

Messenger

Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ)

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New Church Ministry

TBA, Regional Minister of New Church Ministry

We would love to connect with you!

Connect with us on Facebook, <u>Instagram</u> and <u>Twitter</u>

Join us for our 2023 Disciples Connect and **EQUIP REGIONAL GATHERING**

"SUSTAINING OUR MOVEMENT FOR WHOLENESS: RECLAIMING OUR IDENTITY AS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST "



The 2023 Disciples Connect and Equip Regional Gathering will be Saturday, Aug. 12, at First Christian Church in McPherson. The day begins at 8:30 a.m. with registration check-in and fellowship time. The day concludes with closing worship at 2:30 p.m.

Our theme is "Sustaining our Movement for Wholeness: Reclaiming our Identity as Disciples of Christ." We will focus on what it means to be a movement for wholeness in terms of physical, spiritual, congregational/organizational wholeness and wellbeing.

Inspirational 2022 workshop leader, Rev. Josh Leu will keynote this year's event. During his 9-year tenure as senior pastor at Great Bend First Christian Church, the congregation has doubled in size from 160 people in average worship attendance to currently averaging 330 among four services, making it one of the fastest growing Disciple congregations in the Kansas region. Josh's leadership initiative to add a modern worship service,



while keeping their formal traditional worship service, allows them to minister to every generation well. Josh is married to Ashely, and they have two amazing girls Karys and Khora.



Kansas Leadership Center's Ed O'Malley and Julia Fabris McBride will lead the day's morning workshops. Other speakers and guests will be announced as more information is available. Tentative workshop topics include The Church Narrative Project Storytelling Moment and Spiritual Formation Practices.

Children and youth activities for those 5-18 years are currently being planned and child care will be provided for children under 5 years.

Cost is \$25 per adult, \$10 per youth (5-18 years), and children under 5 years are free. Exhibitor space is available for CCK and DOC ministries. Cost is \$100 per booth space. This fee includes booth space, a table, two chairs, booth name plate sign, and the registration fees for two representatives.

Online registration will open June 1 at www.kansasdisciples.org and close July 28 to allow for adequate preparation of your arrival.

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR REGIONAL MINISTER



"GOD IN EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE"

BY KEN MARSTON, CO-REGIONAL MINISTER

At the last regional board meeting I shared a passage of scripture from Paul's letter to the Ephesians. It comes from the fourth chapter verses 1-5. These verses say:

"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Be completely humble and gentle;
be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Make every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit —
just as you were called to one hope when you were called —
one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all,
who is over all and through all and in all."

Throughout human history there have been forces at work to divide the human family – forces that try to get us to see those who are different from us as "others" and something to fear and exclude. When this happens then hatred and exclusion and destruction become the outcomes.

I believe this is contrary to God's will. In fact, I believe Jesus came to show us a different way of life – a life that nurtures the life around us and leads us to life that is full of life.

Paul points to the key to this way of life when he writes there is "one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." When we see God in all that exists, we realize that different is not something we need to fear or exclude. Rather it is something we can embrace and be enriched by.

So, look for how God is present in the life you encounter today and see if it doesn't change your life.

REGIONAL CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

May 20 Aug 26 Oct 19	
June 19-23	
July 5-7	
July 7-9	
July 10-15	
July 10-15	
July 24-29	
Aug 12	
Sept 14	
Sept 22-23	
Sept 29	
Oct 4-6 Oct 6-8	
TBA	
TBA	

"... A MOVEMENT FOR WHOLENESS IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD."

PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING FUNDS NEW CHURCH MINISTRIES

In the beginning, every church was new. It's right there in the Book of Acts. Early disciples came together, sharing all things in common, breaking bread with glad and generous hearts. God was doing a new thing: creating a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

In the beginning, Jesus sent out disciples, two by two, not to "plant" churches, but to proclaim good news, and to experience neighbors' hospitality and wisdom.

At New Church Ministry, we believe God is calling the whole Church back to becoming new... back to becoming who we are: a movement for wholeness in a



fragmented world. Learn more about Disciples New Church Ministries at www.newchurchministry.org.

