

HOOSIER UNITED METHODISTS together



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March Madness advances Nothing But Nets

By United Methodist News Service

Against the backdrop of college basketball's March Madness, United Methodists have rallied around the Nothing But Nets anti-malaria campaign by sponsoring church and conference basketball tournaments, challenges and other fundraisers.

The people of The United Methodist Church are partnering in Nothing But Nets with the United Nations Foundation, the National Basketball Association's NBA Cares initiative, Sports Illustrated and other organizations to prevent malaria by delivering insecticide-treated bed nets to Africa. A donation of \$10 covers the cost of one bed net, which protects families from malaria-carrying mosquitoes.

In Indiana, Bishop Mike Coyner issued a "March Madness for Missions" challenge to support Nothing But Nets and the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund. He asked every United Methodist family to purchase at least one bed net and each congregation to donate at least \$1 per member to the Global AIDS Fund.

"Indiana is a state which loves basketball," said Coyner, "and so it seemed appropriate to challenge United Methodists in Indiana to use this time of March Madness to have a March Madness for Missions."

His challenge followed an announcement earlier this year from St. Luke's UMC in Indianapolis, which pledged \$50,000 to Nothing But Nets and \$50,000 to the Global AIDS Fund.

According to Lori Crantford, director of communications at St. Luke's UMC, the 6,000-member congregation was successful in raising approximately \$60,000 for Nothing But Nets during Lent, and money is still coming in. Crantford said, "When asked to 'Buy a Net. Save a Life.' the congregation responded with overwhelming enthusiasm and generosity."

Across the church

In South Carolina, 800 young people competed in the annual South Carolina United Methodist State Basketball Tournament March 9-11, raising more than \$1,100 for Nothing But Nets. "We heard about the project and adopted it as our own," said tournament director Bob Fowler. The event included a worship service led by Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor.

India Hook UMC in Rock Hill, S.C., raised \$380 with a basketball event that included a free-throw competition and a game called NET – "like HORSE, only shorter," said the Rev. Joseph James. And South Carolina's Conference Council on Youth Ministries is selling T-shirts designed

United Methodists are being asked to skip a meal, send a net and save a life on April 25, Africa Malaria Day.

by youth in the conference.

In Nebraska, an all-night Nothing But Nets basketball tournament held March 30-31 at Elkhorn Hills United Methodist Church. In addition to giving a trophy to the team that won the most games, the church gave a trophy to the team that saved the most lives.

Other churches and conferences found their own ways to challenge their members.

The Western North Carolina Conference, for instance, asked each family to buy a bed net for Nothing But Nets.

In the Texas Conference, Woodville UMC dedicated its Lenten mission offering to the campaign, said the Rev. Tommy Williams, who introduced the idea at the church's Ash Wednesday service.

Raising money, awareness

In Minnesota, Bishop Sally Dyck urged youth to get involved in Nothing But Nets while wearing the campaign's "Buzz-kill" T-shirt.

"Youth in Minnesota seem to be really excited about the ways in which they can do something about malaria through Nothing But Nets," Dyck said. "Admittedly it's a challenge to explain to them, as I did at a recent confirmation rally, that malaria is transmitted through mosquitoes – when they all know that the state bird of Minnesota is a mosquito!"

"Yet they 'get' that usually the worst thing that can happen to you from a mosquito in Minnesota is a big itch, while a mosquito can mean death to a child in other parts of the world."

The Arkansas Conference recently wrapped up a partnership with FM radio station The Buzz 103.7 for the high school basketball game of the week. During half-time, local United Methodist youth ministers talked about the local church's positive impact on area youth and shared information about Nothing But Nets.

In Arkansas, Batesville First UMC hosted a potluck and silent auction, Benton First UMC hosted a praise concert, and Fairview UMC in Camden selected Nothing But Nets as its March mission of the month.

At Trinity UMC in Little Rock, Nothing But Nets was part of the church's



Photo by Lori Crantford, St. Luke's UMC

Senior Pastor Kent Millard of St. Luke's UMC in Indianapolis (left), pauses with NBA's Indiana Pacers Head Coach Rick Carlisle and Pacers mascot Boomer during a Nothing But Nets fund raiser at the church on Sunday, March 18.

"March Madness" campaign in Sunday morning groups, the church newsletter and e-mails. The campaign focused on the "madness" of spending so much money on sporting events and parties while spending so little on caring for the less fortunate.

"We believe that this initiative is something that everyone can get involved in. It's easy, it's exciting and it's enriching," said James Bentley, director of youth ministries at Trinity. "You know, here in Arkansas, we truly understand how irritating those mosquitoes can be, but we take for granted how we are protected. This is an opportunity for us to reach across the divide and make a significant difference."

'I saved a family today'

At Cabot (Ark.) UMC, youth director Denise Wilson and about 30 young people partnered with Cabot High School to create a one-day, three-on-three basketball tournament that raised more than \$3,000. Funds were raised through team entries, concession sales, community sponsorships and T-shirt sales. The youth also took donations before and after church on two separate Sundays. Those who gave \$10 or more received a lapel sticker stating, "I saved a family today. What did you do?"

The experience helped the youth become more mission-minded. "It was neat to see the youth get their minds around the fact that we were saving lives," Wilson said.

More campaigns are coming up. The Alabama-West Florida Conference is making Nothing But Nets a focus of its annual conference gathering in June, and Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster has challenged the people to raise enough money to buy 10,000 bed nets. "On Sunday evening, June 3, we will act together to save 10,000 lives! Get creative and involved," he wrote in a weekly letter to the conference.

In addition, United Methodists are being asked to skip a meal, send a net and save a life on April 25, Africa Malaria Day. Bishop Janice Riggle Huie, president of the denomination's Council of Bishops, is asking United Methodists and others to skip lunch that day and use their lunch money to buy a bed net. April 25 also has been designated Malaria Awareness Day in the United States by President Bush.

Go to www.UMC.org/nets and donate online to Nothing But Nets, order "Buzz-kill" T-shirts and other promotional material, and download resources, including suggestions about how churches can get involved, graphics and worship materials. For more information, log on to www.nothingbutnets.net.

Compiled by Deborah White with reports from conference communicators Mark Barden, Eleanor Colvin, Meredyth Earnest, Dan Gangler, Victoria Rebeck, Martha Taylor, Allison Trussell and Kathryn Witte.

Living as Easter people

The holy season of Easter – the great 50 days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday – calls us to live as Easter people. By contrast, sometimes we settle for just being “church people.” There is really quite a difference between those two lifestyles.

- ◆ Easter people base their faith on the sacrifice of the Cross and the victory of Easter. Church people base their faith on their own busy work in the church.
- ◆ Easter people trust in Christ; church people try to earn this salvation by being good people.
- ◆ Easter people know that the church is the Body of Christ; church people believe the church is just another institution.
- ◆ Easter people worship out of a sense of joy and give their offerings out of a sense of gratitude to God. Church people too often attend worship and give to the church budget out of a sense of obligation. And most importantly,
- ◆ Easter people approach their own death of the death of a loved one anticipating the promise of Resurrection. Church people fear death and live life with a sense of dread.



Do you hear the difference? Church people are good people, hard working people, often the backbone of their community, respectable and faithful. Easter people are church people who have finally discovered what the Christian faith is all about.

It's sad when some people live their whole life as what John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, called “Almost Christians.” Wesley urged the church people of his day to discover what he had finally discovered in the heart-warming experience we call his Aldersgate Experience. Wesley searched and searched to know God, to find joy in his faith and to have an assurance of God's grace.

When he attended a prayer meeting on Aldersgate Street in London, England he heard the group leader reading from Martin Luther. He heard about Luther's focus from Romans that “the just shall live by faith.”

Wesley writes that he felt his heart “strangely warmed” and finally he knew for himself God's love and forgiveness. At that moment, Wesley changed from being a hard-working, religious and dutiful church person. Wesley became an Easter person.

Former superintendent of Lafayette District to return

Bishop Mike Coyner announced on March 9 the appointment of the Rev. Katharine “Kate” Lehman Walker as an interim district superintendent of the Lafayette District in the North Indiana Annual Conference, effective June 16.

Lehman Walker, 58, will succeed the Rev. Michelle Cobb, who has served as district superintendent of the Lafayette District since 2001. Coyner announced earlier in March Cobb's appointment as superintendent of the Calumet District also effective June 16.

Lehman Walker, who served as superintendent of the Lafayette District from 1995 to 2001 prior to Cobb's appointment, returns from retirement to fulfill this responsibility which Coyner terms as an “interim” or short-term appointment to care for the Lafayette District while decisions are made by the Imagine Indiana process about the number of districts and other issues related to a possible unity of the North and South Indiana conferences of the church to create a new conference. That decision will be made in June at the North Indiana Annual Conference session at Purdue University in West Lafayette and the South Indiana Annual Conference session at Indiana University in Bloomington.

Coyner said, “After considering that option further, Kate seemed the logical person, since she lives in West Lafayette and previously served as superintendent of the Lafayette District. I asked Kate to consider coming out of retirement to serve for a short-term basis, and she readily agreed. The Cabinet is excited to have Kate rejoin

the group, and I personally look forward to her leadership in this ministry.”

Lehman Walker, a native of Topeka, Ind., retired from active pastoral ministry in 2004 after serving First United Methodist Church in Lafayette from 2001. Other pastoral appointments included Church of the Covenant in Fort Wayne (1993-1995), associate pastor at Trinity in Elkhart (1989-1993), Macy (1986-1989) and churches in Arkansas and Texas after graduating with a master's degree from Perkins School of Theology in Dallas. She was ordained an Elder of the North Indiana Conference in 1987.

Lehman Walker graduated with a bachelor's degree in English from Indiana University in 1970. As a university student, she became acquainted with the North Indiana Conference serving with summer programs at the conference's Epworth Forest in North Webster. Following her graduation, she taught fourth- and seventh-graders from 1970 to 1973 on the West Indies island of Antigua. In 1978 she became a resident supervisor or “dorm mom” at a Christian school in India.

She is a past president of the Board of Ordained Ministry for the North Indiana Conference serving from 1992 to 1995. She succeeded Coyner as Lafayette District Superintendent when he became the executive assistant to Bishop Woodie W. White and later was elected to the episcopacy in 1996.

She and her husband, Charles, live in West Lafayette.



Walker

“I am one of the Easter people! My new life has begun!”

– Avery and Marsh Songbook



Several years ago composers Richard Avery and Donald Marsh put this joy into a little song called “Every Morning is Easter Morning.” The chorus goes: “Ev'ry morning is Easter morning from now on!”

Ev'ry day's resurrection day, the past is over and gone!” The first stanza includes the words: “I am one of the Easter people! My new life has begun!”

My prayer for all United Methodists people is that this season of Easter might be a time of discovering our Easter faith, learning to know God's love, and becoming Easter people. Happy Easter!

Bishop Michael J. Coyner
 Indiana Area of

The United Methodist Church
 Making a Difference in Indiana
 and around the world.

Editor's note: The song “Every Morning is Easter Morning” can be found in the *Avery and Marsh Songbook*, ©1967, Hope Publishing Co.

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Speaking out for the well-being of society

Spring gives birth to new life, resurrected life. As Christians we take that good news from worship centers into the vitality of our communities this season of Easter.

To assist us in our public witness, the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church give us a guide for our response to the society in which we live. That society includes state government, which not only sets limits and regulates, but which also needs to set the moral tenor for the common good of all Hoosiers.

To God there is no division of secular and sacred. To God all of society and its decisions are sacred. So when we as the church see people taken advantage of or abused, we, as members of the body of Christ, must speak out as God's prophet for the hour – that hour comes to us during each session of the Indiana General Assembly.

Many Hoosier United Methodists have been busy with a variety of bills this session, including gambling, health, Darfur and a marriage amendment.

As United Methodists, we believe “gambling is a menace to society, deadly to the best interests of moral, social, economic,

We advocate for the love of God expressed in Jesus of Nazareth... for the justice of others and the well-being of society.

and spiritual life, and destructive of good government.” With this Social Principle, Bishop Coyner led the way with six other Indiana church executives in a face-to-face discussion with Governor Mitch Daniels. Their priority was an ecumenical opposition to any expansion of legalized gambling now being considered in several bills.

Coyner and the other leaders also assured Daniels of their support for his Healthy Indiana Plan with a two-fold benefit for Hoosiers. HIP first proposes low-cost health care insurance to lower income Hoosiers. Just as important to the health of Indiana is the administration's proposal to fund this plan through an increase in the cigarette tax. United Methodists have joined with other faith and health groups and advocate for a \$1-per-pack tax increase to discourage Hoosier teens from smoking. The church opposes the use of tobacco and champions health

care as a basic human right. Psalm 146 speaks of the God “who executes justice for the oppressed.”

Hoosier United Methodists' support of the Sudan Divestment bill has been an overwhelming success statewide. Both North Indiana and South Indiana conferences gave strong support to this legislation last year during annual conference sessions. Indiana's interfaith Darfur advocates were pleasantly surprised earlier this month when a Senate resolution on Sudan divestment was replaced with an announcement that the Senate would work with the House in crafting a statute which will help divest state pension funds from any company doing business with Sudan in areas that would support its military in carrying out genocide.

Supporters will hopefully be able to celebrate this divestment achievement during the Darfur Rally on Sunday, April 15, from

2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on the east steps of the State House.

The most sensitive and divisive legislation this session was the marriage amendment resolution. Proponents believed this proposed amendment to the state's constitution is needed to ensure that marriage is defined as a bond between a man and a woman and that the state constitution or



state law cannot be construed to provide the benefits of marriage to unmarried couples or groups. Supporters of the amendment said the second provision means courts cannot force the government to provide same-gender benefits, but it does not prohibit the government, public employers or anyone else from voluntarily offering such benefits. Opponents said this amendment would strip civil rights from committed same-gender couples. There are United Methodists on both sides of this issue.

