

HOOSIER UNITED METHODISTS together



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

February 2007
Volume 37
Number 2

Hoosier medical team lends skills to healing in West Africa

By Daniel R. Gangler

Awed by the lack of medicine, skilled medical professionals and bare-bones technology, a volunteer team of 13 Hoosier United Methodists spent up to three weeks in Sierra Leone and Liberia this past month. The medical portion of team included two medical doctors, four nurses and a pharmacist.

They were led by the Rev. Dr. Donald Griffith and his wife Marilyn Griffith. As scheduled, five of the team members left after the first two weeks. Eight remained for a final week.

Team members included: **Chet Adams** (construction), **Beth Borgerding** (RN), **Don Griffith** (pastor, co-team leader), **Marilyn Griffith** (ACSW, co-team leader), **Jan Nichols** (director of World Missions at St. Luke's) and **Scott Semester** (fund raising/marketing) all of St. Luke's UMC in Indianapolis; plus **Rick Chandler** (pharmacist) of Carmel, **Bonnie Strate** and **Randy Strate** (mother and son, family practice physicians) of Meridian Street in Indianapolis, **Mary Tinley** (librarian) of Rosedale Hills in Indianapolis; **Judy Trenary** (orthopedic nurse) of Forest in Lafayette District; **Michelle Tyring** of Speedway; and **Marchusa Huff** (DRN) of Trinity Episcopal in Indianapolis.

According to a report the Griffiths gave to a Jan. 31 meeting of Operation Doctor (OD) meeting in Indianapolis at the Indiana Area office, the team visited the United Methodist Kissy Hospital in suburban Freetown, Sierra Leone;

a United Methodist-related school, and a clinic in Jaiama, Sierra Leone (seven hours northeast of Freetown); the United Methodist Ganta Hospital in Liberia and the JFK Memorial Hospital in Monrovia, the capital of Liberia.

In Liberia

At Ganta Hospital, the Griffiths reported marked improvements since visits last year with additions to the hospital including a new inpatient unit. They said Ganta has a new administrator and dedicated staff. The Hoosier medical team provided half-day workshops at Ganta for nurses, aids, nursing students, physicians and other staff. The main complaint they heard from the student nurses was that it takes them up to five years to complete their two-year degrees because of a lack of teachers.

The team also found the need for the completion of installation for a new electrical generator at Ganta Hospital. Electrical power is sporadic at best, therefore the need for the diesel-powered electrical generator to be able to operate 24/7 is paramount to the successful operation of the hospital. Another significant need is funding to pay for the cost of fuel to operate the generators.

In Sierra Leone

At Kissy, the team found the surgical unit and post-surgical ward up and running, but also found needs such as updated surgical equipment to cauterize blood vessels during surgery. The team was pleased to find a new incinerator operating to dispose of all



photo courtesy of Marilyn Griffith

Hoosier medical volunteers to West Africa Dr. Randy Strate, Nurse Judy Trenary and Dr. Bonnie Strate talk with a patient (center) and Head Nurse Alice Maturi at the Jaiama clinic in Sierra Leone.

organic and inorganic waste.

The Griffiths reported that Dr. Dennis Marke, chief of staff at Kissy, told them a \$32,000 annual budget for medicines may have been adequate before the surgical suite was built. But since the program and hospital census have increased, the need for medicines has doubled. More IV solutions and blood-pressure cuffs also are needed.

The Griffiths reported that Kissy Hospital is open to medical volunteers coming to help with medical education and to improve the delivery of services. A significant need Kissy currently has is for an ultra-sound technician for two or three weeks to teach the use of the machine. Major equipment needs include X-ray and blood chemistry lab equipment.

They further reported that the medical education service model for this trip was greatly appreciated. One thing the team learned was that when equipment is sent to Africa or anywhere in the developing world, donors also need to provide a means of training for the equipment's use.

At the Jaiama clinic and school, in the Koidu area of Sierra Leone, the medical team found five nurses providing medical care for a rural community through a clinic

with little medical equipment or medicine. Their visit also raised the question of how OD should relate to the four or five Operation Classroom-related schools that have clinics on site.

Judy Trenary, a nurse on the trip who also reported to the OD board, said what the team saw at Jaiama was so sad. She said they experienced committed midwives with limited training working in facilities that are extremely limited. One thing she saw everywhere was the need for diabetic testing, which the team could not provide.

Team learned

The model for this team was one in which medical professionals would present continuing education workshops for the medical staff in each clinic setting. Some of the topics included were CPR, hospital admission practices, monitoring glucometers and antibiotic administration.

At some sessions the medical team had 60 participants, which was overwhelming. Staffs were inundated with requests for more topics, more sessions, follow up sessions on nursing units and equipment such as stethoscopes. The team decided that one of the best ways Indiana could help would be to send many more

health professionals to Operation Doctor sites. Just taking the time to listen and dialogue brought hope and encouragement.

In other business during the two-hour OD board meeting, members approved a task force to be led primarily by volunteers of First UMC in Valparaiso to work with Kissy Hospital in developing and implementing plans for an improved health-care system.

The board also agreed to request that the Sierra Leone Annual Conference enter into a partnership with OD in developing and implementing a long-range plan for a health-care delivery system through the Kissy Hospital that includes: renovation and construction of facilities at the Urban Center, development of comprehensive use of facilities and the implementation of the Kissy Hospital program into a greater health-care program for the church in Sierra Leone.

The Operation Doctor board will meet again April 4 at the area office. In the meantime, the Rev. Joe and Carolyn Wagner, co-coordinators of Operation Classroom/Operation Doctor, will visit West Africa in February for their annual review of Operation Classroom programs and teach a Bible Study at the Sierra Leone Annual Conference.



photo courtesy of Marilyn Griffith

The Operation Doctor medical and construction team heads for the Jaiama Secondary School in Sierra Leone. Pictured are: (standing from left to right) Judy Trenary, Abu Conteh (driver), Scott Semester, Saffo Koromo (Operation Classroom coordinator, Sierra Leone), Bonnie Strate; (kneeling from left to right) Marilyn Griffith, Rachel Muembo (GBGM missionary from Congo), Mary Tinley, Randy Strate, Chet Adams and Don Griffith.

March Madness for Missions

I invite all United Methodists here in Indiana to join me in a "March Madness for Missions" by raising funds for two Advance Special mission projects approved by the General Conference and the Council of Bishops of our denomination.

The first is a call for each United Methodist congregation to donate at least \$1 per member for the Global AIDS Fund to help eliminate the HIV/AIDS epidemic that is killing so many people, especially in Africa. The second is the Nothing But Nets campaign to purchase \$10 mosquito repellent nets to protect children from getting Malaria.

These two killer diseases of poverty, Malaria and HIV/AIDS, can be eliminated from humanity, and our United Methodist Church is determined to help stamp

them out.

Partners in **Nothing But Nets** include The United Methodist Church, the United Nations Foundation, *Sports Illustrated*, the National Basketball Association, Millennium Promise and the Measles Initiative. The United Methodist Board of Global Ministries and United Methodist Communications are coordinating the church's participation in the campaign, which will include a major initiative for youth groups.

The goal is to raise funds to eradicate malaria in Africa, where the mosquito-borne disease causes the death of one-fifth of all children under 5 years old. Hanging nets over children while they sleep is a simple, inexpensive way to kill the mosquitoes or keep them from biting.



Bishop announces appointment of Huntertown pastor to North Indiana Cabinet

INDIANAPOLIS – Bishop Michael J. Coyner, resident United Methodist Bishop of the Indiana Area, recently announced today the appointment of the Rev. Dr. David A. Michel as the new Superintendent of the Fort Wayne District. He will assume his new duties on June 16.

Current District Superintendent Lamar Imes plans to retire in June.

The Fort Wayne District has 67 congregations and more than 15,600 confirmed members.

For the past 13 years, Michel has served as senior pastor of the Huntertown United Methodist Church in the Fort Wayne District.

In his announcement, Coyer said, "Dave and his wife, Anne, are long-time faithful United Methodists, and Dave has led the Huntertown Church to a period of growth and creative expansion. His ministry has always included 100 percent support of the connectional ministries of the North Indi-

ana Conference; he has served on the Council on Finance and Administration, and serves on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry – so he is well aware of the North Indiana issues, structures and ministries.

Coyner continued, "The Cabinet is excited to have David join the group, and I personally look forward to his leadership in this new ministry."



Michel

Michel, 53, was ordained an Elder and became a clergy member of the North Indiana Conference in 1980. He has served United Methodist churches at Angola, Pleasant Lake-Mt. Zion, Fort Wayne Aldersgate and Alexandria First before his current appointment.

He is a graduate of the University of Indianapolis (B.A. in religion), United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio (M. Div.) and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill. (D. Min.). He and his wife Anne have three children, ages 22, 18 and 14.

Subscribe today!

Together will inform you of religious news near and far, will inspire you with stories of faith and will connect you with a larger family of Christians.

- \$12 for one year \$20 for two years
 Here is my contribution to assist with *Together's* expenses

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____



Send to:
 Hoosier United Methodists Together
 Indiana Area United Methodist Church
 1100 W. 42nd St., Suite 210
 Indianapolis, Indiana 46208

Thank you for your support.

United Methodists also are stepping up to provide a tangible response to the HIV/AIDS crisis through the **United Methodist Global AIDS Fund**. The fund was established at the 2004 General Conference to raise \$8 million by 2008.

This fund represents the commitment of every United Methodists to put a stop to HIV/AIDS in our world. The \$8 million represents a \$1 commitment of each United Methodist in the United States. For Indiana, that would be around \$200,000. The fund supports education, prevention, care and treatment programs for people living with HIV/AIDS. The United Methodist Global AIDS Fund does not overlook the crisis in the US. About one million people are infected in the US and more are added to that number each day. The plan specifies that 25 percent of what each annual conference raises should be used in that conference for AIDS work, either locally or in global projects.

March Against the Madness

So, here is the idea and the request. During March Madness here in Indiana, when

we focus upon basketball, let's also March Against the Madness of Malaria and HIV/AIDS. I am asking each of our 1,260 congregations to receive a special offering sometime during March (also within the Lenten season) for the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund (UMCOR Advance #982345). For local church and Annual Conference credit, put your gift in the offering plate one Sunday in March.

I further ask every United Methodist family to purchase at least one net from our Nothing But Nets campaign. You can do that by credit card on-line at www.nothingbutnets.net or by sending the money through your local church to the Advance Special Mission Nothing But Nets (UMCOR Advance #982015) project.

Please join me in a March Madness for Missions. Let's March Against the Madness of Malaria and HIV/AIDS, and let's make a difference in our world.

Bishop Michael J. Coyner

Indiana Area of

The United Methodist Church

"Making a Difference in Indiana and around the world."

HOOSIER UNITED METHODISTS

together

February 2007 Vol. 37 No.2

MISSION STATEMENT: To reflect the teachings of Christ through stories and pictures, thereby sharing key moments and concerns in the life of his Indiana church and its people. To share joy, to share personal faith, to share challenges, and to refresh the spirit.