Your gifts to the 2023 Pentecost Offering, received this year in most congregations on May 21 and 28, help ensure our movement continues to embody the Disciples of Christ vision: to be and to share the Good News, witnessing, loving, and serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.

Half of your gift supports the local new church movement through your region's ministry. The other half supports New Church Ministry efforts across the United States and Canada to equip, train, and empower new leaders.

So, thank you. For participating in the new thing God is still doing — just as in the beginning. Please give generously to the Pentecost Offering.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

HOLTON FCC SERVES A SMALL TOWN IN A BIG WAY

Holton, Kansas shows a population of 3,233 souls in the 2020 US Census, and a quick Google search shows 12 different churches serving the Holton area. To standout in that crowd of churches, First Christian Church of Holton uses a mission of meal sharing to connect with their community.



Though perhaps the smallest Protestant church in town, the congregation connects with the community in a big way by providing meals and food through a variety of ways. They house and provide volunteers for the community food bank sponsored by the Jackson County Ministerial Association (JCMA) to keep members in contact with Holton's most needy.

The church also hosts an annual Ham and Bean dinner which is open to all, as well as another dining opportunity with a Chicken and Noodle/Vegetable soup gathering. In July, the annual County Fair parade makes its way in front of the church which opens FCC's front lawn for a parade viewing area for the neighborhood and, naturally, an Ice Cream Social.

When describing FCC Holton, senior minister Rev. Dr. Jim McCollough says, "We're very small, very friendly, and deeply committed to Christ and the community. Small, but with the energy of an energizer bunny".

Even in a small town, the power of Christ provides ways to serve, connect, equip and enrich the lives of others.

HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

Your church could be featured here! Submit your articles and pictures to us.

We are always glad to receive your news articles and photographs for publication. News from local churches help us connect and equip each other.

Submit your news items by email at messenger@kansasdisciples.org or online at:

> www.kansasdisciples.org/ km-submissions

The Kansas Messenger editorial team reserves the right to edit all materials for relevance, tone, clarity, and space. The next Submission deadline is:

MONDAY, MAY 22

CAMP NEWS

NEEDED CAMP SUPPLIES

Have you been blessed by the ministry of church camp? Want to give back? Consider a donation of camp supplies.

Needed supplies include:

- Paper Towels and Toilet Paper
- Hand Soap (Refill Size)
- Bleach
- AA Batteries
- Window Cleaner (Refill Size)
- Heavy Duty Foil (Extra Wide)

Thanks, but no:

- Comet Cleaner
- Disinfectant Wipes
- Hand Sanitizer
- Napkins
- Trash Bags
- Laundry Soap
- Dish Soap
- Bar Soap
- Kleenex

Cash is always welcome!

Cash donations allow us to use our non-profit status to get supplies at discounted and bulk rates. Tawakoni also has several special projects including:

- Camp Security Upgrades
- AC Replacement Fund
- Jones Lodge Capital Campaign
- Camp Maintenance Fund
- Summer Camp Scholarship Fund
- Summer Staff Housing Rebuild
- Pennies for Mission Offering
- Challenge Couse Upgrades
- Lakefront Revitalization Efforts



TAWAKONI NOW HAS A WISHLIST REGISTRY

Are you someone who likes to know exactly where your donation money is going? We understand!

The Disciples Center at Tawakoni now has a registry, or some call a "Wish

List," of needed supplies and small equipment.

Disciples Center at Tawakoni is grateful to all the people who help make our camp run throughout the year. Part of making our camp run is all the donations that we receive to help us continue to enhance our facility. This registry will be a continuation of providing information on the needs of the camp. We hope this registry will help communicate the needs and make it easier for y'all to learn of our needs and be able to fulfill them.

This is our way to let people know what some of the needs are at camp. We will continue to update the registry as items come in and as new needs appear around the camp.

Please check it out, at: www.tawakoni.org.

Consider making a designated donation to camp online at: **tawakoni.org/camp-donations/** or mail your check to Disciples Center at Tawakoni, Christian Church in Kansas, 2914 SW MacVicar Ave, Topeka 66611.