Officially, The United Methodist Church does not condone homosexuality and bans same-gender unions from its properties; however when it comes to the civil right of individuals, “we insist that all persons, regardless of age, gender,

marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured.” With this Social Principle in mind, hundreds of United Methodist leaders have joined with hundreds of clergy and other faith leaders across Indiana in saying we should not write discrimination into our state constitution. As we go to press, the House Rules Committee voted 5-5 on the proposed amendment, likely ending this year's bid to amend the constitution to ban same-sex marriage. The General Assembly still could pass the amendment next year. Voters could still vote in 2008.

With less than a month to go, decisions need to be made on these and other social issues before the legislature. But for Easter people, the vote of the legislature is only secondary to the witness we as Christians give to the process. Unlike lobbyists paid to push the interests of corporate constituents, we advocate for the love of God expressed in Jesus of Nazareth – not for ourselves and our gain, but for the justice of others and the well-being of society.

– Daniel R. Gangler

Gambling addiction high among older adult Americans

By the Rev. Andrew J. Weaver
and Dr. Harold G. Koenig
UMNS Commentary

Problem gambling among older adults has destructive consequences.

The marked increase in places and ways to gamble over the past 15 years has been accompanied by a more frequent addiction to gambling among older adults.

The faith community must be informed about the negative effects of such gambling.

Signs of gambling-related problems are not well known, nor does the general public understand that gambling can be addictive. We live in a society that spends more than \$500 billion annually on some form of gambling - more than we spend on movies, sporting events, concerts and theater combined.

Pathological gambling is the diagnostic term for a gambling addiction. According to the American Psychiatric Association, it is “persistent and recurrent maladaptive gambling behavior” that continues despite adverse consequences that disrupt a person's life.

Approximately 2.5 million adults in North America (between 1.6 percent and 1.9 percent) suffer from pathological gambling, with an additional 5.3 million adults (3.9 percent) at risk for the disorder. By comparison, the rate of cocaine abuse or dependence

is estimated at 0.2 percent.

In a survey of 343 adults ages 60 years and older attending senior centers and other community activities, 6.4 percent were classified as problem gamblers and an additional 3.8 percent as pathological gamblers.

Pathological and problem gambling among older adults has destructive consequences including stress, alcohol abuse, loss of income and assets and increased psychiatric problems.

Addicted older gamblers are much more likely than older adults without a history of gambling to have disorders associated with alcohol (53.2 percent versus 12.8 percent), nicotine (43.2 percent versus 8 percent), illicit drugs (4.6 percent versus 0.7 percent), mood (39.5 percent versus 11 percent), anxiety (34.5 percent versus 11.6 percent), and personality (43.0 percent versus 7.3 percent).

From activity to addiction

Like alcohol, gambling is a social activity for most people. For some older people who are widowed or live away from relatives, gamblers and the people who

work in gambling establishments become their source of social support. Thus, gambling activities become part of a much larger social interaction that may meet deep psychological needs. However, it is devastatingly addictive for a significant minority.

Most compulsive gamblers say they seek the “high” of betting through increasing the amounts of money they wager. They tend to “chase” the losses of one day with increased betting on the next. Experts argue that gambling for some individuals is no less potent than heroin or cocaine and that gambling is the fastest growing addiction in the United States.

Access to organized gambling has exploded. In 1988, only two states had large-scale casino gambling; now 28 states have it. Forty states and the District of Columbia operate a lottery, and some form of gambling is legal in 48 states.

Advertisements for online gambling sites appear all over the Internet, and hundreds of Web sites offer online gambling for real money. Online bettors gamble at

the rate of about \$10 billion a year and that number is growing fast.

Religion protective factor

Researchers are finding that religious involvement can be a protective factor against problem gambling. In a nationwide sample of U.S. adults, religious attendance was inversely associated with the risk of problem gambling.

Sociologists at the University of Texas found results in a statewide survey suggesting that religious attendance and belief in the Bible are inversely associated with the frequency of playing the state lottery, as well as the amount of money spent on the lottery.

In two other studies, among individuals in Nevada and Australia, the frequency of gambling and the amount of money gambled was inversely related to the level of importance of religion for the person and the frequency of attendance at religious services.

Seeking treatment

Treatment of pathological gambling is often patterned after the treatment of alcohol and drug addictions. Like drug abusers, compulsive gamblers tend to deny the problem and avoid finding help.

Gamblers Anonymous, or GA, is a 12-step group that encourages members to admit their problem and gives group support to

help participants gain control over their addiction. GA members recognize the loss of reality brought by compulsive gambling and confront their own distorted thinking.

Family members seeking group support can join Gam-Anon, which is modeled after Alanon.

Compulsive gamblers must stop living in the fantasy world of the addiction and confront the reality of the consequences of their gambling.

Cognitive and behavioral therapies can be used to reframe thinking patterns and change habits that promote gambling behavior. Patients are taught to identify and record situations that trigger the compulsion to gamble and recognize the distorted thinking that they can win against the odds. These treatments have been tested and shown to work.

Gambling is a real problem that has serious negative consequences for many elderly people. It is important that clergy and church members be informed about the dangers and how to offer guidance in finding help.

Weaver serves as a pastor and clinical psychologist living in New York City. Koenig is professor of psychiatry and associate professor of medicine, and co-director, Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, N.C.

*Governor uncommitted in veto of slots bill***Bishop leads delegation of church leaders in meeting with Governor on gambling, marriage amendment, guns**

INDIANAPOLIS – Indiana United Methodist Bishop Mike Coyner led a delegation of judiciary leaders opposed to an expansion of legalized gambling and other issues with Governor Mitch Daniels on Monday morning, March 26 at the Governor's State House office.

Accompanying Coyner were the Rev. Stephen Gray, conference minister, Indiana-Kentucky Conference, The United Church of Christ; Steve and Marlene Pedigo, general superintendents, Western Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends; the Rev. Richard Spleth, regional minister, The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Bishop James R. Stuck, Indiana-Kentucky Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Dr. Larry Mason, executive minister of the American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky; and the Rev. Lorin Clemenz, a retired North Indiana Conference minister and convener of the Indiana Coalition Against Legalized Gambling.

Dr. Robert C. Anderson, Interim Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley had planned to be there but was unable to attend because his wife had hand surgery in Philadelphia.

Expansion of legalized gambling

During the 35-minute session the group confronted Daniels with the expansion of legalized gambling with casino expansion, the privatization of the state lottery, the slot machine bill which proposes 1,500 slot machines in each of the two horse race tracks in Indiana and the possibility of legis-

"I appreciate a governor who welcomes these conversations."

– Bishop Mike Coyner

lation to permit up to five electronic gambling devices in bars and restaurants and up to 10 machines in private lodges being amended into existing legislation.

In reflecting upon the meeting, Coyner wrote these words in his weekly E-pistle. "Our governor is a man of faith, and he asked some excellent theological questions as we discussed the issues facing Indiana. In particular, he listened to our concerns about the many bills proposing an expansion of gambling in Indiana, and he asked us to share our theological perspectives on this issue. What a refreshing question! Rather than another "political" discussion or a discussion of the economics of gambling, Governor Daniels invited us to look at the theological dimensions of this issue."

Daniels expressed his concern about the ever growing number of illegal Cherry Master electronic gambling devices found in thousands of locations in bars, restaurants, lodges, truck stops, even coin-operated laundries. He said his administration had made strides in cracking down on illegal gambling, but he needs the



Daniels

help of local governments to rid Indiana of this problem.

Coyner on behalf of the group asked Daniels to veto the slot machine bill if passed by the Senate. At this point, Daniels did not commit himself one way or the other to such a veto. Daniels has openly expressed his opposition to the expansion of legalized gambling in Indiana ever since his campaign. (See page 6.)

Marriage Amendment

Spleth brought to the Governor's attention a letter signed by hundreds of religious leaders across the state, including many United Methodists, pointing out the proposed marriage amendment would strip civil rights from committed same-gender couples.

The Governor said he realizes that the second part of the amendment can be problematic and that he has heard from businesses on this issue. He is watching the amendment as it has been passed by legislatures in around 20 states. He received the information but did not make any substantive comments about it. Spleth commented back to the governor that he felt Indiana should be a state noted for its hospitality and that this amendment would make such hospitality difficult.

Handguns

The issue of handguns in state parks also came up. Last year the Governor signed an executive or-



together photo

The State House, opened in 1888, contains the governor's office, the two-chambered general assembly and the state supreme court. In this vicinity, the first Methodist worship service was held in 1821.

der permitting handguns in state park. The Governor said this was a U.S. Constitutional issue for which he didn't have much of a choice. He said the issue is being reviewed by the courts, but until he receives different word from the courts, handguns will be permitted in Indiana's state parks as a protected freedom under the constitution.

Daniels requested prayer to end the meeting. Bishop Stuck closed in prayer with and for the governor.

Coyner said, "The issues confronting our governor and those we have elected to the state legislature are not easy issues. Certainly we religious leaders do not have all of the answers, but we believe it is important to be a part of the conversations about the future of our state. I appreciate a governor who welcomes these conversa-

tions."

Meeting with Long

Following discussions with the governor, Spleth, Gray and Clemenz met with Senator David Long of Fort Wayne, president pro tempore of the State Senate, with the assistance of Sen. Patricia Miller, a member of Old Bethel United Methodist Church in Indianapolis. The three expressed their opposition to the slot machine bill.

Like Daniels, Long expressed greatest concern with the growing number of illegal Cherry Masters in use across the state. He also said an amendment might be introduced to place electronic gambling devices in bars and restaurants as an amendment to HB1510, a bill on charity gaming, that was approved by committee and is now on the Senate floor for action.

*Effort draws attention to struggles of Methodist Northlake***Bill would study public hospital for Gary**

By Patrick Guinane

The Times of Northwest Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS – The state Senate voted 48-0 on March 27 to consider putting the future of Gary's only hospital in the government's hands.

The measure, crafted by Senate Health Committee Chairwoman Patricia Miller, R-Indianapolis, calls for a summer study group to evaluate ways to convert United Methodist-related Methodist Hospitals' financially struggling Northlake Campus in Gary to a city or county hospital.

"Of all places to not have a county hospital, Lake County does not have a county hospital," Miller told Senate colleagues just be-

fore the unanimous vote. She said the situation is unique among the state's large metropolitan areas.

The Health Finance Commission, one of the General Assembly's standing study committees, would weigh the options available for transforming Methodist Northlake, now a nonprofit operation, into a government hospital.

The move comes even as Porter County officials map out plans to do nearly the opposite by turning that county's hospital over to for-profit operators.

Ed Charbonneau, interim president and CEO for Methodist Hospitals, said the company, which also operates a Southlake Campus in Merrillville, isn't looking to give up on Gary. But he said the

proposed legislative study might produce positive results.

"Our primary objective right now is to put ourselves into a position where we're a financially viable two-campus hospital without the need for outside funding," he said. "I think (the study) could serve a very useful purpose of shining a spotlight on the reality on today's practice of medicine and the changing world of how health care is delivered and what's going on at the inner-city hospitals that are struggling."

Those struggles include physicians leaving for suburban practices, competition from specialty health care centers catering solely to the insured and the financial hardships associated with serving

poor, uninsured patients.

Miller's initiative, House Bill 1678, instructs lawmakers to study whether a government acquisition of Methodist Northlake would improve the hospital's finances, as well as the quality of care available to the community. In addition, lawmakers would evaluate ways to encourage doctors to practice at county and rural hospitals.

HB1678 started out as an effort by state Rep. Charlie Brown, D-Gary, to force specialty health care centers that don't offer emergency room care to drop "hospital" from their names. Brown said he wanted to draw attention to the plight of Methodist Northlake and he is satisfied with the compro-

mise offered by Miller.

The legislation now returns to the House.

This story was first published in the March 27 issue of The Times of Northwest Indiana and is used by permission. ©2007 The Times of Northwest Indiana.

Editor's note: The United Methodist-related hospitals in Indiana include: The Methodist Hospital, North Lake Campus at Gary, The Methodist Hospital, South Lake Hospital at Merrillville, Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne and Methodist Hospital (part of Clarian Health) in Indianapolis. All these hospitals are related to the Indiana North and Indiana South Conferences of The United Methodist Church.

Imagine Indiana Planning Team releases report, recommendation to 2007 annual conferences

The Imagine Indiana Planning Team released March 12 a 12-page report and recommendation document that now goes to both 2007 Indiana North and Indiana South Annual Conferences for consideration and a vote whether or not to unite the two conferences into one Indiana Conference. The eight-member planning team met March 8-9 in Indianapolis to create the document.

The "Imagine Indiana Planning Team Report and Recommendation to the 2007 Sessions of the North Indiana and the South Indiana Annual Conferences" is available as a PDF document on the Imagine Indiana page of the Indiana Area Web site and can be found by logging on to www.inareaumc.org and clicking



The 14 Imagine Indiana Discernment Teams heard reports for all its teams during the group final meeting March 5.

on to Imagine Indiana.

The report comes on the heels of a March 5 meeting of the 28-member Imagine Indiana Discernment Team when the 14

standing sub-teams gave their final reports in preparation for the writing of the planning team's document. A story of this meeting appears on page 7 of the

March issue of the *Hoosier United Methodists Together*, which is available online at www.inareaumc.org.

This final report is being discussed by several committees, boards and commissions of each of the two annual conferences and will be introduced to the 18-district pre-conference briefings across the state.

The Imagine Indiana process is being 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.