Indiana Area Bishop/Publisher: Michael J. Coyner

Editor: Daniel R. Gangler

Editorial Assistant: Erma Metzler

Printed by: HNE Printers, Columbus with soy-based inks on recycled/recyclable paper

Editorial Offices:

Hoosier United Methodists *Together*
 Indiana Area United Methodist Church
 1100 W. 42nd St., Suite 210
 Indianapolis, Indiana 46208
 Phone: 317-924-1321
 Fax: 317-924-4859
 e-mail: editor@inareaumc.org

Hoosier United Methodists *Together* (ISSN-1544-080x) is a monthly (except June, August and December) publication of Indiana Area United Methodist Communications, 1100 W. 42nd St., Indianapolis, IN 46208, for clergy, laity and seekers. Periodicals postage paid at

Indianapolis, IN. Printed in the U.S.A.

copyright 2005 Indiana Area of The United Methodist Church.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Hoosier United Methodists *Together*, 1100 W. 42nd St., Suite 210, Indianapolis, Indiana 46208

Subscription Information: Call 317-924-1321. One-year subscription, \$12, single copy \$1.50

Change of Address: Send the mailing label with your new address to:
 Erma Metzler, *Together*, Indiana Area UMC, 1100 W. 42nd St., Suite 210, Indianapolis, Indiana 46208 or e-mail emetzler@inareaumc.org

Commentaries and letters provided by Indiana Area United Methodist Communications do not necessarily represent the opinions or policies of Bishop Michael Coyner, the Indiana Area or The United Methodist Church.

Members of the Indiana Area Communications Commission and Editorial Advisory Group:

Steve Bahrt, chairman

Char Harris Allen
 Bishop Michael J. Coyner
 Ida Easley
 Mark Eutsler
 Chip Gast
 Mark Gough

Jack Howey
 David V.W. Owen
 Bruce Palmer
 Robert Sharp
 Matthew Stultz
 Bert Talbott

Permission is hereby granted to United Methodist congregations to reprint stories, not previously copyrighted, in church newsletters. *Together* is supported by connectional giving.

www.inareaumc.org

The Gospel calls us to risk, not comfort

During the past year, I have not understood the behavior of some United Methodist clergy and laity who are reluctant to enter public dialogue concerning social issues from support for raising the cigarette tax to opposing the expansion of legalized gambling. I have heard it said more than once, "I don't want to get involved with politics."

I have come to realize they are saying, "I don't want to take risks." My response – As followers of Jesus Christ, we need to be first and foremost people of risk, not for ourselves, but for the furtherance of the Gospel in contemporary society.

As Christians in the Wesleyan tradition, that risk factor becomes even more intensified as we see the risks John Wesley, founder of The United Methodist Church, took in his pursuit to abolish slavery, reform prisons, host clinics and establish Sunday schools for uneducated street children who had no option to a life beyond poverty. To Wesley, this was all part of evangelism and salvation, both spiritually and socially.

While trying to understand why Christians aren't involved with social issues of our state and time,

As followers of Jesus Christ, we need to be first and foremost people of risk ...

I heard the Rev. Anne Rosebrock, one of my pastors, say in a recent sermon: "We follow a radical Jesus who encourages risk taking... the kind of risk where you venture out on a limb with just your faith and God's grace – the kind of risk that takes you to places you would not choose to go, the kind of risk that connects you to people you might not otherwise know, the kind or risk that challenges long held assumptions with new thinking, the kind of risk that pushes you out of your comfort zone and offers you new experiences and growth."

Her Scripture text was Jesus' parable of the talents according Matthew 25:16-30 dealing with the servant who buried his master's money in fear of risk. Rosebrock's responded, "burying the treasures that God has given us, digging a hole to avoid risking new experiences is not in God's dream for us."

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is not about comfort, but about risk. We have a number of issues as United Methodists in Indiana that involve risk.

Within the life of our church, the Imagine Indiana Planning Team released a statement of "Compelling Reasons for a New Conference in Indiana." In their statement, they have given 12 reasons why they believe a new United Methodist conference in Indiana is a positive move. The seven-member team does not make this statement in a vacuum, but as a result of discussions and discernment with more than 240 other Hoosier United Methodists across the state. They risk making the statement, but at the same time experience the leading of God's Spirit as they release their statement (see page 4). Such a move is not comfortable and contains a high degree of risk for the future of The United Methodist Church in Indiana.

In social issue before us, a group of 16 interfaith leaders from across the state, including Bishop Coyner, have asked the Indiana General Assembly to raise the cigarette tax by one dollar in order to help discourage more than 100,000 children and youth from smoking while supporting health care insurance to lower-income Hoosiers. They have taken a risk and have been called into question by some of the state's newspapers for taking such a stand as religious leaders.

Another group of United Methodists of Fort Wayne, South Bend, Bloomington, Indianapolis and smaller communities are working with State Representatives Neu and Pierce, and State Senator John Broden in supporting legislation to require the State of Indiana from investing state funds in companies and institutions doing business with Sudan to send a clear signal to the current Sudanese government that Hoosiers will not tolerate their practices and policies

against the people of Sudan in Darfur. (See commentary this page.)



Still another group of Hoosier United Methodist pastors are reminding the Governor and the General Assembly that United Methodists and other people of faith will not tolerate any expansion of legalized gambling in Indiana, because it continues to claim both financially and spiritually the families of a rising number of addicted gamblers. They take a risk because other pastors with members in their congregations connected with the so-called "gaming industry" choose to remain silent.

Remaining comfortable continues to call to us, whether we are taking a position on the future of the church or issues of society, however the Gospel reminds us that Jesus did not seek after comfort or the comfortable. Jesus was a risk taker and calls us to the same risk taking until the reign of God becomes a reality in our midst.

Welcome
Daniel R. Gangler

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lugar's pessimism

Senator Richard Lugar's pessimistic assessment of the crisis in Darfur, Sudan (Jan. 2007, *Together*) was both disappointing and inaccurate. He claims that "there is no basis for optimism" and that all possible measures have been taken by the West.

His myopic vision reflects the lack of vision and commitment among American and European leaders which has prolonged this crisis. "The impasse over deploying a major UN peacekeeping force to Darfur," according to a report by the International Crisis Group, "results directly from the international community's three-year failure to apply effective diplomatic and economic pressure on Sudan's government and its senior officials." We have called it "genocide" but we have failed to try all possible solutions.

Among those possible solutions are economic sanctions. International human rights groups with first-hand knowledge and experience in this area have called for targeted financial pressure to be placed on the government of Sudan. These would include freezing assets and travel bans on their leadership, investigating offshore accounts, and targeted sanctions against petroleum and arms companies doing business in Sudan.

Currently, the Indiana General Assembly is considering House Bill 1484 which would call for the state retirement funds to divest

from companies which are supporting the Sudanese government. There are a small number of foreign firms which are buying oil from the government which are used to purchase weapons. In some cases, oil is being traded directly for arms. The divestment strategy would target toward only those companies. Right now, twenty other states are considering taking such action and California has already passed similar legislation.

The Senator does not believe that the Sudanese government will be responsive to economic pressure, that sanctions will hurt civilians, and that humanitarian aid workers will be targeted for retaliation. None of these objections are foregone conclusions. The Sudanese government has demonstrated in the past that they are sensitive to financial pressure because they are highly dependent upon foreign money. Almost all ordinary Sudanese citizens are subsistence farmers who receive no government aid or benefit from foreign trade. And yet over 85 percent of the government's budget is military spending.

Targeting these companies will have the right impact on the government with little effect on the citizens. As for endangering humanitarian aid workers, this regime has **already** done that and there is no sign that staying with the current course will keep us on the good side of this government. At the very least, targeted sanctions like H.B. 1484 should be tried they stand a

good chance of working.

Regardless of their effectiveness, sanctions should also be tried in order to preserve our integrity. There is a place for non-cooperation of Christians and in the case of genocide we should not allow our money to be used by those companies which choose to turn a blind eye to oppression.

The Senator made a contrast between Darfur and sanctions against South Africa's apartheid regime twenty years ago. He is right that they are two different situations, and this is why H.B. 1484 is a **different kind** of sanction. Senator Lugar is wrong to draw the conclusion that nothing can be done in Darfur because it is not like South Africa. In both cases moral courage was and is required. The tactics must be different but the same persistence is needed in the face of seemingly impossible odds. The Bush Administration has demonstrated neither persistence nor wisdom in handling this situation — all the more reason why a ranking Republican such as Senator Lugar must take up this challenge and move beyond watered down resolutions and bills offering only humanitarian aid.

Darren Cushman Wood,
Senior Minister
Speedway, Ind.

Darfur genocide

After working for the past two years to encourage involvement in

the Darfur genocide crisis, I am concerned about the effects of Senator Lugar's words during our December 2006 meeting, as reported in the January 2007 story: "Senator gives little hope to Darfur Coalition." After all, who would choose to invest time and energy into a crisis where there is little hope and "no basis for optimism for the moment?" I would ask readers to please consider three factors.

Senator Lugar stressed complexities within the Darfur crisis that make a resolution seem unlikely, and he highlighted the risk of United States involvement by noting that involvement could actually worsen conditions. While we face these sobering thoughts, please note that during each perpetration of genocide, the words of Senator Lugar would have accurately reflected the truth. When a government attempts the systematic killing of all people from a national, ethnic or religious group, the situation always becomes complex and risky. Examples include the annihilation of millions in the killing fields of Cambodia, the murder of 800,000 during 100 days in Rwanda and now the murder of 400,000, the displacement of 2.5 million and rape of countless girls and women in Darfur.

Samantha Power in her book *A Problem from Hell, America and the Age of Genocide*, effectively makes the case that the inaction of the international community has failed millions and millions of victims of genocide. Is this the

pattern we choose to continue? Do we become unresponsive in the face of genocide due to complexity and risk?

Please also consider the positive effects that advocacy for Darfur has had. During a recent conference call with Governor Richardson, who had recently returned from Sudan, Richardson described his experiences in negotiating with President al-Bashir and spoke of the value of grassroots activism in providing pressure on al-Bashir. Richardson stressed the importance of engagement and involvement, as he encouraged advocates to do more. Additional results of the advocacy movement for Darfur include: the establishment of a U.S. Presidential Special Envoy, whose only focus is to try to resolve the crisis in Darfur, improved coverage in the U.S. media and legislation passed in Congress and signed by the President.

Additionally, after considering the inherent complexity of genocide and the positive effects of involvement, we must also consider scripture. The teachings of the Bible offer no excuses for ignoring human suffering. So as we embrace the families being persecuted in Darfur, let us seek to do justice, to love neighbor and to help the least of these. Risk, complexity and "no basis for optimism for the moment" will demand of us careful, thoughtful, persistent and prayerful intervention.

Beth Reilly, Aldersgate UMC
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Imagine Indiana Planning Team gives compelling reasons for unifying United Methodists in Indiana

Since the sessions of the North Indiana and South Indiana conferences of The United Methodist Church in June 2006, the Imagine Indiana Planning Team and its 14 Discernment Teams have met several times in various locations across the state involving more than 250 United Methodists clergy and laity in lively discussion about the possible unity of the two conferences in a new unique ex-

pression of The United Methodist Church in Indiana.

