

# HOOSIER UNITED METHODISTS

# together

open hearts, open minds, open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church

February 2005  
Volume 35  
Number 2

## United Methodists forge ties with Indonesian church for recovery work efforts

By Linda Bloom

MEDAN, Indonesia (UMNS) – A United Methodist team's visit to the island of Sumatra following the Dec. 26 tsunami has laid the foundation for a future partnership with the Gereja Methodist Indonesia (Methodist Church of Indonesia).

United Methodist Bishop Joel Martinez of San Antonio said he found Indonesian church leaders "genuinely pleased and appreciative" about the Jan. 12-16 visit. Martinez, who is president of the denomination's Board of Global Ministries, co-led the delegation with the Rev. R. Randy Day, the board's chief executive.

"We tried to listen to the church and get their perspective, and then we also were able to witness and observe for ourselves," Martinez explained.

Part of that observation included a tour of the devastated city of Banda Aceh and impromptu visits to camps for internally displaced persons. Even three weeks after the tsunami struck, the bishop believes "the full dimensions of the tragedy are not fully known" and expects the price tag of the disaster to exceed initial estimates just as the death toll did.

Although the tsunami swept over other Indian Ocean nations – including Sri Lanka,

"We're also taking immediate action to care for the survivors."

– Bishop Joel Martinez

Thailand and India – the delegation chose Indonesia as the place to make a pastoral call, to let Indonesian Methodists know that the greater Methodist family was grieving with them, according to Day. Sumatra suffered 115,000 of the more than 280,000 deaths caused by the tsunami and the earthquake that triggered the giant waves.

"While we mourn the people who died in the tsunami, we're also taking immediate action to care for the survivors, so the death toll doesn't go higher," Martinez said. That action included delivery of medicines that the Indonesian church can use in its relief efforts in 11 camps for displaced people.

The Rev. David Wu, a board staff executive and native of Indonesia, said he was impressed that the small church had immediately set up an emergency relief committee on its own, without asking for help.

"Perhaps bringing our church and their church together would create a greater ener-



Photo courtesy of UMCOR

Bishop Joel Martinez, president of the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries, comfort a tsunami survivor at the Methodist Hospital in Medan Sumatra. "Kantor Pusat" is "Headquarters Office" of the GMI – Gereja Methodist Indonesia, in Medan, Sumatra.

gy, a greater hope," he noted.

Day said he is thankful for the initial generous response of United Methodists to tsunami relief efforts through the United Methodist Committee on Relief and Board of Global Ministries. Besides Indonesia, funds have been directed to Sri Lanka and India, and future work is expected in Thailand.

Donations to UMCOR's "South Asia Emergency" relief efforts can be placed in local church offering plates or sent directly to UMCOR, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 330,

New York, NY 10115. Designate checks for UMCOR Advance #274305 and "South Asia Emergency." Online donations can be made at [www.methodistrelief.org](http://www.methodistrelief.org). Those making credit-card donations can call 800-554-8583. One hundred percent of the money donated to "South Asia Emergency" goes to the relief effort.

Bloom is a United Methodist News Service news writer based in New York. She traveled with the United Methodist delegation to Indonesia.

## Bishop asks Hoosiers to rebuild Banda Aceh church

By Daniel R. Gangler

When United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) representatives recently visited the parts of Indonesia most hard-hit by the tsunami disaster of Dec. 26, they encountered on the island of

Sumatera in the town of Banda Aceh, a local Methodist Church (part of the Methodist Church of Indonesia) that was destroyed by the tsunami. This small town on the northern edge of Sumatera was nearest the actual epicenter of the earthquake, and the devastation

there was reported to be amazing.

The pastor of that Methodist church in Banda Aceh requested help from UMCOR in rebuilding his church as a place of hope for his people. Christians there are a small minority and are often persecuted. Now with their church building destroyed, they are losing hope. UMCOR has agreed to make the rebuilding of the Methodist Church of Banda Aceh a priority (along with rebuilding houses for displaced people, providing medicine, and many other basic needs).

After hearing the Rev. Randy Day, general secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries, talk about the need to rebuild the Methodist Church of Banda Aceh, Bishop Coyner said his heart was touched, and he volunteered that the Indiana Area of The United Methodist Church could take on this project and raise the money needed for that church. How much will be needed? Coyner said, "We really don't know yet, because it

will be difficult to get equipment into that area even to remove the debris and toxic materials washed in by the huge waves."

Coyner told Day that the Indiana Area will rebuild that Methodist church "no matter what it costs. I promised that because I know that United Methodists in Indiana Area are mission-minded, generous people." Estimates are the project may cost \$150,000.

Bishop Coyner asks for help from Indiana's 1,200 United Methodist congregations to rebuild Banda Aceh Methodist Church in Indonesia. Special gifts and offerings can be sent to the North and South Indiana Conferences' treasurers marked "Rebuild the Methodist Church in Indonesia" and those funds will be forwarded to that specific project.

Coyner said he does not want this effort take away from any regular giving to support a local churches own ministry, to pay conference apportionments, or to sup-

port the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on Sunday, March 6 for the administration of relief and rehabilitation projects worldwide. He said if congregations have extra mission funds to help rebuild the Methodist Church of Banda Aceh, then they can help restore hope to the Methodist people of Indonesia as they attempt to put their lives back together.

North Indiana United Methodists are asked to send their contributions for this project to: North Indiana Conference Treasurer, P.O. Box 869, Marion, IN 46952. South Indiana United Methodists are asked to send their contributions for this project to: South Indiana Conference Treasurer, 1520 South Liberty Dr., Bloomington, IN 47403-2307. If you have questions about giving, contact conference treasurers at Marion 800-783-5138, and at Bloomington 800-919-8160.



A UMNS photo

Bishop Mike Coyner (right) commits to the Rev. Randy Day that Indiana will rebuild a church in Banda Aceh destroyed by the tsunami.

## Love is a verb

The month of February includes Valentine's Day, and I hope you remember to send cards, give gifts, and say "I love you" to those you love — your spouse, your parents, your children. Even though this holiday was probably invented (or at least marketed) by florists and greeting card makers, Valentine's Day is an important reminder to tell those we love that we do love them.

In the Dakotas there was a popular story about a couple who had marital problems. The wife declared to her husband, "You never tell me that you love me." With typical North Dakotan reserve the husband replied, "I told you I loved you when we got married. If I change my mind, I'll let you know."

## Bishop names Purvis, Gast, Mendenhall as district superintendents; Griffith to stay on through year

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Area Bishop Michael J. Coyner has named the Revs. Judi Purvis, Chip Gast, and Dale Mendenhall as three new district superintendents who will take their positions in June.

In mid-January, Coyner announced the Rev. Judi Purvis, 57, senior pastor of Linden United Methodist Church in the Indianapolis West District, to be the next Vincennes District Superintendent in the South Indiana Conference. She is a second-career person called to ministry, who worked as an accountant, controller and vice-president of an insurance company and a graduate of Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. Purvis is married to David Purvis, a retired school teacher. They have four children.

In late-January, Coyner named the Rev. Charles (Chip) E. Gast Jr., 60, senior pastor of Cross-Wind United Methodist Church in Logansport in the Kokomo District, as the next superintendent of the Huntington District in the North Indiana Conference. Gast, ordained in 1989, graduated with a Master of Divinity Degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill. He was called to ministry

Valentine's Day reminds us to be sure to say "I love you" to those whom we love.

However, our Christian faith pushes us beyond simply loving those who love us. According to Jesus, the greatest commandment is "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength" and the second but equal commandment is, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus is also remembered for teaching: "If you only love those who love you, what credit is that?"

And yet the word "love" has been so cheapened in our culture that it is difficult for us to hear the import of these teachings. We say things like, "I love your new dress" or "I love this nice weather"

or other silly uses of the word. We even say two people are "making love" when sometimes we are only describing a sexual encounter between strangers. We have made the word "love" too cheap, too easy and often too frivolous.

It helps to remember that the biblical understanding of love is not just a feeling or an emotion or even a matter of liking another person. The biblical standard of love is how we treat one another. It is primarily a verb, not a noun. We are commanded to treat one another in a loving manner, no matter whether we really like or approve of each other.

In my Indiana travels, I see many examples of our churches and our people making love into a verb. I learn about outreach programs for children, about food

pantries and clothing closets, about prayer teams and visitation ministries. I see preachers and teachers who help share the Good News of God's love, and I am amazed by the generosity and mission-minded giving of our people. Truly, United Methodists in Indiana are following Jesus by making love into a verb. And we are trying to love everyone, not just those who love us.

So please send Valentines to those you love, but remember also to turn your love into a verb, into an action, for all people.

*Bishop Michael Coyner  
Indiana Area of  
The United Methodist Church  
"Making a Difference ... in Indiana  
and around the world"*



Bishop Coyner



Purvis



Mendenhall



Gast



Griffith

as a full-time local pastor in 1979 and was ordained an Elder in 1984. He has served in the Huntington County South Parish, DeMotte and Logansport Market St. which changed its name to Cross-Wind in 1997. He is married to Paula Gast. They have two grown daughters, Charissa and Samira.

At the same time, Coyner named the Rev. N. Dale Mendenhall, 53, senior pastor of First United Methodist Church in Griffith in the Calumet District since 1999, as the next superintendent of the Muncie District in the North Indiana Conference. A graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., he was ordained an Elder in 1977 and served churches at Logansport First, Muncie High St., Leesburg, Garrett and Kendallville Trinity. He is married to Cathy Mendenhall. They have two grown sons, Matthew and Gerald.

In addition to these announcements, Coyner announced that the Rev. Don Griffith has agreed to continue as Interim Executive Assistant to the Bishop through 2005, in order to give him more time to make that appointment and to consider it in light of any restructuring decisions by either conference this summer.

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## Blessed are the placemakers

Marvin Singleton, one of the pastors where I worship, recently told the story of a Bible proofreader who found an error in the text of Matthew 5:9, one of the beatitudes, which reads: "Blessed are the placemakers, for they will be called the children of God." As he pointed out, there is much truth in that error. "Placemakers," Singleton defined, "are those making a place for the Kingdom of God."



Placemakers – that's who we are, as United Methodists, when we speak out against state endorsed legalized gambling that wants to place 2,500 slot machines in two race track casinos to support government projects to build a stadium and expand a convention center. They are worthy projects to booster Indiana's ailing economy, but not at the cost of financial ruin of an estimated 15,000 citizens (1 to 2 percent of Indianapolis' population) who will become addicted

to gambling. There must be a more excellent way.

Placemakers are those who work with the Hoosier Faith and Health Coalition that seeks to restore \$20 million in cuts to the Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Agency that is given the responsibility of drastically lowering the number of teens and adults who area addicted to tobacco. This agency's funds don't come from taxes but the Master Settlement Agreement funds which the state receives at the rate of \$125 million a year in order to cope with the cost incurred by Hoosiers who smoke.

Placemakers also are advocates who work in their own communities across Indiana to place smoking bands on public and private places like restaurants and offices to protect workers and others from second-hand smoke, which, too, has proven to be deadly.

What's in it for the placemak-

ers? They strive for the betterment of the state, communities, families and individuals. Placemakers want to hand to the next generation a higher quality of living.

As Singleton shared with the congregation, the meaning of placemaking comes from our relationship with God and how it affects our relationships in life.

February has become a month of decision making for our state legislators, 27 of whom are United Methodists, who, for the most part, have the interest of the quality of life in mind for Hoosiers, but struggle under the constraints of limited financial resources. They need our prayers as they strive to balance budgets, seek justice and provide for the general welfare of all who call Indiana their home.

Members of the House of Representatives need our support as they consider House Bills 1702 and 1569 which will expand legalized gambling in Indiana with casinos at race tracks. One amendment before the committee even considers placing a casino in Mar-

ion County. Representative Bob Alderman, chair of the House Public Policy and Veterans Affairs Committee considering these bills and amendments, has already stated that he will not tolerate a casino in Downtown Indianapolis. The committee struggles with the expansion of gambling. The church needs placemakers to write these committee members and let them know that we don't want and the state can't afford the expansion of gambling, which will rob Indiana quality of life.

Likewise, the South Indiana Conference Bishop's Initiative on Children and Poverty asks United Methodists to write Governor Daniels and their legislators seeking support of House Bill 1743, which establishes caseload limits and increases funding for more caseworkers; House Bill 1744, which improves child support; and Senate Bill 340, which reforms adoption procedures for neglected and abused children. There are 32 bills in the General Assembly that are recommendations of this

Putting Children First legislation.

Making a place for the vision of God's Kingdom in society takes perseverance and appeals to the best interests of the governor and lawmakers, who rule not only in our favor, but God's favor as well. I believe Indiana's lawmakers want the best for Hoosiers. I also believe they are very uneasy with the expansion of gambling, the abuse and neglect of children, and the high number of smokers who will eventually require much medical attention.

Jesus called us to be peacemakers. What better way for establishing peace with justice in Indiana than to be a placemaker?

Welcome,  
Daniel R. Gangler

For a bulletin insert about Putting Children First or a copy of the Hoosier Faith and Health Coalition Resolution to sign, go to [www.inareaumc.org](http://www.inareaumc.org). Both are available as preferred document files (PDF). Names and districts of legislators can be found online at [www.in.gov/legislature](http://www.in.gov/legislature).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Here's my book list

I read with interest your list of best selling books, listed in the most recent issue of *Together*. I was intrigued by the idea of how much different people can be in reading tastes. I know that the poet Robert Browning said that there can be no disputing of tastes. But I was aware of my own reaction to the list. I read half of one of them. Those books are not books that I read, nor any of my friends. We consider ourselves dyed-in-the-wool United Methodists, who must be out of the mainstream of The United Methodist Movement by what seems to be occurring in the Church.

Since you have published one list of books that seems to be a recommendation of *Together*, I wonder if you would publish another list. This list would not be on the best-seller list, and perhaps wouldn't make even the worst-seller's list. But I wonder if, in the name of diversity among United Methodists, you would dare publish a list of books which probably never will be widely read, but might reach a limited readership to whom the Church might like to cater. I give them to you forthwith.

- ♦ *Beyond Belief* by Elaine-Pagel; Random House
- ♦ *The Heart of Christianity* by Marcus J. Borg; Harper
- ♦ *The Divine Conspiracy* by Dallas Willard; Harper
- ♦ *The Extreme Center* by Scott J. Jones; Abingdon Press
- ♦ *The Serenity Prayer* by Elizabeth Sifton; WW Norton
- ♦ *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson; Picador
- ♦ *When Jesus Came to Harvard* by Harvey Cox; Houghton-Mifflin
- ♦ *American Jesus* by Stephen Prothero; Farrar, Straus and Girox
- ♦ *The Enigma of Anger* by Farrett Keizer; Jossey Bass

I hope you will print this list as a fair ex-

pression of the fact that United Methodists read more widely than your list would indicate. There are some of us who really are convinced that our voices are not being heard.

James F. Morin  
West Lafayette, Ind.

### Supports statewide smoke-free legislation

You have suggested we should ask our legislators to increase funding for ITPC (Indiana Tobacco Prevention Cessation agency), but I do not believe that organization has been very effective with the funds already provided. I feel the primary goal should be statewide smoke-free legislation, but the leader of the Jackson County Tobacco Prevention Coalition, who is a Seymour councilman, has told us he would not vote for such an ordinance for Seymour. This coalition was organized and funded by ITPC. Our monthly meetings never identify specific goals with deadlines for action.

I am obtaining signatures on petitions asking for smoke-free restaurants.

I will deliver these to local restaurant managers and owners when they represent 500 customers. The coalition has not expressed much interest in this or any other project, such as helping start a VOICE chapter.

You should be urging us all to press our legislators to pass a smoke-free workplace law and raise Indiana's tobacco tax to Michigan's rate. This is much more important than increasing the funding of an organization with such a poor performance record.

— John McMillen  
Bedford, Ind.

*Editor's Note: I don't think it's one or the other but both/and. The state supported ITPC, not funded with tax dollars but with Tobacco Settlement money, has an exceptional record in helping curb teen*

*smoking in Indiana from one-in-three teens smoking to one-in-four teens smoking. ITPC's www.WhiteLies.tv Web site has been effective with a teen audience that spends much time online. Deep funding cuts have come which has affected the frequency and placement of WhiteLies TV spots and outdoor advertising. ITPC also works with*

*United Methodist parish nurses and community groups to ban smoking in public places across the state like the smoking ban in Bloomington. We need both local support with this issue, such as John McMillen's support, but we also need statewide support in ITPC. See related viewpoint on page 16. DRG*

### More than a Valentine

Ask anyone what their strongest muscle is and you'll receive a variety of answers. Hardly anyone will give the correct answer – their heart. Your heart muscle is not much bigger than your fist but it's strong and it works hard.

Keeping your heart working at peak performance is mostly a matter of preventive maintenance. Are you taking good care of your hard-working heart? The basics are simple and clear.

- ♦ Eat right
- ♦ Exercise
- ♦ Don't smoke
- ♦ Get enough sleep
- ♦ Get your check-ups
- ♦ Don't get too stressed

These factors are all controllable. Take them to heart and give your valentine the best gift you can – your healthy heart.

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## Events explore African-American spirituality

*UINDY to host lectures, national conferences for religious leaders*

INDIANAPOLIS (UINDY) – The authors of a forthcoming book on African-American Christian spirituality will speak Feb. 22 at the University of Indianapolis and will convene a new semiannual conference series on the topic for pastors, scholars and laypersons from around the country.

The Revs. Eugene Blair and Glandion Carney will deliver the university's 2005 Showers Lectures in the Christian Religion. This year's lectures, under the theme "African-American Christian Spirituality: Exploring the Heritage & Claiming the Promise," are scheduled Feb. 22 at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.

The following day, Feb. 23, Blair and Carney will convene

the inaugural Gathering of African-American Sages, to be conducted twice yearly at the University of Indianapolis. The purpose of the gatherings is expressed in the West African concept of *sankofa*, which means "in order to move forward, you have to look backward." African-American Christian spirituality looks to African culture and cosmology while at the same time embracing the presence of the Holy Spirit in congregational life and daily living.

Guest speaker for the inaugural gathering in Indianapolis will be the Rev. Abena Safiyah Fosua, a clergy member of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and

former missionary to Ghana, West Africa. Under her topic, "Living with Contradiction: A Second Look at African-American Spirituality," she will probe the dichotomies experienced by African-American Christians and congregations. She writes weekly articles for the UMC's General Board of Discipleship and is the author of books including *Mother Wit: 365 Meditations for African-American Women* (Abingdon Press, 1996) and *Jesus and Prayer* (Abingdon Press, 2002).

The gatherings are part of a collaboration among the university, the Office of African-American Spiritual Formation of the Detroit Conference of the United Methodist Church, and the Upper

Room Ministry in Nashville, Tenn. To complement the university conferences, Upper Room Ministries will host pilgrimages to Africa, and the Detroit Conference will host annual gatherings of the Sankofa Spiritual Formation Community.

### EVENTS

"African-American Christian Spirituality: Exploring the Heritage & Claiming the Promise"

2005 Showers Lectures in the Christian Religion

**When:** Tuesday, Feb. 22

The Rev. Eugene Blair, 4:30 p.m.

The Rev. Glandion Carney, 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** University Chapel,

Schwitzer Student Center, 1400 E. Hanna Ave.

**Admission:** Free and open to the public

First semiannual Gathering of African-American Sages

**When:** 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23

**Where:** Good Hall, Hanna and Otterbein avenues

**Guest speaker:** The Rev. Abena Safiyah Fosua, "Living with Contradiction: A Second Look at African-American Spirituality"

**Admission:** Free and open to the public

**Lunch reservations:** Contact the Office of Ecumenical & Interfaith Programs at 317-788-2106 or [lstead@uindy.edu](mailto:lstead@uindy.edu)

## Court of appeals overturns Price case at DePauw

GREENCASTLE, Ind. (DEPAUW) – The Indiana Court of Appeals has ruled in favor of DePauw University and overturned a jury's verdict in favor of Janis Price, the DePauw employee who had claimed the university unjustly removed her from her part-time teaching position.

"This decision represents total vindication of DePauw," said John T. Neighbours, the attorney who defended the university. "This ruling affirms that all of her claims were without merit and that DePauw acted legally, properly and honorably."

