



# Currents

A publication of the Great River Region of the Christian Church (DOC)

## Great River Region Update

4724 Hillcrest Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72205

December 6, 2017

[grrdisciples.org](http://grrdisciples.org)

### Christmas Greetings Everyone:

Christmas is my favorite time of the year! We love and spend time with family and friends. We give to others in need. We sing beautiful Christmas carols that remind us of the gift of life. It culminates in year-end blessings, gifts, and a reminder of the value of a baby born with a purpose and destiny. We began Advent, waiting for the coming Messiah, “Emmanuel” who is “God with us.”



This past Sunday, I preached at FCC, Slidell, from the lectionary text, Isaiah 64:4-9, “Is There Hope For Us?” What God accomplished through Moses and the children of Israel, is still a possibility for a new generation who acknowledges the need to petition God. I challenged the congregation, and now the wider Region during this season to consider this community lament as we: 1) Reflect on God’s faithfulness to us, 2) Confess the ways that we can be better for our families, our churches, and our communities and 3) Lift up prayers on behalf of someone else. This is a different request for Christmas, but one that will greatly bless us.

December is also a time designated for the Christmas Offering, where all the proceeds go directly to the Great River Region. We pray that 2017 allowed you to experience the value added collectively through relationships, pastoral care, training, and connectedness, as we seek to close the gap on a wide geography. This time last year, we were in a \$75,000 deficit; this year we end with a \$17,000 deficit. We are hopeful that your giving will help to bring us out of darkness and into the light.” We pray that you will continue to partner with us in this great work!

This year a special Christmas video was coordinated by the College of Regional Ministers. It was crafted especially for the Great River Region. Many of the faces that you see will be familiar - It may even be your own! Please share it throughout your congregations to promote the

Christmas Offering. This link for this video was sent to all pastors in the Great River Region – let us know if you can't find someone who can show it to you!!

*“But speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ – from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by wat every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does it share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love” (Eph. 4:15b-16 NKJV).*

***Be Safe and Enjoy This Season!!!***

## **Christmas Open House at the new Regional Office**

**You are cordially invited to join us on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, from 11a-2p, for a Christmas open house at the new regional office at 4724 Hillcrest Avenue in Little Rock.**

**If you haven't been to our new space, we are located at Pulaski Heights Christian Church– our entrance is off of Spruce Street (north of Hillcrest Avenue) on the north side of the building – look for the Chalice red door!!**

**Look forward to seeing you!**