Called into being by Bishop Mike Coyner and led by the Rev. Dr. Adolf Hansen, Ph.D., a retired seminary professor-administrator, and the Rev. Dr. Cindy Reynolds, D. Min., superintendent of the Warsaw District, the Imagine Indiana Planning Team, which met last month at the Indiana Area office in Indianapolis, now issues a

"Compelling Reasons for a New Conference in Indiana" statement.

According to Hansen and Reynolds, this statement is open for reflection, discussion, review and response among United Methodists across Indiana and part of the process that the Imagine Indiana Planning Team continues to seek as its members prepare for both annual conference sessions in June.

They encourage feedback about

the statement from across Indiana and ask respondents either join the Imagine Indiana Forum online at www.inareaumc.org (click on Imagine Indiana and go to Public Forums) or send comments by:

- ◆ E-mail to:
dvowen@inareaumc.org;
adolf.hansen@insightbb.com,
and/or
cindyreynolds@kconline.com;
- ◆ Fax to: The Rev. David V.W.

Owen
at 317-
924-
4859
or

- ◆ U.S. Mail
to: The Rev. David V.W. Owen,
Indiana Area of The United
Methodist Church, 1100 W.
42nd Street, Suite 210, India-
napolis, IN 46208.



Imagine Indiana Planning Team Compelling Reasons for a New Conference in Indiana

January 15, 2007

Thus says the Lord: Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing. – *Isaiah 43:18-19*

1. We believe God is calling us to emerge from our current institutional structures and give birth to a new way of being United Methodist in Indiana.
2. We believe God is leading us to meet the needs of a changing and complex world with a unified voice that focuses on making disciples of Jesus Christ – in Indiana and beyond – as our reason for being.
3. We believe God is compelling us to a radical transformation that cannot happen unless we are willing to be made new.
4. Toward this end, we believe that the creation of a new conference in Indiana will allow us to build on our past and enable us to:
 - ◆ Go forward with new energies, resources, tools, synergies, and ways of learning;
 - ◆ Acknowledge the congregation as the focal point of initiative for ministries, and the conference as the connection between those congregations;
 - ◆ Manifest prudent stewardship of people, time, finances, assets, potential, and influence;
 - ◆ Help our bishop focus his leadership on a single conference and a simplified structure for the entire state of Indiana rather than the current reality of multiple structures, committees, and systems;
 - ◆ Use our unified voice to impact disciple-making and justice ministries;
 - ◆ Claim and cultivate the strength of our Wesleyan heritage;
 - ◆ Affirm both personal and social transformation in new ways;
 - ◆ Exemplify the power of the Holy Spirit in and through all United Methodist congregations in Indiana;
 - ◆ Find fruitful and productive ways of dealing with issues of racism and poverty;
 - ◆ Carry out our ministry in ways that will make a significant difference throughout Indiana;
 - ◆ Speak to the connection about a new way of being United Methodist; and
 - ◆ Do it all with a renewed commitment to bring honor and glory to God.

The Imagine Indiana Planning Team

Mark Eutsler, Linden
Rev. Adolf Hansen, McCordsville
Rev. Shalimar Holderly, Nine Mile

Carolyn Johnson, West Lafayette
Rev. Marie Lang, Greenwood
Joe Johnson, Lawrence
Rev. Cindy Reynolds, Warsaw

Bishop Mike Coyner, resident bishop of Indiana
Rev. David V. W. Owen, executive assistant to the bishop

23 ordinands part of the group Bishop Coyner leads Holy Land pilgrimage of Hoosiers

Indiana Bishop Mike Coyner will lead a group of 156 pilgrims beginning Feb. 12 on a trip to Israel to travel the lands of the Bible and to walk in the steps of Jesus. The group will include 23 ordinands to continue their education and engage in their own spiritual formation.

Some pilgrims also will go to Jordan and Egypt. Coyner hopes all of the pilgrims will have a personal encounter with the biblical story. The group also will connect with Bishop Lindsay Davis and fellow pilgrims from the North Georgia Conference.

The theme of the pilgrimage is: "Jesus: His Life, His Land, His Hebrew Faith." Travelers will spend time in Jerusalem and in the Galilee as they meet with both Palestinians and Israelis. Coyner invited the pilgrims to experience the sites, sounds, aromas and the people of this amazing land and to bring home excitement for and understanding of the life and times of Jesus to better inform and motivate their congregations for discipleship in our world.

The pilgrims will worship at St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem as well as visit the traditional and historic sites. Trip highlights include visits to mission sites and engagements in holy conferencing with diverse groups as safety allows. Mis-

Mission sites
include the
Bethlehem Bible
College and Princess
Basma Hospital.

Mission sites include the Bethlehem Bible College and Princess Basma Hospital.

Each of the four buses are scheduled to have times of devotion and interaction with one another and the diverse people of this important geography. There will be times of quiet, spiritual reflection along the way as the travelers seek a closer connection with God.

Scholarships for the 23 ordinands in this pilgrimage have come from a generous gift from the estate of the late H. Wilber Hardacre that provides \$100,000 to help defray the costs of Bishop Woodie White's dream to travel with new ordinands to the Holy Land. This is the first Indiana Area ordinands have been able to experience this particular pilgrimage to Israel.

To continue this opportunity in shaping new clergy, The Indiana Area Foundation of The United Methodist Church needs significant, generous financial support. The foundation needs small and large gifts to continue this dream. Those wanting to

share a gift from an estate or a contribution from their IRA, can contact the Rev. James E. Gentry at 317-924-1321 to answer any questions and to begin the process of sharing in this pilgrimage.

Air Force awards medal to UIndy professor

INDIANAPOLIS (UIndy) – The Rev. Gregory S. Clapper, a professor of Philosophy & Religion at the University of Indianapolis, has been honored by the U.S. Air Force for his 2006 work ministering to the wounded at a military hospital in Germany.

An ordained United Methodist minister and chaplain lieutenant colonel in the Indiana Air National Guard, Clapper served from May through June at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, a key treatment facility for U.S. military personnel injured

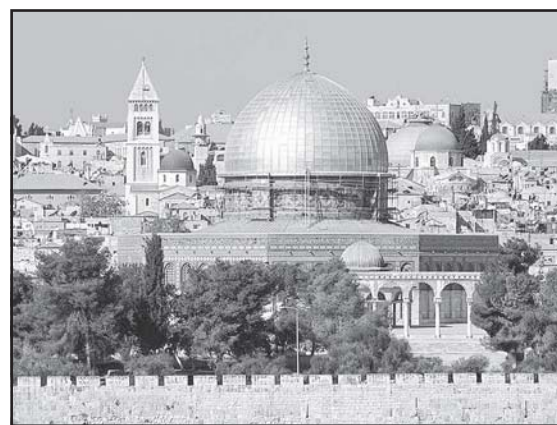


Clapper

in Iraq and Afghanistan. The tour was his second at the hospital near Ramstein Air Base, headquarters for the U.S. Air Force in Europe.

The Greenwood resident was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (First Oak Leaf Cluster) for providing spiritual counseling to patients and their families at Landstuhl's inpatient psychiatric ward and intensive care unit, among other activities.

For more information about the University of Indianapolis, log on to www.uindy.edu.



Hoosier church leaders help two Miss. families rebuild

By Debbie Bushfield and
Pam Keith

D'IBERVILLE, Miss. – The United Methodist Women meeting at a church on the coast of Mississippi had a roll-call question: “How are you doing after 18 months?”

One elderly woman who had lost everything to Hurricane Katrina slowly stood and looked round at her friends. Then she said, “I’m drinking out of a saucer – because my cup runneth over.” The United Methodist Church had rebuilt her home.

Each person in the flooded area across the Gulf Coast has a story. And when the story has a happy ending, volunteers are often the reason.

Bishop Mike Coyner, the North and South Indiana Conference district superintendents, their spouses, along with several conference staff members finished work on two houses last month. Following the work of our 36-volunteers team, the grateful homeowners were able to sleep in their own houses for the first time since Hurricane Katrina hit Labor Day

Each person in the flooded area across the Gulf Coast has a story.



The Rev. David V.W. Owen, assistant to the bishop; Bishop Coyner, the Rev. Glenn Howell of the Evansville District, the Rev. Bob Ostermeier of the Bloomington District – pick up cabinets and supplies at Lowe’s in Mississippi.

weekend 2005. However, our team was just one of dozens of church rebuilding teams in the area.

Evidence that this is a huge movement began even before everyone arrived. Two cabinet spouses were unable to drive with the rest of the team because of

their work schedules, so they flew to Mississippi. At the Indianapolis Airport, they spotted three people wearing United Methodist logos on their shirts accompanied by the phrase: “Believin’ in Relievin’.” This group was from the Northeast U.S.; they were on their way to Louisiana to rebuild

homes. A few days later, at a rest stop between Mississippi and New Orleans, members of our team saw a group of several Amish teenage boys get into a church relief van that was headed to New Orleans. They were going to use their carpentering skills to rebuild homes.

Everywhere our team traveled, they encountered groups of Presbyterians with their blue shirts, Lutherans, Baptists, Catholics, and other United Methodists. All were doing the same thing – trying to help some of the over 100,000 families who are still homeless.

The churches in the devastated areas continue to house these work teams with an overflowing of gracious hospitality and have turned their Sunday school rooms into bunk houses.

The work goes on daily, but there is a tremendous amount yet to be done. It has been estimated that it will take at least ten years before everyone affected by the storm will be able to get their lives and homes back together. Some never will.

The two families that the combined conference team helped

were moved to tears as they were handed Bibles signed by the work teams during dedications for their homes. Then they were given the keys to their new front doors, and many among the team found themselves deeply moved also, but for a different reason. They knew they had done what God had asked. They were being the church.

Almost weekly a United Methodist team from Indiana heads to the area destroyed by the hurricane. If you would like to be a part of this rebuilding ministry, either by contributing financially or joining a work team, please contact: the Mississippi Disaster Response Center at 866-435-7091; e-mail: disastercenter@meridianumc.org; fax: 601-486-4248 or the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Ministry at 225-346-5193; e-mail: stormrelief@bellsouth.net; fax: 225-346-6974.

Debbie Bushfield is wife of the Rev. James Bushfield, superintendent of the Columbus District. Pam Keith is the wife of the Rev. William Keith, superintendent of the Indianapolis East District. Both served as volunteers in mission on this trip.

Indianapolis area women organize prison ministry

For the past year, offenders from the Indiana Women’s Prison and members of the Indianapolis West and East Districts United Methodist Women have met together to form a monthly prison ministry, called “United Methodist Women – Women Inside.”

The two-hour meetings are modeled as typical UMW meetings, which includes mission speakers, devotions, studies from *Response Magazine*, prayer time for missionaries, and various arts and crafts projects. The women also participate in Bible study and

are currently studying “Bad Girls of the Bible.”