In November 2003, a Clay County jury determined that DePauw did not follow proper procedure in the handling of Price's job change and awarded her \$10,401. But the ruling by the Indiana Court of Appeals, issued Jan. 10, determined that the trial judge should have awarded summary judgement for DePauw and that there should not even have been a trial. As a result, the trial judge's denial of summary judgement is reversed and the damages and costs awarded to Mrs. Price are reversed as well.

Price was a part-time instructor at DePauw until July 2001, when her responsibility for teaching one class was not extended by the university. She remains an administrator in DePauw's education department.

Initially, Price sued the university claiming DePauw had cut her teaching duties because of her religious views. She maintains she was reassigned and incurred a \$10,000 pay cut because she had distributed anti-homosexual magazines in her classroom. DePauw argued that its decision to change Price's duties was the re-

sult of both declining enrollments in the teacher education program and regular and special reviews of her performance.

In March 2003, Putnam Circuit Court Judge Diana LaViolette dismissed Price's claims that DePauw violated her freedom of speech, freedom of religion and academic freedom. The Clay County jury was asked only to decide whether DePauw violated its faculty handbook in the way it handled Price's reappointment, and ruled in her favor. The Jan. 10 decision from the Indiana Court of Appeals re-

verses that ruling and affirms DePauw's argument that it followed proper procedure in the handling of the matter.

The Court of Appeals also rejected Price's claim that her claim of religious harassment was inappropriately dismissed by the lower court.

"The Indiana Court of Appeals affirms what we have maintained from the beginning: that DePauw scrupulously followed its employment policies and practices every step of the way in this matter," said Ken Owen, director of media relations at DePauw.

## Governor Kernan names Eutslers Sagamores of the Wabash

INDIANAPOLIS – Before leaving office, Governor Joe Kernan named Linden residents Therese and Mark Eutsler Sagamores of the Wabash. Former State Representative Brian K. Hasler of Indianapolis presented the award to them.

The award is the highest honor which the Governor of Indiana be-

stows. It is a personal tribute given to those who have rendered a distinguished service to the state or to the governor.

As members of the board of the Conner Center for East/West Reconciliation, the Eutslers enlisted the U.S. State Department, Russian Federation's Foreign Relations Office and Indiana Music Arrang-

er Laureate Bill Moffit, Purdue professor of bands emeritus, to arrange the newly adopted Russian National Anthem. Copies were presented to city officials throughout Russia during a relationship-building trip across the country aboard the Trans Siberian Express in 1994.

Therese, a Indiana University School of Medicine graduate, is a

senior staff physical therapist at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Lafayette. She is an organist at St. Bernard Roman Catholic Church and Stockwell UMC.

Mark, a Purdue University graduate, is the Indiana 4-H Foundation's director of development. He chairs the Ivy Tech State College Business Administration Advisory

Committee, co-chairs the 500 Festival Band Committee, is president of the Ouiatenon Club, and serves on the boards of Mid-Land Meals, Lacy Institute For Ecumenism and Metro Ministries. He also serves as a member of the United Methodist Indiana Area Communications Commission, Committee on the Episcopacy and Stockwell UMC.

## Coming to a South Indiana city near you

The Rev. Marie E. Lang, Executive Director South Indiana Foundation of The United Methodist Church and members of the Investment Committee of the South Indiana Foundation

Board of Directors area scheduled to meet across South Indiana.



The presentation, "Good Stewardship of Church/Ministry Financial Assets" will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at these cities and churches: Feb. 14 at Silver Street UMC in New Albany, Feb. 15 at Trinity UMC in Madison, Feb. 16 at First UMC

in Columbus, Feb. 21 at Centenary UMC in Evansville, Feb. 22 at Shiloh UMC in Jasper, Feb. 23 at First UMC in Vincennes.

There is no charge, but reservation is requested. Contact the foundation office today toll free at 877-391-8811 or 317-788-7879; by e-mail at [jennyweber@sifumci.org](mailto:jennyweber@sifumci.org) or log on to [www.sifumci.org](http://www.sifumci.org).

## Volunteers decorate walls of children's church room

RUSHVILLE, Ind. – Artists (from left) Phyllis Carson, Sherry Aker and Carol Tague, member of St. Paul's UMC, recently painted five murals depicting various times in Jesus' life on the walls of the Wilk Children's Church Room. The murals were painted as part of a renovation of the room. The mural pictured depicts Jesus' followers mourning his death. Other murals



Photo courtesy Cynthia Dougherty, Rushville District communicator

depict Jesus' birth, Jesus as a carpenter's son, Jesus teaching in the Temple and his resurrection.

## Emory Burton publishes biography of Texas minister

North Indiana Conference retired minister C. Emory Burton has published a biography of the life of the progressive Methodist preacher the Rev. Wallace E. Chappell.

With an introduction by Bishop William Oden, *Preacher, Prophet, Poet: A Biography of Wallace E. Chappell* tells the life story of Chappell and details his moderately liberal ideas on theol-

ogy, the church, and contemporary events. Additionally, the biography contains two of Chappell's sermons and selections of his poetry. The book is available through AuthorHouse Publishers.

## Tobacco opponents to show their love on Valentine's

INDIANAPOLIS – “Show your Love” will be the theme of a Valentines Day luncheon and capital witness to curb the use of tobacco in Indiana. The complimentary interfaith luncheon is scheduled to be held Monday, Feb. 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Christ Church Cathedral on Monument Circle in downtown Indianapolis.

The luncheon, sponsored by Tobacco Free Kids, is limited to 120 participants and will feature speakers and testimonials from a variety of faith group and health care leaders including United Methodists and the United Methodist-related Clarian Health Partners.

Following the luncheon, participants will be encouraged to walk or ride in complimentary vans to the capitol and speak with their Indiana State Senators and Representatives, asking them to help restore more than \$20 million cut from the Indiana Tobacco Preven-



tion and Cessation agency budget.

Hoosier Faith and Health Coalition leaders will present more than 300 common resolutions signed by congregations from across Indiana, including signatures from more than 60 United Methodist congregations, the South Indiana Conference Health and Welfare Committee and the SIC Parish Nurses.

IIPC, established by Tobacco Settlement Funds, educates and advocates for a smoke-free environment in Indiana through edu-

In Indiana smoking kills more people each year than alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders and suicides combined.

cational programs, tobacco cessation seminars and the [www.whitelies.tv](http://www.whitelies.tv) Internet presence directed to teens and young adult smokers.

Tobacco use figures for Indiana are staggering. According to IIPC surveys, one out of four Indiana adults and 23 percent of Hoosier high school students smoke, making Indiana one of the highest users of tobacco products in the United States. More than 10,000 Hoosiers die each year from their own smoking.

In Indiana, smoking kills more people each year than alcohol,

AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders and suicides combined.

Indiana's 2003-2004 IIPC tobacco prevention spending was \$10.8 million – a cut of two-thirds from amounts approved by the legislature for the previous budget. Currently Indiana ranks 26th among all states in spending for tobacco prevention. Coalition leaders say the dramatic cuts threaten progress in curbing smoking in Indiana, but specifically the cuts:

- ◆ Halted planning for a statewide tobacco quit line,
- ◆ Cut community programs by 30 percent,

- ◆ Eliminated many statewide and pilot programs,
- ◆ Cut statewide educational media efforts in half, and
- ◆ Cut youth access enforcement by 60 percent.

According to the Hoosier Faith and Health Coalition, the state receives more than \$125 million dollars each year from the tobacco industry as a result of the Master Settlement Agreement. The purpose of this settlement was to reduce tobacco-caused death and disease. Only a portion of the MSA funds need to be spent each year to fund a program that will deliver the lives and dollars saved by tobacco prevention programs in other states.

Pastors and United Methodist lay leaders are encouraged to participate in the “Show your Love” events on Feb. 14. For luncheon reservations, call Clarian Call Center at 800-265-3220 by Feb. 7.

## Community band ushers in Daniels' term as Indiana governor

By Alison Bartles

INDIANAPOLIS – With baton in hand, governor Mitch Daniels' concluded his inauguration ceremony conducting the Newton-Jasper Community Band in a rendition of “The Washington Post March.”

Band Director Joy Stowers handed over her baton to Daniels as the band began to play, bringing the story of Daniels' friendship with the band full circle.

During the early months of his campaign, Daniels became a fan of the 67-member band from Newton and Jasper counties. He first attended one of the band's rehearsals in Aug. 2003 after a personal invitation from the tenor-sax section.

According to press reports, Daniels was having dinner with some area party members at the Good Table Restaurant in Kentland when two of his dinner com-

panions, Janice Wilson of Brook and Rosalie Mathis of Kentland, stood up and explained that they had to leave for band rehearsal. Wilson then invited Daniels to the band's Monday evening rehearsal, and he accepted.

During the practice, Stowers asked Daniels to conduct “The Wahington Post.”

“The band just had a ball,” Stowers said.

After the piece, Mathis had a special request for Daniels. According to Stowers, Mathis asked if the group could play at his inauguration – providing that he won. He hesitated a little bit and then said, “Sure!” Stowers relayed.

After Daniels won in November, he returned to Jasper to officially invite the band to play at his inauguration.

“I always knew he would keep his promise,” Stowers told news

reporters. “But I never dreamed what an important part we'd play!”

The band performed three times during the Jan. 10 ceremony. They played “The Star Spangled Banner” with two other area bands before playing the closing pieces alone.

Stowers conducted the first two pieces, but when the final piece began, she pointed her baton to the governor and he made his way to the stage.

“He handed me his jacket and went to work conducting,” Stowers said. “It was icing on the cake.”

Stowers explained the band's special relationship with the governor. “We are just all ordinary, normal people,” she said. “But he's so personable, such a warm person, that he made everyone feel important. It just seems like a dream that a group like ours would be asked

to do something like that.”

The Jasper-Newton Community Band will begin performing again in April and continue with performances throughout the summer. Stowers also serves as a member of the Brushwood United Methodist Church where she plays the organ, according to her

pastor, the Rev. Dennis L. Ticen. To learn more about the band, visit their Web site at <http://www.liljasper.com/band/default.html>.

Alison Bartles, a student at Butler University, serves as an intern in the Indiana Area communication's office.

## Case writes on the lighter side in newly released book about Hackleburg

By Daniel R. Gangler

Writing on the lighter side than his previous book on the history of the evangelical movement in Methodism, the Rev. Riley Case of Kokomo, Ind. turns his attention in a newly released book to soup suppers, Sunday school and the Ladies' Aid Society of a fictitious congregation.

According to Case, the book, *How Hackleburg Became A 13-Pie Church* from Bristol Books of Anderson, Ind., “consists of stories of a small town Methodist church, from 1878 to 2004, sort of Phil Gulley or Garrison Keillor style.”

He told *Together*, “I have been doing these stories here and there for about 30 years, and I just pulled some of them together for this book.”

As his story goes, there was a Hackleburg Methodist Church sometime before 1943, according to the archives of Indiana Methodism at DePauw University in Greencastle. In its Case history,

the book introduces readers to Marybelle Hasselbaum, head of the Women's Society of Christian Service, who dropped dead at 82; Lush Larkin, converted saloon

owner; Aunt Minne Rittenhouse, teacher of Jesus' Little Sunbeams class; Mrs. Arnold, organist who despises sharps and flats; members of the Hackleburg Church Choir, who sang joyfully but not always on key; and the Glory to God Methodist Episcopal Park.

In the history of Hackleburg church, we also hear of 13-pie potlucks – the loaves and fishes potlucks during hard times.

Case dedicated the book to the people of Union Chapel, Springhill, New Corydon, Claypool, Mount Pleasant, Pleasant Grove, Ashley, Hudson, Elkhart Calvary, Union City Wesley, the Marion District and St. Luke's Kokomo. Hackleburg is probably a hidden collection of all of them.

For more information or to order the book, log on to [www.bristolhouseltd.com](http://www.bristolhouseltd.com).



## University of Indianapolis MBAs get special shot at 'The Apprentice'

INDIANAPOLIS – University of Indianapolis business school alumni will be hoping to hear “You're hired!” when Donald Trump's casting directors come to town Feb. 24-26 scouting for the next Apprentice.

The university will host a private casting call for the hit-NBC series from 2 to 6 p.m. Feb. 24 that will be open only to master's of business administration graduates of University of Indianapolis and Indiana University. The private casting session will be followed by a local call open to the general public on Feb. 26 at WTHR studios.

“The Apprentice” series starts each season with 18 actual job candidates, divided into two teams, who are vying for a \$250,000-a-year position in The Trump Orga-

You're hired!

nization. Each week the teams face a new competition, and one contestant is fired from the losing team. The third season, now under way, is featuring “book smart” college graduates versus “street smart” business professionals who do not have college degrees.

“The University of Indianapolis MBA program is an ideal training ground for ‘Apprentice’ wannabes,” said Matthew Will, director of graduate business programs. “Our students are book smart and street smart. They come from a variety of educational and business backgrounds, and gain additional real-

world experience here. Often that practical wisdom comes from top executives of local firms – among them Eli Lilly & Company – who teach many of our courses.”

Although the university casting call is closed, others interested in interviewing for the show may bring a completed application to the open call on Feb. 26 at WTHR, 1000 N. Meridian St. Wristbands will be handed out from 9 a.m. to noon, guaranteeing a meeting with the casting agents, and interviews will begin at 10 a.m. Contestants must be 21 years old, eligible to work in the U.S., and have business savvy or entrepreneurial experience. Full details and applications may be downloaded at [www.NBC.com](http://www.NBC.com).

## Church clinic heals medical woes for low income county

By Cynthia Dougherty

CONNERSVILLE, Ind. – Hearing God's call and with her church's support, a Connersville physician answered her call by establishing a free clinic at church.

Dr. Joann Guttman of Connersville told *Together*, "Fayette County has one of the highest unemployment rates in Indiana and much underemployment – people working for minimum wage, barely able to make ends meet, who have no insurance. I saw this often in my office and felt badly when I had to charge these people for care, but then I had to pay my staff and my bills."

To help those with limited financial resources, Guttman established the Community Free Clinic at First United Methodist Church of Connersville. Free basic medical care is provided during a three-hour clinic held the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.

"The Community Free Clinic serves as an entry portal to the medical care system for those who are unable to afford routine medical care," says Dr. Wayne White, volunteer physician at the clinic. "We provide basic care, screening exams, simple treatment, and appropriate cost effective referrals."

## Speedway pastor reflects on own blue collar experience in new book

By Daniel R. Gangler

Speedway Pastor Darren Cushman Wood has written a new book titled *Blue Collar Jesus: How Christianity Supports Worker's Rights*, a book pertinent to Indiana in the wake of Governor Daniels' dismissal of labor unions in state government last month.

Cushman Wood says the inspiration for this 175-page book was rooted in his father, a person he tried

to distance himself because of "his redneck ways," but one who supported him all the way. The book is dedicated to his memory, too.

"This book is ideal for church study groups or individual readers who seek an honest exploration of the religious history and biblical precedents in support of workers," says the Rev. Philip Amerson, president of Claremont (Calif.) School of Theology and former South Indiana Conference pastor.

The book supports the dignity of work, fair labor practices and essential workers' rights. Cushman Wood gives perspective, of-

**"The Community Free Clinic serves as an entry portal to the medical care system for those who are unable to afford routine medical care."**

– Dr. Wayne White

### Mandate from God

Guttman got the idea for the clinic a few years ago. "I feel there was some mandate from God in there. God kept bringing it to my mind in subtle ways, but I had two young children at that time and didn't feel I could spare time from them. Also, I couldn't see a place to have the clinic at that time.

"Later, as my children got into school and were able to help out more and the church put in an elevator and made the basement handicapped accessible, I started thinking about the clinic again. Pastor (William) Helms started preaching about the church becoming more involved, so I went to him with the idea."

Seven months of planning then went into making the clinic possible. The church basement was converted into a medical office complete with a large waiting room, physician and nurse work area and two patient examination rooms.

Two local physicians donated medical equipment. Other necessities were provided by local pharmacies and medical supply companies.

### Open for patients

Since opening in September 2004, about 15 patients are being treated each clinic session. Six doctors, 15 nurses, and 20 office staff are volunteering their time and abilities on a rotating basis.

"We have no requirements of the patients," says Guttman. "We do not ask for any financial or insurance information. We ask for nothing but a name and a way to reach them for lab results. We simply see anyone who comes when we are open if we are able to help them with their problem."

Patients can be seen for complete physical exams, blood pressure screenings, wellness counseling, routine blood tests, treatment of minor ailments, appropriate referrals for chronic disease, pregnancy testing, pap smears, skin



Dr. Joann Guttman of Connersville takes blood pressure of one of her patients at First UMC's free community clinic.

biopsy, laceration repair, and psychological screening and referral.

Some lab work and x-rays are being provided through donations and an agreement with a local lab and medical center. The clinic also is able to pay for mammograms through a grant from the South Indiana United Methodist Conference under an agreement with a local x-ray group.

"I am in hopes that we can relieve the suffering of some people, as well as help prevent them from becoming more seriously ill and needing hospitalization or becom-

ing disabled, through treating their conditions now before they become serious," said Guttman. Expanding their hours and offering programs on healthy eating, diabetes prevention, and smoking cessation are future goals for the clinic.

For more information, contact Connersville First UMC at 765-825-8506 or by e-mail at [fumcsbra@si-net.com](mailto:fumcsbra@si-net.com).

Cynthia Dougherty, Rushville District Communications Coordinator, may be contacted at 765-663-2378 or online at [csdougherty@yahoo.com](mailto:csdougherty@yahoo.com).

## First sign placed on new North Clarian Medical Center under construction

INDIANAPOLIS – United Methodist-related Clarian North Medical Center recently placed the first exterior sign on the 650,000-sq.-foot hospital and medical office building that is nearly 75 percent complete. The full-service hospital is scheduled to open December 1, 2005.

Clarian North Medical Center will feature a Center for Excellence for Women and Children, including Riley Hospital for Children pediatrics, a Center for Excellence for Specialty Surgery, an emergency department and a cancer treatment center. The projected cost of Clarian North Medical Center is estimated at \$254 million.

According to Clarian officials, the new medical center "will redefine excellence in the delivery of health care services. The 170-bed hospital combines the latest in technology, with the renowned resources of Clarian and the very best physicians, including pediatric physicians from Riley Hospital for Children, in a total healing patient focused environment."

The hospital will include all private home-like rooms that are patient-focused and provide patient portals, which can track medications and medical records for

**The full-service hospital is scheduled to open December 1, 2005.**

clinical staff, while providing access to Internet, entertainment and access to room service. Delivery rooms will include whirlpools, while all rooms will provide adjustable lighting, beds for spouse and family members, and many more amenities.

In other Clarian news, Clarian Health Partners announced that William (Bill) Stephan has been appointed Senior Vice President

of Community Relations and Communications. In his role as Senior Vice President, Stephan will direct Clarian's community relations, government relations, marketing and corporate communications strategies and operations. Stephan will report directly to Clarian's President and CEO, Daniel F. Evans, Jr. He will assume his new role the first week in March.

## Fort Wayne church to host arts conference

FORT WAYNE, Ind. – Saint Joseph UMC in Fort Wayne will host an arts conference March 4 (7 to 10 p.m.) and March 5 (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.). The theme is Fine Arts Inspiring the Heart (F.A.I.T.H.) and will feature nationally-known speaker and author Sally Morgenthaler.

According to Sid Gauby, Saint Joseph's minister of nurture, the conference is designed for

worship leaders and artists to come together and discover ways in which the arts might be incorporated into the church setting both in worship as well as in setting the stage for worship.

Cost is \$65 per participant. For online brochure and registration, log on to [www.stjoemin.com/wac.html](http://www.stjoemin.com/wac.html). Questions? Contact [sgauby@stjoemin.com](mailto:sgauby@stjoemin.com) or call 260-485-9681 ext. 12.

Serving Indiana's Children since 1915

# Building confidence, self-esteem and character

By Susan Bennett

LEBANON, Ind. – Meet Stephen, an eighteen-years-old, who received treatment at Indiana United Methodist Children's Home during 2004. When Stephen was 17, he was placed in the Home's care through the Division of Family and Children. Stephen suffered from severe depression and low self-esteem due to many years of abuse and neglect.