Comments about the final report and recommendations to the



annual conferences can be posted to the Imagine Indiana Forum available on the Imagine Indiana pages of the area Web site at www.nicumc.org/iiforum/. Comments also can be sent to the Imagine

Indiana Planning Team by: e-mail to dvwown@inareaumc.org; adolff.hansen@insightbb.com, and/or cjreynolds71@yahoo.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, Indianapolis, IN 46208.

Many adult ministries rooted at Epworth now in other locations

By Jean M. Brindel

The Outdoor Camping Ministry continues to be the premier ministry of the North Indiana Conference; this has been the case for several generations. Through the years, many of the adult ministries that are rooted at the Epworth site near North Webster have relocated because of conditions of the current facilities. One of those ministries is the



Brindel

School of Christian Mission.

John and Joyce Elliott remember the fun of those days in an excerpt from their book, *A Forest Aflame*. They wrote: "To make life a little easier at the school of Christian Mission, some older women used a downstairs dorm area in the cottage. One day screaming from an older women's room

was heard, followed by hysterical laughter. 'What's happened?' asked another cabin resident as she rushed in. 'My roommate screamed because she put on my glasses instead of her own. She was terrified and cried out, I can't see! I can't see!' still laughing hysterically she continued, 'I told her I hoped she didn't get our teeth mixed up.'

One of the major emphases of

the Outdoor Ministry Project is to create adult-friendly space at the Epworth Forest Camp site that adult ministries can again occur in a comfortable, safe and accessible place. The Outdoor Ministry Building Committee is hard at work keeping an eye on the need

for adult-friendly space at Epworth Forest.

In just a few short months, North Indiana United Methodists will be hearing about how they can invest in making Epworth Forest a place where adults and youth have access to the joy of being the church.

As far as glasses and false teeth go, you may be on your own.

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.

Delta Zeta sorority sues DePauw after university severs ties

GREENCASTLE, Ind. – United Methodist-related DePauw University received notification on March 28 that the national leadership of Delta Zeta sorority has filed a lawsuit against the University in federal court (Southern District, Indiana). The move comes two and a half weeks after DePauw initiated the process to sever ties with DZ's national organization, following a "membership

review" which resulted in 23 women being asked to move out of the DePauw chapter house.

"From the beginning, DePauw University has acted to protect its students," says Ken Owen, director of media relations. "We are disappointed in Delta Zeta's decision to initiate legal action. We believe that this lawsuit completely lacks merit and have every confidence that the courts will determine that

the University acted lawfully and in the best interests of its students."

Greek organizations have a more than 160-year history on the DePauw campus, where approximately 70 percent of students belong to fraternities and sororities. The University and its administration have supported this tradition and will continue to do so.

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

'Outreach to Teach' to spruce up elementary school in Fort Wayne

FORT WAYNE, Ind. – College and university students, faculty, staff and others from across the state traveled to Fort Wayne on March 31 to participate in the Indiana State Education Association's Third Annual "Outreach to Teach" efforts at Levan R. Scott Academy. With leadership provided by state ISEA executive board members and the Outreach to Teach Committee, more than 170 volunteers, including college education majors, active teachers, retired teachers, college faculty members, community members, and Scott Academy's staff, rolled up their sleeves for this year's event.

Chaired by Ashleigh Schoff, a senior majoring in education at the United Methodist-related Univer-

sity of Evansville, the program accomplished many renovations and refurbishment at Scott Academy. Projects included: painting, cleaning, landscaping and several projects which will transform the learning environment.

Program participants adopted the general theme of lighthouses. A book on lighthouses will be given to the school. From that book, several lighthouse paintings were made and hung throughout the school, as well as placards that have inspirational messages for the students.

Benches were built and installed on the playground, as well as trees planted.

"This was an important endeavor because it affects the lives of many students at the school and

"The project makes the teachers and students feel they are important to our state."

– Ashleigh Schoff, a senior at the University of Evansville

also makes a difference in teachers' lives," Schoff said. "The project makes the teachers and students feel they are important to our state and we tried to create environments for students that will help them learn."

Outreach to Teach is a program which began in 1998 by the National Education Association as a way to demonstrate their commitment to improving the educational environment of selected schools by helping to improve the quality

of one school each year. This is the third year of the program in Indiana. Last year Outreach to Teach assisted Staunton Elementary in Brazil, Ind., and the previous year the volunteers worked at Lyons Elementary School in Lyons, Ind.

Many ISTA and ISEA members have worked throughout the academic year raising funds for the projects, according to Andrea Hargrove, president of the ISEA executive board and a University of

Southern Indiana education major.

"We have raised nearly \$10,000," she said. She explained that many education majors involved went to their home schools and asked for donations, or within their own communities – but one particular fundraiser raised money and awareness. "We did something called Change for Children. We had a competition and collected change at our meetings to see which region could collect the most change. I also took it to the ISTA meetings and collected change there."

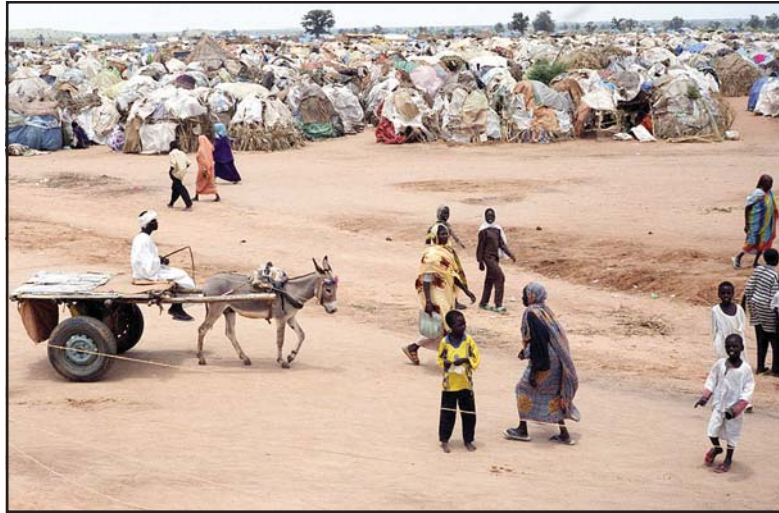
Hargrove said the project is beneficial in many ways. "Not only is it helping the school within the community, it's a chance for us to get out there and help."

Sudan divestment bill resurrected by Senate to help Darfur

INDIANAPOLIS – The Sudan divestment bill gained a surprising resurrection April 2 on the floor of the State Senate.

During the session, Sen. Greg Walker of Columbus introduced Senate Concurrent Resolution 74, a compromise on the divestment of state pension funds from investing in Sudan. He then said a morning news story stated that five African Union peace keeping troops were killed by unidentified militia in Darfur and asked that the resolution be withdrawn in the hopes that the language of the stronger House Bill 1484, the Sudan divestment bill, would move forward in statute.

Sen. David Long of Fort Wayne, president pro tempore of the Senate, then took the podium and stated that Sen. Dennis Kruse of Auburn, chairman of the Senate Pension and Labor Committee, held back the language because of a number of fiscal concerns. Following a meeting March 29 with national and state advocates in the Sudan divestment movement, a number of those concerns were on their way to being addressed, and that he was in fa-



A UMNS file photo by John Robinson, Mennonite Central Committee. Internally displaced people live in makeshift domes of sticks, straw and tarps at the Otash camp in the Darfur region of Sudan. The Darfur Coalition, comprises Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders in Indiana and is coordinated in part by Beth Reilly, a member of Aldersgate UMC in Fort Wayne. If approved, the Sudan divestment bill now in the General Assembly will help end the plight of Darfur's millions of displaced people.

vor of getting this language into statute during the conference committee process in the days ahead.

The Sudan Divest bill (House Bill 1484) was killed in the Senate Pensions and Labor Committee hearing on March 28. Sen. Kruse of Auburn, as committee chair, de-

cidated not to hear the bill, thereby allowing it to die in committee without a vote in the Senate.

The bill mandates the state's two pension retirement funds (the Public Employees' Retirement Fund and Teachers Retirement Fund) to divest their funds from

A Darfur Rally in support of Darfurians living in Sudan will be held on the east steps of the Indiana State House, Sunday, April 15 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

any company doing military business with the Sudanese government. One of several strategies being use to force the Sudanese government from carry out its genocidal policies against Sudanese citizens living in Darfur where more than 400,000 have been murdered or died and more than 2.5 million have been displaced having been burned out of their village homes.

The bill was approved earlier this session in the State House of Representatives with a 97-0 vote.

PERF is one of the oldest and largest public or private pension funds in the nation, with more than \$16 billion in assets. More than 1,100 employers, including the State of Indiana and public universities, school corporations and municipalities throughout the state.

The Sudan Divestment legisla-

tion in the Indiana General Assembly has been led in part by Beth Reilly, a member of Aldersgate UMC in Fort Wayne and the Rev. Darren Cushman Wood of Speedway UMC working with other faith groups and many legislators. Both are participating in plans for an interfaith rally on the Darfur Crisis scheduled to be held Sunday, April 15 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on the east steps of the State House on Capitol Street.

Speakers and bands will both entertain and inform participants about genocide in Darfur. Darfuri immigrants now living in Fort Wayne also plan to take part. The rally is open and free to the public. A brochure about the rally is available online at www.inareauc.org More information about the Darfur crisis can be found by logging on to www.savedarfur.org.

Senate leaders propose crackdown on illegal gambling

INDIANAPOLIS – The Senate Rules Committee heard testimony April 2 and approved a bill that supporters say would crackdown on illegal gambling by stepping up enforcement and enacting stricter penalties into the enforcement of illegal gambling devices across the state. At press time, the bill was on the floor of the Senate for consideration.

The plan developed by Senate Republican leaders would be the

legislature's first significant step toward rooting out the tens of thousands of illegal gambling machines that operate under names like Cherry Master and Pot O' Gold. But the proposal comes as bar owners and some other lawmakers are pushing to legalize the machines, regulate them and tax their earnings.

Sen. David Long of Fort Wayne, president pro tempore of the Senate and chair of the Rules

Committee chaired the second and final hearing on House Bill 1510. The strict enforcement was amended to, a charity gambling regulation measure.

The bill as amended would provide nearly \$2 million for 25 police officers who would be dedicated to investigating illegal gambling. The measure also would increase the criminal penalties for people charged a second time with promoting profes-

sional gambling. Further, it would authorize the state to revoke lottery contracts, retail merchant permits and state licenses that allow the sale of tobacco and alcohol held by any company or organization found with illegal gambling machines.

The legislation would create a special prosecutor to handle gambling cases and would increase penalties to include the possible revocation of licenses

for selling tobacco, alcohol or lottery products, according to press reports.

Gaming experts say Cherry Masters, similar to slots, are unfair to players and can be programmed to pay far less than a typical casino slot machine.

The Indiana Coalition Against Legalized Gambling testified at this hearing in support of the crackdown but against an expansion of legalized gambling.

Indiana wins national award for passing 15 smoke-free laws

In 2006, 15 Hoosier cities and counties enacted smoke-free workplace laws, making Indiana a national leader in protection from secondhand smoke in the workplace. Indiana health groups are receiving a national award for their leadership.

"We are proud to present Indiana with the ANR Smoke-free Indoor Air Challenge Award for its success in protecting the right to breathe smoke-free air in the workplace in a growing number of cities," said Cynthia Hallett, executive director, Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights (ANR).

"It's a classic grassroots movement here in Indiana," said Karla Sneegas, executive director, Indiana Tobacco Prevention Cessation. "Our local policymakers are leading the way by cutting across party lines to make smoke-free air and worker's health a priority.

We've moved beyond traditional partnerships to work together with faith and business leaders and so many other groups and individuals who support the issue of having a healthier community and a healthier workforce."

In 2006, a total of 143 cities and counties enacted strong local smoke-free workplace laws within 26 states. This is more than double the amount of local smoke-free laws passed just two years earlier, with 64 laws enacted in 2004. Indiana more than doubled the number of local smoke-free laws passed in 2006. A total of six strong laws passed in 2005 compared to 15 this past year.

Paul Messplay, a retired layman and member of Lawrence UMC, works with the Hoosier Faith and Health Coalition to assist communities become smoke-free.

State Senate approved slot machines at horse race tracks

INDIANAPOLIS – A plan to allow slots at the state's two horse tracks passed the Senate March 29, by a vote of 27-21.

House Bill 1835 would allow 1,500 slot machines at Hoosier Park in Madison County and Indiana Downs in Shelby County. In exchange, the tracks would have to pay a \$400 million license fee and taxes on their annual revenue.

The House has already approved a version of the bill, though it called for more slots at each track and a license fee of \$100 million. Members in that chamber can accept the changes made by

the Senate or the issue will go to a conference committee that will try to iron out the differences.

The debate in the Senate centered largely on whether the extra revenue the state would receive was worth expanding gambling.

Gov. Mitch Daniels has not said whether he would veto the slots bill if it reaches his desk. He has said in the past he is opposed to the expansion of gambling but has not said whether he considers this an expansion.

The Senate bill also requires the county councils in Madison and Shelby counties to approve the "racinos" before slots can be installed there.



Bashor new school building filled with opportunity

Go ahead ... use all five of your senses! The mere *sight* of the new Community Resources Center on the campus of Bashor Children's Home is simply overwhelming. The *sound* of young people moving through the halls is nothing less than incredible. You can *touch* the smooth surfaces and glide over the soft carpet and know this is a special place. Even the *smell* of the freshly painted walls is inspiring. It is the sweet, sweet *taste* of God's blessings!

"This building means opportunity for me," says Tate Gerndt, who teaches social studies and science to students in Bashor Alternative School. "It is an opportunity for the kids we work with to experience God's love and grace in a fresh setting. The way the organization took a leap of faith in order to begin the building is a wonderful leadership example."

