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Disciples News Service

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May 15, 2013

Church is a bit bearish

On the first and third Tuesdays of the month, the gym at First Christian in Conroe, Texas, is roaring with activity as faithful volunteers build Hug-A-Bears. More than 30,750 yes, 30 thousand... have been produced at the rate of about 100 a month for use by Conroe Regional Medical Center and the Montgomery County Emergency Medical Service.

In 1987, Mattie Curry saw a needed community ministry and set out to make it happen through First Christian Church. She and her husband Gene set about getting it done. Mattie passed away four years ago and Gene continued Hug-a-Bears four more years until his death in April 2013, at age 89.

Jim & Judy Hopper, faithful members of the Hug-A-Bears for 26 years, are now spearheading the Hug-a-Bear ministry.

The Hug-a-Bear makers, also known as Hug-a-Bears, draw, paint, cut, stitch, and stuff 100 bears each month. They are processed by sterilizing them and placing them in a plastic cover. These little bears help calm a child, or ease an adult's discomfort.



Jim and Judy Hopper hold number 20,000 and 25,000 - a 2006 model - of the bears produced by their Conroe, Texas group

Lexington Theological Seminary considering property sale



The University of Kentucky Board of Trustees considered a recommendation Tuesday to purchase the current grounds and facilities of the Lexington Theological Seminary (LTS). The seminary would remain in Lexington in support of mission.

LTS - which has been undergoing an exciting transformation in how and where students are shaped for ministry - is making plans to relocate its administration and educational operations to another location in Lexington.

[See full release here.](#)

News in the Church

Other News

Rick Reisinger honored

Erick D. (Rick) Reisinger, president of Disciples Church Extension Fund, was honored recently by the Insurance Board. [Read](#) about this recognition at the recent meeting of their board of directors.



Ecumenical effort to play nice

Pat Tolbert of First Christian in Charleston, SC, is part of an ecumenical effort to be a little more kind to one another, starting with the church. The seventh annual "Say Something Nice" Sunday is coming up June 2. A movement that started with Baptists and now includes Catholics and more, it encourages a very Disciple principle -- ecumenism. [Read more](#)

Children and family programming input needed

As the new ministers for Family and Children's Ministries in Disciples Home Missions start to assess the needs for the local congregations, we are seeking your invaluable help. We want to know what you are doing in your churches with children and family programming. What has worked and what has not worked? What curriculum, resources, activities, and ministries have been most successful at creating biblically educated, faithful, and active children and families? Do these programs happen during worship, church school, afternoon/evening groups, or in the home? Please e-mail your responses by July 31 to [Brooke Anthony](#).



[Pentecost offering video available for May 19](#)

[CWS in urgent need of cleanup buckets for Midwest](#)

[Domestic mission volunteers needed for fall](#)

[New York church gets attention for interfaith event](#)

[National City Christian resumes noon concert series](#)



General Assembly business items

Even though General Assembly is about so much more than the three business sessions, there are reports to be made and some matters to be considered. All these will be in the docket mailed to congregations later this month, or you can get a head start reading them on the [webpage](#). Some of the resolutions have [comment forums](#) set up on Facebook (you can set up an account for free if you don't already have one.)

General Assembly deadlines

May 25 - Assembly chapel meditation videos due

May 31 - Pre-assembly volunteer registration (first come, first served)

June 1 - Pre-school and school aged children's program - registration link

June 1 - Discount theme park ticket orders

Other News and Resources



Events

[Discussion on Stormy Questions - slavery and incarceration](#) May 18

[Christmount Discovery Weekend Women's Retreat](#) May 31-June 2 (registration deadline May 13)

[Middle school girls-only cap](#)



Resources

[Refugee and Immigration Ministries offer overview of work in video](#)

[Disciples History has online exhibit on slavery and the early Christian Church movement](#)

[Catch up on past issues of DNS](#)



Ministry in Action

[Texas church celebrates anniversary with food drive](#)

[Church sponsors free haircuts](#)

[Texas church to house music school](#)

Would you like to contribute a

[registration due June 3](#)

[Bread for the World gathering](#)
June 8-11

[Christmount grade school](#)
[mountain camp](#) June 10-15 or
July 1-6

[Christmount music workshop](#)
June 13 - 16

[General Assembly of the](#)
[Christian Church \(Disciples of](#)
[Christ\)](#) July 13-17

[2013 ADM National Conference](#)
July 24-29

[Wild Goose Festival](#) Aug. 8-11

[and Disciples Together](#)

[Spring Disciples Women's](#)
[newsletters available online](#)

[Elder emeritus pins available](#)

[Center for Faith and Giving](#)
[personal finance curriculum](#)
[available](#)

[General Assembly promo video](#)
[available for download](#)

General Assembly resolutions
posted on [Business page](#);
[discussion forums](#) through
Facebook

[Putting a face on the issue of](#)
[immigration - videos available on](#)
[the DHM website](#)

story of your congregation's
ministry? Areas of focus are
women/children, hunger/poverty,
immigration and care for
creation, but feel free to send
any story for possible selection
to news@disciples.org

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The next deadline to submit news for consideration
in the Disciples News Service:

Friday, May 17, 2013

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