While in the Home's care, Stephen received counseling by one of the Home's licensed, certified social workers and a consulting psychiatrist and psychologist. Stephen participated in group counseling sessions to work out various emotional and behavioral problems.

He also attended the Home's accredited on-grounds school and at age 18, received his G.E.D. (Graduate Equivalency Diploma). During this time, Stephen also participated in a living skills counseling group for older residents. Through this group, he learned about job seeking skills, money and food management, emergency/safety skills, health and nutrition, legal issues and housekeeping.

A few months ago, Stephen was discharged from the Chil-

dren's Home but continued to receive treatment through the Transitional Living Program which generally lasts three to six months. The program is designed to help youth learn skills to acquire a more independent lifestyle. Through this program, Stephen's social worker helped him find an apartment and employment in the community. Indiana United Methodist Children's Home assisted him with rent and utility payments. Gradually, he was able to pay his own rent and utility bills.

Stephen is one of 165 youth that received treatment at Indiana United Methodist Children's Home in 2004. During the past year, the Home assisted children ranging in age from 7 to 18. Many of the youth placed in the Home's care have difficulties in the education setting, both academic or behavioral

The majority of residents are victims of emotional, physical, and or sexual abuse and neglect. Others have backgrounds of alcohol or drug abuse.

Most often, the youth are placed in the Children's Home through the county Division of Family and Children, the county court or public school systems.

Some youth are referred to the Home by a concerned minister and placed privately by a parent or guardian. According to the Home's Executive Director Gary J. Davis, ACSW, the youth come from all over Indiana and from various economic backgrounds.

Davis said, "Over the years, staff and the Home's trustees have planned ahead in addressing the changing needs of abused and neglected children. This year, we are adding on to our staff intensive units for boys and girls ranging in age from 10 to 15. The new building will support a more structured living environment for children in need of intensive supervision and counseling."

According to Davis, "we are seeing a growing need to serve children with severe emotional and behavioral problems, and these youth are coming from large cities as well as rural areas. Since adding the staff intensive services, the two living units have been operating at a full capacity. We also are seeing an influx of children and youth that have been in and out of foster care and other institutional placements. As a result of multiple placements, many of the children experience problems with authori-



Photo courtesy of IUMCH

Boys of the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home proudly display their trophy and medals from summer competition.

ty and significant peer relationship problems. Many youth have problems with self-injurious behavior and anger management."

The youth benefit from attending the James E. Davis on-grounds school. The Home's school is fully accredited by the Indiana Department of Education through Performance Based Accreditation. The on-grounds school is one of only a few residential treatment facilities in the state to offer such a fully accredited curriculum.

Key elements to the Home's educational experience include effort, attitude and behavior. A discipline program geared towards redirecting negative attitudes and inappropriate behavior is used in all classrooms. A point system has been devised to recognize positive behavior. These points are used by the students to purchase reward items at the on-grounds school store such as posters, models and games.

Effective planning by the

Home's Board of Trustees has shaped the development of a responsive continuum of care and treatment which reaches out to youth and families with a diverse range of needs and problems.

The Indiana United Methodist Children's Home will continue to provide comfort, encouragement, and treatment to help youth and their families overcome significant problems and achieve a renewed hope for the future. Davis adds, "we simply want to help these youth become productive members of society – just like Stephen."

For more information, log on to [www.iumch.org](http://www.iumch.org) or call 765-482-5900. IUMCH is a conference advance special of both North and South Conferences of The United Methodist Church.

*Susan Bennett serves as the public relations officer of the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home in Lebanon.*

## Wish list for Indiana United Methodist Children's Home in Lebanon

Many generous donors, organizations and congregations ask for suggestions of gifts which will directly help the residents in care. This list highlights some of the Home's current needs.

### Residential Cottage Wish List:

- ◆ Televisions
- ◆ Videos/DVDs (G, PG, PG-13 only)
- ◆ Vacuum Cleaners
- ◆ Arts and Crafts items
- ◆ Play-Station Games
- ◆ Computers
- ◆ Walmart Gift Certificates
- ◆ CD Boombox/Speakers
- ◆ Brooms
- ◆ Blankets - single bed size
- ◆ Small kitchen appliances
- ◆ Food storage containers

### General Gift Ideas

- ◆ New suitcases
- ◆ Stationery
- ◆ Postage Stamps
- ◆ Envelopes
- ◆ Radio Alarm Clocks
- ◆ Portable CD Players
- ◆ Headphones
- ◆ Nylon gym bags
- ◆ Board games
- ◆ Photo Albums
- ◆ Writing journals

- ◆ Footballs/Frisbees
- ◆ Softball equipment
- ◆ Soccer equipment
- ◆ Volleyball equipment
- ◆ Basketballs and Nylon nets
- ◆ 5-gallon portable water coolers with spout and handles (Thermos)
- ◆ Batteries (AA in particular)
- ◆ Activity Books
- ◆ Model kits
- ◆ Latch Hook/Crochet kits
- ◆ Yarn
- ◆ Wrist watches
- ◆ Creative Memory Books
- ◆ Wal-Mart Gift Certificates
- ◆ Disposable cameras
- ◆ Badminton sets

### School Supplies

- ◆ Three-ring binders
- ◆ Spiral notebooks
- ◆ Pocket and plain folders
- ◆ Ball point pens
- ◆ Rulers
- ◆ Nontoxic glue
- ◆ Erasers
- ◆ Pencils
- ◆ Markers
- ◆ Wireless notebooks
- ◆ Book bags/backpacks
- ◆ Pencil holder
- ◆ Calculator
- ◆ New dictionaries
- ◆ Pocket dictionaries

### Toiletries

- ◆ New combs and brushes
- ◆ Blow Dryers
- ◆ Toothbrushes and holders
- ◆ Portable soap holders
- ◆ Shampoo and conditioner
- ◆ Hair gel/mouse
- ◆ Hair spray
- ◆ Deodorant
- ◆ Toothpaste
- ◆ Bath soap
- ◆ Hand/Body Lotion (Spray cans or glass containers cannot be used)

Canned goods are also accepted at the Home. Large cans (#10) of fruits and vegetables are always needed. 14 1/2 ounce cans are also acceptable. Canned items include: peas, green beans, mixed vegetables, corn, peaches, pears, fruit cocktail and apple sauce. Large bags of flour and sugar are also needed. For more information, contact:

Indiana United Methodist Children's Home  
515 W. Camp Street,  
PO Box 747  
Lebanon, IN 46052-074  
765-482-5900  
[www.iumch.org](http://www.iumch.org)  
e-mail [iumch@iumch.org](mailto:iumch@iumch.org)

## Bishop Willimon to deliver Mendenhall Lecture March 8

GREENCASTLE, Ind. –William Willimon, bishop of the Birmingham Area of The United Methodist Church and one of the nation's top theologians, will deliver the spring Mendenhall Lecture at DePauw University on Tuesday, March 8. Willimon will discuss "DePauw: Being a University in Light of the Trinity" in a speech scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in Gobin Memorial United Methodist Church, next to the university campus. The event is free and open to all.

Willimon, a prolific author and internationally acclaimed preacher, was elected bishop in 2004. He earned his M.Div. at Yale and his S.T.D. at Emory University and spent most of his academic life at Duke University where he was professor of Christian ministry and dean of the chapel.

Willimon has written 50 books including *Character and Calling: The Virtues of the Ordained Life* and *The Sunday After Tuesday: College Pupils Respond to 9/11*. In 1996, an international survey by Baylor University named Willimon one of the "Twelve Most Effective Preachers" in the English-speaking world, a list that included evangelist Billy Graham.

The Mendenhall Lectures, which were inaugurated in 1913, were endowed by the Reverend Doctor Marmaduke H. Mendenhall. The endowment has allowed DePauw to bring theological and religious scholars of international repute to campus for nearly a century.

For more information, contact Ken Owen at 765-658-4634 or log on to [www.depauw.edu](http://www.depauw.edu).



Willimon

Two Indiana churches some of the first to receive matching grants

## Igniting Ministry expands its media campaign to churches

By Alison Bartels

Beginning in Fall 2005, Igniting Ministry plans to expand its movement to reach spiritual seekers with the message of Christ's love.

Igniting Ministry, the church's national media ministry, works to proclaim the Gospel by increasing awareness of The United Methodist Church, welcoming seekers into the church and renewing a sense of commitment in current United Methodists. The new campaign plans to increase advertising and training resources for local churches and continue to aid congregations in reaching out to the community.

Over the past four years Igniting Ministry has developed and implemented an integrated media and welcoming plan for The United Methodist Church. Under the brand promise: "Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors," the ministry has worked to change the way the church is perceived by the public and by its members. Additionally, the efforts have aimed to change how the church perceives

and receives spiritual "seekers."

In this new quadrennium, existing advertising will be expanded and more firmly tied to Lent, back-to-school and Advent, the three national advertising periods. Additional advertising will be added in the early summer, around Pentecost. Each period will have a theme that is supported with advertising materials assembled in a resource called an Expression Package.

According to Igniting Ministry organizers in Nashville, Tenn., the Expression Packages will have a unique biblical, emotional and strategic foundation that is both relevant to seekers and motivating to church leaders and members. Each package will include a *Spirit Films* production that can be used in worship or small groups. In addition, they will have a one-hour welcoming training module that will help congregations understand how to apply the expression theme to their church. The packages will be available free to local churches through [www.ignitingministry.org](http://www.ignitingministry.org) in July of this year.



Igniting Ministry staff members will be conducting a one-day (8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.) training event on March 12 at First UMC, 216 East Highland Ave. in Elgin, Ill. and April 16 at Bethel UMC, 1220 Bethel Rd. in Columbus. A \$40 congregational fee includes training and notes packet for each participant. For more information, call toll-free 877-281-6535 or e-mail [IMtraining@umcom.org](mailto:IMtraining@umcom.org).

As part of the expansion,

matching grants to local churches are available for TV, radio, cinema and outdoor billboards. According to Jackie Vaughan, Igniting Ministry media grants director, First UMC in Griffith, Ind. recently received matching funds to support its media campaign. The congregation will receive \$2,637 to match funds and support their outreach through billboards and cinema screen ads. The Avon (Ind.) UMC has received a matching grant of \$2,500 for a Lenten media campaign as well.

Griffith's First and Avon UMCs

are among the first in Indiana who will receive grant money and participate in Igniting Ministry's effort to reach approximately 30 million un-churched persons throughout the country.

Two more opportunities exist for a matching grant for 2005 with back-to-school and Advent. Applications may be submitted for both rounds, May 1 through June 1, 2005. Applications may be filed online at [www.ignitingministry.org](http://www.ignitingministry.org).

Alison Bartels, a Butler University student, serves the Indiana Area communication's office as an intern this semester.

## Phone plan offers savings for churches, agencies

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) – A new plan negotiated by the United Methodist Publishing House with AT&T provides an opportunity for churches, organizations and agencies to save on long distance and local telephone service.

Mike Cunningham, director of information technology at the Publishing House, says the plan "is a good deal for the church."

The Publishing House has had an agreement with phone providers for about 10 years, Cunningham said. This new plan with AT&T will save money for local churches that have bills as low as \$15 or \$20 a month, but it will especially help customers who have \$200 or more a month in telephone charges.

Currently, the plan has 300 par-

ticipants. Most of The United Methodist general agencies are participating, as well as some conference and district offices and local churches.

For more information, call 866-546-7784 or e-mail your organization name, contact name, contact telephone number and address to [umlongdistanceplan@cokebury.com](mailto:umlongdistanceplan@cokebury.com).

## Garrett-Evangelical announces spring lectures series

EVANSTON, Ill. (G-ETS) – Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary announces its schedule for spring lectures. All lectures are free and open to the public. They will be presented in room 205 of the Main Building, unless otherwise noted, on the seminary campus at 11 a.m. on Wednesdays beginning March 2. Parking is available for a fee.

The schedule is as follows: March 2, Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader lecturing on "leading women;" March 16, an Arts Committee lecture by Daisy Lloyd on visual art that evokes a sense of the holy; March 30, Amy-Jill Levine presenting the annual Grant

V. Graver Endowed Lecture, entitled "Understanding Sophia: Challenging the Conventional Wisdom about Jesus and Women;" April 13, David M. Carr presenting a lecture on "The Song of Songs;" April 20, LeRon Shults presenting a Stead Center of Ethics and Values lecture, "Christology and Contemporary Science;" and April 27, Cheryl Anderson, presenting a sabbatical lecture on "Biblical Laws: Ancient Contexts and Contemporary Parallels."

In addition to the Wednesday lecture series, Jesus and gender will be the topic of the annual Wade in the Water Conference at Garrett-Evangelical Theological

Seminary March 30 and 31. This two-day opportunity for alumni and friends to find educational revitalization and professional development includes lectures by Amy-Jill Levine, Gale A. Yee and Taylor McConnell.

Levine will present the Grant Graver Lecture, "Understanding Sophia: Challenging the Conventional Wisdom About Jesus and Women" on March 30 at 11 a.m. Levine, a New Testament professor, is director of the Carpenter program in religion, gender and sexuality at Vanderbilt University Divinity School in Nashville, Tenn.

Yee will present the Gladys

Crane Lecture at 1 p.m., March 30, on the topic "Sexualizing Biblical Women in Art." Yee, who is a professor of Hebrew Bible, also directs studies in feminist liberation theologies at Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass.

Also, during the conference, the seminary will honor the heritage of two of its predecessor institutions, Garrett Biblical Institute and Garrett Theological Seminary. Taylor McConnell, dean of students at Garrett during the 1960s, will present two historical lectures about the seminary during the 1960s. The first, lecture, "Fall 1969: Days of Rage," will start at 7:15 on March 30 in Lod-

er Hall's lower level. The second historical lecture starts at 1:30 p.m. on March 31. The topic of this lecture is, "The Ethos of the Seminary in the 1960s." This lecture will be followed by an alum response and discussion.

Conference registration before March 21 is \$100, after which the price rises to \$110. Special rates are available for retirees and those wanting to attend only one day. Continuing education credit is available. The registration fee includes parking. Meals are available for a fee in the seminary cafeteria. To register, call 1-800-736-4625 or visit the seminary online at [www.garrett.edu](http://www.garrett.edu).

## Upper Room plans long-term spiritual tsunami assistance

By Linda Green

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) – The Upper Room, a United Methodist ministry that provides spiritual resources to people around the world, is focusing on the emotional needs of the victims of the Dec. 26 tsunami.

The Upper Room, is "seeking the best ways that we here can support our colleagues there (in the Indian Ocean area) to respond to the emotional and spiritual needs of their people and support the efforts of their churches," said the Rev. Stephen Bryant, editor and publisher.

The Upper Room, housed here at the United Methodist Board of Discipleship, is a global ministry

that meets the spiritual needs of people through devotional magazines, books and printed resources. Its devotional guide, The Upper Room, is published worldwide in 73 editions and 44 languages.

When the tsunami hit more than a dozen countries around the Indian Ocean, Upper Room officials immediately tried to contact their editors and partners in the affected areas, Bryant said. "It took several days, but we eventually heard from all of them about their well-being and the conditions of their countries."

The Upper Room has editions and partners serving people in nearly all of the Indian Ocean areas affected by the tsunami, including Indonesia, India (Tamil-

nadu state and Kerala state in particular, on the eastern and southern coasts) and Sri Lanka, as well as in Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong and elsewhere. The Upper Room is localized, printed and distributed in each of these areas in conjunction with the ministries of the churches.

In each of the affected countries, partners and editors are focusing on the basic survival needs of the people. "At the same time, we are talking with them about the next layer of relief – emotional and spiritual support for those traumatized by their severe losses," Bryant said. "The spiritual healing, along with the physical reconstruction, will be the long-term ministry that the Upper Room in those

areas must help support."

Immediately after the tsunami hit and news of the devastation crossed the globe, the Upper Room hosted a public prayer service in Nashville. Upper Room staff prayed for colleagues, those killed, survivors and those providing rescue and relief. The prayer service is posted at [www.gbod.org](http://www.gbod.org).

Church leaders in Sri Lanka want a small booklet of Scripture and prayers to help with pastoral care and trauma efforts, Bryant said.

"We are making such a booklet available and helping them locally print a large quantity. Our contacts have also told us they need teams of people trained in dealing with trauma to train others, an as-

pect of the relief effort that they say has been missing thus far."

In other areas, Upper Room editors are considering larger-than-usual print runs of The Upper Room in their languages for wider distribution to those in need. Each of these editions will need additional support, Bryant said. "We want to make sure they are able to equip the churches to maintain strong ministries in the face of the dire need (of) their people."

The Upper Room is self-supporting, so its staff is seeking financial support through donations from individuals and churches that want to help tsunami survivors.

Linda Green is a United Methodist News Service news writer based in Nashville, Tenn.

## 'Briars' sheds light on piece of Civil Rights history

AMERICUS, Ga. — "Briars in the Cotton Patch: The Story of Koinonia Farm," a new one-hour documentary, recounts the tale of race and religion from an almost forgotten chapter in civil rights history. Public Broadcasting Service is distributing the documentary nationally for showing in February during Black History Month.



Koinonia Farm is significant for its stand against racial segregation more than a decade prior to the Civil Rights Movement.

Koinonia, an interracial Christian community in Sumter County, Ga., and its founder Clarence Jordan became the target of the local white community's hatred and violence because of beliefs in racial equality. Koinonia would endure years of bombings, shootings and economic boycotts — including attacks by the Ku Klux Klan — to become the birthplace of the worldwide movement of Habitat for Humanity.

"'Briars in the Cotton Patch' is the intriguing story of a courageous Christian whose historic racial experiment predated the more famous civil rights movement by 15 years," said former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. "Dr. Clarence Jordan is an inspiration to all those who believe in peace, freedom and justice."

Former United Nations Amba-

sador Andrew Young narrates the story that takes viewers from Koinonia Farm's humble beginnings in 1942 through the turbulent Civil Rights Era and into its modern day challenges and successes.

Nearly four years in the making, 'Briars' uses extensive archival sources and interviews with more than 30 people that capture the deep and long-standing emotions of local residents and members of Koinonia Farm.

"Briars in the Cotton Patch" is scheduled for national PBS distribution in February as part of Black History Month. Check your local listings for air dates and times.

For more information about Briars in the Cotton Patch, visit [www.briarsdocumentary.com](http://www.briarsdocumentary.com).

Here are TV channels and times "Briars..." in the Indiana Area.

- ◆ WIPB-Indianapolis/Muncie: Sat., Feb. 19 at 10 p.m.; Monday, Feb. 21 at 3 a.m.; Wed., Feb. 23 at 2 a.m.; Thurs., Feb. 24 at 2 a.m.
- ◆ WTIU-Indianapolis: Monday,

- Feb. 21 at midnight
- ◆ WNIN-Evansville: TBA
- ◆ WFWA-Ft. Wayne: TBA
- ◆ WUSI-Terre Haute: Tues., Feb. 1 at 9 p.m. and Sun., Feb. 27 at 2 p.m.
- ◆ WKMA-Evansville: Sat., Feb. 5 at 10 p.m.
- ◆ WKOI-Evansville: Sat., Feb. 5 at 10 p.m.
- Illinois**
- ◆ WTTW-Chicago: Sunday, Feb. 27 at 2 p.m.
- Kentucky**
- ◆ WKMJ-Louisville: Sat., Feb. 5 at

- 10 p.m.
- ◆ WKPC-Louisville: Sat., Feb. 5 at 10 p.m.
- ◆ WKOI-Owensboro/Henderson: Sat., Feb. 5 at 10 p.m.
- ◆ WKON-Owenton: Sat., Feb. 5 at 10 p.m.
- Ohio**
- ◆ WCET-Cincinnati: Monday, Feb. 28 at 10 p.m.
- ◆ WCVN-Cincinnati: Saturday, Feb. 5 at 10 p.m.
- ◆ WKON-Cincinnati: Saturday, Feb. 5 at 10 p.m.

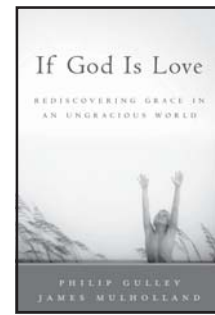
## Controversial authors publish a second book

Philip Gulley and James Mulholland, authors of the controversial book, *If Grace Is True*, have published a second book discussing the implications of God's love for life in this world.