Phase I of the \$4.2 million project is complete, providing daily census of 100 residents and day students 11 new classrooms, media center, computer lab, science lab, arts and crafts room, conference ar-



Teacher Julie Kline works with students in the new Community Resource Center on the campus of Bashor Children's Home. Phase I of the project created 11 new classrooms, a media center, computer lab and an arts and crafts room.

reas, group rooms and office space. Just don't call it a school.

"The only time we can call this a 'school' is during normal school hours," explains Don Phillips, whose vision as president and CEO launched the most ambitious building project in the agency's 85-year history. "The community helped build it, so we want the community to have access to it. Yes, it's a school from 8 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. but after that it's open to just about everything else. There should be as much activity in the evenings as during the school day."

The options are unlimited as

Bashor expands its community outreach: parenting classes for residents and families; alternative education for young people and adult education for parents; a place for supports services such as CASA and mentor groups; financial literacy training; and much, much more.

"I hope we get to the point where the only two places in Goshen with longer hours are Dunkin' Donuts and the 7-11 store," laughs Vince Turner, vice president of development and public relations. "We want children and families to see this as a central place for the support services they need to augment their way of life."

Other staff members who call the new building "home" are ecstatic:

- ◆ "It is an opportunity for expanded services, giving kids a warmer and softer environment. It also set up for more effective supervision." – *Doug*

Ganger, program director of alternative education.

- ◆ "Progress! Bashor is moving to provide the environment that will make our residents successful." – *Rhoda Weaver-Watson*, science.
- ◆ "It is a place for kids to prepare for life. The school simulates what they will see when they leave." – *Chris Nesbitt*, mathematics.
- ◆ "A new start for many students who have (struggled) in public school." – *Jennifer Prough*, English and physical education.
- ◆ "It is a chance to give a more 'normal' school experience to the young people in our care." – *Kay McKeown*, social studies and child development.
- ◆ "It's great to know we can stay in one place and not move every couple of years." – *Dale Sleppy*, elementary education.
- ◆ "Better supervision!" – *Mark Adams*, behavior specialist.
- ◆ "It is a fulfillment of patience and the love of God. I have waited for many years for the new building to be built. It has made a great difference for the kids. They feel proud of where they are and they know we love them." – *Jill Stanley*, mathematics, art and science.

Bashor Children's Home took a leap of faith with the "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" campaign. Groundbreaking took place at virtually the same time fundraising efforts got under way. The campaign continues as students move into the classroom and builders prepare for Phase II – a new 250-seat dining hall and renovated food service facilities. The combined projects, totaling 34,000

square feet, should be completed by September.

"This is a fresh start for our agency," says senior program Director Sean McCrindle. "It's a chance to challenge ourselves to create programs to better serve our kids and families. It is a promise for the future that we will not sit back idly. We will invest great amounts of resources to give them a chance. Most importantly, it is a statement that we live by faith and that we will take huge risks, believing that the resources will come and that God will provide as He always does."

Go ahead – see, hear, touch, smell and taste what God has done!



Tate Gerndt teaches science and social studies in the Bashor Alternative School, one of three divisions in the educational program at Bashor.



Phase I of a \$4.2 million school expansion at Bashor Children's Home is complete. Next up is a new 250-seat dining room and new food services facilities. The entire 34,000 square foot project should be completed by September.

Bashor rooted in couple who did 'all the good they could'

First, John and Emaline Bashor built a church! The generous couple, whose vision established a foundation for what is now Bashor Children's Home, had roots deep in the Wesleyan tradition. Truly, they did "all the good they could, by all the means they could in all the ways they could."

A generation before the Bashor Deaconess Orphanage welcomed its first young men, Bashor Methodist Episcopal Chapel served Harrison Township farm families. John and Emaline set the cornerstone personally in 1892.

Walk around the northeast corner of the campus and you'll come across the remains of the foundation. Unfortunately, the small chapel succumbed to the economic challenges of the Great Depression.

While the building may be gone, the Methodist tradition is as strong as ever. Whenever Bashor has faced a challenge, the church has been there to answer. As the agency continues its "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" campaign, the

North Indiana United Methodist Conference, its congregations and its membership will once again be asked to play a major role.

"We stepped out in faith," says Don Phillips, who is in his eighth year as Bashor's President and CEO. "All you have to do is look at our history. The church and its people have always been willing to meet the need when we put it out. It was true when we started as an orphanage (1923); it was true when we built the cottages (1969); and it was especially true when we needed the new Secure building."

Phillips pointed to the Lung/Stull Building, completed in 1997 with a tremendous boost from churches and individuals. United Methodists set the pace in a \$2 million project that now provides 16 beds in a secure setting and is the foundation for the FAITH residential continuum. The building also provides group rooms, treatment rooms and staff offices.

"We have been very blessed in

the beginning stages of our fundraising drive," says Vince Turner, vice president of development and public relations. "Several benevolent families in the Goshen area got us off to a good start, allowing us to break ground and start construction. Now we're taking our case to the churches in Indiana who have been such a vital part of our ministry in the past. We truly believe they will be a part of our future as well."

Giving opportunities divided into three areas:

1. *Evan Bergwall Memorial Wing*
This section of the new building will be named for the former community activist and chairman of the Board of Directors who chaired the fund drive for the original school building. Four churches will be asked to step forward and sponsor an individual classroom. First United Methodist Church of Goshen has already claimed one of those rooms.
2. *Wesley Circle*

A ring of commemorative plaques will circle the new, 250-seat dining hall. "Our hope here is that people will enter the dining hall and be overwhelmed by the diversity of support," says Turner. "We hope to see plaques recognizing churches from Crown Point to Winchester, from Fort Wayne to Lafayette and everywhere in between."

3. *Emmaus Walk*

This will be a brick path leading to the main entrance of the Community Resource Center. The bricks will serve as permanent memorials and honorariums and may be for individuals, families, churches or circles.

The church portion of the "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" campaign is being led by five pastors currently serving on Bashor's Board of Directors – the Rev. Steve Conner of Fort Wayne Church of the Covenant UMC, the Rev. Rick Taylor of Rochester Grace UMC, the Rev. Arch Hawkins of University UMC in India-

napolis, current Michiana District Superintendent the Rev. Bob Dexter and retired Marion District Superintendent the Rev. Dan Motto. The goal is to raise \$500,000 in gifts and three-year pledges.

For more information about the campaign, contact Vince Turner at 574-875-5117 or vturner@bashor.org. An informational DVD is available. Members of the team also will visit churches, groups or individuals by request.

"We had two choices, say no to kids or do this," says Phillips, who noted Bashor now serves an average of more than 100 residents and students each day, an increase of nearly 50 percent during the past six years. Those young people have come from 27 Indiana counties during that time span.

"We have grown because we don't just care for children and their families, we care *about* children and their families. We know others care just as much. We believe they'll join us," Phillips said.

Bashor programs offer 'Help for Today, Hope for Tomorrow'

Bashor Children's Home offers "help for today and hope for tomorrow in four main areas of residential care – ranging from short-term stays in Emergency Shelter Care to more intensive treatment designed to address specific child and family issues:

Emergency Shelter Care

ESC provides a stable, safe, structured and compassionate environment to children and youth (boys and girls) requiring protective care on a short-term basis. The program seeks to stabilize the behavior of residents and teach responsibility

through predictable, dependable expectations and daily structure.

HOPE – Helping Offending Patterns End

This program provides boys ages 8 through 13 years old a highly structured and therapeutic residential unit utilizing behavior modification techniques, relapse prevention and positive discipline to confront offending attitudes and behaviors and develop appropriate internal controls and social skills.

FAITH – Family and Independent Therapeutic Home

FAITH provides a continuum of care built on structure and routine to establish healthy living patterns. The program begins with a secure setting, transitions to staff secure group care in a cottage setting and continues with independent living skills in a less restrictive setting. FAITH provides efficient, effective treatment and guidance to adolescent boys and girls, focusing on the coping skills they need to deal with the problem areas in their lives. The program also involves the natural family or foster family in the therapeutic process.

One component of FAITH is the Substance Abuse Program Martin Cottage which focuses on individual treatment and family group therapy to help adolescent boys and girls overcome addictive behaviors.

Therapeutic Foster Care

This is an extension of the day treatment and residential programs on campus designed to recruit, train and support foster parents. Foster homes are specifically developed to

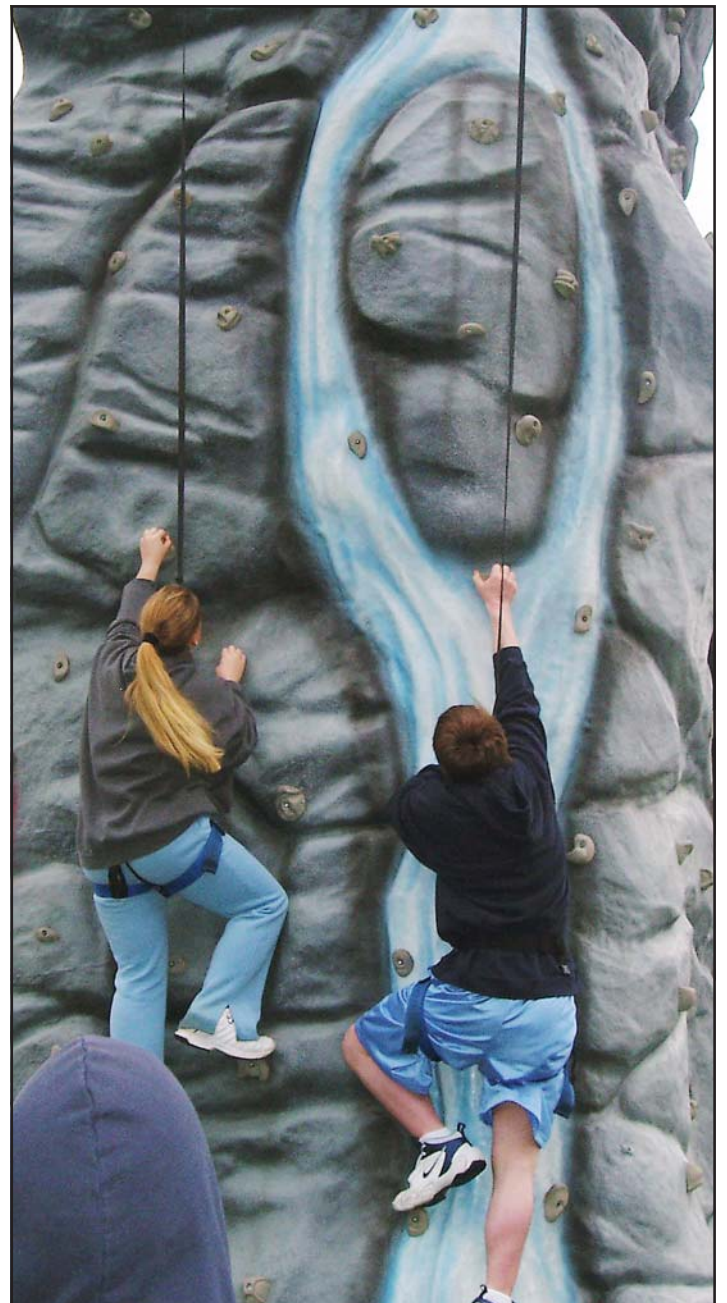
receive specialized training in independent living, substance abuse or sexual offender treatment and work closely with program directors, therapists and case managers.

BAS – Bashor Alternative School

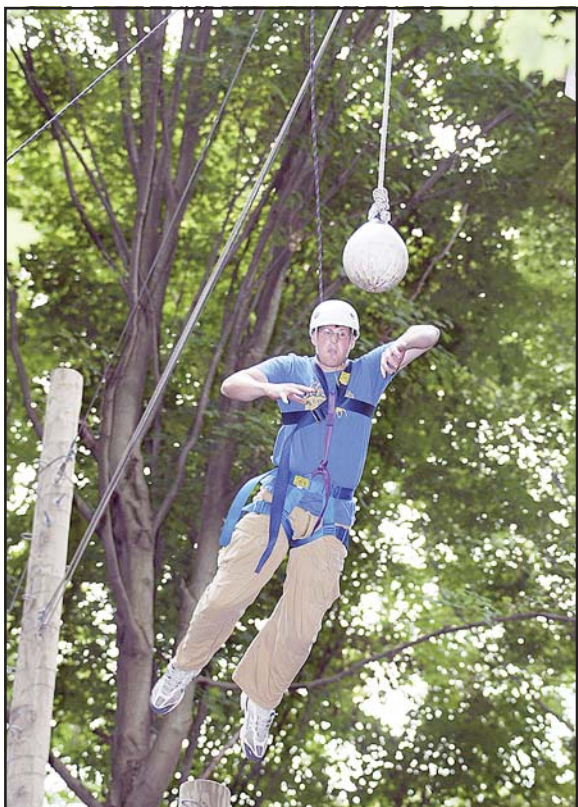
BAS assists emotionally handicapped children in the development of appropriate in-school behaviors, preparing them for a return to a public school setting. The program attempts to teach students in grades 6 through 11 appropriate methods of socialization. The staff assists students in learning effective methods of dealing with stress, anger control and frustration tolerance.

Elementary Program

This short-term program works with elementary students who have been identified as at risk by their home school. It provides on-grounds classroom instruction, therapeutic counseling and case management for the student and family.



Two Bashor residents climb a rock wall as part of one of the home's six programs.



Education takes place outside of classrooms as well as inside.

Bashor goal to provide high-quality education

What do BAS, SHARE and BEEP mean? That's a common question people ask as they browse through the brochures or surf the Web site. What is the difference?

What do they do? Simply stated, all three come under the service umbrella of the Educational Services program at Bashor Children's Home.

