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TECHNOLOGY TO SERVE



2015 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA



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Monday, July 20, 2015 7-8:30 a.m. Ministers and Mates Breakfast

> Tuesday, July 21, 2015 7-8:30 a.m. Retiree Breakfast (by invitation only)

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PENSION FUND WINTER 2014

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P.O. Box 6251 Indianapolis, IN 46206 866.495.7322 toll free 317.634.4504 phone 317.634.4071 fax pfcc1@pensionfund.org www.pensionfund.org

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EDITORIAL/DESIGN STAFF

Meagan Miller Marketing Director mmiller@pensionfund.org

Sandy Dunwoody Communications Coordinator sdunwoody@pensionfund.org

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On the Cover

On Dec. 5, Pension Fund officially launched its new online member portal, MyPensionFund, as part of the BelievelT! project. This service is only part of Pension Fund's commitment to technology to serve its members.



Using Technology to Enhance Quality of Life

In this edition of the Bridge, we focus on Pension Fund's use of technology to improve our ability to serve, inform and enhance the material and non-material quality of life for participants. Technology and the use of tools, gadgets, and resources help us control and adapt to our environment. At Pension Fund, we're adapting to an environment in which financial service providers offer access to information online.

Recent surveys have found that 51% of U.S. adults bank online and 39% actually prefer banking online, and these numbers are rising. From analyzing online banking trends and surveying our own participants, we knew that similar access was expected at Pension Fund. Therefore, we invested heavily in new technology designed to serve participants better through the *BelieveIT!* project. Our online member portal, *MyPensionFund*, is the latest step in our technology development, offering participants convenient access to their account information.

The *BelieveIT!* project was launched to employ new and sophisticated data processing tools, better control internal procedures, offer new service capabilities, and provide participants with access to their account information and desired forecasting tools. While we have achieved many *BelieveIT!*

milestones, our technology efforts are not done. In coming months, we will be able to offer employers online access to manage their staff enrollments. We are also looking forward to offering some new (and revitalized) retirement savings programs.

Technology is one non-material way we improve the lives of our participants, but we also seek to improve this through material means. Non-material quality of life refers to access to quality health care and information,

presence of meaningful human contact, and availability of helpful services. Material quality of life can be defined as the level of wealth, comfort, material goods and necessities available. Over the years, Pension Fund has been successful in its efforts to enhance material quality of life for pastors and lay employees. It's our goal to support the Church and ministry,

Key Takeaways:

- MyPensionFund online member portal is now available via the Pension Fund website
- Positive investment performance enhances financial benefits for participants
- Pension Fund will continue to invest in new technology and offer new financial programs



and much of our effort is directed towards the management of financial resources.

Positive investment performance provides the resources with which to fund increases in pension benefits beyond the contractual requirements, through Special Apportionments or enhancement of investment returns through the declaration of Good Experience Credits on retirement savings accounts. One recent retiree expressed his satisfaction by declaring that during his active ministry, he had

never received as large a "raise" as the one provided through Special Apportionment to his pension. Staff and directors take great satisfaction when financial performance enables such events.

In addition to financial management, my colleagues and I continue to address three specific questions:

- What programs and services are needed to support the ministry most effectively today?
- How can we best establish and maintain supportive contact with those we serve, employer and participant alike?
- What resources or technology will be required to facilitate an effective response or solution to the first questions?

Pension Fund will continue to adapt to the economic and technological environment in which we function, so that we can offer both material and non-material enhancements to your quality of life. I encourage you to sign up for *MyPensionFund* today at www.pensionfund org, and be sure to look for new service offerings in the near future.

James P. Hamlett

President

jhamlett@pensionfund.org



TREASURER'S CORNER Investing in Technology

Key Takeaways:

- Pension Fund net assets increased 4% year-over-year
- MyPensionFund online portal offers access to account information
- Pension Fund plans to offer an employer online portal in 2015

Financial Update as of September 30, 2014

Pension Fund net assets available for benefits as of Sept. 30, 2014, were \$3 billion. Net assets have increased 4% (as compared to Sept. 30, 2013). The Pension Plan remains fully funded and within the guidelines as set forth by policy. The increase in assets year-over-year is largely related to the strong second half of 2013 investment returns. In 2014, investment returns have been more modest.

MyPensionFund: Online tool helps manage your retirement planning

In August 2011, we initiated a project titled *Believe IT!*. The project was intended to significantly upgrade Pension Fund's technology platform. Pension Fund decided to invest in *BelieveIT!* after spending nearly a year analyzing the needs of members and staff.