*If God Is Love: Rediscovering Grace in an Ungracious World* continues where the first book left off, outlining the Quaker ministers' belief in universal salvation and examining the question "What could our world look like if we took seriously God's love for all people?"

A recent Gallup study that interviewed approximately 1,500 American suggests that about 82 percent of Americans consider themselves Christians. However, Gulley and Mulholland observe a

world where religion often brews more pain than healing. Individuals, both in and outside the faith,



encounter hate and violence from traditions that supposedly spring from Christ's teachings on love and grace.

In the book, the authors propose that Christians enact a "new world order," a phrase that implies living out God's grace in

personal, religious and corporate life. The authors featured the book in a presentation at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Indianapolis on Jan. 30.

The book was released in December from Harper, San Francisco and is available for purchase in bookstores and on line at [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com).

## Health kits area needed for South Asia Tsunami survivors

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana-Kentucky Regional Office of Church World Service, has issued a public appeal for Gift of the Heart Health Kits to replenish its rapidly diminishing stock at its New Windsor, Maryland, warehouse. According to CWS Regional Director Judy Dunson, more than 40,000 health kits have been shipped to Sri Lanka and Aceh (Indonesia) for immediate response to the tsunami disasters. Many more will be needed in the weeks and months ahead.

A trailer, donated by Deerpath Truck of Remington, Ind., is scheduled to be available from Feb. 14 to Feb. 25, for fully assembled kits. It will be located on the parking lot of the Indiana Interchurch Center, 1100 W. 42nd St at Michigan Rd in Indianapolis. Kits will be received 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 19 and by special arrangement on Sunday, Feb. 20. Call 317-923-2938 or toll free 888-297-2767.

Each health kit needs to contain the following items. Please provide only these items and in the size/quantities requested.

- ◆ One hand towel (no bath towels, please)
  - ◆ One wash cloth
  - ◆ One comb (any size)
  - ◆ One metal nail file (or nail clipper with nail file attached)
  - ◆ One bar of soap (bath size)
  - ◆ One adult toothbrush
  - ◆ One tube of toothpaste (4 to 7 oz. size)
  - ◆ Six Band-Aids
- Please seal all items in a one-



A UMNS photo by Mike DuBose

Students at St. Bernard Academy, a Catholic school in Nashville, Tenn., pack health kits for the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

gallon plastic bag with zipper closure. Multiple kits should be packed in sturdy cardboard boxes with flaps securely taped. Each kit must be accompanied by one dollar to offset processing and shipping costs. Do not place the mon-

ey in the kit. Make checks payable to Church World Service.

For those wishing to ship their kits directly to the Maryland warehouse, please call the CWS Regional Office numbers above for guidance.

## CWS volunteers needed to load kits

Help is needed during daylight hours to box and load the health kits received on the trailer at the Indiana Interchurch Center, 1100 W. 42nd St at Michigan Rd in Indianapolis. Individuals or groups are invited to sign up for one or more time blocks from Feb. 16 to 28. This is an outdoor-inside-the-trailer setting, so volunteers need to dress appropriately. To volunteer, call the CWS Regional Office at 317-923-2938 or e-mail Dunson; please include a contact name and daytime phone number. For an overview of the CWS tsunami disaster response and supporting materials, visit [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org). For more information, call the regional office or send e-mail to [jdunson@churchworldservice.org](mailto:jdunson@churchworldservice.org).

## One Great Hour of Sharing offering 'essential' to aid relief, recovery, rehabilitation work

By United Methodist News Service

As soon as news of the tsunami disaster in the Indian Ocean hit the airwaves, the United Methodist Committee on Relief responded. "Being there" is UMCOR's priority. On behalf of the United Methodist Church, UMCOR provides relief wherever catastrophe strikes. Coordinating efforts with faith-based partners around the world, the agency rushes to disaster areas with aid such as food, clothing, shelter and medicine. After immediate needs have been met, UMCOR stays to help survivors rebuild.

To date, United Methodists had contributed more than \$6 million to support relief for survivors of the Dec. 26 tsunami.

Such 100 percent giving is possible because UMCOR's administrative costs come from other, undesignated sources, including the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering collected in local churches.

"The heartbreaking disaster that has devastated our sisters and e

One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Sunday, March 6 is absolutely essential to UMCOR," said the Rev. Paul Dirdak, the agency's chief executive. "UMCOR receives no World Service apportionment funds," he said. "United Methodists' gifts to this special offering keep UMCOR's delivery system in place so we can respond quickly and effectively to disasters such as South Asia."

Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing underwrite UMCOR's costs of doing business. Gifts over and above those used to cover administrative costs are channeled where they are most needed to assist the most vulnerable people whose need is greatest. The administrative costs equal 2 percent of the relief agency's total budget, according to UMCOR.

Information about UMCOR programs is available online at [www.umcor.org](http://www.umcor.org) online. One Great Hour of Sharing resources can be ordered by calling, toll-free 888-346-3862, or log on to [www.UMCGiving.org/ss](http://www.UMCGiving.org/ss).

## New alliances aim to redefine, broaden interfaith movement

By Daniel R. Gangler

The Rev. Donald Charles Lacy, a United Methodist clergyman of Muncie, Ind., has been known to Hoosiers over the years as an ecumenist in pursuit of a boarder interfaith unity. To some, he sounds more like a Roman Catholic. He calls the Virgin Mary the "Blessed Mother" and believes in the "real presence" of Jesus in the communion elements of bread and wine.

An ordained minister for more than 40 years and devoted to Wesleyan heritage, Lacy has established a new interfaith networking organization known as the LIFE which is short for Lacy Institute For Ecumenism. LIFE is actually an outgrowth of Lacy and Associates that came into being in the late 1980s.

LIFE's board is composed of four members including two United Methodist – Mark L. Eutsler of Linden and Barry Wampler of Bourbon. Eutsler serves as lay leader of the Stockwell United Methodist Church. Wampler serves as a member of the Argos United Methodist Church. Other members include Sol Blickman, a member of

the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, and Father Dennis Goth, pastor of St. Lawrence Roman Catholic Church in Muncie.

Lacy, 71, preaches on the subject of Christian unity and urges Protestants to try the "Hail Mary" Catholic prayer and spend time daily getting to know someone of another denomination or historic Abrahamic faith – Judaism, Christianity, Islam.

He says the Holy Spirit is behind his ecumenical yearnings, spurring his passion for religious accord across church boundaries and doctrinal divides.

"I'm a great believer in the Holy Spirit taking us along the road to unity," says Lacy.

In part LIFE's preamble states: "We encourage everyone to have genuine faith in the Supreme Creator, respecting the beliefs and traditions of all religions... We seek always to communicate in the spirit of cooperation... While a major goal is the unity of those professing the Lord Jesus Christ, we recognize we must not stop there and, therefore, purposefully dialogue with others..."

LIFE states that its overriding goal is always peace among the

people of the world.

Lacy told *Together*, "LIFE is an organization that provides a platform upon which the richness of diversity and fullness of unity can converge in meaningful and healing ways." (See Decalogue for Ecumenical Discipleship.)

He said LIFE currently has more than 40 members in its network. Its best-known members, according to Lacy, are Fr. Peter Stravinskis of Catholic media; Gary L. Reif, a retired American Baptist executive; Fr. Ernest Falardeau, pastor, theologian and writer; William Whalen, a retired Purdue University professor; and the Rev. Dan Motto, Marion District Superintendent.

LIFE is funded through annual contributions of \$25 to adherents to the principles outlined by the organization. The majority of the group lives in Indiana, however there are members from across the United States.

For more information about LIFE, write 3400 W. Riggin Rd. #3, Muncie, IN 4304, call 765-282-2219 or e-mail [DLacy33@msn.com](mailto:DLacy33@msn.com).

*Credit is hereby given in part to "Ecumenism: is it still relevant?" by Ray Waddle, Interpreter Magazine, July-August, 2003.*

*Subscribe to Interpreter by logging on to [www.interpreter.org](http://www.interpreter.org) or call toll free 1-888-346-3862.*



Lacy

He says the Holy Spirit is behind his ecumenical yearnings, spurring his passion for religious accord across church boundaries and doctrinal divides.

### The Decalogue for Ecumenical Discipleship\*

1. Daily affirmation that Jesus calls his followers to be one.
2. Daily praise for the infinite variety of religious expression evidenced in the Universal Church.
3. Daily study of the beliefs and/or organizational life found in denomination/s other than our own.
4. Daily prayer for those within and outside our denomination that all might appreciate and be enriched by the diversity found in the Universal Church.
5. Daily practice of intentionally conversing with a person/s in another denomination/s about the Christian faith.
6. Daily meditation on what it means to be a part of the Body of Christ.
7. Daily acknowledgement of our roots found in the rich heritage of Judaism.
8. Daily openness to the continually emerging opportunities for worship and understanding among Christians.
9. Daily admission that it was and is scandalous for Christians to be divided.
10. Daily consecration of our entire being to the cause of Christian unity.

\*The "Decalogue" in its entirety is copyrighted by Donald Charles Lacy and available.

## Faith coalition helps Sri Lankans in struggle to recovery

By Paul Jeffrey

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (UMNS) – Homeless and hungry, survivors of the tsunami that struck Sri Lanka on Dec. 26 are struggling to carry on with life in almost a thousand temporary shelters around the island nation, accompanied by faith communities providing food, clothing, shelter and other support.

Among those providing critical care for the 900,000 people who lost their homes to the huge waves is the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka, a member of Action by Churches Together International.

### Sri Lanka faces tremendous challenges in the wake of the tsunami's giant waves.

al. ACT is a global alliance of churches and church-based agencies, including the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Within hours of the disaster, the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka began purchasing emergency supplies and by the following day had dispatched a truck with food to the hard-hit eastern coastline, where local Anglican, Meth-

odist and Church of South India congregations took charge of distribution to affected families.

Assisted by an initial emergency grant of \$50,000 from ACT International, the National Christian Council sent out 11 trucks with emergency supplies in the first week, all to communities on the eastern and southern coasts.

The council sent an additional truck to the east coast carrying medicine donated by an ACT member, where a team of five council-sponsored physicians spent several days attending the sick in refugee shelters.

Because of logistical difficulties in reaching the far north of the country, the council sent funds to the Christian Union in Jaffna, enabling that regional church coalition to provide emergency assistance to shelters in the remote lagoon area. The council also provided funding to purchase baby bottles, rubber sandals and food in an area of the country controlled by the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

The council spent \$130,000 on relief supplies during the first six

days, according to S.K. Xavier, coordinator of the agency's relief and rehabilitation efforts.

The organization increased their staff to meet the challenge, and it is assessing needs throughout the country so that the agency can identify under-served areas and respond appropriately with supplies, Xavier said.

At the same time, the council is organizing training in post-trauma counseling. The executive secretary of the organization's women's commission, the Rev. Sumithra Fernando, spent most of the first weeks after the tsunami providing pastoral support for caregivers on the country's eastern coast.

"When refugees run away from armed conflict, they usually do so with something in their hands," Fernando said. "But this is an unexpected disaster, and they've escaped only with their lives. In war, people can go back home in a few days, but this is different. They don't have houses to go home to."

Xavier praised the local churches that have opened their sanctuaries as shelters, as well as the rapid response of the international community.

"We weren't ready for this big a calamity, but we're getting organized and things are falling into place, thanks to the help of our

partners both here and outside the country. We've had good cooperation from all," he said.

Sri Lanka faces tremendous challenges in the wake of the tsunami's giant waves. The death toll is officially more than 30,000, but observers expect it to rise to about 46,000 as more complete information arrives from isolated areas. Another 5,000 people are officially missing, and more than 12,000 are injured. Seventy thousand houses are gone.

Fear of the future compounds the anguished memory of the giant waves for many of the victims. Yet the Rev. Jayasiri Peiris, who took over as general secretary of the National Christian Council Jan. 1, said the tragedy may bring some positive changes.

"There is a silver lining to this disaster," Peiris said. "This is a good opportunity to bring the different religions in Sri Lanka closer together, to bring the different communities – Sinhalese, Tamil, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Christian – together to concentrate on the entire Sri Lanka, not just the lack of peace, not just the problem of self-determination for the Tamils, but rather all the issues that confront us."

*Jeffrey is a United Methodist Board of Global Ministries missionary working for Action by Churches Together in Sri Lanka.*



A UMNS photo by Paul Jeffrey, ACT International.

In the Uyana Methodist Church, south of Colombo, Sri Lanka, Jayangany Silva and other volunteers sort through clothes donated for victims of the Dec. 26 tsunami. Churches and other faith communities throughout the island nation have responded quickly and generously to the massive needs of the victims.

## United Methodist chaplain serves in mission of mercy

By Kathy L. Gilbert  
UMNS Report

In a sea of despair, Navy Chaplain Lt. Gregory J. McCrimmon sees himself as a lifeline representing God's love.

The Rev. McCrimmon, a United Methodist, is one of four chaplains aboard the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, operating in the ocean near Thailand and Indonesia. Helicopters make repeated trips to areas devastated by the Dec. 26 tsunami. Crews bring in supplies and take out the wounded most in need of medical treatment.

"There are a lot of bodies," he says. "I would say at least 30 to 40 percent of the dead have been washed to sea. The percentage may be higher than that; I think that is a very conservative estimate."

The stress to pilots and crew is tremendous, and McCrimmon is part of the team helping them deal with the pictures of destruction they are facing. He also helps "behind the scenes" to support the relief effort. "We have water ports set up on flight deck where we are filling jugs and jugs of water to make sure we push the fresh water back out to the villages," he says.

He says he has received e-mails from crew members talking about the bodies they saw. "There is a lot of stress just from the sheer number of the dead."

"When the pilots and crews come back in, we have a policy and a process of talking with them to ensure they are not traumatized and to get them to talk about what they have seen and how they feel," he says. "It helps them to process all they have gone

**"I believe our faith and our hearts reach out to all of the people of God."**

—Chaplain Gregory McCrimmon

through that day so they are able to get some good rest and then be able to get back in the game the next day."

McCrimmon said everything was saturated with water, and the geographic landscape has been dramatically changed. Helicopters from the Lincoln provided food and fresh drinking water and evacuated people to medical facilities. However, there were areas in which even the helicopters couldn't land because of the level of saturation, he said.

Rice fields, houses and coastal businesses were swept away. "I'm not talking about two or three miles' distance; I'm talking about thousands of miles where it affects 12 countries on two different continents. That is how devastating it is."

It will take many years for the people to re-establish their lives he said. "My impression is that a lot of cleaning up will not be able to take place until the water begins to dry out." More than two million people were left homeless and will remain homeless for a long time, he said.

Field photos of the devastation show sometimes the only structures left standing are mosques. "Around the different mosques they dug mass graves to properly bury people."

McCrimmon has been assigned to the



U.S. Navy photo  
A U.S. Navy crewman directs a Seahawk helicopter to land on the flight deck of the USS Abraham Lincoln following a trip to Aceh, Sumatra, Indonesia, on Jan. 2. The helicopter squadron transports supplies, brings in disaster relief teams and supports humanitarian airlifts to tsunami-stricken coastal regions of Indonesia and Thailand.

USS Abraham Lincoln since April 2004. "This is my first sea duty," he says. He is an ordained Elder from the Kansas East Conference and previously served as a chaplain for a Veterans Affairs hospital as well as with reserve forces. He returned to active duty Jan. 7, 2002.

"We are not only a connectional system in the United States, but we are a connectional system in the global sense. I believe our faith and our hearts reach out to all of the people of God."

He says he is happy to be part of the relief effort as a United Methodist minister. "I am happy to represent my denomination. I think this is where the Gospel has placed us."

McCrimmon emphasizes that he works as part of a team with the other chaplains on board the ship. "We are four chaplains from different denominations, and we all work together in a collective effort," he says. "It is not about denomination; it is about getting out and doing our part to help bring relief to those in a disaster area."

## United Methodists in the Philippines move toward autonomy

By Elliott Wright

NEW YORK (UMNS) – United Methodists in the Philippines have re-elected three episcopal leaders and moved closer to setting up an autonomous Methodist Church in the island nation.

The Philippines Central Conference, made up of clergy and lay delegates from 19 annual (regional) conferences, met in late November and re-elected and re-assigned to their current posts Bishop Benjamin Justo of Baguio, Bishop Solito Toquero of Manila, and Bishop Leo Soriano of Davao. Each presides over several annual conferences.

All three bishops were initially elected four years ago and all support an autonomous, affiliated relationship with The United Methodist Church. The Philippines church is now an organic part of the United Methodist denomination.

United Methodist bishops outside the United States serve a "term episcopacy" that requires an election every four years at meetings of "central conferences," which are comparable to jurisdictional conferences in the United States.

Convened in Manila, the 2004 Philippines Central Conference took no definitive action on the autonomy issue, which has been

**The church today has a membership of more than 600,000...**

under consideration for many years. However, a procedure was laid out that clearly moves in that direction and plans were made for the conference to meet in 2006 to consider the issue.

"The sentiment for autonomy was very strong," said Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr., of Denver, who presided at the Philippines Central Conference on behalf of the United Methodist Council of Bishops, in a telephone interview.

Methodism was introduced in the Philippines by Americans more than a century ago. The church today has a membership of more than 600,000 and serves a constituency of about one million people.

Support for autonomy has increased in recent years. The process of becoming autonomous is guided by the Book of Discipline, the United Methodist book of law, and rulings of the Judicial Council, the church's highest court.

This year, 16 of 19 annual conferences presented petitions for autonomy to the central conference. Nine were accepted and seven were ruled out of order on technical grounds, according to Brown. Two new annual conferences were created this year in Manila.

Delegates decided to hold an "adjourned session" of the central conference in 2006 to consider autonomy. This will provide time to correct the technical flaws of the "out of order" petitions and to let the other annual conferences vote on the autonomy question.

*Elliott Wright is the public information officer for the General Board of Global Ministries.*

## United Methodist pastor preaches at National Prayer Service

By Kathy Gilbert

WASHINGTON (UMNS) – Not only does America have a future, but it is a future that is good and full of hope, a United Methodist pastor said during the National Prayer Service Jan. 21.

"We all have a future, and the Bible tells us the future is good," said the Rev. Mark Craig, pastor of Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas. "The reason the future is good is because God loves each and every one of us."

The National Prayer Service at the Washington National Cathedral wrapped up four days of inaugural celebrations for President George W. Bush. Highland Park is the home church of George and Laura Bush.

The interfaith service included prayers by Christian, Jewish and Muslim clergy as well as choral and instrumental music. The Rev. Billy Graham led the opening prayer of the service. The National Prayer Service is a tradition set by George Washington.

**"In difficult times, God has a way of opening new doors."**

—Mark Craig

"We are a nation of sacrifice, freedom, justice, peace and faith," Craig said.

During his sermon, Craig paid tribute to the armed forces serving around the world. For 200 years, men and women of the United States have given their lives for

freedom, he said. Quoting Scripture, Craig said, "there is no greater sacrifice, no greater love" then that showed by the men and women in uniform. "We should be eternally grateful for their sacrifice."

In conclusion, Craig cited the story of God parting the Red Sea

for Moses and the people of Israel. "In difficult times, God has a way of opening new doors," he said. "That is why we have a future and it is good and full of hope."

The Rev. Kirbyjon Caldwell, pastor of Windsor Village United Methodist Church in Houston, also participated in the National Prayer Service. Caldwell gave the benediction at the president's inauguration Jan. 20.

*Kathy Gilbert is a United Methodist News Service news writer based in Nashville, Tenn.*

# University of Indianapolis extends campus to Galilee

By Daniel R. Gangler

**INDIANAPOLIS** – The University of Indianapolis presents itself as home to 218 international students from 63 nations as part of its ongoing life. Now the United Methodist-related school has formed a new partnership with a Mar Elias Campus in the village of Ibillin, Galilee, Israel.

The south Indianapolis campus has already formed partnerships with institutions of higher education in China, Taiwan, Japan, on Cyprus and with the University of Indianapolis-Athens in Greece.

Broadening the university's offerings in the Mediterranean, a campus in Israel is a natural extension, according to the school's publicity.

