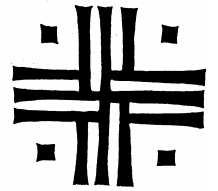




# Association of Disciple Musicians Newsletter



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Fall, 2008



This fine group from *Oklahoma* along with everyone else at the 2008 Conference missed you if you were not in Tulsa this past July. Yes, the temperature soared, but First Christian Church was very cool, the food was fantastic, the spirits were “high”, and the fellowship couldn’t have been better (except if you had been there). It’s not too early to be thinking about the 2009 Conference at DePauw University in Greencastle, IN next July. Don’t forget to visit the ADM website, [www.adm-doc.org](http://www.adm-doc.org), often for the latest news and conference updates.



Whether of a traditional or a more emerging style, worship under the beautiful dome in the First Christian Church Sanctuary was uplifting. From our Opening Worship Service to our Closing Concert, the staff and facilities at FCC/Tulsa provided a wonderful place for our services and options. However, from the comments of many attendees, it was the wonderful food provided by the caterer that kept everyone’s minds off the heat.



Your 2008-2009 Planning Council (left to right), **John Opsata, Tom Pearce, Debbie Sivis, Brenda Hagedon, Greg Nunn, Kay Sherrill, James McGee, Kristi Hill, Gala Strunk, Brian Brauchla, Lonna Owens, and Greg Pratt** will be working under the direction of the 2009 Conference Committee, *Kristi Hill, Brenda Hagedon and James McGee* to bring you another memorable ADM conference on the campus of DePauw University in Greencastle, IN next July. Look for specific details at the ADM website or future newsletters.

## Meet Your New Council Members



**Gala Eubank Strunk** is the Minister of Music/Organist for First Christian Church in Longview, TX. In 1978, she came to FCC as organist. After graduating magna cum laude from Stephen F. Austin State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in music, Gala taught choral music in the public school system. In 1988, she accepted the full-time position of Music Director/Organist at FCC. Gala received her ministerial license from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in 1993 and became Minister of Music/Organist.

Under her direction, the Music Department consists of numerous instrumental ensembles, as well as vocal choirs and handbell choirs open to children, youth, and adults. These groups participate in worship services and special music concerts throughout the year. In addition, Gala has served on the Christian Youth Foundation Council for the Northeast Area of the Christian Church in the Southwest.

Affiliations include American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, Choristers Guild, American Guild of Organists, Phi Kappa Lambda, and the Association of Disciple Musicians.

Gala is married to Dr. George Strunk and they have four children and eight perfect grandchildren.



**Craig Pratt** has been a professional symphony orchestra hornist for more than 40 years, having served as principal horn with the Rapides Symphony Orchestra, Shreveport Symphony Orchestra, Longview Symphony Orchestra, Marshall Symphony Orchestra and the Shreveport Summer Music Festival Orchestra. During his tenure as First Horn with the SSO, Craig served as Instructor of Horn at Centenary College. Craig is an active arranger for musical groups in the Shreveport Metropolitan Area and for the past 12 years has served as Minister of

Music at Kings Highway Christian Church. Craig joined ADM in 1997 and for the past two years has presented sessions at the annual conference on Using Instruments in the Worship Service at both the student and professional levels.



**Rev. Dr. John T. Opsata** serves as Senior Pastor at Lakewood Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Lakewood, OH and since 2005 has also been the choir director. John has also served North Middletown Christian Church, North Middletown, KY as Pastor and the Jeffersontown Christian Church, Jeffersontown, KY as Associate Pastor, as well as numerous churches in his home state of Minnesota as a professional musician. Prior to entering the ministry, John served for ten years as the Director of Choral Activities at St. Anthony Village High School, a school district in the Greater Metropolitan Twin Cities of MN.

John holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music Ed, Masters Degree in Church Music & Divinity, and a Dr of Philosophy Degree in Liturgical Studies.

In 1994, John along with five others began the KY Regional Mens Chorus serving as conductor 10 years of their 14 year history. With 90 members, this unique organization is made up of Disciple men from across the Commonwealth of KY who meet one weekend per year in a retreat setting, often at a state resort park. They have produced one recording and anticipate a second recording in the spring of 2008.

John has been an active participant in ADM since 1994 and is grateful for the opportunity to serve on the planning council.

Be sure and check out the ADM website often for updates.....

[www.adm-doc.org](http://www.adm-doc.org)

## Among Our Members.....

We've received word that former ADMer, **Linda Barnett**, from Texas has died due to complications from cancer. Linda and her friend and colleague, Jeanne Cook, had played piano/organ duets for nearly 30 years. Linda was a charter member of Rush Creek Christian Church in Arlington, TX, and had last attended an ADM Conference when it was held on the TCU campus in 2007.



**Susan Crosby** from North Little Rock, AR, sent word before the 2008 Conference that due to some surgery she was having on July 9<sup>th</sup>, she would be unable to join us. Hopefully Susan is all healed and her school year is going well. Susan would love to hear from you, and her email address is: [susan918crosby@peoplepc.com](mailto:susan918crosby@peoplepc.com).