We'd been hearing members request online access, allowing for review of account balances, projection of retirement benefits, and confirmation of transactions. Many banks and financial organizations offered a service that allowed members access to this information at their convenience.

We're excited to announce that this online convenience is now available to all our members through *MyPensionFund*. Based on the feedback we've received

from a number of members who served in beta testing, we think you'll be pleased. We've taken steps to ensure access is secure, and designed it so that it's easy to use.

While we're excited to be able to offer this service to our members, this is just a first step in our planned investment in technology. In 2015, we expect to offer a similar service to our participating employers. We plan to expand the capability of *MyPensionFund* to provide additional functionality as requested by our members.

As for *Believe IT!*, the project is expected to be completed soon. We will continue to invest money and time in the project as we begin working on a variety of initiatives. We envision technological opportunities that will allow Pension Fund to reduce our dependency on paper-based processing, and are pursuing new products and services that will allow our members to have more options for retirement planning.

It's truly an exciting time to serve and be part of Pension Fund! We feel our investments in technology will be well worth the results.

If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact me at dgdraper@pensionfund.org.

Duncan Draper
Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer
dgdraper@pensionfund.org



MyPensi@nFund TIP

You can do retirement projections based on different factors (i.e. age of retirement) through the "My Retirement Estimates" tab.

HOWTO MAXIMIZE YOURSOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

Retirement Planning TIP

Be sure to create an account on www.ssa.gov, where you can manage your personal benefits at any time and use a calculator to see how much you'll receive at various ages. Keep in mind that the Social Security Administration no longer mails you a paper report each year, so you must create an account to view your benefits. Since the website is friendly, free, and easy to use, it's a great planning tool.

Your date of retirement is no longer an actual date of when you'll have a retirement party, walk out for the last time and never work for pay again. More often, you experience retirement as a period of time—perhaps between ages 65–70—phasing in reduced work hours and adding sources of retirement income.

Early Retirement vs. Delaying Benefits

Why do so many people retire at 62 when they are eligible? Because they can! Most people aren't thinking strategically

about what it means to delay claiming their benefits. Some claim them at the earliest possible moment, because they want to be sure to receive as much as possible before they die. Only a person who dies young benefits from this strategy, so unless

Monthly Benefit Amounts Differ Based on the **Age You Decide to Start Receiving Benefits** This example assumes a benefit of \$1,000 at a full retirement age of 66 **Monthly Benefit Amount** \$1,500 \$1,200 \$900 \$600 \$300 \$0 62 63 64 65 66 68 70 67 69 **Age You Choose to Start Receiving Benefits**

you have a terrible medical diagnosis or come from a long
line of people who die early, don't gamble this benefit away.

This show the near f

Take Social Security as an illustration: Social Security benefits don't have to be claimed when you stop working. If you see you're likely to live to age 80 or older, you can greatly benefit in dollars and cents by delaying claiming Social Security. Once both individuals of a married couple reach age 61, there's an 85% probability that one will live to age 85. This makes it even more important that the widow/ widower will have sufficient retirement income for those later years.

Where else can you get such an amazing bump up in retirement income? Delaying your claim is worth the reward.

Will Social Security Even Exist in the Future?

Most professionals believe it is highly unlikely that the program will simply go away. Americans are very happy with this retirement program! However, many believe the Social Security program will change again in response to the ever-evolving demographics and other challenges. Using the same math and calculations used in 1940 (when

the retirement age was set at age 65), today's retirement age should be 70. So, Full Retirement Age is likely to be increased from 65-66 to 70. Taxes are likely to go up to help get the funding under control.

This shouldn't alarm those considering retirement in the near future, though—in all previous changes to the program, people at or near retirement have been grandfathered in without changes.

Deborrah Wray

Director of Employer Services
dwray@pensionfund.org



Chart: SSA PAGE 5

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: TAX AND OTHER REMINDERS FOR 2015

Tax Forms



- All pensioners will be sent 1099-R forms in January. The amount of pension paid in 2014 is reported in Box 1.
- Retired ministers who requested housing allowance in 2014 should go to www.pensionfund.org/resources for information on reporting the taxable pension amount.
- All persons who received distributions from Tax-Deferred Retirement Accounts (TDRAs) or IRAs in 2014 will receive 1099 forms indicating the amount withdrawn and the amount withheld for income taxes.

