposed to do this, He would have to convince me --show me--that it was okay for women to be ordained. That's when I read the words of Genesis 12:1 and 12:4: "The Lord had said to Abram: 'Leave your country, your people and your father's house and go to the land I will show...and Abram left as the Lord had told him'."

From that day on I have tried to go where God leads. It hasn't always been easy. It hasn't always been what I expected. But it has always proven to be for my good and, I pray, for the good of the God I am committed to serve. So I'm hoping to do the same in my retirement---to allow God the honor of showing me what he has yet in store for as long as He gives me life and breath and His Spirit to do so.

Terry L. Shaughnessy



Conference Relations: Licensed to Preach, North Carolina Conference 1984; Western Pennsylvania Conference Deacon 1985; Elder 1988

Academic Records: A.A. Southwestern 1975; B.A. Pepperdine 1978; M.Div. Duke 1986.

Appointment Records: North Carolina: Mount Tabor/Riverview 1984-1986; To Attend School 1985-1986; Western PA: Eastbrook 1986-1991; Union City: First 1991-2006; Grove City: Grace 2006-2008; Washington: First 2008-2010; Erie: First 2010-.

“Your Last Sermon”I hope not! 300-350 words....limiting a preacher by words or time has to be a joke! “Disciples Making Disciples”not just a catchy theme for another Annual Conference, but hopefully that which has defined me and my years of ministry.

According David Platt, who wrote the book **Follow Me**, this is what we were born to do, that is to make disciples. He writes, “To be a disciple of Jesus is to make disciples of Jesus.” From the time that Jesus said to the first disciples, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” and through the centuries, “....God’s design for twenty-first-century disciples is exactly the same.” Jesus calls disciples to make to disciples, who in turn make disciples, and so on until the gospel is spread throughout all the lands. It’s what we were born, re-born, to do.

How did I do it? It all comes down to love, which, by the way, is a chapter subtitle in Francis Chan’s book, **Multiply**. From the time I was a student pastor in rural North Carolina while attending Duke Divinity School and for 29 years of full-time ministry thereafter, with God’s help I tried my best to follow the advice of the late Bishop Kenneth Goodson, then resident bishop at Duke Divinity School, when he said: “Love the people!”

Making disciples for Jesus Christ comes down to following Jesus’ teaching of God’s two greatest commandments: Love God first and then love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves. Love the people, even the unlovely, with God’s love and by His grace, disciples were made along the way. And it has always been my prayer that they in turn are doing the same, paying God’s love forward and making disciples.

As I have entered a new and different season of ministry, retirement from full-time ministry, I have already been presented with opportunities to pay God’s love forward. No matter the season, making disciples for Jesus all comes down to love....love God first and love the people! By God’s grace, I pray that each of us will get serious about Jesus’ command to make disciples and quit minimizing and, in some cases, even ignoring it. The future of the church and the spreading of the gospel depend on each of us doing our best at following Jesus’ command: “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Aimee Twigg



Conference Relations: Deacon 1973, Elder 1977

Academic Records: B.A. University of Pittsburgh 1972; M.Div. Wesley 1976.

Appointment Records: Faith Charge: Diamondville/Commodore/Hillsdale/Hazlett/Salem/Cookport 1974-October 1979; Tionesta/West Hickory October 1979-1981; Mountain Team Ministry: Casselman/Harnedsville/Confluence: Mount Zion 1981-1986; Sugar Creek Circuit: Sugar Creek/Lupher Chapel/Worden Chapel 1986-1989; Superintendent: Franklin District 1989-1995; Latrobe 1995-2008; Greensburg: Otterbein 2008-2013.

The Disciples' Call

God called me from a wounded place to Christ, the "Wounded Healer's," strong embrace!

Wounded Healers, all, is Nouwen's wisdom, by God's Grace!

Then sent from God, an "August" man, who shares my Walk, God's Way,
Who hand in hand and heart to heart, grows old with me today!

The fruit of married bliss, a son, and then, a daughter, came,
Who bear the imprint of our love, our very selves and Name.

To General Conference sent and Mission of the Church refocusing I went:
Disciples of Jesus Christ "for transformation of the world" was our intent.

Superintendency of Franklin District was placed within my hand: a
"Moses-moment" there

For barefoot I would lead the church and clergy in the Fiery Spirit
ministry of care:

Disciple-making 'round the world is ours in every place,

The Savior stays the same, but the world warps at ever-whirling pace!