Barbara King, Phyllis Newton and Frances Cain, officers in the Indy West District UMW, regularly inform the group about the scope and mission of UMW as well as to introduce the UMW reading program. “Women Inside” are encouraged to read books recommended by the UMW and followed by small group discussions.

This past year, UMW members and “Women Inside” participated in several United Methodist Committee on Relief projects which

included stuffing school backpacks for children displaced by Hurricane Katrina. They also made UMCOR health and layout kits.

One of the goals of this unique ministry is to help the women with re-entry. According to Phyllis Newton, vice president of the Indy West District UMW, “It is vitally important for us to help these women once they are released from prison. Re-entry can

be very difficult for some, particularly if they do not have family involvement. Through some of our United Methodist churches and contacts, we want to help former offenders find jobs, transportation and affordable housing. If they have substance abuse problems, we want to help them find counseling. Our goal is to help them become self-sufficient and to become productive mem-

bers of society.”

Women wanting to become involved with United Methodist Women-Women Inside, please contact Barbara King, president, Indy West District UMW or Ila Grinstead, president of Indy East District UMW.

For more information, contact Susan Bennett by e-mail at sdben@sbcglobal.net or by phone at 317-213-4415.



Photo courtesy of Susan Bennett

Indianapolis West and East Districts United Methodist Women meet monthly at Indiana Women’s Prison for the “Women Inside” ministry. Pictured left to right are: First row: Frances Cain (North UMC); Susan Bennett (North UMC); Paula Easley, (Wesley UMC) and Ila Grinstead, (UMW President, Indianapolis East District and member of Christ UMC, Westfield.) Second row from left to right: Mollette Hall, (Barnes UMC); Joanne Wade, (Center UMC); Phyllis Newton, (Broadway UMC); Julia Harter, (East 10th Street UMC); Barbara King, UMW President, Indianapolis West District and member of St. Andrew UMC) and Patricia Cosby-Wilkins, (Scott UMC).



Faith-based coalition thanks Indiana Governor for effort to lower use of tobacco among Hoosiers

INDIANAPOLIS – Participants of the Hoosier Faith and Health Coalition, an interfaith group advocating for lowering the use of tobacco in Indiana, presents a thank-you letter Jan. 24 to Governor Mitch Daniels (center) in his Statehouse office for proposing a health-care insurance program to lower-income Hoosier families, which is supported in part by a proposed increase in the state tobacco tax, and full funding of the Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Agency. Earlier the same day, the HF&HC hosted a legislative luncheon at Christ

Church Cathedral on Monument Circle with 100 participants. Dr. Judy Monroe, Indiana State Health Commissioner, outlined the Daniel’s proposed health insurance plan being considered by the General Assembly. HF&HC asked the General Assembly for a \$1 increase in the cigarette tax to curb teen smoking in Indiana. Indiana has the second-highest percentage of smokers in the nation. *Together* Editor the Rev. Dan Gangler, is co-convenor of HF&HC. For more information, log on to www.hoosierfaithandhealth.org.

Lafayette church, Purdue, community team together for infants

By Matthew Oates

LAFAYETTE, Ind. – Next to the grand and stately sanctuary building of Trinity United Methodist Church in downtown Lafayette sits a humble, one-floor bright yellow stucco house with a banner that flaps from the porch.

The banner proclaims to the community the new life that the house is and brings: the Trinity Nursing Center for Infant Health.

The center, which opened on April 30, 2006, is a collaborative effort between Trinity UMC and Purdue University's School of Nursing to provide health care to infants in the Centennial neighborhood and other downtown neighborhoods where lower income and often uninsured families reside.

"We are carrying on a legacy at Trinity. We have been instrumental in outreach," said the Rev. Dr. Jacob Williams during the opening service. "We continue the legacy of helping others... In this endeavor, we are going to help our infants. There is no illegitimate child."

Dr. Julie Novak, head of Purdue's School of Nursing, and a member of Trinity, said the collaboration is natural after reviewing Tippecanoe County's health care needs. A group of the three area nursing schools – Purdue, Ivy Tech and St. Elizabeth – met and found that infant care was most needed in the downtown Lafay-

"We are going to help our infants."

– Jacob Williams

ette-Wabash River corridor, where Trinity is located.

"We recognized a problem in this community," said Novak. "We definitely wanted to take the care to them. Most of the patients are from that neighborhood."

Lilies of the Field

The building used for the clinic is the church's Lilies of the Field house, which housed families who were seeking refuge from a variety of life's struggles. After the church discussed transitioning to a new ministry, the house was given a new lease on life.

Trinity members and others of the Lafayette area donated more than \$25,000 in goods and services to remodel the house. Volunteers scraped floors, repainted rooms, rewired the house and did other renovations. Greater Lafayette Health Services, which operates Home Hospital and St. Elizabeth Medical Center, donated car seats, medical equipment and supplies. Dr. Jim Bien, a pediatrician at Arnett Clinic, serves as the collaborating physician.

Trinity donated supplies and more than 100 blankets for babies and the clinic; some were handmade. "The blankets started coming," said Sonja Wise, Trinity council chairwoman. "The blan-

kets will keep coming."

The clinic has seen its outreach grow as it opened on Tuesdays and Fridays at first before adding days throughout this past fall. The clinic is staffed by certified pediatric nurse practitioners, certified family nurse practitioners, instructors, nursing students and community volunteers and provides exams, assessments, parental counseling and coaching.

Significant support

"There's been significant intent and support by various agencies who work with families in need," said Novak. "They are very excited about having another source of referral. We provide a mosaic of support for families so they know where to go for additional support."

"Sometimes the world is not kind. Hopefully when people walk through this door that for a few moments the world may go away," said Wise. "Here is the touch of love. Here is the touch of Jesus."

For more information about the clinic, contact Trinity UMC in Lafayette at 765-742-1288.

Matt Oates serves as a correspondent for Indiana Area Communications and a member of Trinity UMC in Lafayette, Ind..



Photo courtesy of C. Lynn Holland, Purdue School of Nursing

Trinity Nursing clinic staff includes Purdue nursing faculty Courtenay Wells (foreground) and Beth Lana, a member of Trinity, liaison between the church and the Purdue School of Nursing.

Feeding Indiana's hungry

Giving voice to the voiceless, hope to the hopeless

By David McCleary

The Society of St. Andrew, an Advance special of The United Methodist Church, runs a very simple business of feeding the hungry in Jesus name. It is an enormous task to bridge the gap between 37 million hungry Americans and 96 billion pounds of food wasted each year nationally. Through various means, including gleaning Indiana fields after farmers harvest, we can help feed Indiana's hungry.

There is a growing global chasm between the rich and the poor. While there are many complex and difficult problems faced by the poorest, most defenseless among us, we at the Society of St. Andrew are determined to help concentrate our efforts in one area, that of hunger.

It's a simple business, but we need many volunteers and farmers who will donate their fields for gleaning. We also need small and large financial donors that believe in our efforts. Through projects and programs of the Society of St. Andrew, our compassion will touch and improve the lives of

people in Indiana and the United States.

The number of Indiana residents living in poverty increased 13 percent from 2004 to 2005.

"Poverty is the most important issue facing the State and Country today because it is the underlying reason for so many of the 'other' problems we must deal with, from health to education to crime," said Pattie O'Callaghan, president of the nonprofit Indiana Coalition for Human Services.

For the third straight year the North Indiana Conference was in the top 10 conferences for Meals for Millions donations. Hoosiers were in 8th place in 2004, 6th place in 2005 and 5th place in 2006. A special thanks to Gary Hostetler and his Kokomo District for raising \$2,550. Thanks to everyone for your contributions.

Of the 332,340 pounds of produce given, 77,970 pounds were gleaned and 254,370 pounds were potatoes.

Please give SOSA your support as second mile giving. Just think what would happen if our more than 98,000 United Methodist members in North Indiana would

give \$1 each. Send checks to "Meals For Millions," The Society of St. Andrew, 3383 Sweet Hollow Road, Big Island, VA 24526-3054. This is a United Methodist Advanced Special #982225. Your local church, district and the North Indiana Conference will be credited for your gift.

An achievable goal would be a minimum of one gleaning per District this year. Each gleaning takes between four and eight hours one day a year. I can help you with finding fields to glean. Now is the time to be looking for farmers who could be approached to allow gleaning. Consider these sources:

- ◆ Farmers markets,
- ◆ County Extension agents,
- ◆ Farm service agents that are a part of USDA and
- ◆ State agriculture universities such as Purdue.

Make gleaning at the conference and/or district levels an enjoyable task this year. It's a good way to unite and promote our United Methodist Men's organizations by gleaning Indiana's fields to feeding Indiana's hungry.

To find out more about SOSA

by logging on to their Web site, www.endhunger.org. For some info about Indiana, go to page 139. For more information, call 574-269-1143 or by e-mail at

hranin@endhunger.org.

David McCleary serves as the North Indiana Conference Hunger Relief Advocate for the Society of St. Andrew.

South Conference laity challenged to submit sermons for conference session in June

Each year the South Indiana Conference Board of Laity offers the opportunity to all laity of the South Indiana Conference to express thanks and praise to God by submitting a sermon manuscript for judging. The deadline for entries is April 26. The theme is "One in Spirit, All in Ministry: In the Spirit of Stewardship." Manuscripts are judged on how well the theme is followed and developed, and how well stories and illustrations are used. The author will present the winning manuscript at the Laity Session of South Indiana Annual Conference during the Wednesday morning session, June 6. Two other manuscripts will be given Honorable Mention.

All laity are invited to participate in the contest. Sharing stories of faith, discipleship and commitment is an excellent opportunity to honor Christ and his mission. For additional information or questions, please contact Bob Pimlott at 812-273-3081 or e-mail him at rpimlott1@verizon.net.

Send manuscripts to Ike Williams, Conference Lay Leader, 1515 Cool Creek Drive, Carmel, IN 46033-2318. Please include name, address, phone number, local church name and district name on a cover letter. Manuscripts will be judged anonymously by the selection committee. The winner and two runners up will be notified by May 20. All entries must be postmarked by April 26.

Operation Classroom celebrates 20 years of ministry to Africa

By Joe Wagner

This year Operation Classroom celebrates 20 years of partnership ministry with the Liberia and Sierra Leone United Methodist conferences. What began as a conversation over a cup of coffee has become one of the most effective mission programs of The United Methodist Church in West Africa, and has sparked interest in other United Methodist conferences to consider this concept in their mission outreach.

When Bob Bowman and John Shettle were elected lay leaders of their respective conferences in 1984, they discussed how they might work together to help renew United Methodist churches in Indiana. They met at Hardee's in New Castle, and began a hands-on mission program. Later, with the guidance of the late Bishop Hodapp and the late Rev. Mark Blasing, they formulated a plan for the mission program giving birth to Operation Classroom.

Partnership program

Operation Classroom was designed to be a partnership program linking the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries, the Liberia and Sierra Leone United Methodist conferences and the North and South Indiana conferences with a goal to upgrade secondary education in these two West African countries.