Parsonage Allowances



 Every employing congregation or church related organization should designate and record the 2015 parsonage allowances of all employed clergy. Even clergy who live in

church-owned parsonages may have parsonage allowances to cover such expenses as utilities and home furnishings, if paid for or provided by the minister. This action must be recorded in advance each year by church board minutes, resolution or budget proceedings.

Tax Deferred Retirement Account Contributions



• The IRS has announced that the elective deferral (contribution) limit for church employees participating in the 403(b) Tax Deferred Retirement Account (TDRA) will

increase from \$17,500 to \$18,000 in 2015. The catch-up provision for employees who are age 50 and over will increase from \$5,500 to \$6,000. This means that church employees over age 50 with at least \$24,000 in taxable income may defer up to that amount as TDRA contributions.



Salary Changes

For churches and pastors: As you review budget and plan compensation for 2015, remember to inform Pension Fund when church employees' salaries change. Remitting the full 14% pension dues when salaries increase provides church employees with the most retirement pension credits possible. Further, whenever possible, pension dues should be remitted in addition to salary.

Retired Ministers Parsonage Allowances



• Unless instructed otherwise, the Board has designated three-fifths (60%) of the pension paid to a retired, ordained pensioner as a parsonage allowance for 2015. For those who

requested otherwise, a specified parsonage allowance has been designated by the Board.

Social Security

- The Social Security tax rate in 2015 is 7.65% for both employee and employer.
- By law, church employers cannot pay the employer portion nor withhold the employee portion of Social Security for ordained ministers. Clergy must pay Social Security at the self-employed rate, which is 15.3% for Social Security purposes. Commissioned/licensed ministers with a parsonage/housing allowance fall under the same rules as ordained ministers.
- The maximum taxable wage base, including parsonage and parsonage allowance will increase to \$118,500 in 2015. Persons earning more than \$118,500 in 2015 will pay the Medicare hospital insurance tax (1.45% for both employers and employees) on earnings above \$118,500. Since ministers are treated as self-employed for Social Security purposes, this means an additional 2.9% on earnings above the \$118,500 level.
- For retirees, the retirement earnings test exempt amount will increase from \$41,400 to \$41,880 for the year in which an individual attains his/her normal retirement age. The test applies only to earnings for months prior to reaching the normal Social Security retirement age. One dollar in benefits will be withheld for every \$3 in earnings above the limit and no limit on earnings will be imposed beginning in the month the individual attains the normal retirement age. For retirees under the normal retirement age, the retirement earnings test exempt amount will also increase from \$15,480 to \$15,720 with \$1 withheld for every \$2 in earnings above the limit. Those persons who are at or above the normal retirement age have no earnings test requirements.

Flexible Spending Accounts



 The IRS has increased the limits for Flexible Spending Accounts, which are used for pre-tax health and dependent care expense reimbursement. The 2015 limit for health

expenses is \$2,550. For dependent care, the 2015 limits are \$520 minimum and \$5,200 maximum.

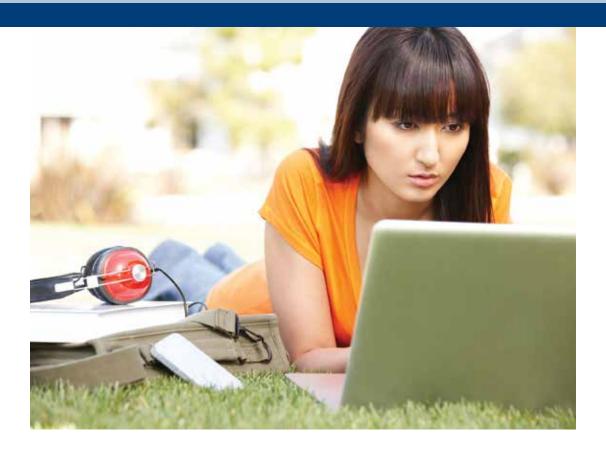
Mileage Rate



- As of this writing, the IRS has not announced the 2015 mileage rates. Currently, the standard mileage rate is 56 cents per mile. The standard mileage rate is applicable
- to all business miles for cars that are not fully depreciated.
- The current mileage rate for medical and moving expenses is 23.5 cents per mile.
- The standard rate for charitable use is set by statute and remains at 14 cents per mile.
- For updates on the mileage rate, please see Pension Fund's website, www.pensionfund.org.

Important Notice For Pension Recipients:

You have the option of changing your federal and (if applicable) state withholding elections at any time. If you wish to change your withholding elections, visit our website at www.pensionfund.org.