**Russell Alexander**, from Kennett MO, sent word before the Tulsa Conference that he wouldn't be able to attend this summer due to his having had some additional back surgery. Russell said that the ADM conference is always the highlight of his summer, if not the entire year, and he would miss not being with his ADM family in 2008.



Clarice Stegall sent word when she got back to Indianapolis that she had heard from **Anthony Smith**, Houston, TX, and that he sent greetings to all ADMers. He said that he is working on proper eating to keep his health good and that he plans to join us in Greencastle next summer.



## Did you know that.....

ADM organization planning began in 1960 with the first workshop being held on the campus of Texas Christian University and University Place Christian Church on August 2-7. The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated at Country Club Christian Church in Kansas City, MO, and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be in 2011.

## Glimpses of Tulsa 2008 Conference



Those who come the farthest always need special recognition and that does include California, Florida and points south!!!



We had a very nice group of First-Timers this summer and always hope they will return.



The chorus, though smaller, certainly enjoyed working with Dr. Don Studebaker from NSU in Tahlequah, OK.

## ***Change in Conference Scheduling being considered.....***

(Taken from minutes of the ADM Annual Meeting, July 21, 2008)

### **Motion from the Planning Council:**

1. 2009 Conference has been shortened.
2. Due to finances, we are recommending to move to a biennial schedule on the even year.
3. We need to revise the bylaws to reflect the proposed schedule changes and make necessary corrections in the handbook.

Bylaw revisions will be sent to the ADM membership prior to the 2009 conference in accordance with our present bylaws.

- Passed at the 2008 Annual Meeting with this addition: This motion be approved as a proposal for consideration. Motion was made by George Campbell and seconded by Brad Burnham.

### **Explanation of Proposal:**

Following a two-year period of work by the ADM Strategic Planning Committee and input from two membership discussion forums at the 2007 Conference, the 2008 ADM Council began to address the financial state of the organization. The following three items are the financial reasons that led to the above proposal:

1. Conference costs have consistently increased in every area from facilities, to room-and-board, to clinician fees and travel, etc. An example of rising clinician cost is that the interest on the Tom Wood Worship Clinician Endowment Fund that was declared fully funded is no longer able to match the increased cost of the clinician and their travel.
2. Another factor is the number of conference attendees. Over recent years this has steadily decreased and even though the sitting councils have attempted to base

recent conferences on the break-even cost of 150 people, that number hasn't been met.

3. There have been conference cost overruns, anticipated or unanticipated in recent years, that have severely reduced the conference reserve fund carried over from year-to-year. The fund is about to be depleted.

To address this financial situation, the Council is recommending that we move to a biennial conference with a potential target date to begin after the 2010 conference. The conference would be held on the even year with the General Assembly occurring on the odd. This will allow our Disciples Home Missions liaison to attend and give more attention to the conference without the conflicting time of the General Assembly. This is the practice of the other denominational constituency groups like ADM and is also being encouraged by Interim Disciples Home Missions president, Don Shelton, as a part of the denominational realignment process. The biennial format is the one other smaller denominational music fellowships are using and allows for more planning and publicity time. The shorter conference also helps with room, board, and facilities. Those that are using the biennial format also tend to use a church and a nearby hotel as we have done before.

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## ***All-Assembly Choir for the 2009 General Assembly***

For those of you who plan to remain in the Greencastle/Indianapolis area and attend the 2009 General Assembly, plans are being made now for an All-Assembly Choir that will be a feature of the closing concert and communion service on Sunday afternoon, August 2. Additional information will follow in another newsletter, but you could get in touch with Patricia Case, [pcase@ogmp.disciples.org](mailto:pcase@ogmp.disciples.org), if you'd like to know more now.



*More from Tulsa.....*



Those from Arkansas and Alabama.



Iowa and Illinois



Indiana  
(and Randy Frieling does belong in this picture)



Ohio



Texas



**George W. Campbell**, ADMER from Gladstone, MO, actually rang the bell above his head when he was a youngster growing up in Wheeling Ave. Christian Church in Tulsa. FCC/Tulsa now has the bell on display in their west courtyard.

**Connie Ford** and **Kristi Hill** added so much to many pieces throughout the conference as shown here with Don Studebaker.



Our North Carolina contingency and the distance they traveled certainly deserves recognition as well.



**Kay Sherrill**, director, and her faithful group certainly made up a very nice Chapel Choir (**Susie Daugherty** from Tulsa was the accompanist)

**Association of Disciple Musicians**  
**c/o Brad Burnham, Editor**  
**2831 E. 85th Street**  
**Tulsa, OK 74137**



***Application for membership in the Association of Disciple Musicians***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Position in the church \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

(Please enclose areas of interest/experience in the church on a separate sheet)

Enclose a check for \$25.00 payable to ADM and mail to:  
Ms. Lonna Owens, Association of Disciple Musicians  
P.O. Box 1986 – Indianapolis, IN 46206-198