In order to implement this plan, an advance team – composed of North and South Indiana Conferences leaders – traveled to Liberia and Sierra Leone in September 1986 to meet with the West Africa conference officials and visit schools selected by church leaders of the Liberia and Sierra Leone. The team met with principals and teachers, spoke with students, viewed buildings and received reports of needs in each school. When team members returned to Indiana, they determined the best way to challenge Indiana churches to meet these needs by:

- ◆ Assigning districts to partner with specific schools,
- ◆ Empowering Indiana laity to become actively involved in mission and

- ◆ Embracing a hands-on mission approach.

The Operation Classroom program was launched Jan. 1, 1987, involving a partnership with four schools in Liberia and six schools in Sierra Leone. The goal was to upgrade these schools until they were able to be self-supporting, then Operation Classroom planned to move to partner with other needy schools. The Rev. Joe and Carolyn Wagner were selected as program coordinators.

Operation Classroom evoked an immediate, enthusiastic response across the state. By June 1987 Indiana United Methodist churches, through a special offering, gave more than \$52,000. The first year both conferences raised more than \$197,000 to the Advance designated for Operation Classroom schools.

From 1987 to 2005, Hoosier United Methodists contributed a total of \$3,129,939 to Operation Classroom through the Advance.

Hands-on mission

To initiate the concept of a hands-on mission program, a statewide ingathering was held at Westfield in September 1987. Churches were asked to bring supplies they had gathered for their partner school. A semi-trailer load of school supplies and books was collected in three hours. These donations were shipped to Liberia and Sierra Leone in January 1988. Since these shipments, many districts have had packing parties with hundreds of people participating. Through 20 years, more than 60 volunteers have come to the OC warehouse in Lapel, Ind. to load approximately 51,000 boxes of school, medical, and refugee supplies and equipment filling 64 overseas shipping containers valued at more than \$2.5 million.

In January 1988, the workteam program was launched, with 16 volunteers going to the W.P.L. Brumskine School in Buchanan, Liberia, to construct a security wall. A few weeks later a second team of 22 volunteers traveled to Albert Academy in Freetown, Sierra Leone, to construct a wall around the campus. Since 1987 OC has prepared and sent 381



Photo courtesy of Marilyn Giffith

Sierra Leone students like these have been supported by Hoosiers with Operation Classroom for two decades.

people to West Africa, including 13 field coordinators and 15 individual short-term volunteers. The 40 teams have worked in 12 schools and two hospitals, and have held 17 seminars for teachers. In addition to those from Indiana, Operation Classroom teams also came from Minn., Tenn. and Colo.

Through civil wars in both Sierra Leone and Liberia, Operation Classroom continued its partnership with citizens of these embattled nations. Supplies were shipped, refugee schools and medical clinics were started, and trauma counseling seminars began. Partnerships were established with five additional schools.

Medical component

In 1994 Operation Classroom established a medical component to its program – Operation Doctor. A volunteer physician and nurse were sent to Kissy Clinic in Freetown, Sierra Leone to help re-establish the program and care for the vast medical needs of this part of Freetown. In 1999 Dr. Dennis Marke, M.D. became Kissy's chief medical officer. Early in 2006, the Kissy Clinic, with its new surgical theater and post-op ward, became the UMC Kissy Hospital.

Operation Doctor is the major partner with Kissy Hospital and is responsible to raise \$15,000 to \$20,000 annually for the medications, as well as Marke's salary. Kissy Hospital has excellent HIV/AIDS, nutrition, maternity and outpatient programs.

Operation Doctor also renovated water and electrical systems at Ganta Hospital, in north Liberia. OD has provided funds for medication and fuel, has shipped supplies and equipment from Indiana to Ganta, and has assisted in renovations.

Educational ministry

Now, 20 years later, Operation Classroom continues a viable ministry in Liberia and Sierra Leone. Partnerships with 14 schools, totaling 14,000 students, include providing school supplies, vocational equipment, books, work-study grants (\$75 each) and scholarships for teachers (\$1,200) to go to college in their own country. Building renovation is another priority. One of the major emphases this year is to provide science equipment for the schools. This year OC plans for four work teams from Indiana.

Vocational education also is a priority for each school. The need

for tools and other equipment continues. Some OC schools continue to assist the West Africa conferences in helping former child soldiers and other children and youth through their trauma. The Operation Classroom-sponsored Peal Center counseling program of the Liberia Conference works with children and youth through peace clubs in schools, children-for-peace programs and a Palaver Hut Management program.

Operation Classroom's 20-year celebration includes an emphasis on student work-study grants of \$75, which provide for a student's annual academic tuition. A minimum of 1,500 work-study grants is needed. Each Indiana Area district and local church will be encouraged to plan some observance of Operation Classroom's twentieth year. Speakers are available plus a statewide celebration on Sunday evening, Oct. 28, at the Jonathan Byrd Cafeteria in Greenwood.

For more information, or to schedule a speaker for your church, contact Joe and Carolyn Wagner, co-coordinators, P.O. Box 246, Colfax, IN 46035, or e-mail ccwagner@hotmail.com, wagners@operationclassroom.org, or log on to www.operationclassroom.org.

Summer gathering to bring UMs together around mission

United Methodists from across the denomination will come together in the Chicago area for four days in August to explore what mission can mean for the church in the 21st century.

The "Bridges of Hope" Mission Gathering and Forum will take place Aug. 5-8 at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill. Participants will pray, sing and worship together while being inspired to share the evangelical message that leads to the transfor-

mation of lives and communities.

The gathering will critically analyze the changes in communities impacted by Christian mission, while affirming justice ministries and ministries of presence as legitimate forms of mission.

According to Norma Kehrberg, a retired missionary and former head of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, the conference will bring together people involved with mission at all levels of the church, from deaconesses and

home missionaries to short-term volunteers in mission and long-term cross-cultural missionaries as well as UMC professors of mission.

Paul Dirdak resigns from UMCOR position

NEW YORK (UMNS) – The Rev. Paul Dirdak has left his position as chief executive of the United Methodist Committee on Relief. His departure, effective Jan. 31, was announced by the Rev. R. Randy Day, chief executive of the

General Board of Global Ministries, UMCOR's parent agency. Dirdak, who has led UMCOR since 1998, also had overseen Mission Volunteers and Health and Welfare Ministries for the board during his tenure there.

General Board of Global Ministries, UMCOR's parent agency.

Dirdak, who has led UMCOR since 1998, also had overseen Mission Volunteers and Health and Welfare Ministries for the board during his tenure there.

healthy, alive local churches," Kehrberg said.

Information is available at www.umma-global.org.

The Rev. Sam Dixon, a staff executive who currently oversees the board's evangelization and church growth unit, will assume Dirdak's duties on an interim basis, according to Day. For more information, log on to www.umns.org.

Nothing But Nets hopes to help conquer malaria in Africa

By Lori Crantford

Sudden death. In sports, that term is used in an overtime situation where the team who scores first wins. Generally, scoring is accomplished by putting a ball through or into a net.

Sudden death. When it comes to malaria in third-world countries, one bite from an infected mosquito can, and does, result in a rather sudden death for 1,000,000 people every year. Nearly 3,000 children die every day in Africa from malaria. Amazingly, just like the scenario above, a net can make all the difference between winning and losing.

In May 2006, *Sports Illustrated* columnist Rick Reilly wrote an article entitled "Nothing But Nets." In it, he laid out the scenario of this "completely preventable" tragedy. He wrote, "See, nearly 3,000 kids die every day in Africa from malaria. And according to the World Health Organization, transmission of the disease would be reduced by 60 percent with the use of mosquito nets and prompt treatment for the infected. Three thousand kids! That's a 9/11 every day!"

"Put it this way: Let's say your little Justin's Kickin' Kangaroos have a big youth soccer tournament on Saturday. There are 15 kids on the team, 10 teams in the tourney. And there are 20 of these tournaments going on all over town. Suddenly, every one of these kids gets chills and fever, then starts throwing up and then gets short of breath. And in seven to 10 days, they're all dead of malaria."

Malaria infects more than 500 million people

Nearly 3,000 children die every day in Africa from malaria.

Nothing But #Nets

a year, and one person dies about every 30 seconds. The disease is particularly devastating in Africa, where it is a leading killer of children. Africa is home to the deadliest strain of malaria, as well as the mosquito best equipped to transmit the disease. Africa's infrastructure and economy also lends itself well to the breeding of the disease.

AIDS and malaria

AIDS and malaria go hand in hand. It is not the actual AIDS virus that causes death. The lowered immune system of AIDS patients is their deadliest enemy. Malaria is the number one killer of AIDS patients in Africa, closely followed by tuberculosis. The fight against AIDS and malaria go hand in hand.



A UMNS photo by Jay Mallin.

The Rev. Kent Millard, pastor of St. Luke's UMC in Indianapolis, announces a pledge of \$50,000 for the Nothing But Nets campaign and \$50,000 to the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund. U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., a member of St. Luke's, and Jim Winkler, top executive of the denomination's Board of Church and Society, listen to the announcement.

Global health is a primary concern to The United Methodist Church. During the December 2006 United Methodist Global Health Initiative Dialogue, Bishop Janice Riggle Huie called on the church to "stamp out the diseases of poverty, particularly malaria and HIV/AIDS."

The Rev. R. Randy Day, general secretary of the UMC General Board of Global Ministries noted that while the holidays are a time for children to celebrate, those children affected by malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS don't have the chance to do that. "The children aren't able physically to do that. They don't have the chance to live. They don't have a chance even to be children."

Nothing But Nets will give many children a chance to be children. To play. To learn. To live.

All it takes is \$10 to save a life (See "Buy a Net, Save a Life" for information on how). During Lent the Indiana Area, at Bishop Mike Coyner's request, will focus its efforts on raising money for the Nothing But Nets campaign, hopefully \$200,000.

DC reception

At a Jan. 25 reception hosted by the UMC General Board of Church and Society in Washington for United Methodists, U.S. Senators and Representatives, Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana introduced both the Rev. Dr. Kent Millard as the pastor of his home church



A UMNS photo by Mike DuBose

Sports Illustrated columnist Rick Reilly (right) visits Yesirat Gafani and her son, Afusat Gafani, to see a mosquito net at their home in Epe, near Lagos, Nigeria, provided by the Nothing But Nets campaign.

and the topic of Nothing But Nets.

Millard – sporting not only an Indianapolis Colts tie, but a Colts stole as well – thanked Lugar for his work and continued support of his home church. He then went on to announce that St. Luke's is committing \$100,000 to battle HIV/AIDS and malaria. Already \$50,000 for HIV/AIDS has been pledged through the recent three-

to-five year Powerful Possibilities Campaign. The \$50,000 for Nothing But Nets will be raised through a Lenten offering and special Nothing But Nets fundraising events.

Lori Crantford serves as director of communication for Saint Luke's United Methodist Church in Indianapolis. This story first appeared in Saint Luke's COMMUNION magazine.