STUDENT GIFT REMINDER

The Student Gift Membership and Student Health Care Premium Assistance Gift programs will once again be offered during the spring semester of the 2015 academic year.

For the Student Gift Membership, seminary students are eligible for this gift in the amount of \$70 per month towards a Pension Plan retirement account.

This gift is at no cost to the student, and each student is eligible for up to three years of participation while in seminary and attending an accredited theological institution while working towards a Master of Divinity degree or equivalent. The program is an excellent way for students to learn how retirement programs work, while building a retirement account with actual pension credits.

The spring application deadline is Feb. 28 (students approved in fall 2014 will receive the gift for one year

and do not need to apply for the spring application round). You can find more information and application forms at www.pensionfund.org/student-membership-gift.

Benefits of being a member of the Pension Plan as a Student Gift Membership recipient:

- Surviving spouse pension—\$400/month
- Surviving child benefit—\$500/month until age 21
- Surviving child education benefit—\$5,000 per year
- Disability benefit—\$300/month
- Death Benefit—\$18,000 to spouse

For the Student Health Care Premium Assistance Gift, Pension Fund pays a portion of your health care benefits through the Christian Church Health Care Benefit Trust (CCHCBT). The application deadline for the spring semester is also Feb. 28. You can find more information on this program at www.pensionfund.org/student-healthcare-gift.

LET'S TALK HEALTH CARE PLAN BUDGETS (AND RATE INCREASES)

As you read this, your ministry has—or is completing—its budget for 2015. The cost of health benefits is the one budget line item under increased scrutiny and regulation. In this article, I hope to provide some insight as to what goes into the decision of health care plan rate increases.

How do health care plans determine if (and how much) to increase health benefit rates?

Contrary to what some believe, we don't throw a dart at a dart board or cast lots to set our rates. The truth is that we look backward to estimate what the projected health care costs will be in next calendar year, along with current premium income and the number of employees in our pool of insured.

If our current premium income can cover the projected health care costs, then the result would be no rate increase. However, if our current premium income can't cover the projected health care costs, we know we need to increase the rates to insure the plan remains solvent. As a self-insured non-profit health plan, our premium incomes pay for our health care benefit claims and administrative costs (our administrative costs

are around 3%, compared to 15-20% for commercial insurance companies). We don't take the challenge of setting of rates lightly at the Christian Church Health Care Benefit Trust (CCHCBT). We know our rates have a direct affect on a congregational, ministerial or pastoral budget.

What makes our plan different?

CCHCBT knows you have many options when it comes to your health care benefits, and we thank you for trusting us to assist you with your health care costs. If you find yourself looking for a new health care benefit plan, consider your options with us. Our group benefit plan designs allow your congregation or ministry to pay for your health benefits on a pre-tax basis, which is not allowed on the marketplace.

If you have questions or are interested in enrolling, we encourage you to visit our page at www.pensionfund.org or contact us at healthcare@pensionfund.org.

Michael Porter, GBA

Director of Health Services
mikep@pensionfund.org



My Pensi@n Fund strong. smart. secure.

Pension Fund's new online member portal offers 24/7 access to information

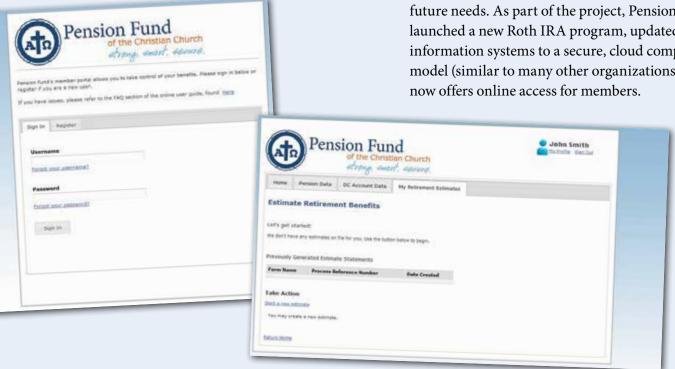
On Dec. 5, Pension Fund officially launched its new online member portal, *MyPensionFund*. This portal provides you with your account and benefit information. You now have the ability to:

- Check your current balance
- Access defined contribution account transactions
- Perform estimates of your benefits at retirement
- Review contact and beneficiary information
- View your health benefits summary (if applicable)
- Access information around-the-clock

You can access the *MyPensionFund* portal today by visiting www.pensionfund.org and registering through the "MyPensionFund" link on the upper right corner of the main page. If you need help, reference our convenient user guide at www.pensionfund.org/mypensionfund, or contact Pension Fund directly (1-866-495-PFCC or pfcc1@pensionfund.org).