However, that extension becomes a unique venture with a unique school and individual. Abuna (meaning Father in Arabic) Elias Chacour (pronounced SHACoor), a Melkite Greek Catholic priest, bishop of Jerusalem and president of Mar Elias Educational Institutions. Chacour, 65, a Palestinian Arab and Israeli citizen, heads the only school in Israel composed of Christian Arabs, Jews and Muslims.

In a personal interview at the University of Indianapolis, Chacour told *Together*, the school he founded 21 years ago that 4,500 students ranging from kindergarten to post secondary educa-

tion, can now boast of its university status. Students in Israel can receive a bachelor's degree from the University of Indianapolis in communications, computer science and environmental science with chemistry, areas offering the most promising opportunities for employment in Israel according to Chacour.

Mar Elias has received accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association and from the State of Israel's Committee for Higher Education following an intense three-year process. The permit is good for three years. More than 260 letters were exchanged between the school and the Israeli government in the process.

Chacour's mission is to "bring about peace through education, dialogue and reconciliation." He



Chacour

told *Together* the Mar Elias Campus will fill a higher education void in Galilee, especially among Palestinians; it will create a model of academic excellence and research in the region; it will prepare young people for careers with strong employment potential; and it will cultivate dialogue and understanding among people of all faiths and nationalities.

## Vision becomes reality

Chacour's vision will come to reality this year. He was on campus preparing to bring the first pilot group of 80 Mar Elias (meaning mount of light) university students to the Indianapolis campus in 2005. These participating students have the potential of receiving a University of Indianapolis diploma. However, the \$4,000 needed for each student may prevent some students from making the 8,000-mile trip. To help offset these expenses, the university is raising funds for student scholarships so no one is left behind.

Likewise within the atmosphere of learning by experience, University of Indianapolis students eventually will have the opportunity to travel to Mars Elias when the violence has lessened. But whether or not they travel to Israel, Chacour and university officials believe UINDY students will benefit from the interaction with the Israeli students who come here to study.

Its links with the University of Indianapolis transcends 25 years of history. Now a retired United Methodist minister, the Rev. George St. Angelo, established the first relationship between the two



Father Chacour visits Mar Elias School classroom with guests from the University of Indianapolis.

**Chacour's mission is to "bring about peace through education, dialogue and reconciliation."**

school in the 1980s when he was a member of the UINDY board of trustees. Today seven faculty members and five courses of study are offered to Mar Elias university students.

The Mar Elias university campus is a vision realized for Chacour, who became a priest following a unique life journey. A child at the age of eight, Chacour was evicted child from his native village of Biram in Upper Galilee in Arab Palestine by the Zionist regime. They placed him and his family in a refugee camp within the borders of their native country following Israeli statehood in 1947. He received his formal education in Paris and at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. As a young priest, he came to Ibillin in 1965.

As a result of his vision of peace through education, he received the 1994 World Methodist Peace Award, the French Legion of Honor and the Niwano Peace Prize of Japan. He has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times. He has written about his life experiences and Mar Elias in *Blood Brother*, an autobiography, and *We Belong to the Land*. Both books are available through Cokesbury at [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com).

## Palestinian-Israeli hope

Unlike sharp critics of either Palestinians or Israelis, Chacour seeks a peace between the two. He told *Together* that he does not see separate Palestinian and Israel states, but Israel as one country with a diversity of Christians, Jews, Muslims and Druze (a small sect of Islam that broke from the main Muslim tradition centuries ago).

"All are created in the image of God," said Chacour. "So why not be united despite the diver-

sity of religious beliefs and historic origins?" Amidst conflicts in the Middle East, he points out an irony of history – Iraq is the native land of Abraham who migrated from Ur to present-day Israel. Both Palestinians and Jews live on the same homeland. He reasons: Why should one give it up for the other, when they both can share it?

"God is not territorial. But people need a homeland. It was never a problem for me that the Jews, too, wanted a homeland. I wish the best for Israel, But I do not agree that I and mine should lose our homeland because they needed theirs," he said.

"When there was a bus bombing in Haifa (a half-hour away), a call went out from the hospital there for blood donations. We at Mar Elias College said that we would give our blood. They sent about 15 Israeli nurses out to Ibillin, and more than 300 of our students gave blood in one day. Some of the nurses were weeping as young Palestinians gave their blood for injured Israeli children," he said. "Being a peacemaker means getting completely involved, as Jesus did. In solidarity."

That is both his vision and what Chacour seeks to share with Hoosiers as he works with UNINDY President Jerry Israel, the faculty and the staff to embark on this journey in education and peace.

For more information about the Mar Elias/University of Indianapolis program or about how to help underwrite students' costs, please call Dr. Lynn Youngblood at 1-800-232-8634 or 317-788-6095, or e-mail [youngblood@uindy.edu](mailto:youngblood@uindy.edu), or write Dr. Lynn Youngblood, University of Indianapolis, 1400 E. Hanna Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46227-3697.



Father Elias Chacour, president of the Mar Elias in Calilee, Israel, talks with students.

## Bishop signs interfaith letter to President pleading for U.S. to lead in Middle East peace initiative

Since the election of a new Palestinian leader, Indiana Bishop Michael Coyner has joined other interfaith leaders in urging President George W. Bush in making Arab-Israel-Palestinian peace an urgent, top priority of U.S. Middle East policy.

Coyner joined Rabbis Dennis Sasso and Jonathan Adland, and Imam Michael Sachir, all of Indianapolis, along with Protestant regional leaders of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in signing the letter

given Jan. 13 to Bush in Washington. These Indiana leaders are part of a 14-city initiative in cooperation with 28 national Jewish, Christian and Muslim organizations representing more than 100 million Americans.

In addition to making Middle East peace a priority in the letter, the leaders asked Bush to appoint a special Presidential Envoy with a full-time commitment to pursue negotiations for comprehensive, just and lasting peace among Israel, the Palestinians and Arab states. They also suggest the Unit-

ed States:

- ◆ Negotiate a timetable for specific, simultaneous steps to be taken by the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli government with effective and highly visible monitoring to assure implementation by both sides;
- ◆ Take the lead to provide security, prevent violent attacks on Israelis and deliver humanitarian aid, vital services and development assistance to the Palestinian people; and
- ◆ Support benchmark principles for possible mutually accept-

able peace agreements drawn from earlier official negotiations and from civil society initiatives such as the People's Voice and the Geneva Accord.

Bishop Coyner plans to take actions in light of his support. Those steps include: communicating his support to Indiana's U.S. Senators and Representatives, announcing his support of this initiative to Indiana's 225,000 United Methodists and urging Hoosier United Methodists who support this appeal to write to their U.S. Senators and Representatives.

Contact information to elected officials was published in the Jan. issue of *Together* and is available online at [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov).

In related news, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas plan to meet Feb. 8 to begin peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians for the first time in two years. Palestinians regained control of four West Bank towns the beginning of February after top Israeli and Palestinian officials agreed on a security plan for the West Bank.

## NCC delegation to seek peace opportunities in Middle East

NEW YORK (UMNS) – The question “How can we make the current opportunity for peace a reality?” was central to the Jan. 21-Feb. 4 mission of a National Council of Churches delegation to the Middle East.

The 11-member group was led by Bishop Thomas L. Hoyt Jr., a Christian Methodist Episcopal Church leader and NCC president, and the Rev. Robert W. Edgar, a United Methodist pastor and the agency's chief executive.

They pressed their conviction that governments and people of faith must seize the opportunity presented by recent developments – for example, the election of new Palestinian leadership and the Israeli government's movement on

the settlement issue – to get the Middle East peace process back on track.

“We ask the question ‘Is this the opportunity for peace?’ state our conviction that it is and explore ways communities of faith can help,” Edgar said.

The delegation left the United States on Jan. 21 for Beirut, Lebanon, Cairo, Egypt, Israel and the Palestinian territories. Along the way, it met with the Middle East Council of Churches, senior Christian, Jewish and Muslim religious leaders, and grass-roots and interfaith organizations working for peace.

The delegation confirmed with senior members of the Israeli government and requested

### Is this the opportunity for peace?

time with officials in the Palestinian Authority.

Along with peacemaking, the group's other top concern was the situation of Christians in the Holy Land and the ongoing exodus of Christians from the region.

The last two NCC delegation visits to the Middle East were in May 2003 and April 2002.

James Winkler, chief executive, United Methodist Board of Church and Society, was part of the delegation. In addition to Hoyt, Edgar and Winkler, other delegation members are His

Grace Bishop Vicken Aykazian, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, Washington; Sylvia Campbell, adjunct professor, George Washington University, Washington, and a member of the Alliance of Baptists; the Rev. Thelma Chambers-Young, Progressive National Baptist Convention Inc., Oklahoma City; and the Rev. Seung Koo Choi, chief executive, Korean Presbyterian Church in America, Anaheim, Calif.

Also, the Rt. Rev. (Bishop) C.

Christopher Epting, ecumenical officer, the Episcopal Church, New York; Ann Hafften, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Weatherford, Texas; the Rev. Michael Kinnamon, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), professor at Eden Seminary, St. Louis; and Antonios Kireopoulos, Greek Orthodox, NCC staff executive for international affairs and peace, New York City.

The group returned to the United States on Feb. 4. For reports on this mission, log on to [www.nccusa.org](http://www.nccusa.org).

*Information for this story was provided by Carol Fouke with the National Council of Churches' communications office.*

## Middle East Christians need contact with other Christians

By Linda Bloom

NEW YORK (UMNS) – Christians in the Middle East need to connect with their Western counterparts, according to a United Methodist official who recently traveled to the region.

In countries like Lebanon and Syria, the population of Christians – although still significant – has declined, the Rev. R. Randy Day, chief executive, United Methodist Board of Global Ministries pointed out. The big concern, he added, is “how to continue to witness and function as minorities.”

Day was part of a five-person delegation sponsored by Church World Service that recently traveled in the Middle East. The trip took the group to Cairo, Egypt; Beirut, Lebanon; Damascus, Syria; Amman, Jordan; Jerusalem and Bethlehem. The delegation met with representatives of the Middle East Council of Churches, Christian and Muslim religious leaders, and a few government officials.

### Open to the delegation

“They were extremely open to

this delegation coming,” Day said. “I thought it was very important for them to be connecting to Christians from the United States.”

Church World Service and its partners are troubled “by the political, economic and social factors that are provoking Christian migration from the region and severely challenging the churches and stable Christian communities there,” said the Rev. John McCullough, Church World Service executive director, a United Methodist pastor and the delegation's leader.

U.S. churches and other agencies have been longstanding partners with Middle Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant church communities, as well as the Middle East Council of Churches.

Besides dealing with their minority status, Middle East Christians have been worn down by the longtime Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Iraq War. “All of these factors weigh heavily on the communities,” Day explained.

Christians in Syria, for exam-

“I think we need the strong voices of moderation in the Arab world.”

– Randy Day

ple, were anxious about the effects of the Iraq War spilling over into their country and about the fact that they felt the West misunderstood their country. Although there have been human rights abuses in Syria's recent past, Day said he found its new president, Bashar El Assad – who met with the delegation – to be “well-informed and extremely open in his dialogue with us.”

“I think we need the strong voices of moderation in the Arab world,” he added. “I'm hoping he might be one of those.”

### Peaceful co-existence

McCullough pointed out that Christians and Muslims peacefully co-exist in much of the region. “Many Muslim leaders are moderate and cooperate with Christians in building good, civil rela-

tionships,” he said. “Some are aware of the greater sense of vulnerability that the minority Christian community feels, and we heard specific examples of government responsiveness to that community.”

When the delegation visited Israel and the Palestinian territories, Day said he was shocked to see the size of the wall that Israel is constructing around Palestinian areas. It brought back memories of South Africa, he explained, and the way that apartheid isolated and controlled people in that country.

He had praise, however, for the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel, launched by the World Council of Churches in August 2002. Ecumenical companions – including many young adults – serve a minimum of three months, working with local churches, Israeli and Palestinian nongovernmental organizations and Palestinian communities to monitor human rights violations and improve the daily lives of Palestinians and Israelis.

The companions come from a variety of religions and nations, and Day said he hopes to bring the program to the attention of more United Methodists who might like to participate.

### Just peace possible

Day believes that a “just peace” is possible for Israelis and Palestinians and that a two-state solution, brokered through the international community, is workable. He hopes the Bush administration will make peace for Israel and the Palestinian territories a foreign policy priority during its second term.

Other members of the delegation included the Rev. Marian McClure, director of the Worldwide Ministries Division for the Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly Council; the Rev. William Sibert, executive director, Board of World Mission, Moravian Church; and David Weaver, director of Mission Relationships and Witness for Church World Service.

*Bloom is a United Methodist News Service news writer based in New York.*

## UMCOR sets stage for long-term recovery

By Linda Beher

NEW YORK (UMNS) – In Sri Lanka, United Methodist relief agency staff are looking at ways to plug gaps in longer-term recovery plans, even as aid workers continue responding to the immediate needs of tsunami survivors.

The Rev. Kristin L. Sachen, head of disaster response for the United Methodist Committee on Relief, and Guy Hovey, international operations director, are meeting with representatives from other aid agencies in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

“Determining where and how UMCOR can be helpful with rebuilding projects will help to re-

lieve stress on local organizations in South Asia,” Sachen said. UMCOR has run large-scale rebuilding projects in Turkey, Afghanistan and Bosnia, and its expertise may also be needed in Asia.

The Sri Lanka conference is the third in a series of face-to-face meetings that will provide the grist for UMCOR’s mid- and long-term plans. Aid officials have already done an initial evaluation of the acute phase of the recovery in Geneva, Switzerland.

In another initiative, a delegation of United Methodists met with church leaders in the Banda Aceh region of Indonesia. The group, which left the United States

Jan. 10, also delivered 100,000 doses of antibiotics and other medicine to health clinics.

UMCOR immediately provided \$750,000 in relief to the tsunami-stricken Indian Ocean region following the Dec. 26 earthquake that triggered tidal waves, killing more than 200,000 people and destroying the homes and livelihoods of millions more. More aid is in the pipeline.

So far, UMCOR has sent:

- ◆ A truckload of health kits which contain a hand towel, washcloth, comb, nail file or fingernail clippers, bar of soap, toothbrush, toothpaste and adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages.

- ◆ A grant to Churches Auxiliary for Social Action in India to help that agency distribute food, emergency supplies and tarpaulins.

- ◆ A grant to the Christian Medical Association of India, which has deployed 12 health teams to provide acute health care and longer-term trauma counseling for affected families.

- ◆ A grant to Church World Service supporting a shipment of shelter kits to Sri Lanka.

- ◆ A grant to the Methodist Church of Singapore to assist in delivery of antibiotics to affected areas.

Cash gifts will help UMCOR

continue to support local Christian relief agencies in the disaster area. Checks can be placed in local church offering plates or mailed to UMCOR, 475 Riverside Dr., Room 330, New York, NY 10115. Designate checks for UMCOR Advance #274305 and “South Asia Emergency.” One hundred percent of every donation to the appeal goes to support recovery efforts in the disaster-stricken regions. Donors using a credit card may call toll-free 800-554-8583 or give online at [www.MethodistRelief.org](http://www.MethodistRelief.org).

Linda Beher is director of communications for the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

## Ganta United Methodist Hospital provides hope in Liberia

A UMNS Report

Two years ago, Patience Yah Sendolo of Gebeibini Town, Liberia, lost her sight because of cataracts. The 16-year-old dropped out of school. Her parents were desperate to help her, but could not afford to take her to Monrovia, the capital, for surgery.

Hope for the family was restored when the outreach team from the eye project at Ganta United Methodist Hospital arrived in a Jeep for Patience and a family member. The cataracts were re-

moved at the hospital and her sight restored.

That is just one of the success stories at Ganta Hospital, according to Victor Doolaken Taryor, the hospital’s acting administrator and associate administrator for personnel and special projects. The hospital reopened last March after being damaged by both government and rebel forces the previous year.

Located in northeastern Liberia, Ganta serves an area with more than 450,000 inhabitants, along with thousands of Liberians

who are being repatriated after fleeing to Guinea. Refugees from Cote d’Ivoire also are being settled in the region.

“As the only viable medical service provider in the region, Ganta Hospital needs to strengthen her response capacity to accommodate the anticipated influx,” Taryor said in his report last fall. “Already, the medical needs of the war-weary population are so great.”

Cherian Thomas, an executive with the health and relief unit of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, said in late Jan-

Services provided include an outpatient clinic, obstetric, pediatric and ophthalmic care, and surgical and laboratory services.

uary that the staff has the hospital running at full steam again. “They’ve done a remarkable job of starting it again from scratch,” he added.

The missionary couple serving at Ganta Mission Station, Mary and Herbert Zigbuo, also should be credited “for doing a great job” reviving the hospital, he said.

Services provided at Ganta include an outpatient clinic, obstetric, pediatric and ophthalmic care, and surgical and laboratory services. Two physicians -- an ophthalmologist and a general practitioner with surgical skills -- staff the hospital.

The most recent statistics, for August through October 2004, show 6,218 outpatient visits, 962 inpatient admissions, 1,091 prenatal clinic visits and 475 surgeries. Of the 130 births, 85 were normal vaginal deliveries and 45 required Caesarian sections. Most of the 39 deaths -- about 4 percent of the inpatient population -- were of patients admitted in very critical condition, the hospital reported.

Eye surgery began on Oct. 15, with 19 cataract cases completed by the end of the month. Partnership with the Christian Blindenmission has made possible the introduction of intraocular lens to enhance vision, according to Taryor. Use of the lens is a new medical technology in Liberia.

Taryor noted receiving payments from patients can be difficult, particularly because it often costs people so much to reach the hospital by commercial vehicles. “As our custom, we usually respond with or without money - hoping that the bill will be settled later,” he said.

Patients do what they can. After Bob Gannie, 34, underwent

several surgeries last July for typhoid perforation of the bowel, he had accumulated a bill of U.S.\$438. His family managed to scrape up \$26 in cash and contributed a goat and some chickens to the hospital. Gannie and his mother also attended chapel services at the hospital during his recovery period.

The United Methodist Board of Global Ministries had invested \$300,000 in renovations at Ganta Hospital when its buildings were ruined in 2003. In addition, a three-year, \$1.2 million project -- a prosthetic and orthopedic workshop -- by the U.S. Agency for International Development was coming to an end as the destruction occurred.

Although some initial repairs were made, a more thorough renovation started last September, according to Taryor. A \$30,000 grant from the board’s department of health and welfare has allowed work on a wing that houses the pediatric, obstetric and general private and semi-private patients.

Housing also has been restored for the nurse anesthetist, the accountant, the warehouse supervisor and a new doctor.

The Board of Global Ministries is giving Ganta Hospital a quarterly grant of \$12,000 to assist with operating expenses, Thomas said.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief has set up a separate fund for rebuilding Ganta Hospital. Donations can be designated to UMCOR Advance No. 150385 and dropped in church collection plates or mailed to 475 Riverside Dr., Room 330, New York, NY 10115. Credit-card donations can be made by calling toll-free 800-554-8583.

## Africa University announces Tindal Scholarship Fund for Sudanese women

GARY, Ind. – James H. Salley, Africa University’s Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement of Nashville, Tenn., recently announced the Walter and Lovetta Tindal Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Sunday, Dec. 5 was a day of surprises and excitement for the members of Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church of Gary. Walter, a retired high school athletic coach, and Lovetta, a case manager employed by the State of Indiana, have been members of Fifth Avenue for 34 years. She currently serves as chair of the church’s higher education and outreach committees.

In celebration of the Tindals’ 36th wedding anniversary and in honor and recognition of Lovetta’s

commitment to higher education, the Tindals’ children, Walter James III and family of Gilbert, Arizona and Leslie Renee Annette of Indianapolis; and Lovetta’s sister, the Rev. Michelle Ann Cobb, superintendent of the Lafayette District, North Indiana Conference, endowed a scholarship in the Tindals’ honor at Africa University.

Cobb and Leslie Annette presented a check to Salley in the amount of \$10,000 during the morning worship service. One scholarship shall be awarded annually to a female Sudanese student enrolled in the Faculty of Education.

Salley accepted the generous gift on behalf of Africa University and presented the Tindals

### Operation Classroom work team to Ganta set for summer

Mona Morgan has been selected to be the team leader of this mission trip, from Aug. 17 to Sept. 4. The projected cost is \$2,500 per person. This includes, airfare, travel expenses, lodging, transportation, meals, tips and taxes.