CAMP NEWS

TAWAKONI NOW HIRING SUMMER STAFF

The Disciples Center at Tawakoni is a camp and retreat center that provides a great summer experience for individuals and groups seeking spiritual growth, community building, and outdoor adventure.

We are a dynamic organization that offers a fast-paced work environment, and we are looking for talented individuals who are passionate about creating meaningful experiences for our guests.

As a team member at Tawakoni, you will have the opportunity to work alongside great people who are committed to our mission of creating a welcoming and inclusive space for all.

If you are looking for a job where you can make a difference, have fun, and learn new skills, then we encourage you to apply to join our team at the Disciples Center at Tawakoni. Apply at www.tawakoni.org/volunteers-staff.

ONLINE CAMP REGISTRATION CLOSES MAY 15

Registration is open for the 2023 summer church camp season as we prepare for another wonderful camp season! This summer's theme is how do we have a FruitFULL Faith.

We are experimenting with a new online registration platform: RegFox. Our hope is that its simple strait forward design will make it easy for parents to sign up their kids while providing camp

directors with all the necessary information for a fun and safe camp experience.

Churches that pay all or part of the registration fee will receive a report of

campers who have signed up to attend camp from their church along with payment instructions.

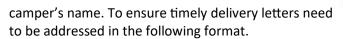


After that date, you must call 316-775-1236 and register and pay by phone. Late registrations will only be accepted at Camp Manager's and Camp Director's discretion.

Register at **www.tawakoni.org/2023-camp-registration** or call 316-775-1222 for more information.

TAWAKONI MAIL CALL!

Campers love to receive mail from friends and family back home. Include the camp session (i.e., Junior, Grand Camp, CYF, etc.) along with your



Addressing Example:

Jill Smith Junior Camp Disciples Center at Tawakoni 8492 SW Tawakoni Rd. Augusta, KS 67010-8111

Remember, there is no mail delivery on the last day of camp, and it often takes two to three days to arrive. Consider sending letters early to ensure your letter's arrival. Letters that arrive before a camp session starts will be held in the office for campers' arrival. Letters arriving after a camp session end will be returned to the camper's home church.

Another option is to email your messages to the camp office, scd@kansasdisciples.org, and a staff member will deliver your message with the day's mail. Include the camper's name and camp session in the subject line.

Packages are highly discouraged as it takes longer to process and deliver. Please do not send food as it is not permitted in the bunk rooms.



JOIN OUR TEXT ALERTS SYSTEM

Get CCK news on your phone wherever you are. Sign-up to receive the latest CCK news and event information by text message.



There are three ways to join:

- 1. Text KSMESSENGER to 316-465-5352 and follow the on-screen prompts.
- Go to our "News" tab at www.kansasdisciples.org/news. Look for the "Text logo" on the right-hand side
- 3. Call the CCK Communications Office, 316-775-1236

This is just one more example of how your Communications team is working to connect you to the ministries of your Kansas Region. You will normally receive no more than one or two text messages per week as a part of this service. Standard SMS and data charges apply.

NEWS FROM YOUR REGION

JOIN US FOR 'CHURCHES HEALING CHILDREN FROM TRAUMA' WORKSHOP

Mark your calendars and save the date for a special training event entitled, "Churches Healing Children From Trauma" held Thursday, Sept. 14, from 7-9 p.m. via Zoom.

The workshop is hosted by Greg Rea, an ordained Disciples minister, a Trust-based Relational Intervention Practitioner and Post-Adoptive Support Specialist who has



provided hundreds of hours of training/ coaching to over a thousand families and professionals.

Drawing from personal experience, Greg knows the struggles that children go through dealing with their history and the challenges that families experience. Additionally he has become an expert in the principles and strategies that caregivers can use that promote healing in the brains and bodies of children from trauma.

Why is this training so important?

There are more than 6,000 children in "out of home" care in the state of Kansas. These children and families often struggle with their children's and teens' challenging behaviors caused by previous abuse, neglect or trauma. Evidence suggests that every Christian Church in Kansas is connected to families that are raising children from trauma.