The BelievelT! Journey

MyPensionFund was created as part of a larger Pension Fund project to update and refresh information technology systems named BelieveIT! after in-depth analysis of Pension Fund members' future needs. As part of the project, Pension Fund launched a new Roth IRA program, updated its information systems to a secure, cloud computing model (similar to many other organizations), and now offers online access for members.





Make sure to enter *five* of the last digits of your Social Security number when registering (not four, as is commonly requested).

How Secure is the *MyPensionFund* Online Portal?

Security for the online member portal site is provided in several different ways. You may notice the "https://" prefix to the site address. Seeing this prefix indicates that SSL (secured socket level) security has been added to the traditional "http://" prefix. This industry-accepted security approach adds a level of security to better protect member account data.

The next level of security is provided by a unique user name and password that is assigned to each member when registering to use the site. This level of security is further enhanced by the registration process, which requires four pieces of unique information (last name, last 5 digits of SSN, birth date, and zip code) to provide proper authentication prior to providing a user name. Common security rules are employed around password complexity when accepting the member provided password.

This approach to security continues in the process of authenticating the member when they have forgotten their user name or password. During the registration process, a member is prompted to provide a security question along with the answer to correctly identify the member prior to resetting the member's password."

Rick Mahoney, Assistant Vice President of Technology, helped complete the *MyPensionFund* project. Here, Mahoney discusses the online portal (and what makes it secure):



"From the very beginning of the *Believe IT!* project, creating a member portal that allowed members to access their account data and make retirement estimations was a critical component. After the new systems were installed in 2013, initial development was completed on the member portal (including a pilot phase to confirm the proper functionality). In early 2014, a number of suggested revisions from the pilot group were reviewed by the project team. The next phase of release was completed

in August, with a soft launch to only Pension Fund employees. Not long after was a limited release to general ministries in October. By design, both provided excellent feedback to prepare the portal for general release by the end of the year."

BelievelT! Timeline

August 2011 January 2012 **July 2012** May 2013 **December 2014 April 2012** BelievelT! program Roth IRA **Pension Fund** Pension Fund IT conversion Launch of approved develops plan to program refreshes of tracking and MyPensionFund replace technical launches website reporting systems online portal infrastructure



"I'm closely involved in the life of both Bethany College and Pension Fund, as I serve on both boards of these Disciple-related gems. History, tradition, value and mission are hallmarks shared by Bethany and **Pension Fund.** I have confidence that Pension Fund is a great retirement option for Bethany faculty and staff. It certainly provides the central focus of this Bethanian's personal retirement planning! I am glad others will share this benefit."

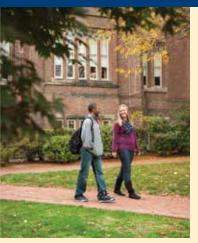
> —Janet Long, Bethany graduate and current trustee

A recent visit to Bethany College is a reminder of the long partnership between Pension Fund and Bethany College, the oldest private college in West Virginia.

Striding through dry, fall leaves and up and down a hill, students pass from class to class at Bethany College. In 1840, there would have been fewer buildings, no cars and different clothing, but students would have walked through the same dry, fall leaves on their grand, new campus.

Today, Bethany College's mission continues to be offering a premier education to students from all across the nation, and forming leadership, high morals, and an attitude of service to others. Every graduate is required to complete a senior project and comprehensive exam, respected by both graduate school admissions staff and future employers. As a result, Bethany grads are admitted to professional and graduate schools at a rate about twice the national average.

Attracting and retaining top faculty and staff to this very rural setting is possible because of that commitment to excellence and the opportunity to work with bright, promising students. For over 50 years, Bethany College has partnered with Pension Fund to provide employees the option of participating in the Pension Plan and Tax-Deferred Retirement Account (TDRA).







Providing retirement benefits is just one more way Bethany College cares for its people, many of whom choose to retire in Bethany, W. Va. Despite the snow on steep hills in winter and the seven-mile drive to any store, people in Bethany love the quiet, the beauty of the trees and river, and their beloved Bethany College.

From Alexander Campbell to Dr. Scott Miller, from ink wells to the internet, changes on this small, private, church-related college campus have been remarkable. And yet, the loyalty of the alumni and high quality of students attest to the unchanging excellence of the Bethany experience. We're proud to partner with Bethany College and be part of this legacy and longstanding tradition.