Buy a Net, Save a Life

- ◆ \$10 buys one net. Hoosier United Methodists will be focusing on this initiative during Lent, are encouraged to receive special offerings for the Nothing But Nets campaign.
- ◆ The bed nets work in two ways. They stop mosquitoes from biting during the night and spreading the disease, and the insecticide on the net kills the mosquitoes when they land on it, stopping them from flying on to find their next victim. Bed nets can prevent malaria transmission by 50 percent.
- ◆ Nothing But Nets works with the Measles Initiative to purchase the nets, transport them to Africa and distribute them to families. The Measles Initiative is a long-term effort to control measles deaths that has successfully delivered more than 200 million vaccinations and other health services in sub-Saharan Africa.
- ◆ 100 percent of your donation is used to purchase nets, distribute them to families and provide education on the proper use of the net.

For more information on this campaign, visit www.umc.org or www.nothingbutnets.net.

Church hopes to transform old bank into Mulberry youth center

By Joe Larson

MULBERRY, Ind. – The vault of an old bank might not be the first place most parents would choose to send their kids, but Mulberry United Methodist Church hopes it soon will be.

In November, the Indiana Youth Institute awarded monetary and technical assistance to Abba's Place, a church-run youth center located inside the former Farmers Bank building, 112 E. Jackson St.

Mulberry UMC, 10 miles SE of Lafayette, hopes to use these resources to transform the center into the pre-eminent youth hangout spot for the town of around 1,400.

"We need more kids," said sixth-grader Freida Weber. "All

the kids from my grade think they're too cool to go."

The grant provides Abba's Place and 21 other winners across Indiana with between \$20,000 and \$25,000 for community outreach programs, as well as 120 hours of capacity-building assistance from experts in various fields.

The funding is part of the national Compassion Capital Fund Demonstration Program, one of President Bush's faith-based initiatives.

"This being a federal grant, it can't be a religious thing," said the Rev. Craig Overman, associate pastor at Mulberry UMC.

Federal regulations prohibit the money from being used for "inherently religious" activities.

To stay in compliance with the

The goal is to host a function at Abba's Place every school night to keep kids focused and out of trouble.

terms of the grant, Mulberry hopes to turn Abba's Place into a hangout spot for the entire community.

"We want to establish a drop-in center for one or two nights a week where teens can hang out," Overman said.

The church also hopes to initiate a "latch-key" program for el-

ementary and junior high school students.

The goal is to host a function at Abba's Place every school night to keep kids focused and out of trouble.

Although the drop-in center and "latch-key" program have yet to start, students from around Mulberry seem to appreciate the center's efforts so far.

"We have concerts there every so often, and I'm a big music fan," said Laura Brassie, 16, who is not a member of the church.

The center has been successful at attracting kids from different backgrounds, but the majority of attendees are still drawn from the church's 155-member congregation.

When Mulberry UMC purchased the former Farmers Bank building in 2001, it wasn't sure how its youth center would be received by the community.

Thanks to the help of the Indiana Youth Institute, the congregation now expects to attract to its youth center more kids from around Mulberry than ever before.

"I see the center being someplace for the youth of our area, giving them needed skills to make appropriate decisions," said the Rev. Linda Dolby, senior pastor of Mulberry UMC.

Joe Larson serves as a reporter for the Journal & Courier of Lafayette, Ind. This story was used by permission. ©2006 Journal & Courier.

Capital Funds Campaign for the North Indiana Conference camping ministry

Super Bowl thinking: the joy of going for the win!

By Jean M. Brindel

RCA Dome for the AFC Division Championship Play-Off Game,

The Super Bowl in Miami between the Indianapolis Colts and the Chicago Bears is history. Now the "Monday morning quarterbacking" takes place, and will probably go on for months, since this was the last game – THE BIG GAME – of the NFL season and a big win for the Colts.

My sister and her husband are true-blue Colts fans with season tickets and all. As they were parking their car and walking to the



Brindel

they were thinking "winning and the Super Bowl." As they walked the few block from the parking garage to the Dome, people were on the street bidding for tickets. "Hey, I'll give you \$300." They smiled and walked on; they were going to the game. "Sell your tickets? \$500

bucks – cash!" They looked at each other and in unison responded, "Nah, we're go'n to the game."

They work hard for their money and are both very middle-class

Information about the North Indiana UMC Conference camps can be found by logging on to its Web site at www.impact2818.com.

working people, so \$1,000 in their pocket for two tickets was no small matter. They stopped on the sidewalk about two blocks from the Dome and had a conversation between them. When would they sell the tickets? Where was the point that the experience of being in the Dome, surrounded by fans, excitement and possibilities of the win, would be less important than the money? They talked it over and in about 15 seconds came to a price – \$1,000 per ticket. Yea, two grand was their price! They got within a block – "\$700?" At the steps of the stadium, the sound rang out – "\$800." No, they went to the game. I asked her if it was worth it.

She replied, "It was the most incredible experience of being part of the joy of going for the win!"

The words – "going for the win" filled my mind, as I could relate that excitement with North Indiana's Out Door Ministry.

There are numerous fans of Out Door Ministry in Indiana: Epworth Forest, Camp Adventure, Pine Creek and Lakewood. We remember "the most incredible experience of energy, excitement and just plain fun" of that week at camp or weekend retreat.

We are now being asked, as we move into this North Indiana Camping capital fund campaign, "How important was that experi-

ence? What is its value to you?"

As the plans for the upgrade and new construction at the camp sites are planned, each of us in the North Indiana Conference is asked the question, "What is the camping experience worth to your children – youth – people who will be won for Jesus Christ and the life of the church?"

There are many voices out there bidding for your time, attention and faithfulness. The question we need to step aside and ask is "What is the joy of winning people for Jesus Christ worth – to me – to them – to the reign of God?" Super Bowl thinking – "the joy of going for the win!"

The Rev. Jean Brindel serves as senior pastor of Saint Matthew UMC in Frankfort, Ind., and is chair of the North Indiana Conference Camp Design Leadership team.

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT

Speaking of fenjoozlers

By Todd Outcalt

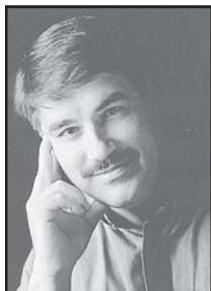
recognize how those who have no church background or history in the church struggle with

Some weeks ago I was watching a professional golf match on TV. As one of the golfers hit a majestic shot that hopped and bit the green, the announcer commented excitedly, "Wow, what a fenjoozler!" Of course, I had not idea what this meant, but later, it was explained that a fenjoozler (an actual golf term!) is "a golf shot that, after being struck, skips twice on the green and comes to a sudden stop."

Now, hearing this golf term for the first time, I was struck by the fact that our use of words can often be more esoteric than helpful. I guess you could say I had my own fenjoozler awakening. But I began to think about the ways that we use language in the church.

In his recent title, *Eat This Book*, Eugene Peterson makes the observation that the Gospels were written in such a common form of Greek that many in the early church were embarrassed by the simplicity – even gutter language – of the text. The *koine* Greek of the first century wasn't slang, exactly, but it was more akin to the language that people might speak in the home, at the grocery or when conversing with good friends. The Gospel writers and the Apostle Paul used this unpolished language to speak of the intervention of God in human life. Peterson points out that this simple and direct language is the way that God speaks to us.

Taking note of this reality, I wonder how often we fail to



Outcalt

our language. From time to time, I catch myself for example speaking about "the parable of the Good Samaritan," only to realize that I may actually have to tell the story for people to know what I'm talking about. Sometimes, I banter

with words like "grace," "love" or "shalom" only to realize that I might need to offer further explanation of these terms. And how often have we gone to a conference meeting only to hear someone speak of UMCOR, CCOM or CF&A leaving others to ponder the meaning of these strange terms?

More recently, I offered a Christianity 101 class in the congregation for those who might have basic questions about the faith – using the Apostle's Creed as a guide. My hope was that people could come together to ask questions, explore ideas and even ponder the nature of God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the life of faith. Words could be explained, and our currency would be the good news that the church has proclaimed for centuries.

I doubt I'll use the word "fenjoozler" any time soon in a sermon – but I might, indeed, use a word or two that another person may not understand. In the meantime, I'll have to watch my language and make sure I don't spout too many fenjoozlers of my own.

Todd Outcalt serves as senior pastor of Calvary United Methodist Church in Brownsburg, Ind.

Hoosier in London seeks deeper meaning of social justice

By Lisa Marchal

When I first arrived in London, people back home (in Indiana) expected that my time here would be fascinating. And parts of it have been. The other day, a group of friends got special seating, up in the choir boxes, for evensong at Saint Paul's Cathedral, and by accident we met the Bishop of London.

My fellowship group meets across the street from Westminster Abbey. It's good stuff. But I don't have a TV, so I spend way too much time fiddling on news Web sites, Google and YouTube. I get bored, quite lonely and homesick – a big healthy dose of real life, all the time.

The primary point of being here is allowing time for concentrated study on human rights. I learned by the end of the first week of term that this would be a challenge. The field is wide and has its own canon of works, heralded scholars and jargon, all of which are relatively new to me. But I don't see any way around this study, if I want to dig more deeply into the crucial ministry of social justice. People have asked why I'm changing careers. I didn't know that I was. I find that question strange, interesting and sad. Whenever I get asked this, I wonder if social justice and the church are seen, at best, as merely related or, at worst, as two separate entities entirely. That's worrisome.

From where I sit, one of United Methodists crown jewels is the United Methodist Committee on Relief and local missionaries. UMC's ability to mobilize quickly for emergency relief, and its ongoing passion for mission work, are remarkable. The sweep of Scripture clearly calls us to these

Human rights, like works of compassion, are about honoring human dignity.

things, but Scripture also calls us to even more than this.

One of our lecturers quoted Oxfam America, an international relief and development agency, by reframing the old "teach a person to fish" adage. You may have heard it: "Give a person a fish and there's food for a day. Teach a person to fish and there's food for a lifetime." As the lecturer reminded us, that's not really true, if the fish have all been taken from the water because of greed or pollution. Maybe the fish are there, but the fishing poles are all broken or there's no equitable market for selling what is caught. There are moments when mercy is needed; and there are times when systems need to be changed. Human rights, like works of compassion, are about honoring human dignity.

To paraphrase yet another lecturer, human rights establishes the basic standard of human respect below which we dare not sink. Negotiating just how this plays out in practical terms is infinitely complicated, but the exercise can be managed if there is first a basic agreement to honor human dignity. The church was in the mix when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was drafted after World War II, but our influence on the development of the modern concept of human rights has been there since the beginning of the church itself. With this heritage, the UMC is reminded that it can play an appropriate,

passionate, informed, effective role in the work of social justice. In fact, it must.

With all due respect to my terrific classmates, I've noticed that I come at our course a bit differently than most of them, who are tackling this from a secular perspective both personally and professionally. I wonder if this accounts for a measure of despair and cynicism I've observed in many of them.

I feel fortunate for my faith informs me that God's love has, does and will prevail. Because of this, I have a reserve of hope that keeps me going as I read yet another graphic page of atrocities or become incredibly frustrated by how bureaucratic bloat or lack of will enables injustices to continue.