For example, at the 2022 CYF Conference, 25% of the registered campers were living with caregivers that were not their biological parents. The challenging behaviors of these children from trauma often lead to financial, scholastic, relational, spiritual and legal problems for the family. Families with children from trauma often lose support of family, friends and even church families.

This training will provide no-cost and low-cost tools that churches can lovingly support these families and help them heal their children and teens. The principals and strategies presented will equip parents and church ministries to care for children in a way that promotes healing in the hearts and minds of children and teens.

Registration is \$15 per individual or \$10 per person when signing up as a church team. (A church team consists of three or more from the same church.) Registration to open May 16.

2023 CCK

BOUNDARIES

TRAINING

CCK Offers Boundaries Training Sessions in 2023 for Clergy, Lay Leaders

There are two more in-person opportunities for Boundaries Training this year: Saturday, May 20, at Tawakoni, and Tuesday, Oct. 20, at Topeka FCC. All in-person training begins at 10 a.m. and lasts until 3:30 p.m. with lunch provided.

An additional session by Zoom will be Saturday, Aug. 26, from 9:30 a.m. through 3 p.m.

Clergy, if you have not taken boundaries training since 2020, you need to do so this year to meet requirements for standing. Contact Juli Reed *chp@kansasdisciples.org*, in the Clergy Care Office, Great Bend, if you are unsure when your last training was.

Church leaders: if you have ever wondered about the standards of ethical behavior we expect of our ministers, please join your pastor for this one-day training session.

In addition to going over the Ministerial Code of Conduct, we will also look at another document,

Ethical Guideline for Congregations, that sets expectations for how we hope church members will treat each other and their pastors in the life of the congregation.

The cost of this training is \$35 for clergy and \$10 for congregational leaders. Registration closes one week prior to the start of each session, to allow us to plan for your arrival. Late registrations will only be accepted by phone and at the event organizer's discretion.



JOIN US FOR THE 2023 KDM FALL RETREAT

The 2023 Kansas Disciples Men's Fall Retreat will be Sept. 22-23 at Tawakoni. Our theme will be "What Does The Lord Require Of You?" and the keynote will be Co-Regional Minster, Tom Stanley.

Friday kicks off with an optional preevent service project beginning at 10 a.m. Event Registration begins at 5 p.m. followed dinner at 6 p.m. The retreat will close around 4 p.m. on Saturday. Cost is \$70 for individuals, \$60 each for a church group of five or more, and \$50 for first time attendees. **SAVE!** Be one of the first 10 registrations under the age of 50 years and have your registration fee refunded.

Online registration opens June 1. Registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 15.

Check us out on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

NEWS FROM YOUR REGION

DISCIPLES WOMEN TO GATHER AT TAWAKONI IN OCTOBER

We have less than six months until the Disciples Women's Retreat, Oct. 4-6 or Oct. 6-8, at Disciples Center at Tawakoni. This year's theme is "Recharge, Renew, Refresh, and Restored".

If you are like many of us, you are feeling stressed, overworked, exhausted, out of touch with God, running from one thing to the next, completely overwhelmed, or at least a little frustrated with your life. We know that we need to take care of ourselves first so that we can care for others. For example, a young mother needs to feed herself to be able to feed and care for her family.

We know that both the Old and New Testaments (the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures) instruct us to rest in God; to thank God in everything, no matter what the circumstances may be; to live in Christ's peace; and to be in fellowship

RESTORED

CONSTRUCTION

RESTREAT

October 4-6 & 6-8, 2023

RESTORED

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with the Lord and the Lord's people. Simply knowing these things still does not always get us to slow down, listen, then "do".

Recharge, renew, refresh, and be restored – the goal of the 2023 Retreat is to provide the women of Kansas and beyond with relaxation, communion with fellow believers, and spiritual food. Together, we will be "looking for God", with guidance from our keynote speaker, Rev. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President.

Cost is \$75 for the full retreat; \$50 for one-day partial retreat, or \$30 for children (3-12 years). Watch for registration information coming in June and plan to join us!

HAVE YOU TRIED ENGAGE?

This easy-to-use, mobileoptimized system allows you to give securely online, set up auto draft giving and view your giving history at your convenience. ENGAGE goes beyond online giving to also provide you a way to connect with others in the region through common interest groups.