"Thanks to Pension Fund, our servants of the college and Church, we have been able to serve with peace of mind.

The ministry of the present is stronger because Pension Fund is taking care of our future needs."

—Rev. Thaddaeus B. Allen, regional minister and president of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia

meeting the challenge of providing value for the tuition dollar through The Bethany
Plan. This program introduces students to a comprehensive learning experience that includes academic, co-curricular, and extracurricular opportunities. ... Our institutional success is made possible by the coordinated efforts of leaders in every area of Bethany College, each of whom is committed to our students' personal success."

—Dr. Miller, President

"I remember well the good advice given to me by my Bethany College colleagues and mentors: choose Pension Fund. I did. The result of the thoughtful and prayerful management of that fund has provided my wife and I with wonderful financial security in our retirement. Thank you Pension Fund."

—Larry Grimes, emeritus professor, recent retiree



This past fall, Pension Fund launched its "Ministry Still Matters" initiative through a themed video and Bridge issue, celebrating ministry in the modern Church. We've had a great response to both: Our "Ministry Still Matters" online video alone has had over 2,000 views on YouTube and at www.pensionfund.org/ministrystillmatters. We'd like to share just some of the reactions and stories we've received from the video so far:

"Ministry matters to me because of people. Sharing Christ and hope can make a difference in lives. I've been a pastor for over 23 years and am blessed every day by the different people I meet. I get discouraged some days, and frustrated other days. I am fortunate to serve as a co-pastor with my husband and we help support and encourage each other. I try not to let the negativity that's too often in the world and in churches affect me, and I try to be an optimist and look for the good by seeking God through prayer and music. I encourage others to not be a 'Lone Ranger' in ministry, but reach out and work with others to give and receive support."

—Rev. Jackie Meece Summers

"When I was growing up, my grandmother lived with my parents, my sister and I. Grandma Marple was a gracious, dignified, intelligent and wise woman. From her I learned about our family history, what life was like in the Midwest during the early part of the 20th century and that it was important to respect elders... As an adult called to ministry, I still recall the lessons of my grandmother. She and the other women in my life have encouraged my God-given passion of ministry to older adults. While I know the future of the church lies with our youth, our older adults are more than capable of being active in ministry. I love their wisdom, their courage and their stories. I am humbled to encourage their spiritual growth as they bless me every day."

-Rev. Leslie McCarrick

"...Last week, I spoke about how the Holy Spirit works within us, first indwelling us and making it possible for miracles to occur, because 'we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to God's purpose'... My three illustrations of miracles were meant to demonstrate the fact that we live in a world where the possibility for miracles is always present. With God, all things are possible...Each of us, as believers in Jesus Christ, has a special place in the heart of God. Each one of us is a miracle, and each one of us has experienced miracles in some way special to us. Today would be a great day to share with others a miracle that has happened in your life. Today would be a great day to look to God to perform a miracle in your life, or in the life of someone you love who needs a miracle."

—Rev. Jan Ekstedt

Cohees honored as 'Innkeepers' for donations

On Nov. 20, Richard and Lynn Cohee were inducted by Pension Fund as the fourth class of "innkeepers." To be honored as an innkeeper, a person must make a gift of \$100,000 or more through a single transaction or accumulated gifts.



"For 112 years, the Ministerial Relief Fund has been the vessel through which a grateful church has provided care and support to faithful servants of the church," said Ruth Wallace, vice president of development. "The innkeeper was willing to provide extended care because of the financial resources provided by the Samaritan. Through these gifts, Richard and Lynn are helping to expand the witness and mission of Jesus Christ by serving human needs of the churches servants."

As part of the celebration, Richard and Lynn were presented with an innkeeper's lamp award, representing the welcoming light of the innkeeper. The lamp was then lit and shared by candlelight with guests.

"Today, Pension Fund as innkeeper also stands ready to assist those who served within the churches and come our way in time of need," said Wallace.

Richard was also honored as a "treasurer emeritus" for his 32 years of serving Pension Fund as treasurer.



GIVING THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

It's easy to thank God in good times...but what about the bad?

(Thessalonians 5:18)

This year has been one of mixed blessings for my family. My father passed away recently after a long battle with illness. He was full of life, and made an effort to smile and laugh every day—even in the toughest of times. My father also worked hard at making his life count.

hard at making his life count.