Separately and collectively, each individual sector "strives to improve the provision of family-centered, evidence-based and solution-focused services to all children and families," according to the vision statement crafted by teachers, administrators and aides. The goal is lofty – "meet a high quality and highly effective standard within an educational, school-based setting."

"Effective services will be delivered in a multi-disciplinary approach and will include spiritually-based care, education, recreation and therapeutic services. We will be innovative, proactive and

flexible in empowering families to build on their strengths as they become more successful in advocating for their child."

About those acronyms ...

BAS is Bashor Alternative School, the longest running education program on the campus. It is primarily a day program designed to serve students (boys and girls) who have been diagnosed as emotionally disturbed (ED) by the public schools. This disability limits the student's ability to adequately function in the traditional classroom setting. BAS focuses on frustration tolerance, social skills and anger management in addition to the academic curriculum.

BEEP, or Bashor Elementary Educational Program, is a day program and is the newest offering by the agency. It is designed as an intervention for boys and girls in grades 2 through 6. These students have shown signs of struggle in the public school setting but are

"The educational mission of Bashor Children's Home is to bring children and families together, equipping them with the tools for success."

not yet in need of alternative education. The BEEP staff assesses these students, and then works with parents, teachers and the child's school to recommend approaches that could foster a more successful school experience.

SHARE is Shelter and Residential Education, created to augment the educational experiences of children assigned to Bashor's residential programs – short and long term. It ranges from the elementary classroom providing for the boys in the HOPE treatment program to classroom opportunities for the young men and women in the FAITH continuum. SHARE is even available to Emergency Shelter Care residents on a

case-by-case basis.

Enrollment covers the entire spectrum of school services, from grades 1 through 12, and includes special education services as well as traditional classroom settings. Additional opportunities are available through Nova Net, a computer based curriculum. Students in SHARE have the opportunity to earn academic credit that may be transferred to their home school system, thus keeping on track for graduation or General Education Development (GED) certification.

The numbers speak for themselves. The improvement in Bashor's educational focus and the expansion of the type of services the agency provides has led to an

explosion in the census, rising 77 percent since 2002. More children are coming to Bashor because it has become a model agency known for being mission driven, innovative and highly effective.

Fortunately, these services are making a difference. More than 95 percent of the children who were enrolled in the education department during the past two years either graduated or are still successful in school at least one year after completing the programs. Bashor gives boys and girls something they may not be able to hold in their hand but they can most definitely hold in their hearts – tools for success.

Regardless of the program focus – resident or day student, special education or traditional student – the focus of the educational staff remains in line with the overall mission of Bashor Children's Home. The teachers, administrators, therapeutic staff and aides strive to provide "help for today and hope for tomorrow."

Bashor's history:

Built on faith through the years

Bashor Children's Home began as the Bashor Deaconess Orphanage on land donated to The Methodist Episcopal Church by John and Emaline Bashor in 1923.

The church governed a boys orphanage until it suspended operations during World War II. It was reopened in 1950 and remained an orphanage through 1968.

Bashor Children's Home re-focused its mission on residential child care in 1969 and launched a period of rapid growth as the agency adapted to the changing needs of the community:

1971 – Completed construction of four residential cottages and Arbogast Center.

1974 – Established a remedial education program, first at the junior high school level; a high school program came two years later.

1977 – Established off-campus emergency shelter care for boys and girls. The shelter program was relocated on campus in 1994.

1981 – Completed construction of the school and activities center.

1989 – Established an intensive treatment program to address the needs of children with severe emotional handicaps.

1996 – Established a youthful sexual offender program, targeted for boys ages 8-13, in cooperation with Oaklawn and Holy Cross.

1997 – Completed work on the Lung/Stull Complex featuring a secure residential unit, classrooms, group rooms and office space.

1998 – Created a drug and alcohol addictions program for adolescents to provide treatment, counseling and family therapy.

2001 – Completed a major campus-wide improvement project that included complete renovation of the residential cottages, new roads and remodeling an old maintenance garage for classroom and computer space. Recreational facilities expanded with the addition of The Pekarek Adventures Course, a softball diamond and a soccer field.

2002 – Expanded FAITH program to create a continuum of care in four phases: locked secure, staff secure, substance abuse treatment and independent living.

2004 – Established short-term elementary education day program in cooperation with area school districts.

2005 – Established Therapeutic Foster Care program.

2005 – Began \$4 million building



The original Bashor family farmhouse provided care for orphans and troubled boys from 1923 through 1987. John and Emaline Bashor donated 160 acres of land west of Goshen to The Methodist Episcopal Church for the expressed purpose of caring for children.

project for expanded Educational Services Center, including classrooms, media center,

computer lab, science lab, arts and crafts room, dining hall, and office space.

Parents tell their stories of success

Okay, enough about the numbers. There are certainly enough to toss around. We can talk about the construction project worth \$4.2 million. We've told you our census has risen 77 percent. And we are proud of the 95 percent success rate among students enrolled in the three education programs. So, how do all of these

numbers translate? A sampling of parents to tell their story:

"I thought you would like to know how well Jackson is doing since he went back to school. He actually made the honor roll for the first grading period! He is in the general classroom for everything except math, where he is

pulled for a little extra help.

"Jackson has made great progress. He got the principal's award about a week ago and he got an award for having a positive attitude that was presented in front of a school assembly! I know I owe a great deal of credit to the program at Bashor. I want to say thank you from the bottom

of my heart."

– From the mother of a student in the BEEP program.

"We would like to extend our most sincere and heart-felt thank you to Bashor Children's Home for the positive transformation of our son, Jacob. He came to your program after a three-year struggle in the public school system where he spent all of his time confined to a special educational classroom. During his first four months in the fourth grade, he was suspended for violent outbursts eight times. We were given the choice of home bound care or your program.

"We made the right choice. We saw changes on Jacob in the first week! The program provided structure and the kind of positive reinforcement he lacked in the school environment. He enjoyed team building and other social activities and finally felt accepted. Although he would say every day was his last one at Bashor, he got off the school bus every afternoon with a smile on his face, which was something we had not seen in a long time.

"In seven months at Bashor, Jacob grew into a happy and successful child. His confidence grew. We have our son back."

– Portions of a letter from the mother of a BAS student who transitioned back to public school.

"We thank everyone for all you've done for Lance and our family. The biggest gift you have given us is hope! You have no idea what an answer to prayer you have been. May God bless

every one of you this Christmas season. We know many of you will have to sacrifice time with your families to help take care of ours. Thank you so much! Please know how much we appreciate all of you!"

– A holiday note from the parents of a HOPE resident.

"I express my deep appreciation for the fine work the teachers and staff have done with my grandson. He has been in my care since he was six years old and has always had some trouble dealing with his anger. He was moved out of middle school and tried two alternative programs before he came to you.

"He still has trouble trusting people, but he has been able to learn to control his temper and has been able to walk away from situations that would have caused an outburst in the past. You taught him that. Without the help of those involved at Bashor he would probably still be struggling. Thank you."

– From a grateful grandmother.

"I write to let you know what a wonderful job you have done with Brent and how much I appreciate your being a part of his life. As Brent has been at Bashor for three years now, I am sure that as much as you are excited to see him move on and further his life, it is sad to see him go.

Although he will still need assistance, Brent is a better person for having known all the wonderful people who touched his life at Bashor.

– From an adoption specialist with Catholic Charities.

Our Mission Statement:

What does it really mean?

Our mission statement says: Faithful to God and in keeping with the United Methodist tradition, the mission of Bashor Children's Home is to provide Help for Today and Hope for Tomorrow to troubled youth and their families.

We know what this statement says. We see it posted in a variety of places on campus. It is published with our monthly newsletter. It appears on our official correspondence. So, what do we mean?

We begin with "faithful to God." – it is our reason for being. Bashor Children's Home was a faith based agency long before the phrase became a part of modern political culture. John and Emaline Bashor deeded the land to The Methodist Episcopal Church because they believed they were called to serve God by serving His children. The call remains the same for many of our staff members today.

What is the "United Methodist tradition" that guides us? John Wesley, founder of the Wesleyan or Methodist movement, was convinced Christians need to do more than simply gather in worship. They need to put those principals into social action.

"Do all the good you can," Wesley implored, "by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can." It is the very foundation of the Wesleyan tradition.

"Help for Today" is what we offer as soon as a

young person comes to one of our programs. There are the immediate needs – food, shelter, clothing, safety and stability. There is evaluation and treatment. Bashor provides therapy, education, recreation and spiritual guidance specific to each child and family.

"Hope for Tomorrow" is the promise Bashor makes to those children God has entrusted in care. Don Phillips, our president and CEO, offers this analogy in every new staff orientation: "We would never think of pushing a child in a wheelchair to the bottom of the stairs and say, 'here – walk up and down!' They are simply not equipped to handle it. It's the same for the young people we see on this campus. We can't expect their behavior to change overnight. They don't have those skills." Our mission is to help children learn those skills.

And what of the "troubled youth" we mention? Notice the word is troubled, not trouble! There is a difference. The Bashor staff is compelled to see each child as the productive person they can be despite their current circumstances. We do not see them as trouble, or a burden, or beyond redemption.

Finally, there is the word "families." This could very well be the most important word in the future of our mission. Watch for more and more emphasis on family in our programming and our treatment focus. We envision a day when we no longer admit just a child to Bashor Children's Home – we welcome a family.

This is Bashor's mission!

Chaplain, staff share faith to change lives

Karen has been a resident of the Emergency Shelter Care program at Bashor Children's Home several times during her difficult youth years.

Erik Sietsema was a Youth Care Worker in the cottage when he first met Karen. She came in as a runaway, having fled Elkhart to the Deep South to search for her alcoholic mother. When her attempts at restoring the relationship fell flat, Karen came home, turned herself in and was placed at ESC.

Karen was at Bashor for several months, was placed in foster care, but returned several months later when the situation soured. By then Erik Sietsema had become the campus chaplain and began to build a different relationship with this troubled young woman.

"When she first returned, I visited with her and listened to her story," Sietsema remembered. "She was obviously frustrated that foster care had not worked out (again), but tried to tell me that it didn't affect her.

"One Wednesday night, a few

weeks after her return, I was visiting the cottage during quiet time. I walked into Karen's doorway to find her sitting on the floor crying. When I inquired about what was bothering her, she sobbed that she had no idea how to deal with her past anymore. She had done things she was ashamed of and had been hurt in ways she couldn't forget."

Sietsema and Karen talked for 40 minutes. It was "Youth Ministry 101" – sharing the love of Christ and how God was willing to take all of the mess away. He showed Karen the promise in Scripture that as far as the east is from the west, God takes our past away. He even shared a little of his own testimony.

"Karen wondered how she could be connected to God like that," Sietsema smiled. "I explained it begins by simply asking. She seemed scared by the whole proposition, asked me to pray for her, but declined to pray with me."

Sietsema admits he wondered what had come out of the situation until Karen began sharing openly



Campus Chaplain Erik Sietsema (left) and President/CEO Don Phillips may not look like your average spiritual leaders, but God uses them at Bashor Children's Home.

about discovering how to deal with her pain by following God.

She began reading the Bible to younger residents in the evening and even asked to come back to speak at the campus Son Rave chapel services after she was discharged.

A resident's spiritual life is a vital part of the multidisciplinary approach to treatment at Bashor Children's Home.

"I saw real change," Sietsema beamed. "Karen changed the way she carried herself. She presented herself very differently. Perhaps that is my own perception, but it seems so very clear to me. God went to work!"

Today, Karen has her own apartment and is traveling the path to a more settled and fulfilling life.

"In all of her struggle and hurt, the one constant she experienced was Bashor," Sietsema notes. "No matter how bad things got, she always wound up back with us. We accepted her regardless from where she came. I shared the Gospel with her one evening but ultimately

it was the staff at Bashor over the eight years she was in and out of our doors who really witnessed to her."

A resident's spiritual life is a vital part of the multidisciplinary approach to treatment at Bashor Children's Home. There are devotions and mealtime prayers in each cottage. Sietsema meets with each cottage for discussion groups or Bible study on a weekly basis. Residents attend church service in the community. He also hosts "Son Rave" twice a month. This twice-monthly chapel services welcomes speakers and Christian musicians to lead worship and share their testimonies.

Faith community asked to consider Bashor's 'Mustard Seed' challenge

Call it the next step on the path to recovery. While the first goal of each residential program at Bashor Children's Home is restoring the family unit and the parent-child relationship, experience has unfortunately demonstrated it is not always a realistic outcome. There are times when a boy or girl simply cannot go home again. As a result, Bashor has recently added foster care to its list of services.

"Our goal is simple. We take kids who are on our campus here, find foster homes for them and support those foster homes," President/CEO Don Phillips says of the year-old program. "We provide whatever help is needed. They're going have the backup, support and assistance of our entire organization."

Program Director Jessica Lala explains, "When kids are finished with their treatment, many times their parents' rights have been terminated. There are other times when we need to do family counseling and we need time to bring kids and their parents back together."

Under the Bashor plan, foster parents are recruited and trained to be program specific. Young men and women who emerge from the Substance Abuse Program will be matched with foster parents who have extensive training in substance abuse issues. Boys from the HOPE program will be placed in homes where the foster parents have been educated in their specific issues. The same template

will be used for each residential treatment program.

Strong recruiting is key the program's success. While the need for foster care has grown considerably during the past few years, the number of people interested in accepting the challenge has declined.

"We really count on the faith community to step up and answer the call," says Vince Turner, vice president of development and public relations. "I visit churches on a regular basis and people are always asking, 'What can I do? I can't make large donations but I want to be a part if things. How can I make a difference?' This is certainly something people should consider."

Phillips adds, "People will say, 'I'm a single parent.' People will say, 'We're not the perfect family.' People will say, 'We're not wealthy. We don't have a fancy home.' All of those reasons don't matter to a child."