How to engage the ragged, lonely, tired, displaced, forlorn,
Who need a Savior's Love and Grace wherever sin has torn?

Go beyond cathedral walls of stone and stained glass prejudice and
pride;

Go to offer hope and help and invitation to God's side.

Using ALPHA Ministries of hospitality and Truth,

CATCH: Go Fish; we seek to net the child, the aged, and the youth.

But first of all, to be the Church and understand our part,
We fast and pray and read God's Word to come to know God's Heart.

Aimee W. Twigg, 2013

August Twigg



Conference Relations: Deacon 1973, Elder 1977

Academic Records: B.S. Indiana University of Pennsylvania 1972; M.Div. Wesley 1976.

Appointment Records: SClymer/Cookport Charge: Associate 1972-1973; To Attend School 1973-1974; Peninsula Conference: Still Pond/Betterton/ Lynch 1973-1974; Western PA: Faith Charge: Commodore: Faith/Hillsdale/Hazlett/Salem/ Cookport/ Purchase Line/Starford 1974-1975; Commodore: Faith/ Diamondville/Hillsdale/Hazlett/Salem/Cookport 1975-October 1979; Tionesta/West Hickory October 1979-1981; Addison Charge: 1981-1986; Polk/East Grove 1986-1995; Latrobe: Bethany 1995-.

When I first entered ministry, I thought that I would see many conversions and that a significant part of my time would be spent as a midwife, helping people be born again. Instead, it seems that much of what I have done was coaching people as they developed the spiritually disciplines to be open to growing in Christ and develop a “long obedience in the same direction.” (Friedrich Nietzsche)

I have learned from men and women whose faith affected me that being a Christian was not about flashiness but faithfulness. I have encountered both clergy and laity who joyfully, obediently, and quietly went about fulfilling God’s call for them. I learned from them that the most important thing we can give to anyone is our relationship with Jesus Christ. If Jesus Christ is our center because we have accepted and lived into His grace, others will be encouraged to embrace the love of God, deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Jesus. I believe it was C. Peter Wagner who said, “The pastor is the spiritual gatekeeper for the community of faith.” How important, then, for a pastor to be a man or woman of spiritual integrity! I have failed to do so in many ways but it has been my goal for the cause of the One who owns me twice: once by creating me and again by redeeming me.

God alone be praised!

Dean Ziegler



Conference Relations: Deacon 1973; Elder 1976

Academic Records: A.B. Houghton 1971; M.Div. Asbury 1975.

Appointment Records: To Attend School 1973-1975; Sharpville: First Associate 1975-1978; Dempseytown: Oakland/Wallaceville 1978-1981; Dempseytown: Oakland 1981-1986; Madison: Hilltop 1986-1992; Edinboro 1992-2005; Superintendent: Butler District 2005-2013

I just bought a new book that I'm excited about - David Hansen's revised edition of *The Art of Pastoring: Ministry Without All the Answers*. My prayer is that if I keep at it and apply myself, if I deepen spiritually, and listen more closely to pastors who have wisdom to share, that I can still grow into this calling. Given all there is to learn, and how far I have to go, it has been a shock to see what a large pile of sand has accumulated in the bottom half of my life's hourglass, building up when I wasn't paying attention. All the more reason to get after it.

The thing about pastoring I would say is that it is never mastered and never achieved. In that regard it is like marriage. The years roll by and if you are graced enough - for decades, say, rather than a dozen years or so - to stay on your feet and breathing, you may get better at it. But you never get to say after reaching your silver, or even golden, wedding anniversary, "Well, that's that. We've achieved marriage!"

This has to be true with disciple-making as well. Making disciples is not something we do, like turning out so many chocolate-covered strawberries in egg cartons for the UMYF Easter Candy sale. The better way to speak would be to say that making disciples is not something we do; it's the way we do all that we do. We don't really make disciples; the Holy Spirit calls them into being using the raw material of other works-in-progress disciples. Which means God can't use you to make one unless you ARE one.

As I change mailing address, conference status, a title or two, ecclesial routines and daily activity patterns, it seems clear that my vocation isn't changing: Jesus calls me to be his follower. That's what I hope to do in retirement.

Thomas Budner, Sr.

Conference Relations: Hired by Superintendent/2007; Certified Lay Minister 2009.

Appointment Records: Bright Hope (Belsano: Faith/Nanty Glo/Belsano/Strongstown/Mount Union) Associate 2007-2012; Bright Hope (Belsano: Faith/Nanty Glo/Belsano/Strongstown) Associate 2012-2013.