One of the touching things he did toward the end of his life was to plant flowers and trees in his yard. On a day when he was struggling, he said to a friend who was helping him in the yard, "Do you know why I am planting trees and flowers now? I want to leave something behind

As we come upon this holy season of thanksgiving and advent, we count our blessings and are thankful for God's presence in our lives. If there's anyone in the world who should be thankful, it's God's people! It's easier to give thanks to God for the good times than it is for the difficult times. We're thankful for the good times, things and people who come into our lives. We're also thankful for the ones we love, and the ones who love us.

that will continually look up into the heavens, and give

God praise and thanks!"

It's a little more difficult to give thanks for challenging or sad times, the harder things and disappointments that come into our lives. Or, the people we don't like, and the

"Sharing Christ and hope can make a difference in lives." people who hurt us (or intend to hurt us). In Thessalonians we find a word of encouragement that tells us we should give thanks through all of it: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Thankfulness is a choice. We make

up our mind, and we determine that we're going to have a thankful attitude even in times of struggle, trouble, sadness and sorrow. What "trees and flowers" have we left behind to praise and thank God? Your gifts and donations throughout the year for Ministerial Relief and Assistance help many who are struggling to make it through life, and with them we say thank you! Let's continue to plant seeds of generosity that echo thanksgiving and praise to God!

My hope and prayer for your family is that that your lives be filled with the thanksgiving and love, of family around the table holding hands and offering grateful praise always. May we be people who give thanks in all circumstances.

Shalom,

Rev. Ruth Chavez Wallace Vice President of Development ruthw@pensionfund.org



DID YOU KNOW?

MEMORIAM

Following are member deaths that were reported to Pension Fund between July 1, 2014 and Sept. 30, 2014.

DEATHS IN ACTIVE SERVICE	B. Lee Brummel	Sybel Dixon	Roland Huff	David Matheny
	Dallas, TX	Cincinnati, OH	Rutland, VT	Surfside Beach, TX
	July 6, 2014	July 12, 2014	September 4, 2014	September 21, 2014
David Haggard	Helen Bryant	Joann Doty	Harold Johnson	Harold Mayes
Baxter Springs, KS	Lynchburg, VA	Wellsburg, WV	Indianapolis, IN	Ash Grove, MO
September 1, 2014	July 11, 2014	September 9, 2014	September 6, 2014	July 13, 2014
Edward Vaughn	William Buck	Gary Dudder	Jane Johnson	J. Marion McElveen
Clinton, MS	El Paso, TX	Kearney, NE	Williston, FL	New Albany, IN
July 19, 2014	August 9, 2014	September 27, 2014	August 1, 2014	August 10, 2014
Eugene Williams	Freda Bureman	Mally Echols	Donald Jones	Lillie McGhee
Dover, NC	Independence, KS	Aliso Viejo, CA	Indianapolis, IN	Omaha, NE
September 17, 2014	July 8, 2014	September 26, 2014	August 6, 2014	July 18, 2014
DEATHS IN RETIREMENT	Evelyn Calhoon	William Farnum	Max Jones	William McNett
	Iola, KS	North Las Vegas, NV	Granbury, TX	Washington, IL
	July 6, 2014	August 2, 2014	July 25, 2014	August 17, 2014
Harper Abraham	Irvin Chalfant	Barbara Fuller	G. Lucille Jones	Carolyn
Las Vegas, NV	Tampa, FL	Ann Arbor, MI	Fayetteville, NC	Meiks-Fraley
September 5, 2014	August 21, 2014	July 29, 2014	July 16, 2014	Marana, AZ
Vickie Akers	Jack Coffey	Wayne George	Marjorie Larson	September 23, 2014 David Mills Niles, OH
Robinson, IL	Johnson City, TN	Colonial Heights, VA	Wichita, KS	
August 7, 2014	September 25, 2014	July 25, 2014	July 22, 2014	
Grant Berry	Evelyn Coleman	Bennett Gerardy	Howard Lorenz	September 7, 2014 Rena Moore Aurora, CO
League City, TX	Knoxville, TN	Winston Salem, NC	Camas, WA	
July 27, 2014	September 19, 2014	July 17, 2014	July 19, 2014	
William Blackwell	Christine Cooper	Debra Hayden	Minnie Lyles	September 27, 2014 Harrison Moseley Fort Worth, TX
Harrisonburg, VA	Wilson, NC	Newark, OH	Fort Worth, TX	
August 5, 2014	September 13, 2014	September 1, 2014	July 7, 2014	
Paul Booker	Betty Davis	Oscar Haynes	Martha Major	September 10, 2014 John Myers Colfax, WA
Columbia, MO	Hagerstown, MD	Herndon, VA	Hopkinsville, KY	
August 15, 2014	August 11, 2014	July 31, 2014	July 22, 2014	
Pamela Bristol	Robert Dean	Mary Frances Hook	Betty Martin	July 6, 2014 Oran Nabors Denton, TX September 21, 2014
Richardson, TX	West Palm Beach, FL	Joplin, MO	Bridgewater, VA	
September 25, 2014	August 25, 2014	August 21, 2014	July 29, 2014	