Lala says, "We're all like the parable in the Bible with a mustard seed. You plant that little mustard seed in a child's life and it can grow. I really encourage people to just be that mustard seed in any of these young lives because you never know how much it's going to grow."

For more information on the foster care program, log on to the Bashor Web site at www.bashor.org or call Jessica Lala at 574-875-5117 and ask for an informational DVD on foster care.

What is our...



Core of Values

- We honor God when we serve others
- Every child needs to be cared for and cared about
- Children are best cared for by families in the community
- Children and families should guide our efforts
- We must be there for them
- We must say yes we can help
- We must not say goodbye
- We must work together with anyone that can facilitate this effort

Purpose

- We are called to serve and in so doing improve the lives of children and families, and so we:
- Do all the good we can
- By all the means we can
- In all the ways we can
- At all times we can
- For as many as we can
- As long as we can

Mission

Faithful to God and in keeping with the United Methodist tradition, Bashor Children's Home is to provide "Help for Today and Hope for Tomorrow" to troubled children and their families.

Vision

A passionate purposeful organization that is mission driven striving to become a nationally recognized model agency, an agency which inspires others by replacing ineffective traditional approaches with catalytic innovation so powerful it significantly reduces the need and use of intensive-long term residential services by truly serving families.

Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow



Bashor is a related ministry of the North and South Indiana Conferences of The United Methodist Church

Military chaplains retreat strengthens 'wounded healers'

By Hilly Hicks and
Kathy L. Gilbert

Oftentimes the most powerful person on the battlefield is an unarmed, praying chaplain.

Military chaplains live side-by-side with soldiers. They eat, sleep and work with young men and women in dangerous and uncomfortable conditions thousands of miles from family, friends and their United Methodist connections.

Circuit riders in Humvees, they bring a Bible as their only weapon.

The strain of seeing many members of their extended congregation die or receive horrific wounds is challenging, and chaplains have little or no time to tend to their own wounded souls.

Once a year, however, the "wounded healers" come together in Germany for a retreat sponsored by the United Methodist Endorsing Agency, part of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. This year's gathering was Feb. 16-21 in Etal, Germany.

Twelve chaplains and many of their wives and children spent the retreat in periods of worship, round-table discussion and relaxed times of fun and fellowship.

Retired Bishop Woodie White came as a special guest to preach, serve communion, counsel and listen to the chaplains. He joined the Rev. Patricia Barrett, head of the Endorsing Agency, on a visit to the

"I could hardly hold back the tears."

— Bishop Woodie White

Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl where the war wounded in Afghanistan and Iraq are evacuated for medical attention before being flown back to the United States for further care.

White took his turn with chaplains walking around the medical center — offering prayers with and for the soldiers.

"I could hardly hold back the tears," White wrote following his visit. "Then it was difficult to contain my rage. I was standing with a U.S. chaplain at the bedside of a wounded soldier recently evacuated from Iraq. The soldier was horribly burned over more than 40 percent of his body. Frankly, it was difficult for me to look at him. Then we moved to another bed. Here was a soldier who had both legs blown off."

Refueling and replenishing

United Methodist Chaplain David Smith was one of the U.S. Army chaplains attending the retreat in Germany. Each chaplain was given an opportunity to tell their own stories and to hear from church leadership that they were cared for and prayed for.

Smith recalls the "footlocker counseling" he did everyday with



A UMNS photo by Hilly Hicks

U.S. Army Chaplain John Read and retired United Methodist Bishop Woodie White pray with a wounded soldier at the U. S. Army Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany.

the military police in Fallujah, Iraq.

A simple request, "Hey, chaplain, would you mind stopping in to visit the platoon? They had a really rough day," became a ministry for Smith who came under attack many times himself on his rounds to see his "flock."

As part of a 54-unit ministry team in a task force scattered over an area more than twice the size of Indiana, Smith traveled by vehicle or air to visit the troops. "It was critical for me to be their pastor," said Smith.

As part of Operation Iraqi Freedom during the initial occupation of Iraq, Smith described the experience as very dangerous at the beginning, followed by a period

of stability. Then came the 30 days of Ramadan and a time of heightened danger for the troops.

"I was traveling prior to and during Ramadan in my Humvee with no doors, sandbags on the floor and really with a fear of God every time I left what I thought was the security of our forward operating base."

Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) are a constant threat in Iraq. Smith went weekly to visit soldiers at a military medical facility and he recalls one period of three close calls with IEDs exploding near his Humvee.

A hospital chaplain and friend suggested he try flying in the next weekend.

"I put an air request in to fly

from our headquarters to the hospital, and on the way back that night to the headquarters the engine went out in the helicopter and we caught a hard landing. ... It was like a crash landing," he said. "I'm thinking, 'Lord what are you trying to tell me? Three weekends in a row.' But it was something that I felt was important to visit our wounded soldiers in the hospital."

Like many other soldiers, Smith has never really shared his stories. But sharing them with other chaplains at the retreat was "dynamic, personal and inspirational. It has been a healing experience."

Living with stress

Another Army Chaplain, Scott Weichl, told the group that "being able to reflect on my experiences in Iraq with people I know and trust makes being here at this retreat worth it."

Air Force Chaplain Joel Warren is stationed at Ramstein (Germany) Air Base and greets C-130 aircrafts when they touch down loaded with injured troops from Iraq or Afghanistan. What he has seen as he boards those aircrafts weighs heavily upon him.

"The war does not go away," Warren said. "I can't tell you the importance of sitting down with my fellow United Methodists and being reminded of who we are."

Hilly Hicks serves as director of United Methodist Productions; Kathy Gilbert serves as a United Methodist News Service news writer based in Nashville, Tenn.

COSROW calls for work against racism, sexism

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (UMNS) — A commitment to justice for all

and continued efforts to exorcise sexism and racism are needed if The United Methodist Church is to meet new mission goals.

That is the opinion of the 45-member United Methodist Commission on the Status and Role of Women.

During its Feb. 22-24 meeting in Myrtle Beach, the commission affirmed "in spirit" a proposed four-pronged mission emphasis by which the United Methodist Council of Bishops and worldwide Connectional Table would set the future course of the denomination's work and life.

However, the church's women's justice organization reminded denominational leaders that "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" — what the church understands as its "primary task" — must include working to end worldwide racism and sexism, beginning in the hearts of each church member and in the "bones" of each con-

gregation.

The bishops, the executives of church-wide agencies and the Connectional Table have proposed that all levels of the denomination work together to transform the church and the world by promoting leadership development, starting new congregations, addressing global health concerns and tackling root causes of poverty.

Members of the women's commission said those strategies should include:

- ◆ Offering ministries with the poor that address systemic political and social concerns and recognize that most of the world's poor are women and children;
- ◆ Making deliberate efforts to include women's expertise, styles and perspectives in developing effective leadership as laity and clergy;
- ◆ Recognizing young women, women of color and poor women as gifted and essential to the growth and effectiveness of the church's life and work;



Burton

"A congregation that doesn't invite and welcome people from other races can't transform the world."

— M. Garlinda Burton

- ◆ Countering sexism and sexual misconduct in the church through dialogue and training about power dynamics and the rights and responsibilities of leaders;
 - ◆ Respecting cultural contexts of communities and churches, along with committing to cross-racial and interracial evangelistic and discipleship opportunities;
 - ◆ Allocating financial and other resources to empower ministries in rural and urban poor communities, as well as middle- and upper-income suburban areas;
 - ◆ Including women and people of color at all levels of planning, ministry and leadership development; and
 - ◆ Insuring that Christian education stresses the sacred worth and gifts of all people.
- "A congregation that doesn't

invite and welcome people from other races can't transform the world," said M. Garlinda Burton, COSROW's top executive. "A disciple who rejects a pastor just because she's a woman is not following Christ.

"United Methodist Christians

have nothing transforming to offer the world if we continue to cling to sexism and racism," Burton added.

The Rev. Rosetta Ross, a United Methodist clergywoman and professor at Spelman College in Atlanta, echoed those sentiments. "Getting people to come to church is one thing. But the church must also foster compassionate justice in disciples and ask what it means to be responsive and responsible Christians."

Information for this story was provided by the Commission on the Status and Role of Women.

UMC remains third largest denomination

NEW YORK (UM Newscope) — The United Methodist Church ranked third in membership in the 75th edition of the *Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches*, recently published by the National Council of Churches and Abingdon Press.

The 2007 edition reports on a record 224 national church bodies and ranks the 25 largest churches by membership. With

membership listed at almost 8.1 million people, the UMC follows the Roman Catholic Church and Southern Baptist Convention.

Other top Protestant churches include the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (with 4.85 million members) and the Presbyterian Church, USA (with 3.1 million). Statistics were collected from churches in 2005, and almost 166 million people are included.

Kefas Mavula becomes United Methodist Bishop of Nigeria

MONROVIA, Liberia (UM Newscope) – The United Methodist Church in Nigeria has a new bishop, Kefas Kane Mavula, who was elected and appointed on his 40th birthday. The March 3 election was held during a special session of the West Africa Central Conference in Monrovia, Liberia. Mavula garnered all 74 votes cast.

The church in Nigeria has been led on an interim basis by Bishop Ntambo Nkulu Ntanda (North Katanga Area) since the death last August of Bishop Done Peter

Dabale. Dabale, who died of cancer, was elected the first UM bishop of Nigeria in 1992.

A major challenge for the new bishop will be to unify a church that has been fragmented for several years. Mavula, an experienced teacher, is expected to use his leadership skills to bring reconciliation.

“Acknowledging our shortcomings is a very good step towards achieving peace,” he said. “We must humble ourselves and accept our shortcomings. These will take

us a very long way in achieving peace and solving some of the problems if not all.”

The UMC in Nigeria is large. Bishop Janice Riggle Huie (Houston Area), president of the Council of Bishops, noted last August that, under Dabale, the church in Nigeria had grown from about 10,000 to more than 400,000 members.

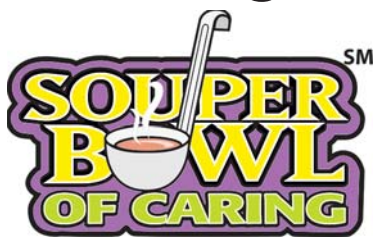
The Rev. John Wesley Yohanna (right) congratulates newly elected United Methodist Bishop Kefas Kane Mavula, with Jessica Mavula in the background.



Souper Bowl of Caring brings in \$8 million for hunger, poverty

This year's Souper Bowl of Caring has raised more than \$8 million to fight hunger and poverty. That's \$3 million more than last year. The annual event ties in with football's Super Bowl to encourage churches, schools, and other groups to raise money for local charities.

More than 14,500 groups participated this year. The campaign surpassed last year's total of ap-



proximately \$5 million. It even made it onto the CBS pre-game show.

About 75 percent of the funds

and food donations raised this year are going to food banks and food pantries. In 2006, 2,348 United Methodist congregations contributed more than \$1 million.

Hoosiers raised \$124,708 and collected 23,853 cans of food among 332 groups statewide including United Methodists.

For more information about Souper Bowl of Caring, log on to www.souperbowl.org.

World Methodist Evangelism Institute to feature development of missionary congregations

The 8th International Evangelism Seminar sponsored by the World Methodist Evangelism Institute is scheduled for June 19-27 at the Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center in Atlanta. Its theme is “That the World May Know Jesus Christ: Developing Missionary Congregations in the Methodist/Wesleyan Movement.” More than 300 Methodist/Wesleyan leaders from 50 coun-

tries are expected to attend. Spaces are open for North American delegates to register now.

Discover how worldwide Methodist/Wesleyan missionary congregations are being developed and redeveloped, and learn of new exciting methodologies for reaching new people for Christ in multiple contexts.

For more information and registration log on to www.wmei.ws.

Discipleship Univ. to instruct leaders on revitalizing congregations

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) – The discipleship agency of The United Methodist Church will open a “Discipleship University” this fall to instruct teams of pastors and lay members on ways to revitalize their congregations.

A part-time, two-year learning experience, the school will launch in October in the board's Nashville headquarters as part of the agency's efforts to renew existing churches and help leaders of those congregations be more effective in their ministries, said the Rev. Karen Greenwaldt, the agency's top executive.

“Discipleship University, a groundbreaking new initiative, will directly address the leadership needs of today's changing church,” Greenwaldt said in her “state of the board” address.

The initiative was announced during a March 14-17 meeting in Nashville of the governing mem-

bers of the General Board of Discipleship, whose primary purpose is to help annual conferences, districts and local churches to win disciples to Jesus Christ and to help those new Christians grow in their own discipleship. Bishop Mike Coyner is president of the board.

Greenwaldt said the board continuously searches for “ways to engage the peoples of the world with deep resources of Christian faith and practice. Our work continues to deepen and to change” and “our initiatives focus on the clarion call in the church for effective leaders who will lead vital and vibrant churches.”

– Karen Greenwaldt

Curriculum and learning

Pastor and laity teams will commit for two-year periods of accountability to learn, study, practice, worship, pray and build ministry plans.

Agency staff members, with assistance from consultants, will serve as faculty to instruct about:

- ◆ Worship as central to the life of the body of Christ,
- ◆ Evangelism,
- ◆ Mentoring of young people,
- ◆ Small groups and Sunday

School as the binding agent of faith formation, practice and accountability,

- ◆ Spiritual leadership development of clergy and laity,
- ◆ Stewardship of life, call and gifts.

“Interwoven through each of these tracks will be the practice of the Wesleyan means of grace and the understanding of the church's basic evangelistic task of reaching out to engage the peoples of the world,” Greenwaldt said.