William (Mick) Chittester

Conference Relations: Deacon 1983, Elder 1988,

Academic Records: B.S. Penn State 1975; M.Div. Pittsburgh 1986

Appointment Records: To Attend School 1984-1986; Sewickley: Little Hill 1984-1986; Wilksburg: Christ/Ross Avenue 1986-1989; Wilksburg: South Avenue Associate 1989-1990; Mount Pleasant 1990-1995; Franklin: First 1995-2001; Brookville: First 2001-2013.

Elizabeth Stanton Cooper

Conference Relations: Part-Time Local Pastor 2007; Provisional Member 2011; Ordained 2013

Academic Records: BSAS Nursing, Youngstown State 1980; M.D. Nursing, Edinboro 1986; M.Div. Methesco 2003.

Appointment Records: Shipperville/Providence 2007-.First 1995-2001; Brookville: First 2001-2013.



Edwin Justus Herald

Conference Relations: Part Time Local Pastor 1996; Student Local Pastor 1998; Full-Time Local Pastor 2000; Commissioned 2001; Elder 2005

Academic Records: B.S. Dyke College/David N. Myers University 1972; M. Div. United 2000.

Appointment Records: Saint Michael 1996-2000; Dravosburg 2000-2010; South Greensburg 2010-2013.



John Philip Hoffman

Conference Relations: Student Local Pastor 1992; Deacon 1995, Elder 1997

Academic Records: B.A. American University 1970; Degree Christian Education, Pfeiffer College; M.Div. Pittsburgh 1995.

Appointment Records: : Brave: Kent's Chapel/Spraggs 1992-1995; Duke Center 1995-1999; Washington: Jefferson Avenue 1999-2006; Washington: Jefferson Avenue/West Washington 2006-.



"Keep on truckin'" (Grateful Dead); pretty much says it all, don't ya think? Do good. --John

William E. Hufford, Jr.

Conference Relations: Deacon 1969, Elder 1973,

Academic Records: A.B. West Virginia Wesleyan 1968; M.Div. Wesley 1972.

Appointment Records: To Attend School 1969-1972; Butler: First Associate 1972-1976; Greenwood/East Connellsville 1976-1981; Whitaker 1981-October 1983; Woodville/Kane Hospitals Chaplain October 1983-1986; McKeesport: Kane Regional Center/Blairsville: Torrance State Hospital/Pittsburgh: Veteran's Medical Center Chaplain 1986-November 29, 1987; Woodville: State Hospital Chaplain November 29, 1987-May 28, 1990; Somerset/Torrance State Hospitals Institutional Chaplaincy Director May 29, 1990-1997; Torrance State Hospital Chaplain/Director of Spiritual Support Services 1997-.

C. James Kutz

Conference Relations: Part-Time Local Pastor 2001; Associate Member 2011;

Academic Records: : B.A. Allegheny College 1962; J.D. Widener University 1975; Graduate Methesco Course of Study 2010.

Appointment Records: : Smithton: Winnett Chapel/Banning 2001-2005; Madison 2005-October 1, 2011.



Marjorie E. Lindahl

Conference Relations: Student Local Pastor 1998; Commissioned 2001, Elder 2004



Academic Records: B.S. University of Pittsburgh 1991; M.S.W. University of Pittsburgh 1993; M. Div. Pittsburgh Seminary 2001.

Appointment Records: Buena Vista: Bell Chapel July 1, 1998-September 1, 2000; Boston/Versailles/Buena Vista: Bell Chapel September 1, 2000-December 1, 2000; Boston/Versailles December 1, 2000-2002; Edwards Chapel/Venetia:

Wrights 2002-2007; Brockway: Moorhead 2007-2013.

Ronald C. Lindahl

Conference Relations: Deacon 1994; Elder 1996

Academic Records: : B.A. University of Pittsburgh at Bradford 1989; M.Div. Pittsburgh 1994.

Appointment Records: Gifford July 1, 1985-1987; Rew/Gifford 1987-1990; Greene Hills Charge: Nineveh/ Swarts/Union Valley 1990-1994; Elizabeth: First 1994-2007; Du Bois: Mount Zion 2007-2013.



Dennis L. Miller

Conference Relations: Deacon 1977; Elder 1990

Academic Records: B.A. Clarion 1970; M.Div. Drew 1974.