William Newman Mansfield, OH July 22, 2014

Cyrus Nicholson Alachua, FL July 16, 2014

Louise Oliver Fort Worth, TX August 31, 2014

Raymond Oliver Newport News, VA September 18, 2014

John Oquendo Lakeland, FL July 7, 2014

Herbert Owens Hoschton, GA September 28, 2014

Ralph Palmer Fort Worth, TX August 28, 2014 Robert Parker Riverside, CA September 1, 2014

Edyth Price Erwin, TN August 26, 2014

Jose Principe Carolina, PR July 6, 2014

Chris Quillen Kingsport, TN July 31, 2014

Martha Rees Branson, MO September 24, 2014

Frank Reuter Ft Worth, TX September 26, 2014

Rose Rosen Columbus, OH July 5, 2014 Wade Rubick Indianapolis, IN August 1, 2014

Rosemand Sapp Ashland, MO September 7, 2014

Berniece Sawyer Granite City, IL September 4, 2014

Charlotte Shoemaker Raymore, MO August 23, 2014

James Smith Canon City, CO July 22, 2014

Martha Smith Atlantic Beach, NY July 11, 2014

Jenean Stone Black Mountain, NC September 3, 2014 E. Ambrose Stump Jacksonville, IL August 21, 2014

Bobby Taylor Pensacola, FL September 11, 2014

Maurica Thompson Mesa, AZ August 1, 2014

Clarissa Townsend Jamaica, WI August 24, 2014

David Trotter Knoxville, TN July 17, 2014

Adelbert Von Almen Warner Robins, GA September 26, 2014

Wilhelmina Watkins Vancouver, WA August 12, 2014 Mary Wheatley Jacksonville, FL July 13, 2014

Mildred Whitworth Chino Hills, CA August 10, 2014

Esther Winesanker Los Angeles, CA August 4, 2014

Wiletta Woodson Eugene, OR September 26, 2014

OTHER DEATHS

Jack Coffey Johnson City, TN September 25, 2014

Leslie Engholm-Perez Crockett, CA July 29, 2014

Lucy Harris Mount Juliet, TN July 4, 2014

Bobby Westerfield Martinsville, IN July 21, 2014



Pension Fund owes so much to the individuals who believe in the ministry of those who have served the Church.

Thanks in great part to you, our donors, we can help make life better for many of our older and retired ministers, missionaries and their widows or widowers. We gratefully acknowledge contributions made from May 1 to October 31, 2014 to Ministerial Relief and Assistance, Churchwide Health Care Gift Fund, Heartbeats of Faith, 13th Check and the Endowment.

You make all of this possible with your faith, trust and support for Pension Fund. Thank you again!

Churchwide Health Care Gift Fund

The Health Care Gift Fund helps pay the Health Care Medicare Basic premium for many worthy servants of the Church. Many gifts have been received since the last listing of contributions in the Summer 2014 issue of *The Bridge*.

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First Christian Church, Bryan, TX

13th Check

The following is a list of individuals and congregations that responded to 13th Check offering. These gifts will provide 13th Checks to recipients in 2014. We express our sincere appreciation.



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Earnings from the Endowment Fund are added to the offerings from congregations through the Disciples Mission Fund and through gifts from individuals to assist those whose pensions are low or who have no pensions or to assist with the payment of health care premiums and other needs. The Endowment Fund includes gifts, bequests and memorials to loved ones and honored minsters, as well as other estate gifts.

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Gifts from individuals for Ministerial Relief & Assistance help make life better for many of our older and retired ministers, missionaries and their widows or widowers. Gifts to Ministerial Relief, along with offerings through the Disciples Mission Fund and earnings from the Endowment Fund, make funds available for the Supplemental Gift (to supplement low pensions) and Ministerial Relief (for those with no pensions).

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- DISCOVER how to MAXIMIZE SOCIAL SECURITY benefits.
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