Criteria for enrollment

Classes of up to 150 students will come from churches with an average worship attendance of 100-250 people. Church teams of three to five members, both pastors and lay, will spend three to five days in academy module settings five times in two years in Nashville, and a new semester will begin every six months for team-

based learning.

During sessions, the students will perform assignments on site and also will engage in practical applications at home. Tuition costs are still being analyzed by the agency.

Many students will be nominated from the annual conferences, from agency solicitation and from the agency's Roman's 12 project, a year-long research endeavor to discover best practices in local congregations to mine ideas, concepts, practices and principles that help form vital churches. Those best practices will be incorporated into the curriculum of Discipleship University.

For more information, contact Jeanette Pinkston, director of media relations for the Board of Discipleship, by e-mailing jpinkston@gbod.org or by calling 877-899-2780, ext. 7017.

UM Communication offers new www.umc.org/nets Web site

Nothing But Nets is creating a buzz. It's captivating United Methodists as a way to be involved with saving lives. Thousands of people have bought insecticide-treated bed nets at \$10 a shot.

“The reaction to Rick Reilly's 815 words made clear that thousands of people were ready to help the million children dying unnecessarily each year of malaria. And so *Nothing But Nets* was born.” – UN Foundation Web site, www.unfoundation.org/malaria/ United Methodist Communi-

cation announces four new resources.

1. **WEB SITE** The new www.umc.org/nets site has been launched. For example, clicking ‘Find Tools and Resources’ reveals the *Game Plan*, a plethora of downloadable resources, including worship support, curriculum and publicity materials – as well as Talking Points for Youth. Click on ‘Get Youth Involved’ and you will see explanations of youth events in 2007 and invitations

Nothing But #Nets

to get hands-on with the campaign.

2. **GAME PLAN** In addition to being available on the new Web site, the *Game Plan* (also known as a toolkit) can be ordered for \$15. The Game Plan has a sample T-shirt, a poster and a DVD that contains downloadable video, guidelines, sermon starters, curriculum, bulletin covers, drop-in ads, posters and more. It's

packaged in a draw-string duffel bag.

Available by way of the Game Plan or from the Web site, T-shirts sell for \$20, with \$10 going to purchase a bed net. Coach cards (note cards) will sell for \$10 and will be available soon.

3. **7 VILLAGES** We know people want to talk about their activities and to learn what others are doing. *UMC.org* offers a 7 Villages site (networking with others on the Internet) just for *Nothing But Nets*. We need

someone to start a Village – so reach out and be among the first village builders. See www.7villages.com/nothingbutnets

4. **YOUTH REPORTERS** UM Communication is looking for youth to serve as reporters on the ground for youth activities so if you haven't already done so, please send contacts UM Communication can work with to tap youth for this special assignment to editor@inareaumc.org or call 317-924-1321 ext. 18.

Katrina survivors live two lives

By Sharon Dunten

The survivors of Hurricane Katrina have lived two lives. One life was pre-Katrina. Another life is now post-Katrina. It is interesting to listen to the survivors about what life was like before Hurricane Katrina.

Life was easier. Water came through the pipes; it was clean and cold. Electricity was plentiful; it only took a flip of the switch to turn it on. Flushing the toilet, well, it flushed. Children played in courtyards, tourism was good, and the stunning white sand of the Gulf was a place for walking and sunbathing. The huge, white live oak trees were majestic and shaded 100 year-old homes; Church steeples stood pointed toward heaven. Then Hurricane Katrina hit August 29, 2005.

Life became hard. Water was shut off. Or it was contaminated. Electricity was shut off. Generators needed gasoline to run. But the pumps didn't run without electricity. Flushing the toilets was not a good idea. The sewer system was gone. Over half of the children have moved north to new

schools and friends; tourism has evolved into "volutourism" and the pristine beaches are marked with trash and debris. The live oaks are either dead or damaged. The 100 year-old homes are either gone or have been gutted. The steeples have fallen. But the look toward heaven has not changed.

Even though houses were swept away by 30-foot storm surges and levees broke flooding eighty percent of Louisiana's largest city, the faith of Katrina survivors has been steadfast on Christ's promise of hope.

When a church became the only building dispensing food and water in the area, the exclusive congregation became inclusive by opening up their doors to strangers in their community for the first time.

Katrina's winds battered as well as destroyed church buildings. But congregations consolidated to form new faith communities joining services and hope for fractured congregations.

Faithful denominations came together with city leaders to address the social needs of evacuees. Neighbors checked on neigh-

bors. Churches became dorms for volunteers. Food stations filled fellowship halls. Chain saws became more valuable than a plasma TV.

Bibles were soaked. Bibles were replaced by another church.

Worship services continued even if outdoors.

When in doubt where to go, survivors went to churches.

Semi-trailers full of supplies, with no instruction on where to unload, dropped off lifesaving cargo at the local churches in Mississippi and New Orleans knowing the churches would be open in the communities.

Through the terror of the storm and its aftermath, many sought God for answers; many sought solace in knowing God was there even through the worst of times.

Many called Hurricane Katrina an act of God; many said it would be how the church acted after Katrina that would be its destiny.

Many cried; many still cry; but most still look to the heavens to survive.

Sharon Dunten serves as a photojournalist and writer. She lives in Indianapolis.

Appointment season adds its own unique pressures to life in Indiana

By Cyndi Alte

It is pressure time in The United Methodist Church – pressure

for lay people and pressure for pastors. Bishop and district superintendents are gathering around the North Indiana and South Indiana Conferences Cabinet tables to determine which pastors are "must moves" and which churches are "have to haves." Pastors are sitting around kitchen tables waiting for the phone to ring. Lay people are sitting at committee tables listing favorable characteristics of their next pastor. At some point along the way, they all sit at a table together.

Appointment season is here. Churches want the best for their members and pastors want to give their best. The pressure comes when "best" is defined, or cannot be defined, or has different definitions. What is "best" for a congregation? And what pastor is the "best" for the congregation? That is the appointment process at its "best." Unfortunately, not everyone is at his or her "best" this time of year.

A research report from *Pulpit and Pew* entitled "What do Lay People Want in Pastors?: Answers from Lay Search Committee Chairs and Regional Judicatory

Leaders" identifies nine qualities that search committees (language of the report) seek when looking for the "best."



Alte

1. Demonstrated competence and religious authenticity
2. Good preacher and leader of worship
3. Strong spiritual leader
4. Commitment to parish ministry and ability to maintain boundaries
5. Available, approachable, and warm pastor with good "people skills"

6. Gender, race, marriage, and sexual orientation of clergy
7. Age, experience and job tenure of the pastor
8. Consensus builder, lay ministry coach and responsive leader
9. Entrepreneurial evangelists, innovators and transformational reflexive leader

Not surprisingly, the third quality is the most desired by congregations in their pastors. It also is the most complex for everyone who is feeling the pressure this time of year. One of those characteristics that is "best" for the church, "there is no standard criteria for ascertaining of predicting who will be a good spiritual leader for a particular congregation," according to Adair T. Lumis, author of the study.

Isn't it interesting that among people of faith, there is no stan-

dard measuring rod for what makes for a spiritual leader or follower, for that matter?

Among members of congregations there are differing opinions; even among pastors there is no consensus. Congregations and pastors are not the only ones needing some sort of plumb line. Sometimes that judgment comes from outside of the flock.

One pastor who mentors seminarians through the credentialing process says, "I tell them that, number one – a call from God in their life is critical. Number two is compassion. You have to care about people. It is not just a job. Number three is character. You have to be a person of character today because people are looking at that; they are scrutinizing that.

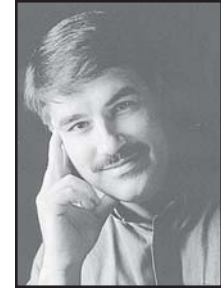
"You have to prove yourself every day: the way you treat your family; the way you pay your bills; the way you drive your car. That is all critical to your ability to

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT

Sticky ideas

By Todd Outcalt

A genre of publishing that has exploded in the past five years. Among the more recent bestsellers are two titles by Malcolm Gladwell: *The Tipping Point* and *Blink*. Both of these books deal with the little things that can make a big difference in a business, a product or a market.



Outcalt

Even more recently, two brother authors, Chip and Dan Heath, have written a book titled, *Made to Stick*. The subtitle is, *Why Some Ideas Survive and Others Die*. Reading this book, I discovered some amazing questions for the church. The authors believe that the stickiness or effectiveness of an idea, a presentation or even a worship service or sermon can be attributed to the following success factors.

- ◆ **Simple** – how easy is the concept to understand? The simpler, the better. Jesus communicated profound insights in a simple manner. Are our churches easy for people to visit or are there barriers that have to be broken down first? Can a visitor or guest to our congregations understand what is happening? Have we become too complicated as United Methodists?

- ◆ **Unexpected** – an idea sticks because we say something or do something that people

don't expect. Is our worship of God just repetition for the sake of ease, or do we say things, do things or offer the Gospel in new and provocative ways that bring people out of their comfort zones into a new awareness of God? When's the last time we tried something unexpected in worship?

- ◆ **Concrete** – no abstractions. Make it plain. It's got to be practical and livable. Can we teach people how to use their faith to deal with family crisis, problems at work or marital questions?

- ◆ **Credible** – people have to believe that an idea or belief is achievable. The person offering the idea must have integrity and credibility. Are we coming across as credible people?

- ◆ **Emotional** – people have to feel a strong connection if they are going to join a movement, join a church or stick with a congregation. We need to appeal to people's emotional needs as well as intellectual if the faith is going to stick.

- ◆ **Stories** – Jesus used stories to communicate ideas. All great movements tell a story. Each congregation has a story to tell. Every pastor has a story. What is yours?

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

stand in the pulpit and declare the word of the Lord. Because if they don't see you live the life on the street, they are not going to pay you any attention in the pulpit."

Lumis is talking about the fruits of our faith, the fruits that others observe in us and the fruits that we offer for others to feast upon. Whether we are laity or clergy, whether it is a time of pressure or a time of calm, the fruits of our faith make a difference in our lives, the lives of our congrega-

tions and communities, and in the lives of all God's children.

Consider Galatians 5:22-23.

In this time of high pressure, don't let yourself become so bound to expectations that your fruits wither on the vine. Rather, may the unique fruits that you bear bring wholeness to you and all of God's creation?

Cyndi Alte serves as director of Congregational Health Ministries at Clarian Health in Indianapolis..

Pontius' Puddle



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 that



Lucille Raines

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.gb-gm-umc.org/lucilleraines.

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'Running the Race' event to be held in four locations same day

South Conference to hold evangelism training event

"Running the Race" is the theme for the South Indiana United Methodist Conference evangelism training event scheduled for Saturday, April 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with registration at 9:30 a.m., at four locations across South Indiana at Greenfield Bradley, Seymour First, Avon and Princeton Hillside United Meth-

odist churches.

The daylong event will feature an opening video presentation by Bishop Mike Coyner about four ways to engage in evangelism plus hour-long workshops on:

- ♦ Who is my neighbor?
- ♦ What makes us friendly?
- ♦ How do you move from the crowd to your community? and

- ♦ How do you start a new faith group?

The event's organizers, headed by the Rev. Paula Mayberry of Lawrence UMC, ask congregations to bring a group from their congregation "to more effectively run the race to reach people for Jesus Christ." The event is sponsored by the South Indiana Con-

ference Board of Church Growth and Evangelism.

Registration fees are: \$15 for one person, \$12 for each person up to four people with every fifth person free. The fee includes lunch. A registration form is available online by logging on to www.sicumc.org, click on "Events" and go to "Running

the Race Evangelism Event" for a brochure with registration form.

For more information and registration, contact Misty Boswell at the South Indiana Conference Center, 1520 S. Liberty Drive, Bloomington, IN 47403-5167 or call toll-free 800-919-8160 or 812-336-0186 ext. 222.

North Conference RVP explained May 5

Is your church interested in more effectively carrying out its mission? Is it at a place where it's ready to do something but isn't sure what to do next? Is it interested in acquiring tools from which it could benefit for years to come?

If so, consider participating in the Redevelopment Venture Process (RVP). A new group of North Indiana Conference churches will begin this 18-month, team-based

process Sept. 29. To learn more, plan to attend a free introduction to RVP from 10 a.m. to 12 noon EDT on Saturday, May 5 at First UMC in Wabash, Ind.

Bev Wynn, a laywoman from Elkhart Calvary UMC, says that her church is still using the tools even though it finished RVP.

The Rev. Judy Rice, a retired Deacon who served at Ft. Wayne Covenant UMC, said that RVP helped the church empower its la-

ity. People who didn't realize that they're leaders discovered who they were.

The Rev. Steve Austin, associate pastor of Warsaw First UMC, said RVP helped his church work through its decision to start an off-site congregation.

For more information, contact Ed Fenstermacher by e-mail at ed@nicumc.org, visit www.nicumc.org/cd/tools/rvp/ or call toll-free 800-783-5138. See page 16.

Parish Nurses advocate for increase in tobacco tax

Five parish nurses representing the Indiana Parish Nurse Resource Center, a chapter of the Health Ministries Association and Community Health Network in Indianapolis, recently met with three Indiana State Senators at the State House to encourage the Legislature to increase the tobacco tax and increase funding for the Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation agency. An increase in the tax will help curb teen smoking across Indiana where one out of five teens uses tobacco.



Photo courtesy of Sherry McIntyre

Pictured with State Senator Patricia Miller (center), a member of Old Bethel UMC in Indianapolis, are from left to right are: Becca Cartledge, University of Indianapolis Parish Nurse Instructor and PN Christ UMC, Indianapolis; Marjorie Wolfe, PN Southport Baptist Church, Indianapolis; Cheryl Larson, Community Health Network and Past President IPNRC, Indianapolis; Senator Miller, Sherry McIntyre, President IPNRC a Chapter of HMA, Parish Nurse and Health Ministries Coordinator for Community Health Network, PN Amity UMC, Greenfield; and Mary Lewis, PN Speedway UMC.

