



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**April 3, 2009**

**Success of DBS Chaplaincy Care Calls for Expansion of Jacksonville, Ill. Program**

**St. Louis, MO** – The Disciples Benevolent Services has expanded its Jacksonville, Illinois, area Chaplaincy Care program with the addition of a second chaplain to help provide for the spiritual needs of persons in residential facilities in the community.

Dennis Hagemann, DBS President and CEO said, “we expected this program to be well-received by the Jacksonville community, but we have been absolutely amazed by the way word has spread about the ministry. Our chaplain, Rev. Gladys Herzog, predicted some months ago that we would soon need a second chaplain – we just didn’t realize it would happen so quickly and we’re really excited about the program’s growth.”

The DBS Chaplaincy Care program was introduced in Jacksonville in June 2008 as a service for the residents, families and staff of the Barton W. Stone Home. Under the local direction of Rev. Dr. Gladys Herzog, the less than year-old program has grown to include DBS Chaplaincy Care services for Balsam Terrace and Jacksonville Convalescent Center. As chaplain, Herzog provides spiritual care and guidance for individuals dealing with life’s challenges, concerns and losses. Herzog also provides weekly worship services and Bible studies at the Barton W. Stone Home. The DBS Chaplain’s services are provided at no cost or liability to either the facility or to the individual requesting services.

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**Success of DBS Chaplaincy Care Calls for Expansion In Jacksonville, Ill. Program  
4/3/09 - page two**

Other Jacksonville area facilities and congregations often call on Herzog to provide chaplaincy services. The addition of a second chaplain will allow Herzog the opportunity to meet the needs of more individuals who request spiritual support.

The second chaplain, Rev. Bruce Pilcher, will provide DBS Chaplaincy Care services, primarily, for residents at Jacksonville Convalescent Center. Rev. Pilcher and his wife, Cheryl, have made Jacksonville their home since 1983 and are well-acquainted with the community and its residents. They relocated from Iowa when Pilcher accepted the chaplain's position at Passavant Area Hospital, where he served until his retirement in July 2008. Rev. Pilcher has a Master of Divinity degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, and is ordained in the United Church of Christ. He and his wife are members of First Congregational Church in Jacksonville.

DBS also has a Chaplaincy Care program in Des Moines, Iowa, serving residents and staff of Ramsey Village and the larger community. In addition, the program is being introduced in other Regions of the Church.

Headquartered in Maryland Heights, Disciples Benevolent Services (National Benevolent Association) is the 122 year-old social and health services general unit of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

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