Team members are needed who are skilled or unskilled but willing to do what is needed (medi-



cal, teachers, construction workers, etc). They should have a spirit of adventure, accept the fact that they may not get the project completed, have a strong desire to serve others through a

practical hands-on experience. For more information, please contact Mona Morgan at 317/844-3759 or [morggm@aol.com](mailto:morggm@aol.com).

### Operation Classroom seeks band instruments

A number of Operation Classroom schools in Liberia and Sierra Leone have request band instruments: walking band set (drum, cymbals, clarinets, trumpets and other instruments). If you have any such used instruments and would like to do-

nate them, please contact: Joe Wagner, Operation Classroom, PO Box 246, Colfax, IN 46035 or email [wagners@operationclassroom.org](mailto:wagners@operationclassroom.org). Instruments need to be sent UPS to Operation Classroom, 806 Woodward Street, Lapel, IN 46051

## UMW president sees first-hand effect of tsunami on women, children

By Kelly C. Martini

Kyung Za Yim, president of the United Methodist Women's Division, went to North Sumatra, Indonesia, Jan. 12-16, with an eye for the concerns of women and children in the tsunami-stricken area.

"The devastation was far, far beyond my imagination," Yim said about her visit to several sites crushed by the Dec. 26 tidal waves. She left knowing that women need to be intentional in relief and rebuilding efforts to reach other women.

Yim went with a delegation

from the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries, the international mission agency of the church. She serves as president of the one-million member United Methodist Women and a United Methodist deaconess focusing on community health.

Among other coastal towns, she visited Banda Aceh, a town on which the world and media attention seems to be focusing. But other hard hit areas are not receiving the attention, and for them, she is concerned.

One such area is on the west side of Sumatra in Melaboh, where the Methodist Church had built more than 10 churches in a decade for a displaced population of Chinese-Indonesians. The area has been destroyed.

"No one can get there," said Yim. "There is no road open to the area, no airport, and all the streets are blocked. That area is not covered by the media, and people don't know about it," she said.

In an effort to

**"The devastation was far, far beyond my imagination."**

—Kyung Za Yim, president of the United Methodist Women's Division

give some relief to the displaced people, eleven refugee camps have opened in Sumatra. One, Jalan Metal, is for the Chinese-Indonesians, who were displaced in the 1960s with ethnic cleansing, and now have been displaced by natural disaster. The camp received food and aid from surrounding countries like Malaysia and Thailand, but it is the elderly women of the camp who distribute the aid and provide the life line.

"They serve cooked meals to about 2,000 people each day," said Yim. "They keep the food in an open tent in the field and the old women take turns serving it." At night, the displaced persons disperse into the community to sleep in friends' houses or any empty house they can find.

At a camp in Baeilek, Yim was relieved to see one metal water tank, so people had clean water to drink. But the rainy season and



A UMNS photo by Mike DuBose.

United Methodist Bishop Joel Martinez of Dallas (second from right) prays with (from left) the Rev. Henry Leono, pastor of St. Paul United Methodist Church in Willingboro, N.J.; Kyung Za Yim, president of the Women's Division; and the Rev. Randy Day, top staff executive of the denomination's mission board. They are standing in front of the building that once housed the first Methodist congregation, established by Leono's brother, in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, which was destroyed in the Dec. 26 tsunami. This is the church that Bishop Coyner committed the Indiana Area United Methodists to rebuild.

the mud concerned her because of the resulting health effects.

"Most of the people walk around in bare feet in the mud. Every day there is rain, and the grounds are soaked and wet. Hands are so dirty. And people are eating with these dirty hands," she said.

This is an area in which United Methodist Women can help, Yim said. "We can continue to collect health kits and school kits for women and children in these areas." The kits are sent through

UMCOR and provide essential supplies for everyday life and survival. "We cannot go there, but we can use our regional missionaries in the area, to do women's lay leadership training," she said. Women's lay leadership training, done by church women in the area, helps arm women with community-based health information, in micro-credit and in areas that the local women deem urgent.

Kelly C. Martini serves as the communication officer for United Methodist Women.



A UMNS photo by Mike DuBose.

The Rev. Tahir Wijaya, pastor of the Methodist Church in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, takes a break from clean-up duties at the church to recall how he survived the Dec. 26 tsunami that devastated the area.

## African church offers model for evangelism, growth

By Lesley Crosson

Just four months after the Rev. Anastacio Chembeze was appointed pastor of a church in northern Mozambique, his chief concern is the shortage of trained church workers for his growing congregation.

The new minister of Central United Methodist Church in Deira also worries about the size of the building the 1,000-member congregation is constructing with no outside funding.

"We are always getting new people, so I am also hoping that the congregation will not have outgrown the church by the time we finish the building," he says.

Nowhere have churches been more successful than in Africa, where the number of Christians has grown from 10 million in 1900 to 360 million today. Mozambique's United Methodists, who ended their annual conference session Dec. 12, reported an 8,000-person membership increase for 2004. United Methodist churches throughout the continent have similar growth.

Bishop João Somane Machado, leader of the United Methodist Church in Mozambique, says the idea that evangeliza-

tion is not a one-time campaign is behind the growth. "It is the reason for the existence of the church. It is our purpose and our top priority," Machado says.

Such growth is within the reach of any church willing to use all the tools and resources at its disposal, suggests the Rev. Irene Kabete, a candidate for a master of divinity candidate at Drew University in Madison, N.J.

### Tools to growth

Those tools include understanding that evangelization is the mission of the church and that efforts to attract people require planning, prayer and, most importantly, full participation by the congregation.

At Inner City United Methodist Church in Harare, Zimbabwe, where Kabete serves as pastor, a committee sets goals and guides church growth efforts, but all members do the actual work. Kabete is on study leave from her duties as Inner City's pastor and district council director for the Zimbabwe West Annual Conference.

"The committee asks how many new people do we want to get, where will we find them, and how will we get them? We figure out how many people all our different church groups will be re-

sponsible for bringing into the church, and then we pray for success," she says. Each person — man, woman or youth — "aims to bring at least one new member during the year," she says.

The outreach includes distributing fliers in growing neighborhoods, making door-to-door visits and holding revivals in targeted neighborhoods. Kabete says small Bible study sessions hosted by church members in their homes are also an effective way for members to draw their friends into the church.

From 1999 to 2004, the five years that Kabete served Inner City, the congregation grew 800 members to 1,700 and spawned four new congregations. One of them, which had 250 members when Kabete left Zimbabwe in September, has itself started another church.

### Each one has a gift

One of the church's most effective evangelists is 70-year-old Rudo Jane Bingepinge, evangelization chair for women in the Zimbabwe East District and a member of St. James United Methodist Dangavura Church in Mutare. Everyone has something they can use to bring people to God,

Bingepinge says.

"God gave each of us a gift. My gift is listening to people and talking to them and understanding their problems. So many people come to me, and I talk to them about God and about the church, and they feel better. These people then feel that they are part of us and that we care, and so they come back."

Keith Rae, a United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries executive for evangelization and church growth, recently returned from Maputo, Mozambique, where the board sponsored a weeklong evangelization academy and a conference on Gospel and culture.

Young people there have taken an active role in evangelization. "Youth choirs from seven different churches performed, and these young people take their ministry very seriously. One of



A UMNS photo by Mike DuBose.

Bishop João Somane Machado says evangelization is the reason behind church growth in Africa, and it should be a top priority of the United Methodist Church. Machado leads the denomination in Mozambique.

the most important tools they use is their music. They write and sing songs that appeal to and draw young people in," Rae says. He adds that the young people invite their friends into the church "not as part of a campaign but as an everyday thing."

Machado cautions against expecting church leaders to bear full responsibility for church growth. "Every Christian is an evangelist," the bishop says, "and the constant goal of every one of us must be to fulfill the purpose of the church by bringing as many souls to God as we can."

## Hoosiers can triumph over tobacco addiction

By Karla Sneegas

Hoosiers young and old visit [www.WhiteLies.tv](http://www.WhiteLies.tv) to tell us about their triumph over tobacco addiction.

A 28-year-old mother of four told us she started smoking at age 14. "Back then, it was just tobacco – no big deal," she wrote. But a little research showed her how bad cigarettes really are for you, and she finally quit.

Every story we receive is important, as these successes give hope to the three-quarters of a



Sneegas

million Hoosiers who want to quit smoking for good.

Each year, more than 10,000 Hoosiers die from smoking-related illnesses, and tens of thousands more suffer from the diseases caused by tobacco use. The \$1.6 billion in smoking-related health care expenses Hoosiers pay each year result in exceptionally high insurance costs.

Reducing the number of smokers will save lives and money. And with a healthier population and work force, Indi-

ana would become a more attractive target for companies considering relocation or expansion.

Nearly 86 percent of smokers in Indiana report they want to quit, and two-thirds will try to quit in the next six months. But quitting smoking requires support, and every Hoosier can do his or her part to help.

Studies show that smokers who work in smoke-free workplaces are much more successful in their attempts to quit than those who are exposed to secondhand smoke. Bloomington has become a model community as we work to bring cleaner, healthier, smoke-free air to all Hoosiers.

The city is implementing the final phase of its smoke-free ordinance on Jan. 1 when bars joined restaurants and worksites in becoming 100 percent smoke free.

Since more than eight out of every ten adult smokers started before the age of 18, it is imperative to address this issue with Hoosier youth. Voice, a youth-led statewide movement, is empowering teens with the knowledge they need to fight back against tobacco.

This fall, hundreds of Voice teens gathered at summits in Indianapolis and Jeffersonville to discuss marketing tactics used to target youth. These young leaders are

now using local events and the [www.Voice.tv](http://www.Voice.tv) Web site to spread these messages to peers. Thanks to Voice and other youth tobacco prevention activities in every county, Indiana's youth smoking rate has been cut by 26 percent in recent years.

About 200,000 Hoosiers quit smoking in 2004. To take the first step in becoming one of the thousands who will quit in 2005, visit [www.WhiteLies.tv](http://www.WhiteLies.tv) or call 866-515-5433. Request a "Quit Smoking" packet and make a difference for Indiana.

*Karla Sneegas is executive director of Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation, Indianapolis.*

## Putting Children First

As Americans, we are a committed nation providing leadership support, medical support and economic assistance to people and other nations because we recognize the United States population is only one portion of the global population. We continue to identify ourselves as a nation comprised of states, communities and individuals committed to promoting opportunities for all its citizens. In our continuous effort to reach out both individually and as a nation to the survivors of the tsunami in South Asia, we demonstrate a concern for humans around the world.

As the people of Indiana, we adhere to our concern for others in spirit and witness and demonstrate our commitment rather than just talk it. Community organizations continue to identify resources in support of the

needs of Hoosiers. As we identify ourselves with others, we assume a shared responsibility for employment, good healthy, quality educational and to rid our communities of the plight of children living in poverty.

We see the plight of economically and socially marginalized children in Indiana as a bi-partisan issue of social importance and economical relevance for the development and growth as a state.

One day a young, bright student sat in her classroom, avoiding eye contact with her teacher. When asked about her homework, she sat low in her seat, looking out of the window, then gazing toward a nutrition poster on in the wall until she heard the dreadful, most feared question, "Janie, you always excel in this area, what is the answer on your homework sheet?" With

pools of tears in her eyes and a knot in her throat, she responded with embarrassment, "I did not have light to read. My family lives in an abandoned building."

How can we peacefully and comfortably retire for the evening in a warm home with no pains of hunger, while our neighbor has no place to be sheltered from the cold?

From the "Young Children in Poverty" fact sheet we read: "10 percent of America's young children live in extreme poverty, in families with incomes of under 50 percent of the poverty line. The extreme poverty rate among young children is growing faster than the young child poverty rate. Research indicates that extreme poverty during the first five years of life has especially deleterious effects on children's future life chances compared to less extreme

poverty experienced later in childhood."

Let us join in the goal to aggressively pursue every effort to enact public policy to intervene in the perpetuation of poverty; lift every child from poverty; ensure every child a place called home; and strengthen child protection teams that serve the needs of children and the poor.

Let us graciously continue to seek courage and care for children and their families.

We encourage and pray for our elected and appointed officials in the State of Indiana to aggressively pursue policy implementing the legislation of "Putting Children First."

*– The South Indiana Conference Bishop's Initiative of Children and Poverty Committee*

## Off switch may be best shield against indecency in media

By Tamie Ross  
A UMC.org Feature

The answer to the national debate over decency in the media might be simple: Control the remote, lest the remote control you.

Turn the television off, some say. Others argue the media is too pervasive to ignore. They demand programming changes, as well as heavier penalties for those who violate Federal Communications Commission decency standards.

Pressure behind both courses has built since the now-infamous 2004 Super Bowl halftime show that ended with singer Justin Timberlake exposing Janet Jackson's right breast to millions of viewers. More than half a million people filed complaints, driving the current wave of concern about broadcast indecency.

Christian organizations and secular groups petitioned for higher fines – from the current penalty of \$27,500 to \$550,000 per infraction – for media outlets that break the rules.

But is media decency a faith issue?

"Everything is a faith issue," says Philip Patterson, chairman of the Department of Communication at Oklahoma Christian Uni-

versity and author of *The Electronic Millstone: Christian Parenting in a Media Age*.

"Scripture tells us to 'test everything.' I think that applies to the media I watch," Patterson says.

Teresa Tomeo agrees – a realization that the cost to her is a high-profile career.

Tomeo, of Detroit, anchored the evening news at a network affiliate, delivering what she called 'the daily violence report.' But the business, and the role she thought she had played in sensationalizing violence and tragedy, took a toll on her once-solid faith.

"My relationship with God had been so strong, but I became very secularized during the years I spent in the media, especially with the success I had early in my career," Tomeo says. "I finally got the wake-up call and realized God was pulling me out of it so that I could work to change what was wrong. I got really tired of seeing faith left completely out of secular media, or even worse, Christians made to look badly."

Tomeo now hosts a morning radio show for a Christian station in Detroit, as well as an afternoon talk show. She writes a weekly print column and frequently speaks to people working toward

Until we get a handle on the amount of media coming into our homes, the content doesn't really matter.

– Philip Patterson

media reformation.

Her Web site, [www.teresatomeo.com](http://www.teresatomeo.com), aims to empower people to change their media habits, then the media itself. She encourages visitors to pray for change, join letter-writing campaigns to network officials, and boycott programs and advertisers' products when appropriate.

Her varied media experience puts her in a position to help bring about change, she says.

"I've written a step-by-step guide on how people can change TV news, Internet, print, video-game violence, radio – you name it.

"If this is, indeed, a faith issue, that faith has to be put into action," Tomeo says. "You have to become active and vocal about it."

Children are the most at-risk, Patterson and Tomeo say. A recent study by the University of Pennsylvania estimates children between the ages of 2 and 17 spend more than six hours a day in front of electronic screens (TV, video

games and computer).

For this reason, Patterson advocates literal control: using the "off" button. He says the ultimate responsibility lies with the individual – especially the parent.

"Until we get a handle on the amount of media coming into our homes, the content doesn't really matter," he says. "It's not what you watch, it's that you watch."

But getting a handle on what streams into homes can be frustrating.

Joe Halter says cable television offers more choices, but not all are acceptable for his 14-year-old daughter and 12-year-old son.

"At our house, television and Internet time are public events, so that we can monitor what they watch," says Halter, who attends the First United Methodist Church of Glen Ellyn, Ill.

Halter and his wife, Kerry, limit their children's television time to two hours or less per day. He says that's not hard, given that school activities

consume most of their time.

Tomeo agrees that cable television programming has complicated matters in the past 10 years. The rules, simply put, aren't the same for everyone.

"Many cable companies won't let you opt out of receiving certain channels that are part of a package," Tomeo says, although proposals allowing that are under consideration.

And because FCC standards don't govern cable television, networks feel they must "up the ante" on programming to entice an audience, Tomeo says. Additionally, she says the current FCC standards – prohibiting indecent programming between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. – are too vague to be meaningful.

A problem 50-plus years in the making won't be solved overnight, Tomeo said.

"After the Janet Jackson incident, we started hearing from people who had never spoken up before, and that was good. A few months later, and 'Desperate Housewives' is the top new show on TV," she said.

"You can never say, 'We've won' in an ongoing battle like this. Someone always has their hand on the envelope, ready to push again."

*Tamie Ross is a freelance journalist based in Dallas.*

## Movie Review

**Hotel Rwanda** shows change of heart during disaster

By Gregg Tubbs

Hurricanes and tsunamis proved again in 2004 just how fragile human life is in the face of nature's fury. We also saw a great flood of humanitarian relief for victims both around the block and around the world. Ten years ago, a humanitarian crisis occurred that

dwarfed this year's casualty numbers. But there were some striking and heartbreaking differences.

This was not the result of nature, but of man. And the outpouring of aid we've seen for recent natural disasters was strangely absent. Director, Terry George's harrowing new film *Hotel Rwanda* transports us to the middle of the moral morass that was the 1994 Rwanda cri-

sis, and asks the age-old question "Am I my brother's keeper?"

In early 1994, tensions between Rwandan ethnic groups, the majority Hutus and minority Tutsis, boiled over when the Rwandan president's plane was shot down. The Hutu-controlled media was quick to blame the assassination on

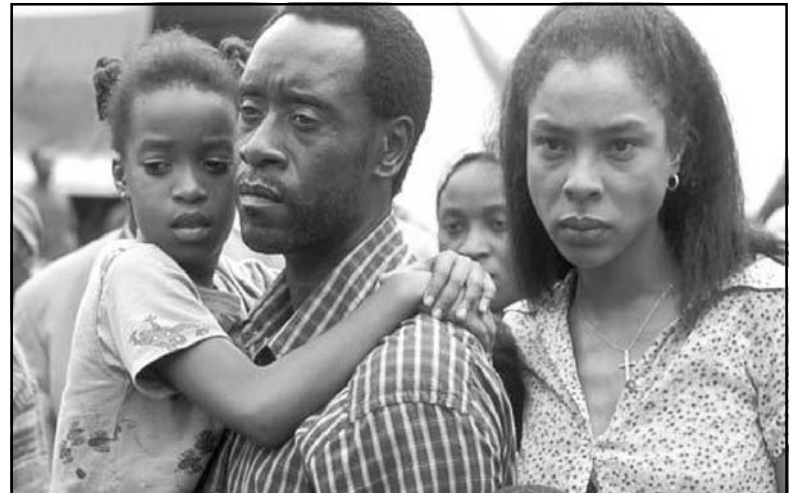
the Tutsis and urged the Hutus to avenge the death. The following bloodbath approached genocide, as nearly one million Rwandans, mostly Tutsis but also moderate Hutus, were indiscriminately slaughtered.

*Hotel Rwanda* shows us this dark period in recent history through the eyes of hotel manager Paul Rusesabagina. Portrayed by the remarkable Don Cheadle, Rusesabagina's eyes become the eyes of all humanity. Cheadle's performance is one of rare power, compassion and most importantly, honesty. There's not a

false note as he plays the unlikely real-life hero, often called the "Rwandan Schindler," who reluctantly assumes the role of life-saver to more than 1,200 Tutsi and Hutu refugees who take asylum in his hotel. Complicating matters is that Rusesabagina was Hutu, and his wife, Tatiana, was Tutsi.

Rusesabagina is a real operator who exudes "style," as he calls it, in everything from his crisp suits to the fine cigars and Scotch whisky he dispenses to curry favor with local warlords and businessmen. He is aware of the growing hostility between the Hutus and Tutsis but refuses to get involved. Just like many of us, he sees no urgency in a crisis that has not yet touched him personally, and he believes there is nothing he can really do. The power of this film is in watching Paul's change of heart – a "conversion" from indifference, to concern, to courageous action. When a mob of Hutus begins killing Tutsis on his own street, his concern is intensely local – the protection of his own family and neighbors. But as the horror of thousands of dead Tutsis sinks in, his definition of "neighbor" broadens to include all those in danger.

Although Rusesabagina is ultimately heroic, risking his own life for the refugees in his care, his transformation is slow and halting. Rather than diminishing his hero-



*Hotel Rwanda* transports us to the middle of the moral morass – the 1994 Rwanda crisis.

ism, I believe this makes his story more gripping and believable. It also helps us identify with this ordinary person who, in extraordinary circumstances, becomes extraordinary himself. It's also notable that after he has determined to do all he can to save the lives of those hiding in his hotel, he never resorts to violence. He and others, including the determined U.N. Colonel and a compassionate Red Cross worker, remain agents of peace and life during a time of violence and death.