New book explores mission, music on global scene

NEW YORK – The centrality of song to Christian life and mission is the subject of a collection of essays just published by the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries.

Music & Mission: Toward a Theology and Practice of Global Song was edited by the Rev. Dr. ST Kimbrough, Jr., who recently retired as the executive in

charge of the Global Praise program of the mission agency.

The 14 essays put special emphasis on the strong role of music found in the Methodist heritage, but they also explore song in Scripture and in the broad Christian experience. The easy-to-read resource is designed in part to help congregations take advantage of the wealth of song available in a global church.

"Music comes from the innermost soul of a people," Kimbrough writes in an introductory essay. The diversity of people within the church, he continues, makes an awareness of "global song" essential today; music from around the world "provides the means, the substance, by which Christians of diverse cultural expressions may relate to one another."

The book is divided into three parts. The first deals with global song in a global church, the second with global song and the Wesleyan (Methodist) tradition, and the third with global song and the congregation.

Music and Mission sells for \$14.95 and can be ordered through regular United Methodist distribution channels. Place mail orders

with Cokesbury, P.O. Box 801, Nashville, TN 27202-0801; telephone, 800-672-1798, FAX, 800-445-8189. The Web site of Global Praise is www.globalpraise.org.

PDF version of the Table of Contents and first chapter of the book, Music and Mission is available online: <http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/media/pdf/musicandmissionexcerpt.pdf> (94.2 KB)

You are never too young to enjoy Together



Photo courtesy of Matthew Stultz

Brianna Stultz, daughter of the Rev. Matthew and Heather Stultz of Fort Wayne, Ind., likes to read *Hoosier United Methodists Together* to stay informed on the world around her.

Local Pastor's License School to be held at Tipton in July

Laity believing to be called to ordained ministry and who have enrolled in the Candidacy Studies through the Division of Ordained Ministry are encouraged to enroll in the Indiana Area Local Pastor's License School.

The school will meet July 15 to 27 at the St. Joseph Conference Center north of Tipton, Ind. The primary costs of the school are provided by both the North Indiana and South Indiana conferences of The United Methodist Church. Students are asked to help pay a portion of the cost of the school by paying their room and board for the two-week stay. Indiana application fee, room and board totals \$650.

For more information and application forms, log on to www.sicumc.org/documents/BrochureWord2007.pdf.

Historical Society to examine the growth of Methodism within country

The Indiana United Methodist Historical Society plans to examine the growth of Methodism within the United States when it meets at Meridian Street United Methodist Church, 5500 N. Meridian Street in Indianapolis on Saturday, April 28.

The Rev. Howard Boles, pastor of Roberts Park UMC in downtown Indianapolis, and Dr. John Wantz, senior pastor at Me-

ridian Street UMC, will address Methodism nationally and within Indiana during the day-long event. Both congregations trace their ancestry to Wesley Chapel, the first congregation in the city.

The society's annual meeting will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration and lunch is \$12 for members of the society and \$15 for non-members. Reg-

istration deadline is April 14. Make checks payable to IUMHS/Annual Meeting and send to Lois Shelton, IUMHS, 4189 Troy Road, Washington, IN 47501.

For more information about the annual meeting and the society, log on to www.depauw.edu/library/archives/, e-mail archives@depauw.edu or call 765-658-4406.

North Indiana UM Foundation seeks field representatives

The North Indiana United Methodist Foundation is seeking Field Representatives to promote the Foundation and/or Loan Fund in the following Districts:

North Indiana Conference – Calumet, Marion, and Muncie
South Indiana Conference (Loan Fund only) – Evansville, Indianapolis West and Vincennes.

The foundation needs people who would be proactive in making contacts with conference leaders and local churches, and estimates a time commitment between 10 and 40 hours per month. This position is ideal for those who are retired, semi-retired or planning to retire soon. Field Representatives are compensated for their time on a per-diem basis, plus expenses. Call 866-669-2327 and ask for Tamara, or e-mail thendricks@niumf.org.

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 March 2007.

North Indiana Conference

Brown, Frank from no appointment to Rigdon, Marion, 1/21
Bunch, Jan W. from Saratoga, Muncie to Matthews Epworth, Marion, 5/1
Danielson, Chris C. from Muncie High Street, Muncie to LaGrange First, Michiana, 6/16
Dexheimer, Don from Akron, Warsaw to Retirement, 6/1
Drake, Hosea W. from South Bend Grace, Michiana to Retirement, 6/1
Fuller, Judith from Geneva First, Huntington to Daleville, Muncie, 6/16
Garman, Dexter W. from LaGrange First, Michiana to Retirement, 6/1
Gould, Milton, H from Atwood Aldersgate/Clune, Warsaw to Mishawaka Willow Creek, Michiana, 6/16
Hiatt, Gregory, J. from McGrawville, Kokomo to Huntertown, Fort Wayne, 6/16

Hubbard, Mary L. from Lowell First, Calumet to South Bend First, Michiana, 6/16
Krieg, Charles from Bremen, Warsaw to Retirement, 6/1
Miller, Kevin from Kokomo St. Lukes, Kokomo to Bremen Salem, Warsaw, 6/16
Neuen, David from Warsaw First Associate, Warsaw to Muncie High Street Associate, Muncie, 6/16
Ottjes, Karen from Daleville, Muncie to Akron, Warsaw, 6/16
Patton, Richard from Bluffton First, Huntington to Transitional Leave, Huntington 5/1
Phillips, Gary, G. from Blaine/Center/Mt. Pleasant, Muncie to Dunkirk Calvary, Muncie, 3/16
Pullan, Lori from no appointment to Rehoboth, Muncie, 5/1
Schrader, David A. from Calumet District Superintendent, Calumet to South Bend Grace, Michiana, 6/16
Smith, Michael A. from Faith Chapel, Huntington to Extension Ministry Huntington, 4/16
VerLee, Ronald F. from Saint Joseph, Fort Wayne to Incapacity, Fort Wayne, 1/1
Weber, Derek C. from Anderson First,

Marion to Aldersgate, Fort Wayne, 6/16
Wilkins, Mark from Dyer, Calumet to Crown Point, Calumet, 6/16
Wortinger, John K. From West Lafayette First, Lafayette to Anderson First, Marion, 6/16

South Indiana Conference

Anderson, Randy L. from Centenary, Evansville to Evansville: Salem, Evansville, 7/1
Butler, Bill from no appointment to Newberry, Bloomington, 4/16
Cannon, Robert L. from Danville, Indianapolis West to Lawrenceburg Hamline Chapel, Columbus, 7/1
Case, Timothy L. from Indianapolis: Rosedale Hills, Indianapolis West to attend school full-time, 7/1
Chizmar, Samuel James from Lawrenceburg Hamline Chapel, Columbus to no appointment, 6/30
Clark, Carolyn from no appointment to Shelburn, Vincennes 3/1
Cummings, David C. from Indianapolis: Acton, Indianapolis East to Centenary, Evansville, 7/1
Gardner, A. Edward from Evansville: Salem, Evansville to Retirement, 6/30

Gipson, Charles from no appointment to Forsythe, Vincennes 3/11
Gray, Ryan from no appointment to Boonville: St. Andrew's, Evansville, 3/1
Huff, Dale from Mt. Zion and Mt. Zion: Embury, New Albany to termination, 1/1
Monahan, Michael P. from Epworth, Evansville to Evansville: Old North, Evansville, 7/1
Parrott, Roger D. from Vevay/Vevay: Bennington, Columbus to Vevay, Columbus, 6/30
Robertson, Charles B. from Evansville: Central, Evansville to Retirement, 2/28
Rumble, Alan from Indianapolis: Epworth, Indianapolis East to Terre Haute: Temple, Terre Haute, 7/1
Troxell, Ernie from no appointment to Whitcomb, Rushville, 1/15
Walker, Douglas Leroy from Indianapolis Rosedale Hills, Indianapolis West to Indianapolis Epworth, Indianapolis East, 7/1
Wantz, John B. from Indianapolis: Meridian Street, Indianapolis West to Family Leave of Absence ¶355, 7/1
Wood, G. Leonard from Forsythe, Vincennes to Retirement, 3/15

DEATHS

PAUL H. EPPLEY, retired pastor and former conference business administrator/treasurer (NIC) died March 20, 2007. A Worship Service of Celebration and Remembrance was held March 24 at Christ UMC in Wabash, Ind.

GLENDORA EVERSOLE, who was employed by the North Indiana Conference Service Center in the accounting department from Nov. 15, 1960 until she retired Jan. 1, 1996, died March 3, 2007. A memorial service will be held this summer. Condolences can be sent to Judi Woodward, 23634 Tonada Lane, Moreno Valley, CA 92557.

CHARLES FARR, retired Elder (SIC), died March 16, 2007. A memorial service was held March 21 at Fairview UMC in Bloomington with burial in Valhalla Memory Gardens. Survivors include: wife, Margarette Farr, 3835 Woodhaven Dr, Bloomington, IN 47403, one daughter Catherine Fothergill, two grandchildren and

three great-grandchildren

PHYLLIS MARIE FARRER, mother of the Rev. Jim Farrer, pastor of Christ UMC in Lafayette (NIC), died March 16, 2007. A memorial service was held March 20 at Gundrum Funeral Home in Logansport, Ind. Condolences can be sent to the Rev. James E. Farrer, 963 Southernview Dr. S., Lafayette, IN 47909.

HERBERT McGUIN, JR., associate chaplain at Harris Methodist Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas and Elder (SIC), died March 10, 2007. A memorial service was held March 17 at the Polytechnic UMC in Fort Worth, Texas, with burial in Laureland Cemetery. Survivors include: his wife; Dorothy McGuin, 7405 Marlborough Drive W., Ft. Worth, TX 76134; three sons, Herbert McGuin III, James McGuin, Martin McGuin; one daughter, Martha McGuin; and three grandchildren.

CAROLYN OCKER, retired pastor (SIC), died March 21, 2007.

A memorial service was held March 24 at the G.H. Herrmann Funeral Home in Greenwood, Ind. Survivors include: Son, Jeff Campbell, daughter, Amy Jennings. Condolences can be sent to Amy Jennings, 2627 Country Estates Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46227. Memorials can be given to the Woodside UMC, 5411 East 13th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46219.

PAULINE RHINE, widow of the late Rev. James Rhine, and mother of the Rev. Terry Rhine, pastor of Chesterton UMC (NIC), died March 29, 2007. A memorial service was held April 3 at Nevada Mills (Ind.) UMC in the Fort Wayne District. Survivors include: son, the Rev. Terry Rhine; a sister, Dorothy Miller, and brother, Morris Collins. Condolences can be sent to Rev. Terry Rhine, 474 Lost Tree Dr, Chesterton, IN 46304. Memorials can be given to the Nevada Mills UMC, c/o Ardell Davis 5180 N 300 W Fremont, IN 46737.

BISHOP CARL J. SAND-

ERS, 94, died March 7, 2007 at Fairhaven Hospital in Birmingham, Ala., after a brief illness. He served the Birmingham Area from 1972-1980 and was president of United Methodist Committee on Relief and vice president of the General Board of Global Ministries from 1972 to 1976.

JAMES C. STANSELL, retired pastor (NIC), died March 14, 2007. A memorial service was held March 19 at the Demoney-Grimes Funeral Home in Columbia City, Ind. Survivors include :three children: James S. Stansell, John D. Stansell and Judith E. Heimpel. Condolences can be sent to James S. Stansell, 775 N. CR 300 W, Columbia City, IN 46725. Memorials can be given to the Columbia City UMC, 605 N. Forest Parkway, Columbia City, IN 46725 or Purdue University.

DAVID L. TAYLOR, SR., retired pastor (NIC), died March 10, 2007. A memorial service was held March 15 at the Swayzee

UMC in Swayzee, Ind. Survivors include: his wife, Carol; daughters, Tammy Taylor and Debbie Taylor, both of Indianapolis; sons, Brian Taylor of Anderson and the Rev. David L. Taylor, Jr. of Oswego, Ill.; three grandchildren, Elijah, Caleb and Grace. Condolences can be sent to Carol Taylor, 9 N Main St, Sims, IN 46986-9634. Memorials may be given to the Swayzee UMC, 306 S. Washington St., Swayzee, IN 46986.

BRYAN L. TON, pastor of Forest UMC (NIC), died March 17, 2007. A memorial service was held March 21 at Forest UMC with burial at Citizens I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Kewanna, Ind. Survivors include: his wife, Beverly; his daughter, Regen Ton, Bloomington; his sons, Ian Ton (Liz), Washington, D.C., Joshua Ton, Bloomington, Dirk Ton, Lafayette. Condolences can be sent to Beverly Ton, P.O. Box 13, Forest, IN 46039. Memorials can be given to the Salvation Army.

United Methodist Women



For more information, contact:
Vickie Newkirk, President
South Indiana Conference UMW
2870 S 700 W
New Palestine, IN 46163
317-861-1525
bvnewkirk@iquest.net

BE ONE!

Redevelopment Venture Process (RVP)



Is your church interested in more effectively carrying out its mission? Is it at a place where it's ready to do something but isn't sure what to do next? Is it interested in acquiring tools from which it could benefit for years to come?

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To learn more, plan to attend a free introduction to RVP from 10 am to 12 noon EDT on Saturday, May 5th, at First UM Church in Wabash.

For more information, contact Ed Fenstermacher (ed@nicumc.org) or visit www.nicumc.org/cd/tools/rvp/



Members participating in the Redevelopment Venture Process participate in various activities to develop team building.