Appointment Records: Casselman Charge: Casselman/Harnedsville/Confluence: Mount Zion 1977-1981; West Virginia Conference: Friendship Charge: Friendsville/Shelbysport/Blooming Rose 1982-1988; Western PA: Valier/Frostburg/Hopewell/Hamilton 1988-1995; Brownsville: Centerville/Taylor 1995-2007; Freeport 2007-2013

Edward H. Myers



Conference Relations: Deacon 1973; Elder 1976

Academic Records: B.S. Slippery Rock 1970; M.Div. Asbury 1975.

Appointment Records: To Attend School 1973-1975; Scalp Level: Trinity 1975-1987; Sharpsville: First 1987-1995; Fairview (Erie County) 1995-2013.

Cathy Newport-Poff



Conference Relations: Deacon 1996; Elder 1998

Academic Records: B.A. LaRoche 1987; M.Div. Pittsburgh 1996.

Appointment Records: Wilksburg: South Avenue Associate 1996-2004; Meadville: Stone 2004-October 2005; Extension Ministries: Presbyterian Senior Care at Longwood October 2005-2008; Beaver: First 2008-2013

Alice Jean Speakman Parker

Conference Relations: Part-Time Local Pastor 1993; Full-Time Local Pastor 1994; 1997; Full-Time Local Pastor 1998; Deacon 1999; Voluntary Leave of Absence 2002; Return to Effective Status 2011.

Academic Records: B.A. Asbury College 1974; Graduate Course of Study Methesco, Ohio Valley Course of Study 1999.

Appointment Records: Emlenton: Old Zion/
Emlenton: Big Bend 1992-1994; Johnstown: Faith/
Johnstown: Overbrook 1994-1997; Johnstown:
Roxbury/Saint Paul Associate 1997-1998;
Shanksville/Central City 1998-2000; Pleasantville
2000-2002; Voluntary Leave of Absence 2002-
2007; AEM: Ascribe Ministries (1/2 time) 2007-
2011; Franklin: Sugar Creek Associate 2011-2012;
Ascribe Ministries and Franklin: Sugarcreek/Lupher



Edward C. Patterson

Conference Relations: Supply Pastor 1974; Deacon 1976, Elder 1979;

Academic Records: B.S. Clarion 1970; M.Ed. Clarion 1971; M.Div. Asbury 1978.



Appointment Records: Lupher Chapel/Cherry Tree 1974-1976; To Attend School 1975-1978; Nazareth/Pardoe/Balm 1978-1981; Rockland/Cranberry 1981-July 1983; Leave of Absence 1983-1986; Port Allegany: Evangelical/Sartwell Creek 1986-1989; Barnesboro: Saint Johns/North Cambria: Spangler 1989-1991; Dormont 1991-1993; Dormont/Beechview 1993-1994; Dormont 1994-

1997; Polk/East Grove 1997-1999; Retired 1999-2001; Fishertown Charge: Fishertown: Mount Union/ Fishertown: Pine Grove/Sloan's Hollow 2001-2004; Madison: Hilltop 2004-2011; Hollsopple: Bethel/Johnstown: Centennial 2011-2013; Trinity/Trinity: Asbury 2013-.

Wayne D. Sedei

Conference Relations: Deacon 1985; Elder 1988



Academic Records: B.S. Indiana 1973; M.Div. Pittsburgh 1986. .

Appointment Records: To Attend School 1985-1986; LaJose-New Washington 1985-1986; Coalport: First/Glen Hope/Irvona 1986-1991; Marion Center 1991-1995; Youngwood: Saint Paul 1995-1998; Roxbury: Saint Paul's 1998-2013

Paul Thompson

Conference Relations: Part-Time Student Local Pastor 1988; Full-Time Local Pastor 1994; Deacon 2000; Associate Member 2000.

Academic Records: B.S. Houghton 1993; Graduate Course of Study, Duke 1999.

Appointment Records: Ceres September 1, 1988-1994; Warren: Epworth/Stoneham 1994-2002; Cloe Charge: Cloe/ Covode/Steffy Chapel 2002-2013.

Janet Wensel

Conference Relations: Certified Lay Minister 2008, Part Time Local Pastor 2009.

Appointment Records: : Mahaffey Area Parish: Glen Campbell/New Washington/Smithport 2008-2009; Johnstown: Trinity/Trinity-Asbury 2009-2013.

As to how I made disciples in my ministry, mostly I taught and preached God's Word. The results frequently showed up in surprising ways when I realized that, yes, they were listening.