You can also update contact information and register for regional and district events.

To get started, go to www.kansasdisciples.org/give and click the ENGAGE portal button. From there, follow the on-screen instructions to create an account or log into your existing account. If creating a new account, you will receive an email to reset your password and confirm the creation of your account.

Áfter account creation, you can update your information, manage giving, and register for events all from one login.

REV. TOM STANLEY OFFICIALLY INSTALLED AS CCK CO-REGIONAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT

At a gathering of Disciples of Christ members, officers, national representatives, family, and friends, Rev. Tom Stanley was installed as Co-Regional Minister and President for the Christian Church in Kansas (CCK). The installation service was held at First Christian Church in McPherson on April 29.

Rev. Terri Hord Owens,
General Minister and President,
presided over the installation
service delivering the sermon.
Others participating in the
service included Rev. Nadine
Barton, Regional Minister of the
Great River Region (Arkansas,



Louisiana, Mississippi), Rev. Pam Holt, Regional Minister of the Oklahoma Region, Rev. Ken Marston Co-Regional Minister CCK, and Rev. John Malget, Senior Minister of First Christian Church Oklahoma City.



Other CCK participants included Ruby Brower, CCK Moderator; Stephanie Switzky, Chair of the CCK Search Committee; and Rev. Travis Smith McKee, Interim Pastor at Galva CC.

Tom assumed the position after a vote at the August 2022 CCK Regional Assembly.



Thank You From Tom:

I want to offer my gratitude to the Kansas region. My installation was held on April 29 in McPherson. I am grateful to all of you who came and those who participated online. If you were unable to attend, you were missed! Our General Minister and President Terri Hord Owens spoke about a "pastor's heart," and it was wonderful.

I very much look forward to serving alongside the Disciples of Christ in Kansas. I want to say a special thank you to Rev. Ken Marston for his welcome and partnership. I want to thank the search committee and Stephanie Switzky for their leadership and prayerful work. I also want to thank the Regional Board and our Moderator Ruby Brower for their support and work.

May God bless our shared ministry and may God be glorified by our witness!

Shalom, Tom

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

PHILLIPS RECEIVES LILLY ENDOWMENT GRANT

Phillips Theological Seminary (PTS) has received a grant of \$1,236,483 from Lilly Endowment Inc. to help establish the Worshiping with Children: Imaging and Imagining the Presence of God program.

The program is funded through Lilly Endowment's Nurturing Children Through Worship and Prayer Initiative. The aim of the national initiative is to support faith-



based organizations as they help children grow in faith and deepen their relationships with God.



"When I was sent the information about the initiative, I felt excited about putting together a proposal centered on worship and the arts," said the Rev. Allie Utley, Ph.D. "My hope is that I can equip church leaders in cultivating meaningful and moving sacred spaces through which children can come to know the Holy."

Utley, who is the Assistant Professor of Liturgy and Practical Theology at Phillips, will be the program's director. She has an interdisciplinary interest in worship and affect theory and has long intuited that some worship spaces have a "certain energy" and others do not.

Lilly Endowment is giving nearly \$32 million in grants through this round of the Nurturing Children initiative. PTS is one of 26 organizations taking part in the initiative.

Lilly Endowment launched the Nurturing Children initiative in 2022 as part of its commitment to support efforts that strengthen the religious education and formation of children and enhance the vitality of Christian congregations.

KCH OPEN HOUSE AND SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR



The Kansas Christian Home, Newton, will hold their 2023 Open House and Senior Resource Fair from 10 a.m.—2 p.m. on Thursday, May 18 at their Independent Living Campus.

Now is the perfect time to visit the homes that have been updated this past winter, meet some current residents, view other types of fully furnished homes, and gather valuable resources from local organizations here to serve Seniors.

RSVPs aren't required but are appreciated. If you'd like to follow KCH on Facebook, you can do so by clicking the link here: https://fb.me/e/YPBMUchh.