*Hotel Rwanda* asks the audience to ponder some of the great questions of human nature – some of them obvious, some not. How can mankind, with such a capacity for compassion and sacrifice,

also be capable of cruelty and murder? How can hate and racial discrimination turn a nation against itself? Why is it that some people are capable of taking a human life, and others, like Rusesabagina, see murder as an absolute moral barrier that can't be crossed? What is our responsibility to our fellow man? And, of course, what can one person do? As the famous saying goes, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." Rusesabagina had to come to the realization that he couldn't save everyone, but he saved who he could.

This review was developed by UMC.org, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.



## Book Review

**The Kite Runner** is an ethical parable rich with timeless themes

By Lynne Bevan DeMichele

(UMCom) – Khaled Hosseini's heart searing novel, *The Kite Runner*, is set in his troubled homeland of Afghanistan. In the story of Amir, Hosseini gives us an ethical parable rich with the timeless themes of love, guilt, fear and the need for redemption.

Afghanistan is a distant world, one we only glimpse in the daily news. Reading this book, Afghanistan becomes palpably real.

"I became what I am today at the age of twelve, on a frigid overcast day in the winter of 1975. I remember the precise moment, crouching behind a crumbling mud wall, peeking into the alley near the frozen creek.... Looking back now, I realize I have been peeking into that deserted alley for the last twenty-six years."

From this opening paragraph of *The Kite Runner*, you find yourself behind the eyes of Amir, born of the privileged Pashtun caste in 1970s Kabul. His childhood in Afghanistan's capital city

is delightful. And – best of all – Amir's every waking moment is shared with his best friend, Hassan. Nursed by the same woman since birth, they are as close as brothers – with one essential and inherently painful difference.

Hassan is the son of one of Amir's family servants. He is Hazzara, considered a lowly class in contemporary Afghan society. Hassan is gentle, unfailingly loyal and adores Amir, telling him at one point, "For you anything, a thousand times over!"

Amir's own most deeply felt desire is to win his rather distant father's approval – approval which seems always generously given to Hassan. The day of the city's great winter kite battle provides an opportunity. The sky over Kabul fills with colorful kites and the whole city watches as Amir triumphs, at last feeling his father's pride. His friend Hassan shares his joy and dashes off to find the defeated kite as a prize for Amir. In the process, we discover what happened at that fro-

**The Kite Runner** is truer than any news account or analysis I've read about the Middle East. Ever.

zen creek which Amir ruefully recalls in the book's opening paragraph. It is a moment that changes both boys irrevocably and alters the course of their friendship and their futures.

Soon after, not only personal lives, but that of the country itself, change radically with the Russian invasion and the deposing of the king. For their safety, Amir's father, whom he calls "Baba," emigrates to the U.S. with Amir. Father and son make a modest new life in Southern California, where the intelligent adolescent grows to manhood and falls in love. Even as he begins his happy married life with Soraya, Amir still carries the shame of that day by the creek back in Kabul. He's convinced he is "gutless" and tells himself bitterly, "It's how you were made...." and the memory is buried in his subconscious.

Now a successful writer, Amir's comfortable life is jolted

one morning when he receives a phone call from Pakistan. It's from his father's old friend, Rahim, asking him to return and saying, "It's still possible to be good." The prospect of some kind of atonement moves Amir to fly to meet with Rahim. The old man, now dying, reveals a bitter secret and tells him of a little Hazzara boy, Sohrab, whom Amir realizes he must find in what's left of Afghanistan. The subsequent journey leads him through a literal kind of hell, yet in the process he also finds the possibility of redemption.

I chose this book wanting to understand something of this anguished part of the world where the story is set. One can pore over histories, news accounts and scholarly analyses for this, but I believe, we can begin to comprehend real human truths only through personal story. Therein lies one of the unique values of

contemporary fiction. This story was written by an Afghan, one who lived the story himself – or at least the story's matrix. The themes of father/son relationships, the imperatives of friendship, the value and impact of culture can be affectingly seen, even if imperfectly understood, in good fiction.

I believe *The Kite Runner* is truer than any news account or analysis I've read about the Middle East. Ever. And it left a mark.

*Khaled Hosseini was born and raised in Kabul, Afghanistan, the son of a diplomat whose family received political asylum in the United States in 1980. He is a physician and now lives in northern California. The Kite Runner, his first novel, won top honors last year in the Borders Group Original Voices® Awards, a program honoring emerging and innovative authors.*

*Lynne DeMichele is a professional writer, editor and former director of communications for the Indiana Area United Methodist Church. This review was developed by UMC.org, an online ministry of The United Methodist Church.*

## Youth lay speakers-servants retreat unites rising leaders

By Alison Bartels

INDIANAPOLIS – What began as an Indianapolis East and West District youth retreat evolved into a state-wide gathering Jan. 28-29, drawing interested high school students to Zionsville United Methodist Church.

The Youth Lay Speaking/Lay Servants School retreat gave 60 youth the opportunity to receive lay-speaking training and explore the possibility of a future in ordained ministry. The retreat combined worship events, seminars and fun activities to equip students for lay ministry.

According to many teens, “All the teachers were crazy cool.”

Kevin Emmert, Indianapolis East District youth coordinator, told *Together*, “Some of the youth may have a call to ministry but they don’t know how to make a first step.” To help them take that first step, the retreat incorporated themes of leadership, teamwork, involvement and discerning the call of ministry.

Co-Lay Leader Keith Howard, of West Indianapolis District, helped bring the retreat to the Indianapolis area. Two years ago

**“It’s awesome being together with other teenagers who are really into their faith.”**

– Emily Shryock

Howard attended a similar conference in Nashville, Tenn. with Conference Director of Lay Speaking Charles Porterfield.

“On the six-hour drive back home, I told Chuck, ‘we really need to do this (in Indiana),’” Howard said. Howard then joined forces with Emmert and West Indianapolis District Youth Coordinator Pam Gilbert last spring, and they began planning for this event.

The retreat, which was originally intended only for Indianapolis East and West District youth, was expanded when churches from the North and South Indiana Conferences showed interest. Howard said they started with a goal of 25 students, but his Co-Lay Leader Laura Walker said they were setting their sights too low. Walker challenged the team to gather 100 students. In the end, 60 students registered, about half male and half female, ranging in age from freshman to seniors in high school.

Bishop Michael Coyner opened the retreat on Friday night with a devotional that helped set the tone for a weekend of challenging speakers.

“We strove to have diversity in our speakers,” said Emmert. “We had a good mix of clergy and laity speaking.”

They covered topics ranging from the foundations of The United Methodist Church to practical talks on preaching and witnessing. Combined with fun team-building activities like “Survivor Relay” and “Methodist Jeopardy,” the format allowed students to receive good training and have lots of fun.

“It’s awesome being together with other teenagers who are really into their faith,” said Emily Shryock, a 17-year-old junior from Edwards Memorial UMC in South Conference. “I’ve been amazed at how attentive everyone has been.”

With completion of the week-



Photo by Alison Bartels

Keith Howard, Indianapolis West District Co-Lay Leader distributes Lay Speaker Basic Course Completion Certificates to Indiana-area students.

end training, students need only one other advanced course to become certified lay leaders. Certified lay students can be called upon to serve both in and beyond the local church. The planning team hopes that events like this Lay Speaking retreat will help to raise leaders among the youth and alleviate a concern about the age

and quantity of new pastors coming into the church.

Gilberts said the students’ responses to the chaperones and speakers were positive throughout the weekend.

Alison Bartels, a Butler University student, serves as Indiana Area Communication office’s intern this semester.

## Vincennes girl crowned Miss Indiana Teen USA

By Jennifer Earles

Kristina Ellis, a member of Community United Methodist Church in Vincennes, was crowned Miss Indiana Teen USA on Nov. 15, during a ceremony in Merrillville, Ind. She was one of 90 teens who competed in the pageant and will represent Indiana in the 2005 Miss Teen USA Pageant next summer.

If the last name seems familiar, it may be because she is the granddaughter of Dr. Doyle and Carolyn Ellis of Vincennes, coordinators of South Indiana Conference’s Volunteer in Mission.

Her grandparents and others who know her couldn’t be happier that Ellis is the new Miss Indiana Teen USA, a title the 17-year-old Lincoln High School senior earned in competition at Merrillville.

“She is always so nice to everybody,” said fellow student Kami Smith, who called Ellis a role model. “She has such a bright personality.”

“Kristina has such a fresh point-of-view and will do many great things for Indiana,” predicted Andrea Kaskus, Ellis’ Advanced Placement English teacher. “She has a take-charge attitude and will be a fabulous representative for the state of Indiana.”

“Kristina has such a positive view of life and shows enthusiasm for everyone’s accomplishments, no matter how small,” added Cecile Jones, Lincoln’s Peer Tutoring instructor, the program Ellis has been involved in the last two years working special education students. “Kristina possesses so many natural talents and has what it takes to be Miss Teen Indiana USA.”

Ellis won the coveted crown over 89 Hoosier teenagers and will represent the state in the 2005 Miss Teen USA Pageant next summer. The pageant will be broadcast live on NBC.

Ellis started planning to enter the pageant three years ago, working to line up local sponsors and raising the necessary money to compete by holding car washes and selling candy bars. She did that on top of maintaining her high academic standing, (Ellis is an honor student ranked near the top of her class), and keeping pace with her busy schedule of extracurricular activities. She is a Youth Lead-

**“Kristina has such a positive view of life and shows enthusiasm for everyone’s accomplishments, no matter how small.”**

– Cecile Jones, Lincoln High’s Peer Tutoring Instructor

ership Knox County graduate, a member of the National Honor Society and the Academic Honor Society, a Rotary Speech contest winner and has been recognized by “Who’s Who Among High School Students” and “The National Honor Roll.”

Ellis runs cross country and track and is a cheerleader, tumbler and gymnast. She earned the Mental Attitude, the Most Valuable Underclassman, and All Conference awards in cross country and the Most Valuable Jumper award in track. She has won AAU and USTA state championships, two gold medals and one bronze metal at the Junior Olympics in tumbling.

For two years she has worked after as a gymnastics coach at the local YMCA for two years and was the head coach of the AAU cheerleading squad at EZ Gymnastics. Ellis also has modeling experience and was a pageant coach and consultant.

She volunteered at the Good Samaritan Hospital and helped her church feed migrant workers in the summer. Ellis also was a Spanish-English translator for a local dentist and a volunteer track coach for Tecumseh-Harrison.

She is also a member of the Varsity Women’s Club, Business People of America, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Lincoln Singers show choir. She was a member of Old Town Players Community Theater and has acted in numerous state and national level stage performances.

In August Ellis won the Sun-Commercial’s “Knox County Superstar” talent contest held in conjunction with the newspaper’s 200th anniversary celebration.

Despite all her accolades and accomplishments, Ellis remains firmly grounded, an attribute for which she gives credit to her mother, Grafilia, who has raised Kristina alone



for the last 10 years after the death of Kristina’s father, Tim, from leukemia.

Grafilia, originally from Venezuela, says she is very proud of her daughter and says she knows her father also would be proud of her because she is strong and worked hard to win. She was shocked when her daughter was announced as the winner and still cannot believe the news.

Her daughter called winning the pageant “awesome.” But, as usual, she was magnanimous in her accomplishment.

“I just want to thank all the people who volunteered to help me. They made all the difference,” Ellis said. “My mother especially supported me and backed me through the entire competition.”

Along with the opportunity to appear in next year’s Miss Indiana Teen USA, Ellis will receive a \$1,200 appearance contract, a \$1,000 clothing allowance and the official 2004 Miss Indiana Teen USA Pageant Plaque, Crown and Sash.

The Miss Indiana Teen USA pageant raises awareness for literacy, community service programs and charities, ovarian and breast cancer and promotes the Youth Anti-Drug Campaign. Sponsors also hope the pageant provides career and educational opportunities to all the young women who participate.

Jennifer Earles serves as a staff writer for the Vincennes Sun-Commercial. First published in the Vincennes Sun-Commercial on Nov. 15 and 17, 2004. © 2004 Used by permission.

## Close Up:

## Churches address touchy topic of sex education

By Amy Green

When Erika Mayer, 16, felt regret over how far she had gone with a former boyfriend, she found reassurance in her grandparents and her church.

It is an unlikely scenario for many teens. But Mayer, who lives with her grandparents and long has been close to them, had attended sex education seminars at her church. What she learned at the seminars guided her through her complicated feelings and made her realize she had lots of support. Now she is committed to abstinence until marriage.

"Usually at church when we talk about it, it's usually in youth group or Sunday school, and it stays in the room," Mayer says. She attends First United Methodist Church in the Phoenix suburb of Glendale, Ariz., where her grandmother is associate pastor. "At church, you're able to talk to people ... and you know those people are behind you for whatever decision you make."

The United Methodist Church is among a growing number of denominations that have taken up the touchy topic of sex education.

Disturbed by teen pregnancy rates, the myths teens share at school and reluctance among parents to set them straight, churches are increasingly addressing the subject. They want to arm teens with solid information and strong values as the young people navigate through the tough choices of adolescence.

Churches emphasize abstinence as the only infallible birth control method, while sex educa-

**"Our sexuality is a part of who God created us to be ..."**

— Lloyd Lewis

tion efforts also acknowledge the place of contraceptives, with the logic that information is the best defense against poor choices.

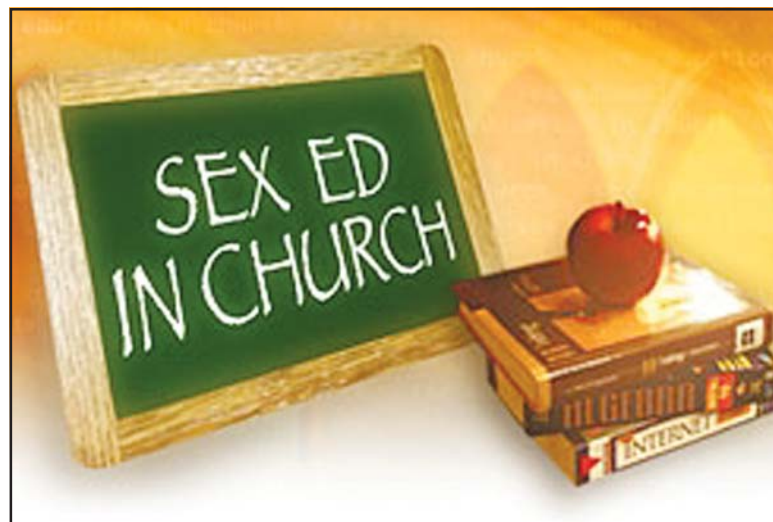
"It's more and more really necessary to wake up and say, 'OK, this is the society you are living in. You need to deal with it,'" says Dottie Lou Colby of Catalina, Ariz., a United Methodist who has been a sex education instructor for at least seven years.

Many programs teach abstinence as the only truly biblical and healthy way to address teen sex, and such programs encourage teens to pledge they will remain virgins until they wed. This approach has flourished, buoyed by federal and state funding. President Bush promised to double that funding for the coming fiscal year to \$273 million.

**'Good, healthy' teaching**

The United Methodist Church's *Book of Discipline* calls on congregations to offer "full, positive, age-appropriate and factual sex education" that discourages promiscuity. Church leaders say teens need to know it's OK to direct questions about sex to them.

"The kids are learning all about sexuality on the streets and in the schools, and most of it isn't healthy," says Lynn Hamilton, Erika's grandmother. She has orga-



nized sex education seminars for her congregations for more than 21 years. "I believe teaching it in church and letting kids know it's OK to talk about sex in church is a good, healthy way of teaching sex."

Some 900,000 American teens from the ages of 15 to 19 get pregnant every year, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The United Methodist Publishing House has responded with curricula for children and teens that stress that sex is meant for after marriage. The materials also introduce the subject of contraceptives and note that contraceptives cannot protect against all sexually transmitted diseases. In addition, the curricula address sex in popular culture and discuss spirituality and making decisions in line with United Methodist beliefs, says Harriett Olson, senior vice president of publishing.

Some congregations put a bigger emphasis on abstinence, but all

should address the subject, says Mary Jane Pierce Norton, who works in marriage and family ministries for the United Methodist Board of Discipleship.

"Just because it's a hard topic doesn't mean we shouldn't be working with it," she says.

**Candid discussions**

A weekend-long sex education seminar in February at Glendale's First United Methodist Church drew some 35 youths from across the community. Their parents joined them, too, for candid discussions on sex, dating, love, peer pressure, drugs and alcohol and — perhaps most importantly — communication among families and friends.

Colby, an instructor at the seminar, organized imaginary parties to get teens thinking in advance about how their dates might turn out in an alcohol-laden environment. She invited teens and their parents to share even their most private questions with each other.

Too often parents worry about their children but don't know how to approach them with questions

about their friends and activities, she says. Meanwhile, teens have questions, too, but don't know where to go for answers. These seminars give guidance steeped in the teachings of the church. Some families are just aching to open up, she says.

"Sometimes they're crying and hugging each other," Colby says.

**Role for churches**

Lloyd Lewis, a United Methodist and assistant dean at Vanderbilt University Divinity School in Nashville, Tenn., teaches a course on religion and sexuality. He believes churches should continue with sex education.

"Our sexuality is a part of who God created us to be, and our sexuality and our spirituality are intrinsically intertwined with each other," he says. "There is concern about what schools teach about human sexuality, and there is a responsibility of the communities of faith to ask the question, 'What do we believe as persons of faith about sexuality?'"

For Mayer, talking about sex at church isn't weird at all. The seminars are informative and help her and her friends open up, she says. They also offer a chance for teens to show they can face these important decisions responsibly. Now Erika is with a new boyfriend, and this time, she is taking things slower than before.

"I kind of screwed up last year and know how bad it hurt me and how bad it hurt my family, and to go down that road again would not be a smart idea," she says. "I had my grandparents there to go through it with me, so I wasn't doing it all on my own."

Amy Green is a freelance journalist based in Nashville, Tenn.

**Sex education:****What the United Methodist Church says**

By United Methodist News Service

The United Methodist Church emphasizes the importance of sex education and chastity before marriage in official statements found in the denomination's Social Principles.

"Although all persons are sexual beings whether or not they are married, sexual relations are only clearly affirmed in the marriage bond," the church declares in its "Human Sexuality" statement.

In the "Rights of Children," the church says: "All children have the right to quality education, including full sex education appropriate to their stage of development that utilizes the best educational techniques and insights. Christian parents and guardians and the church have the responsibility to ensure that children receive sex education consistent with Christian morality, including faithfulness in marriage and abstinence in singleness."

The Social Principles are contained in the church's *Book of Resolutions* and *Book of Discipline*.

The church also affirms the need for sex education in a statement on "Pornography and Sexu-

al Violence" in the *Book of Resolutions*.

"The supervision and love of Christian parents and other caring adults, supported by the extended church family, are the primary source of sex education," the church says. "A comprehensive approach to sex education offers an additional basis for countering pornography."

"Children, youth, and adults need opportunities to discuss sexuality and learn from quality sex education materials in families, churches and schools. An alternative message to pornography, contained in carefully prepared, age-appropriate sex education materials that are both factual and explicit and portray caring, mutually consenting relationships between married adults, is needed. Materials should be measured by the intentions expressed and the goals served, not by the degree of explicitness of sexual imagery."

"If we fail to provide such materials, accompanied by parental and adult supervision, we risk reliance of children and youth on pornography as the primary source of information about sexuality ..."

Vicki Wallace with the InfoServ team at United Methodist Communications gathered the information for this report.

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## GENESIS

## New congregation vibrant in Evansville

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — “The HILL a Jesus Community,” one of the latest United Methodist congregational starts in Indiana, continues to grow in vitality.

The Hill was launched on Saturday evening, Oct. 23, 2004 with 120 people present. Average attendance now runs at 45 worshippers. Out of those regular attendees, two families became members of this new faith community.