In God, I also find forgiveness in those moments when I'm faced with my own complicity in all that goes wrong in this world. But while I experience this hope and forgiveness, I am reminded that God is demanding that we speak truth to power, and that we speak it in love. We help write the story of creation, and separate ourselves from the purposes and power of God when we abdicate our responsibility to create living systems that recognize and protect the dignity of our brothers and sisters. So, with God's help, I intend to keep trying.

Lisa Marchal serves as a clergy member of the South Indiana Conference who is on student leave in England.

Lucille Raines Residence to celebrate 30th anniversary

INDIANAPOLIS – The Lucille Raines Residence stories will be told during the agency's 30th anniversary celebration and open house on Monday, April 30 from 1 to 7:30 p.m. Special presentations about this ministry are scheduled for 2 and 6 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Churches and districts are encouraged to bring bus loads of people to ex-

perience firsthand this unique ministry.

Come hear testimonies of lives changed and tour the facility that is home to all who enter its doors. Meet the staff that works diligently to assure a warm welcoming environment that offers hope and wholeness



Lucille Raines

that is manifested in transformed lives. Yes, God continues to bless the ministry at Raines. Come witness what a powerful ministry Hoosiers are involved in through this residence.

Lucille Raines Residence, located at 947 North Pennsylva-

nia Street in Indianapolis, serves as a facility owned and operated by Indiana Area United Methodist Women. Many of the men and women, who are residents, are actively engaged in rebuilding their lives from substance abuse, some are parolees; others are visually impaired. They all share in learning to function independently and as

whole people in life.

For more information and answers to question about this ministry, contact Carolyn Marshall, executive director, at 317-636-3328 (phone), 317-636-0073 (fax), or e-mail at cmarshall@sprintmail.com. Information is available online by logging on to www.gbgn-umc.org/lucilleraines.

Lay eligibility for General, Jurisdictional Conferences corrected mailing

A recent mailing sent to members of South Indiana Conference regarding election of delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences erroneously stated that laity must be Lay Members of the Annual Conference in order to be elected. But ¶36 of the 2004 *Book of Discipline* (p. 32) states: "[Lay] delegates shall have been profess-

ing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years next preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election, and are members thereof within the annual conference electing them at the time of holding the General and

jurisdictional...conferences." Being a Lay Member of Annual Conference is NOT a requirement for election.

Annual Conference Lay Members are members elected from their local church, with an additional number elected from each district, to attend business sessions of the conference. Conference Lay

Members elect General and Jurisdictional Conference lay delegates, but the pool of eligible laity is much larger, consisting of all United Methodists who meet the requirements spelled out in ¶36 of *The Book of Discipline*.

South Indiana Conference Secretary Curtis Hurley says he knows of no instance in the histo-

ry of the conference that a General or Jurisdictional Conference delegate was also not a Lay Member of the annual conference, but that conceivably it could happen.

"Who knows?" Hurley said. "Because we had to draw attention to this fact, maybe this is the year a non-conference member will be elected."

North Indiana School of Christian Mission to meet in July at Manchester

The North Indiana Conference United Methodist Women 2007 School of Christian Mission Theme is "Sing Across the Walls! 'I'm gonna live so God can use me. Anywhere Lord, Anytime!'"

- The 2007 studies include:
- ◆ Social Issue Study: Globalization: It's impact in our lives.
 - ◆ Geographic Study: Israel and Palestine.
 - ◆ Spiritual Growth Study (all participate): Music and Mission

The North Indiana United Methodist Women invite all men, women, youth and children to join them for an enriching experience at Manchester College this summer. Drive in Day is scheduled for Wednesday, July 11 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The regular School of Christian Mission is scheduled for Wednesday, July 11, 7:30 p.m. through Saturday, July 14, 3:30 p.m.

Running concurrently with

SCM will be a children's program: Chi-Mi-Ca for ages 3 through 4th grade and the Young People's Mission Camp: Yo-Pe-Mi-Ca for youth in middle school through age 17.

Contact North Indiana Conference district United Methodist Women presidents for more information or e-mail ladonnarw@aol.com or mami9923@yahoo.com.

On-site nursing master's program awards first degrees at University of Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS (UIndy) – A unique partnership between the United Methodist-related University of Indianapolis and Clarian Health has produced its first master's degree graduates, all of them working nurses who were able take their courses at Clarian's Methodist Hospital, Indiana University Hospital and Riley Hospital for Children.

Increasingly at the nation's top hospitals, registered nurses are expected to hold four-year degrees, and nurses in administrative or training roles are expected to hold advanced degrees. Continuing education can pose a challenge for nurses, however, as they typically work demanding 12-hour shifts, said Sharon Isaac, dean of

the School of Nursing at UIndy.

"Not only does the healthcare system face a shortage of nurses, but the nurses themselves face a shortage of viable education options," Isaac said, noting that the on-site program is one of very few in the state. "Our programs allow these nurses to pursue their degrees on a schedule that works for them, without having to leave the Clarian facilities."

The partnership began more than three years ago when Clarian sought proposals for on-site degree programs. The UIndy School of Nursing faculty developed curricula for a Master of Science in Nursing Education and a Master of Science in Nursing Administration, along with a Bachelor of Sci-

ence in Nursing to further the education of RNs who hold associate's degrees or diplomas from hospital-based programs. The courses at the Indianapolis hospitals also are open to nurses from the Clarian West Medical Center in Avon and the Clarian North Medical Center in Carmel.

The first group of 17 master's students completed their nursing education degrees in December, a process that generally takes 2½ years of part-time study. Another group will receive Master of Science in Nursing Administration degrees in May. The bachelor's degree program is expected to graduate 24 students during this academic year.

For more information, log on to www.uindy.edu.

Garrett-Evangelical announces appointment of Naylor

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill., announces the appointment of the Rev. Bruce Naylor as Development Associate for the Indiana Area. This part-time position is designed to help Garrett-Evangelical keep alums and friends informed about

the seminary's mission, the challenges it faces in training the next generation of church leaders, and the partnership role alums and friends can play in helping prepare leaders for the church. Naylor, a 1974 graduate of GTS, is a retired member of the South Indiana Con-

ference. He previously served 12 years as a pastor in the Northern Illinois Conference. In South Indiana he served as Executive Director of the Evansville Area Council of Churches and the same position with the Greater Indianapolis Federation of Churches. – G-ETS

United Methodist Memorial Home in Warren changes name to Heritage Pointe

WARREN, Ind. – United Methodist Memorial Home recently became known as Heritage Pointe. The name change represents the home's commitment to its rich, Christian heritage and coincides with the community's updated image and growth of services. For 97 years, Heritage Pointe has offered seniors a safe, caring and nurturing place to call home.

"The name Heritage Pointe represents our continued commitment to build upon our heritage of caring," said David P. Souder, CEO and administrator. "The only thing changing about us is the name – we are still offering the

same level of high quality care and living facilities to people in the region."

Heritage Pointe's newly renovated facilities provide residential living, assisted living and health care services based on the needs of its residents.

For further information, please contact Jill Huston at Heritage Pointe by calling 260-375-2201 or log on to www.ummh.org.



A UNITED METHODIST MEMORIAL COMMUNITY

Oakwood Park announces upcoming events

Oakwood Park, located on Lake Wawasee, in northern Indiana is a center for family vacations, church camps, conferences and retreats.

Several special events have been planned during the Spring months and are open to the public. On Feb. 20, a Sweet Heart Banquet is scheduled with a buffet dinner and a program by the Crimsonaires of Goshen High School.

The Lakes Area Players will present Christ's Passion this Lent. Christ's Passion tells the story of Jesus Christ but with a different set, a different script and different music that has been previously used. This is only the second year for this performance. "Simon of Cyrene and his two young sons come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover feast and to see the young prophet Jesus. Soon the mood turns dark and the very people who have worshipped Him are now calling for

Him to be crucified!" Performances are scheduled for 7 p.m., March 30, 31, April 1, 5, 6, 7 with matinees on March 31 and April 7. Tickets are \$10, general admission; \$8 children K-12, seniors over 60 and groups of 10 or more.

On April 20, Kathy Troccoli will be in-concert in the Program Center. Her personal convictions and faith are revealed in her music.

On July 1, the Ft. Wayne Philharmonic will present its annual patriotic concert on the lawn. Come, bring a lawn chair, and enjoy this truly unique evening at Oakwood.

More information on housing, dining, meetings, and events can be obtained by calling Oakwood Christian Retreat and Conference Center For more informatino, reservations for Christ's Passion and/or housing, call Oakwood Inn 574-457-5600 or log onto www.oakwoodfoundation.org.

DEATHS

SEAN MICHAEL BEALL, son of the Rev. Michael Beall of Muncie Fountain Square UMC (NIC), died Jan. 20, 2007 in Lafayette. A memorial service was held Jan. 25 at the Kroeger Funeral Home in Logansport, Ind. with the Rev. Michael Beall officiating. Condolences and personal remembrances can be sent to the Rev. Michael Beall, 4401 S. Madison St., Muncie, IN 47302-5670.

MAXINE DAVIDSON, widow of the late Rev. S Howard Davidson (SIC), died Jan. 16, 2007. A memorial service is scheduled for 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18 at Christ UMC, 8540 US 31 South, in Indianapolis. Survivors include: Son, Guy E Davidson; Daughter, Jeannette McNevin, four grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions can be made to the American Cancer Society or Indiana United Methodist Chil-

dren's Home, P.O. Box 747, Lebanon, IN 46052.

TRAVIS & JACOB FINDLEY, two grandsons of the Rev. Dewey Findley, retired Elder (NIC), were killed in a car-train wreck on Feb. 3, 2007. Travis, 9, and Jacob, 12, died when the SUV in which they were riding was struck by a train in Johnson County. Condolences may be sent to Rev. and Mrs. Dewey Findley, 315 Methodist Dr. W., Franklin, IN 46131-2175.

PAUL W. GARNER, retired pastor (NIC), died Jan. 25, 2007. A memorial service was held Jan. 31 in the Amanda Reid Chapel at Wesley Manor in Frankfort, Ind. Survivors include: His wife, Irene. Condolences can be sent to Irene Garner, 1555 N. Main St., Frankfort, IN 46041. Memorials can be given to the Good Samaritan Fund at Wesley Manor, 1555 North Main St., Frankfort, Ind. 46041.

DANNY KELLUM, father of Manet Shettle, North Indiana Conference Controller and Marion District Lay Leader, died Jan. 24, 2007. A memorial service was held Jan. 27 at First UMC in Alexandria, Ind. Memorials can be

made to the Epworth UMC, PO Box 31, Alexandria, IN 46001 and to Truck Stop Ministries.

MARTHA LIGHTFOOT, widow of the late Rev. Staten Lightfoot (SIC), died Feb. 4, 2007. A memorial service was held Feb. 7 at Seabrooks, Dieckman-Naville Funeral Home in New Albany, Ind. Survivors include: a niece, Shirley Griffey, 4102 Lilac Vista Dr., Louisville, KY 40241.

