

## **2009 THANKSGIVING OFFERING**

**Worship Resource**

**By Nancy Brink**

For nearly 30 years I have sat where you are now sitting, in a chair or pew in worship in a Disciples' church. As a pastor I promoted generosity for all of our special offerings, for each one offers a unique opportunity to make a difference in a Disciples' ministry somewhere.

But this Thanksgiving I am sitting in a different chair in my office as Director of Church Relations at Chapman University in Orange, CA. And I am even more passionate about this giving opportunity. Every dollar raised for the Thanksgiving Offering goes to build up our colleges, seminaries, and divinity houses.

Let me tell you what that means specifically at Chapman. I lead a student ministry program for about 100 Disciples and UCC students. We not only seek to keep these students church-connected during their college years, we give them training and experience in worship, leadership, and organization that will help them be ready to offer skilled service as congregational lay leaders. Your gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering cover the costs for fall and spring retreats, weekly worship, mission and service trips, and pastoral care and spiritual mentoring.

Most of our students are not headed to seminary but to jobs in communities like yours. They come from all over the country to get a first rate education. According to US News and World Report, Chapman is a top-tier western U.S. university and is listed as a strong up-and-coming university. We emphasize study abroad and seek to graduate students with a strong identity as ethical and productive global citizens. Because we have extra scholarship help for Disciples youth, we are able to attract excellent students from all across the United States and Canada.

Each of our colleges has their unique strengths. All of us are committed to helping our beloved children move into adulthood with a strong and vital connection to the church. In addition to writing a check, I hope that you encourage your high school youth to consider attending one of our Disciples' schools. You can find information and links to all of the Disciples' schools at [helmdisciples.org](http://helmdisciples.org).

Please give generously to the Thanksgiving Offering—and help Disciples' students THRIVE!