NBA'S ANNUAL SENT SEMINAR



The NBA's annual SENT Seminar is back with a monthlong lineup of keynote speakers and pre-recorded learning sessions. This year's theme, "Changing the Narrative," will focus on storytelling and feature dynamic speakers who will share

the stories of how they brought their social enterprises to life via marketing, fundraising, and other opportunities.

Join the NBA Social Entrepreneurship team live on Thursdays, Sept. 7-28, at 6 p.m. CT for keynote presentations and opportunities for virtual fellowship.

NBA's Social Entrepreneurship program encourages and supports the development of new and innovative faith-rooted social enterprises that embody care and compassion in tangible ways. The social enterprises and nonprofits we work with seek to change the narrative by inviting communities into new possibilities.

Strengthen Your Social Impact in Partnership with NBA

Incubate Partnerships are one way we seek to accompany and resource social entrepreneurs in launching their organizations, anywhere from the start-up phase to nonprofits that have been operating for some years (1-10 years). We seek to connect social entrepreneurs with peers through cohort groups or innovative conversations.

Our groups provide an intergenerational, collaborative learning experience rooted in theological reflection social analysis (the act of doing something strategic through the work of the enterprise), with the branches of our work being the creation of sustainable social enterprises and healthy organizational structures.

DIGITAL ACCESS AVAILABLE FOR 2023 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Attending the 2023 General Assembly but not sure you can make it to all the inspiring workshops? Not able to attend General Assembly in-person but want to get the most out of your continuing ed? Grab a digital access pass to the 2023 General Assembly -- register now and select Digital Access Pass or add it to your cart if you plan on attending in person.

To register for a digital pass, go to **ga.disciples.org** click on the "Register" tab and scroll down to the Digital Access information heading to see how to proceed.

YOUR GIFTS GOING BEYOND YOUR COMMUNITY

Your gifts to regional church ministries reach beyond your local community and connect you to Disciples across Kansas. Consider giving an extra gift to the ministries of the Kansas region.

Kansas Annual Fund gifts support the general ministries of the region: leadership development, outdoor ministries, new church development, church transformation, pulpit supply, regional communications, and more.

Make a gift today through ENGAGE, CCK Store Donations Page, or mail your check to Christian Church in Kansas, 2914 SW MacVicar Ave, Topeka 66611.

Thank you for your support!

CCK EVENT REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

We are always happy to extend an invitation to you, your church, your friends, your family, and your neighbors to attend any of our regional events. Pre-registration for all regional events is encouraged online or through your ENGAGE account.

Don't have a computer or need assistance? Our regional support staff will gladly assist you by phone.

Online registration will close a minimum of one week prior to an event's start date as published on our website. Registrations after that date will only be accepted by phone and at the event organizers discretion.

Need to cancel your registration?

Contact the Topeka Regional Office, cck@kanasdisciples.org or call 785-266-2914. Unless otherwise noted, our standard cancelation policy is:

- ⇒ Over 30 days prior to the event = full fee minus \$25 handling fee
- \Rightarrow 15-30 days prior to event = 50% refund
- \Rightarrow 7-14 days prior = 25% refund
- \Rightarrow 6 days prior or no-show at event = no refund.

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL?

Your gift can benefit your church and region for years to come. When you include the church in your estate plan, your generosity helps connect and equip future Kansas Disciples.

For information about bequests:

- Contact the Christian Church Foundation at 1-800-668-8016
- Email Kirby Gould at kgould@ccf.disciples.org
- Go to www.christianchurchfoundation.org.

IN TRANSITION

Hutchinson, First Christian Church has called interim, Minister **Les Wedel**. He began his ministry on April 16.

Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker shares her intent to retire as Regional Minister and President from The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin and Regional Minister of the Michigan Region effective Sept. 1, 2023.

The Office of General Minister and President is pleased to announce the call of **Rev. Yvonne T. Gilmore** to serve as Vice President and Chief of Staff. The OGMP provides leadership for the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, and support for the General Minister and President.

IN MEMORIUM

Former CCK Staff member Nancy Ferrell's son, **Jeff Ensley**, died on April 19 at the age of 45. Services were held in Topeka.

Rev. William "Terry" Hatfield passed away April 19. He was the pastor of the FCC Independence for many years before retiring.