WALTER MAYER, pastor and former district superintendent (NIC), died Feb. 1, 2007. Mayer also wrote a column for the *Hoosier United Methodist News*. A memorial service was held Feb. 8 at Christ UMC in Lafayette. Survivors include: His wife, Nancy. Condolences can be sent to her at 4038 S. 575 E., Bringhurst, IN 46913-9449. Memorials can be made to Grace UMC, 212 W. Walnut St., Kokomo, IN 46901-4512 and to Christ UMC, 3610 S. 18th St., Lafayette, IN 47909.

JANICE E. SHOAFF, mother of the Rev. Scott Shoaff of Garrett UMC (NIC), died Jan. 31, 2007. A memorial service was

held Feb. 3 at Christ UMC in Fort Wayne, Ind. Condolences can be sent to Rev. Scott Shoaff, 2006 Shady Lane, Garrett, IN 46738.

WILLIAM F. SWEIGART, retired local pastor (SIC), died Dec. 21, 2006. A memorial service was held at Jacob Finger UMC in Mitchell, Ind. with burial in the Mitchell Cemetery. Survivors include: Wife, Donna Sweigart; two sons, Fred Sweigart and Tony Sweigart; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Condolences can be sent to Donna Sweigart, 1013 W Brook St, Mitchell, IN 47446

SUZANNE WASHLER, mother of the Rev. Zach Washler (NIC), died Dec. 28, 2006. A memorial service was held Dec. 31. Condolences can be sent to the Rev. Zach & Erin Washler, 1151 Forest Dr., Frankfort, IN 46041.

JOHN VANDERAA, brother-in-law of the Rev. Heather Olson-Bunnell, associate pastor at First UMC in Wabash (NIC), died Jan. 11, 2007. Condolences can be sent to the Rev. Heather Olson-Bunnell, 963 Oak Park Dr., Roanoke, IN 46783-9107 or to *revhob@yahoo.com*.

South Indiana Conference News Briefs

Nominations open in South Indiana Conference for Denman Award

The Denman Evangelism Award was established in 1980 by The Foundation for Evangelism to honor pastors and laity doing responsible evangelism in the local church. In 1980, it was a national award. After nominations had been received from individuals in all five jurisdictions, the Executive Committee of The Foundation for Evangelism selected one clergy and one lay person who were honored to begin the program. In 1981, the Denman Awards were introduced to annual conferences so they could have the opportunity of honoring one clergy and one lay person annually.

This is a time of inspiration which reminds all attending the conference of the church's purpose for existence – "to make disciples of Jesus Christ."

The Denman Evangelism Award is given to a pastor or lay person who is effective in making disciples of Jesus Christ. This can involve speaking, personal witnessing, inspiring the church to be involved in evangelism. The ones honored should be individuals whose life style brings honor to Christ and the Church.

Nominations for the Denman award will be reviewed by the Rev. Paula Young Mayberry and the Committee of CG&E. Forms for both laity and clergy area available from the South Indiana Conference Center by logging on to www.sicumc.org/ministries_and_mission.htm. The nomination forms need to be completed and returned to: Misty Boswell, South Indiana Conference Center, 1520 S. Liberty Dr., Bloomington, IN 47403 no later than April 13 or by e-mail at mboswell@sicumc.org.

South Indiana Scholarships for Undergraduate study available

The South Indiana Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry is anxious to get the word out to high school seniors

and undergraduate college students about its intention to award small (\$250 - \$1000) scholarships to students who are members of The United Methodist Church and who will be matriculating at a United Methodist College or University in the Fall, 2007.

These scholarships are made directly to the students and are designed to assist with the many unexpected expenses students encounter when starting a new year in their college or university.

To receive a Merit Scholarship application form, please contact Elsie Miller at the South Indiana Conference Center by e-mail at emiller@sicumc.org or call 800-919-8160. Applications must be received at the Conference Center by July 1.

Music group needed for South Indiana Annual Conference Session June 6-9

The South Indiana Conference seeks a small group (pianist, guitarist, drummer, vocalist) to help with singing throughout the conference. Please contact Lynn Renne at 812-477-7816 or email at LRenne@sigecom.net.

Small-membership churches invited to award in South Indiana Conference

Small-membership churches, a section of Church Growth and Evangelism, wish to recognize outstanding small membership churches in the South Indiana Conference. Only churches with average attendance up to 99 worshipers may apply for this award. For those wishing to apply, please contact Misty Boswell at 800-919-8160 or 812-336-0186 ext. 222 for an application form.

Entries will be reviewed by a committee of pastors from North Indiana Conference and the SIC recipient will be presented a certificate at the South Indiana Annual Conference session in June.

Applications must be returned to Misty Boswell, 1520 S Liberty Dr., Bloomington, IN 47403 no later than March 12.

APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Michael J. Coyner has announced the following changes within the Indiana Area. All dates effective 2007 unless otherwise noted. These appointments are based on Cabinet reports received by Indiana Area Communication during the month of January 2007.

North Indiana Conference
Chinn, David W. from no appointment to Sugar Grove, Marion, 1/1

Cruea, Phillip from Ebenezer, Kokomo to no appointment, 12/31/06

Halferty, Michael from Epworth, Marion to Mount Pleasant, Fort Wayne, 2/1

Holcomb, Donna first appointment to Alvarado, Fort Wayne, 10/1/06

Morris, Jason Bryce from no appointment to Muncie Center Chapel, Muncie, 1/1

Moss, Scott from Garrett, Fort Wayne to Incapacity, 10/1/06

Robyn, J. Glen from Illinois Great Rivers Conference to West

Lafayette First 346.1, Lafayette, 1/1

Robyne, Lana from Illinois Great Rivers Conference to West Lafayette First 346.1, Lafayette, 1/1

Schaetzle, Jo An from Mishawaka Coalbush, Michiana to no appointment, 1/1

Shoaff, Scott D. from Kendallville Faith, Fort Wayne to Garrett, Fort Wayne, 1/1

Waggoner, Gregory from Elwood Grace, Marion to Marion Christland, Marion, 2/1

South Indiana Conference
Cagle, William from Extension Ministry 335.1b Randolph-Macon Academy to Retirement, 6/30/06

Chandler, Terry from Longs Chapel/Shelburn, Vincennes to Midway Par: Graysville, Vincennes, 11/15

Crawford, M. Alice from St. Peter's, St. Peters: Caborn St. John's, Evansville to no appointment, 2/1

Felstein, David from Coal City and Coal City: Beech, Terre Haute to Coal City, Terre Haute, 9/14/06

Hults, Judy from Mt. Calvary, Terre Haute to no appointment, 9/30/06

Killian, Charles D. from Mayodan, North Carolina to Retirement, 6/30/06

Matthews, Tim from no appointment to Union Chapel, Terre Haute, 9/1/06

Palmer-Smith, Bryan from no appointment to Fillmore, Terre Haute, 12/1/06

Pierce, John from no appointment to Linton: Nine Mile, Bloomington, 2/1

Rixman, Robert E. from Osgood, Columbus to no appointment 1/31

Snodgrass, Richard Matthew from no appointment to Hayden, Columbus, 1/1

Taylor, Seth from no appointment to Wesley, Rushville, 12/1/06

Voll, Tim from Brazil: Epworth, Terre Haute, to no appointment, 9/30/06

Fort Wayne pastor appointed as part-time military chaplain in Air National Guard

FORT WAYNE, Ind. – The 122nd Fighter Wing of the Air National Guard at the Fort Wayne International Airport recently announced the appointment of the Rev. Kent A. Lundy as a part-time Protestant Chaplain. Lundy's primary focus will be

leading worship, pastoral care and preparing for possible deployment.

Lundy is an ordained Elder in the North Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church serving as the senior associate pastor at Aldersgate United Meth-

odist Church in Fort Wayne. He received a Bachelor of Arts from United Methodist related Southwestern College in Winfield, Kan. He is married to the Rev. Marti Gates Lundy, pastor of Evangelical UMC in Huntington.

Learning opportunities in the North Indiana Conference

Women of the Bible: She is Worthy

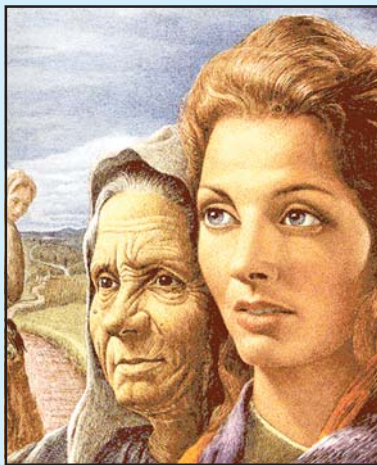
April 13-14, 2007: Friday 6 to 9 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fort Wayne Quality Hotel in Ft. Wayne, Ind. Leader: Marjorie Kimbrough, author, educator, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of California and the Interdenominational Theological Center.

Cost: \$75 (Appointed North Indiana ministers, full or part-time \$60). Each participant is asked to read *She Is Worthy* by Marjorie L. Kimbrough, prior to the seminar.

This course will present an in depth review of thirty-seven biblical women.

The scriptures involving these women will be studied, and the situations in which these women find themselves will be reviewed. In each instance the class participants will evaluate the sense of self-esteem these women exhibited even in biblical times.



For more information or to register for these events, call Diane Kelley at the North Indiana Conference Center toll-free at 800-783-5138 or by e-mail at diane@nicumc.org.

Mission work experience with team training

April 21 - 28, 2007 in D'Iberville, Miss.

Journey to D'Iberville, Mississippi, with other potential mission leaders to serve the Seashore District in the reconstruction of homes.

Each day, there will be an educational presentation that will cover:

- ⊕ Team characteristics and development for adult and youth teams,
- ⊕ Cultural considerations,
- ⊕ Health, safety and other liability issues,
- ⊕ The spiritual dimension of mission work, and finally,
- ⊕ The entry and reentry effects on individuals taking part in mission work.

Following each educational session, the teams will return to a worksite. Each participant will receive a training resource materials notebook and a devotional guide.

Leaders: the Rev. Donald and Dorothy Dexheimer. Cost: \$300 with NIC scholarships available. Additional money will be needed for the trip. Food is provided while on site. For information, call the Rev. Donald and Dorothy Dexheimer at the Akron UMC at 574-893-7123 or e-mail:

church@a-umc.org. Space is limited. Those wishing to participate need to register or contact the Dexheimers before March 3.

A required orientation is scheduled to be held March 3 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Grace UMC in Rochester, Ind.



North Indiana Conference † United Methodist Church † Post Office Box 869 † 1105 North Western Avenue
Marion, Indiana 46952 † Web address: www.nicumc.org † e-mail address: info@nicumc.org † 800-783-5138

Summer 2007



Each summer Outdoor Ministries provides quality Christian camping experiences for youth and adults. Whether attending a traditional cabin camp or embarking on an out of state adventure, one fundamental premise exists, each camper is accepted for who they are and provided with a nurturing environment where they can truly experience Christ's unconditional love.

For more information about Summer 2007, to request additional brochures, or for campsite specific details please visit our website or call the Outdoor Ministries office.

Sign up today and save!

Take advantage of the early bird registration discount and register before April 30th, 2007, and receive a \$15 discount.

www.outdoor-ministries.org

1.800.919.8160