This month The Hill plans to begin a weekly gathering with St. James West on Thursday evenings (TGIT). The Hill plans to offer a meal, have a short worship gathering and then offer programs for youth, child care for young children and activities like Bible studies for adults. Two adult groups will use “Come Thirsty” by Max Lucado and “The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership” by John Maxwell.

The church’s leaders see these

gatherings as an opportunity for these two congregations to fellowship together weekly. TGIT is held at St. James West.

According to Annette McDonald, program coordinator, “the mission of The Hill is devoted to helping people become fully engaged with Jesus Christ through growing relationships shared with others.”

The Hill received a New Church Development Grant from the South Indiana Conference in the amount of \$125,000 over a three year period. This grant comes from conference apportionments paid by most of South Indiana Conference’s more than 600 congregations.

McDonald told *Together*, “It would have been a rough road without it. The people we are reaching are not able to contribute much in the way of offerings. But they are offering their time and service and getting very in-

involved.”

Last month, Dave Ramsey, a prominent radio financial advisor, came to Evansville to talk about his new book on financial planning. The Hill sponsored this program at Roberts Stadium.

This event will be followed by a “Financial Peace University” series this month. McDonald said, “we are finding that financial programs are greatly needed and have been frequently requested. This is the second time we are conducting “Financial Peace University” in this community.

Other parts of this new community include:

- ◆ Middle school and high school youth groups which meet on Sunday nights,
- ◆ A weekly after-school tutoring program for both elementary and high school students,
- ◆ An Alpha Bible studies series,
- ◆ A women’s study based on the

book *The Power of a Positive Woman* by Karol Ladd, and

- ◆ Monthly Community Acts of Kindness for Everyone (CAKE) such as giving out light bulbs in the neighborhood with the theme of spreading God’s light.

Most of the activities are joint efforts of the two congregations together and TGIT will be held at St. James West.

In early January, McDonald met with the Director of Religious Life at the University of Southern Indiana. The Hill is now in the process to be organized on campus as sponsors of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

“This was their biggest student organization until the group that sponsored it left,” McDonald said. “The opportunities to reach students there and bring them to know God are astounding and we are really excited about this.”

McDonald gives this advice to other new congregations: “Be prepared for ups and downs, great joys and great trials, lots of hard work and lots of fun. Be true to your personal time with God. It is greatly needed. There have been several evenings where I have been exhausted and actually fallen asleep in prayer. But I think God understands!”

There are special moments too. McDonald said, “The joy that I experienced when we baptized seven people on January 1, 2005 was so overwhelming I had trouble standing still and holding onto the water for Pastor Brad Miller. To know that these families had come so far in their walk with God was amazing. It was seeing God’s Great Commission being fulfilled right before my eyes.”

For more information about this new congregation, write [Annette@the-hill.net](mailto:Annette@the-hill.net).

## DEATHS

**Virginia Collins Amerson**, wife of the Rev. William Amos Amerson, retired minister (former SIC), and mother of the Rev. Philip Amerson (former SIC), president Claremont (Calif.) School of Theology, died Dec. 25, 2004. A memorial service was held Dec. 28 at Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church in New Albany, Ind. Survivors include: husband, W.A. Amerson, 3316 Ridgwood Drive, New Albany IN 47150; sons, Philip Amerson, 4246 Oak Hollow Road, Claremont CA 91711, Bill Amerson, 1427 Silver Slate Drive, New Albany IN 47150 and Steve Amerson, 12501 Nedra Drive, Granada Hills CA 91344; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Memorials can be sent to: Wesley Chapel UMC, 2212 State St., New Albany IN 47150, and the Virginia Collins Amerson Scholar-

ship Fund, Claremont School of Theology, 1325 North College Ave., Claremont, CA 91711.

**Beth A. Bell**, wife of the Rev. Scott Bell (SIC), died Jan. 10, 2005. A memorial service was held Jan. 16 at Central UMC in Richmond, Ind. Survivors include: husband, the Rev. Scott Bell; a daughter, Sarah Peine; and a son, Tyler Bell. Condolences can be sent to the Rev. Scott Bell, 1830 Abington Pike, Richmond IN 47374. Memorials can be sent to Kairos Prison Ministry, 130 University Park Dr. Suite 170, Winter Park, FL 32792.

**Pat Freers**, mother of the Rev. Jill Wright (NIC), died on Jan. 5, 2005 in Elkhart, Ind. There will be no visitation or service. Condolences to the Rev. Jill Wright, 6711 Winchester Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46819 or e-mail at [pastorjill@aol.com](mailto:pastorjill@aol.com).

**Phillip Frew**, retired pastor

(NIC) died Jan. 29, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Gloria; children: David, Lafayette; Dianne, LaPorte; and Don, Ft. Wayne; four grandchildren. Memorials may be given to St. Andrew’s UMC, Syracuse or to the St. Andrew’s UMC Thrift Shop, Syracuse. Condolences can be sent to Gloria Frew, 4697 E. Country Cove Ln., Syracuse, IN 46567.

**Helen Croxall George**, daughter of the Rev. Charles B. Croxall (NIC), and wife of the late Rev. Herbert George, died Jan. 12, 2005 in Frankfort, Ind. Her husband, the Rev. Herbert George, served at Indian Village, Cromwell and Mt. Pleasant (Silver Lake) after his retirement from the Northern Illinois Conference. The Rev. George died in 1986.

**Rob Goings**, husband of the Rev. Donna Goings (NIC), died Jan. 9, 2005. A memorial service was held Jan. 14 at Good Shepherd UMC in Fort Wayne. Survivors include: wife, Donna; and two daughters, Shannon Tibbs of Bloomington, Ind. and Sherri Goings of Lansing, Mich. Memorials to Good Shepherd UMC, 4700 Vance Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46815; Parkview Regional Cancer Center, 2500 E. State, Fort Wayne, IN 46805 (Attn: Parkview Foundation); and the Center for Cancer Care, 200 High Park Ave., Goshen, IN 46526. Condolences can be sent to the Rev. Donna Goings, 6934 Wolfsboro Ln., Fort Wayne, IN 46835 (e-mail: [dgoings@fvgoodshepherd.org](mailto:dgoings@fvgoodshepherd.org)).

**Anna Lee Hamilton**, wife of the Rev. Richard E. Hamilton, retired minister (SIC), died Jan. 6, 2005. A memorial service was held Jan. 11 at North UMC, Indianapolis. Survivors include: husband, Richard; sons, David of Indianapolis, John of Bloomington; daughter, Lisa of Indianapolis. Send condolences to the Rev. Richard E. Hamilton, 3703 N. Delaware St., Indianapolis, IN

46205-3433. Memorials to gifts to the Program and Mission Endowment of North UMC, 3808 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46208.

**Paul F. Hill**, retired minister (NIC) died Dec. 22, 2004. A memorial service was held Dec. 28, 2004 at Christ UMC in Selma, Ind. Survivors include his wife, Helen Hill; sons, John Hill of Arlington, Va., and Dr. P. Mark Hill of Stockwell, Ind.; a daughter, Lorra Ensign of Greenwood, Ind.; and ten grandchildren. Condolences can be sent to Helen Hill, 508 S. Main, Farmland, IN 47340. Memorials can be made payable to Asbury College, One Macklem Dr., Wilmore, KY 40390, for the purpose of establishing an endowed scholarship for the training of Christian leaders. Gifts may be given through the family or Asbury College.

**Philip W. Hillsamer**, retired pastor (NIC), died Jan. 29, 2005. Survivors include his wife, Jacqueline; children - Susan (Jim) Todd, Chicago; Sally (John) Eastman, Muncie; Philip G. Hillsamer, Ft. Wayne, Peter (Shari McFeely) Hillsamer, Lafayette, and Stacey (Tom) Gushrowski, Michigan City; nine grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Memorials can be made to First UMC, Michigan City or the Manna Todd Marshall Memorial Fund at Hillsdale College, 33 Hillsdale St., Hillsdale, MI 49242. Cards may be sent to Mrs. Jackie Hillsamer, 1041 Kent Rd., Michigan City, IN 46360.

**Alberta Pauline Huffman**, mother-in-law of Rev. Mark Gough (NIC), died. Condolences can be sent to Mark and Paula Gough, 1206 Mintcrest Dr., Goshen, IN 46526.

**Joy Kreig**, widow of the late Rev. John C. Krieg (NIC), died Dec. 31, 2004. A memorial service was held Jan. 3, 2005. Survivors include three daughters. Condolences may be sent to her daughter, Ardis Perry,

198 North Dr., Geneva, IN 46740. Memorials may be given to Trinity UMC, P. O. Box 325, Berne, IN 46711 or to Swiss Village Retirement Community, 1350 W. Main St., Berne, IN 46711.

**Robert G. Michel**, father of the Rev. David Michel, pastor of the Hometown UMC, Fort Wayne District (NIC) has died. A memorial service was held Jan. 9, 2005 at the Columbia City UMC. Condolences can be sent to the Rev. David Michel, 1121 Simon Rd., Hometown, IN 46748 or e-mail to [damichel@aol.com](mailto:damichel@aol.com).

**J.P. Morgan**, retired pastor (SIC), died Dec. 15, 2004. A memorial service was held Dec. 17 at Mt. Zion UMC in Crawfordsville with burial in Indiana Hill Creek Cemetery. Survivors include: wife, Annie Morgan, and his three sons. Condolences can be sent to Annie Morgan, 1206 Senator Lane, Crawfordsville, IN 47933.

**James V. Smith**, retired pastor (SIC), died Jan. 17, 2005. A memorial service was held Jan. 21 at First Funeral Home in Clinton, Ind., with burial in the Walnut Grove Cemetery in Clinton. Survivors include: wife, Grace Smith, 318 Poplar Street, Clinton, IN 47842-2236; daughters, Betty Boff, Marilyn Harding and Sharon Smith; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

**David Summe**, father of the Rev. Kathy Newton (NIC), died Jan. 10, 2005. A memorial service was held Jan. 14, at the Neptune Funeral Home in Burlington, Ind. Memorials can be made to the Cassville UMC, 612 E. Cassville Rd., Kokomo, IN 46901. Condolences can be sent to the Rev. Kathy Newton, 2304 Randolph, Peru, IN 46970 or e-mail [knewton@cts.edu](mailto:knewton@cts.edu).

**Ruth Yunker**, widow of the late Rev. Robert J. Yunker (NIC), died Jan. 29. Cards may be sent to her daughter, Mrs. Nancy Trowbridge, 624 Sylvan Dr., Battle Creek, MI 49017.

## NUMBERS

From the Society of  
St. Andrew for 2004

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 31.1 million  | Numbers of pounds of food saved           |
| 93.5 million  | Number of food serving provided           |
| 38,705        | Number of volunteers                      |
| 467.8 million | Number of pounds of food saved since 1983 |
| 4.9           | Percentage of funds spent on overhead     |
| 3             | Cost in cents of a pound of food saved    |

## ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

## Clay UMC reaches out to other congregations

SOUTH BEND, Ind. – Remembering the pain of its own difficult times, Clay United Methodist Church in South Bend, recently provided two other congregations with help so they could pay their conference apportionments, too.

When Clay received a substantial gift of \$50,000, members there in turn gave \$1,000 each to South Bend's Epworth and Saint Paul's-River Road United Methodist Churches.

Clay's senior pastor Herb Buwalda, told *Together* he well remembers some tough time his congregation was going through financially in the early 1990s.

"We were sad to see that our apportionment report showed ZERO support for the connectional ministries supported by the apportionments. This was disheartening to all of us," he said. "We were not one of those congregations that thought we were getting away with something by choosing not to pay. We were, frankly, embarrassed by it, and felt a load guilt about not having the kind of witness and impact we believe God called the Clay Church to demonstrate," he said.

Clay UMC was used to being a leader in the northeast. Buwalda said his congregation was not one of those congregations that thought they were getting away with something by choosing not to pay. He said they were "frankly, embarrassed by it, and felt a load guilt about not having the kind of witness and impact we believe God called the Clay Church to demonstrate."

Six years ago, something happened that really got their attention. One day a long-time member came into the church office and gave Clay UMC a check for \$50,000 with no strings attached. I asked him what he and his wife wanted us to do with his gift.

The donor said, "We just want to help." It didn't come anywhere near to meeting all of Clay's obligations,

but it was a gift that encouraged everyone, and reminded us that God was at work and we had a future.

"So, because we believed in the God who was at work, we decided to take \$10,000 of that gift and send it in on our apportionment schedule. It really didn't make a dent in our \$100,000 apportionment obligation, but it sent a message to our congregation that we believed in supporting the ministries beyond Clay, and we were coming back. The donor family provided energy, funds, encouragement, comfort, hope and so much more. It was a gift that challenged us to stop feeling so hopeless and begin being hopeful as a church," said Buwalda.

"I remember thinking how that \$50,000 gift encouraged us at a desperate time in our history, so I asked Clay's Leadership Team if they would support using part of it to encourage some other congregations," Buwalda continued. They did.

Buwalda in return, contacted two pastors of three congregations in our district. They were pastors who were recommended to ministry by the Clay Church: Sergio Pereira and Kathy Miller. Their congregations are Epworth, and SB Saint Paul's and River Park UMCs.

"We didn't really provide all that much to Epworth, Saint Paul's and River Park churches. Most of what they provided was more spiritual and emotional encouragement, friendship and embracing a mutual ministry in the North Indiana Conference," Buwalda said.

He spoke with each pastor, asked them how they were doing on their apportionment schedule. Each one told him about where they were at the end of the year, and also told him where they thought they might reasonably be at the end of the year. Then he asked them to set a goal that was a little higher than what they expected, and said if their congregations agreed to reach that goal

(different for each church), then Clay would make a contribution toward their apportionments of \$1,000 for each congregation.

Both pastors have said that they planned to reach those threshold goals this past month, so Clay sent a check for each of them to the North Indiana Conference treasurer.

South Bend's Epworth UMC has already sent in 100 percent of its apportionment.

Buwalda said Clay sees its conference apportionment as an extension of its ministry beyond the local environment, reaching the world with ministries of presence, support, aid, expansion and reaching the lost.

## Basic tithe

"Our apportionments for 2004 were about \$118,000, which was

It was a gift that encouraged everyone, and reminded us that God was at work and we had a future.

about 10 percent of our budget. So, our basic tithe as a congregation is sent out to support apportioned ministries," Buwalda said. Then, their offering of gifts goes beyond that: local, national, and international missions.

Buwalda said, "We sent four mission teams out to Mexico and Ghana, Africa, in 2004. We've raised \$13,000 already for the UMCOR's response to the tsunami devastation. And it goes on and on. It never hurts a church to be generous or go beyond what is expected. My dad always said,

'You can't outgive God,' and we believe that."

Clay UMC believes it needs to be advancing the cause of Jesus Christ in the world. Buwalda says, "We can't afford business as usual. The world is in crisis and needs the church and the message of Jesus Christ more than ever.

"Apportionments is just a small part of that. We are grateful that God has helped us to recover financially. But, we know that "recovery" isn't what it's all about: it's about reaching others, helping others, and fulfilling our ministry as a body of Christ."

## HONORS

## BMCR inducts two Hoosiers into Hall of Fame

MINNEAPOLIS – Two African Americans with Hoosier ties were inducted into the North Central Jurisdiction Black Methodists for Church Renewal Hall of fame at the organization's annual meeting in November in Minneapolis. The Hall of Fame is sponsored by the NCJ BMCR Historical and Archives Task Force.

Two out of 23 honored have Hoosier ties and include: Bishop Woodie W. White, NCJ elected

bishop from 1984 to 2004 and now retired. Dr. David L. White, NCJ BMCR elected chairperson from 1978 to 1982.

Those inducted have, according to the organization, "provided leadership to BMCR on a national and jurisdictional level and commitment of their talents to The United Methodist Church as a whole."

## Two CTS trustees receive awards

INDIANAPOLIS – Two trustees of Christian Theological Seminary recently received special honors.

Ann Windley of Seymour has been awarded the "2004 Outstanding Citizen Award" by the Seymour Chamber of Commerce. Over its 30-year history, the honor has been given to only three women. Windley is executive director of Leadership Jackson County, a civic organization based in Seymour. Windley also serves on the staff of Church World Service in Indianapolis, working with rural ministries. Earlier, she taught Spanish, French and English at various schools.

Meanwhile, William C. Hine was chosen as the first recipient of a new award named in his honor by Eastern Illinois University, where he is Dean of the School of Continuing Education. He was presented the William C. Hine Distinguished Service Award commissioned by Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society. The award recognizes Hine's commitment to lifelong learning, dedication to serving adult learners and his leadership in Alpha Sigma Lambda.

Hine is a CTS graduate and earned his doctorate at Indiana University. Prior to his move to Eastern Illinois, he held teaching and administrative posts at Indiana University and the University of Evansville.

## APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Michael J. Coyner has announced the following changes within the Indiana Area. All dates effective 2005 unless otherwise noted. These appointments are based on Cabinet reports received by Indiana Area Communication during the month of January.

## South Indiana Conference

Higdon, James H. first appointment to Crothersville/Cana, Columbus, 1/15

Hizer, Jeannine S. from Quercus Grove, Columbus to Hamline Chapel Associate Pastor, Colum-

bus, 1/15

West, H. K. Skye, first appointment to Quercus Grove, Columbus, 1/15

## North Indiana Conference

Clinger, Jeff from Whiting, Calumet to Munster Ridge Associate, Calumet, 6/16

Elsten, Gary from Aroma, Marion to Aroma/Frankton, Marion, 6/16

Pattison, Scott from Attica, Lafayette to Kendallville Trinity, Fort Wayne, 6/16

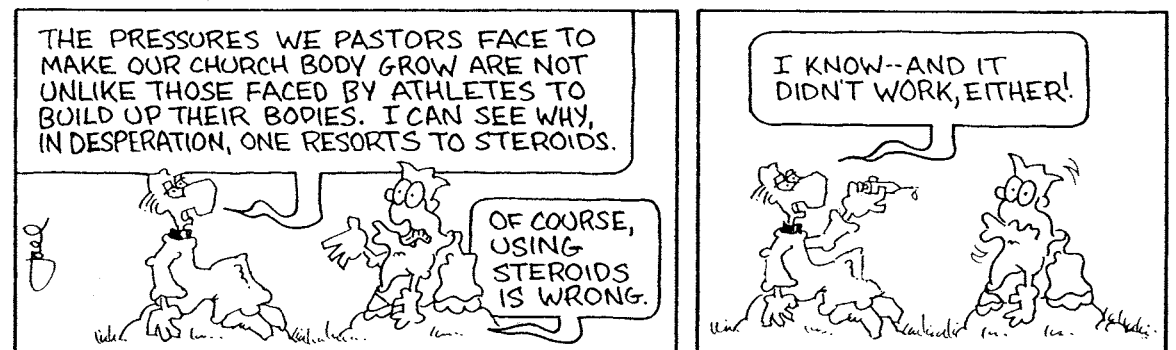
Whitehead, Larry from Hobart First, Calumet to Mishawaka First, Michiana, 6/16

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY:  
Top Ten Best Sellers

1. Your Best Life Now: 7 Steps to Living at Your Full Potential. *Joel Osteen* Warner Faith
2. The Purpose-Driven Life. *Rick Warren* Zondervan
3. Come Thirsty. *Max Lucado* W Publishing Group
4. Wild at Heart. *John Eldredge* Thomas Nelson
5. Epic. *John Eldredge* Nelson
6. A Man of Faith: The Spiritual Journey of George W. Bush. *David Aikman* W Publishing Group
7. Rise, Let Us Be on Our Way. *Pope John Paul II* Warner Faith
8. The Rhythm of Life. *Matthew Kelly* S&S/Fireside
9. Against All Odds: My Story. *Chuch Norris* Broadman & Holman
10. He-Motions. *T.D. Jakes* Putnam

Source: [www.publishersweekly.com](http://www.publishersweekly.com)

## Pontius' Puddle



## HAPPENINGS

Upcoming enrichment events in Indiana

### Life Innovations - 2005 - Prepare/Enrich (NIC)\*

Lark Carlson Brown  
**INITIAL WORKSHOP:**  
February 10, 2005 (9 a.m.-4 p.m.), W Lafayette First UMC OR  
September 27, 2005 (9 a.m.-4 p.m.), St. Luke's UMC, Kokomo  
**ADVANCED WORKSHOP:**  
March 10, 2005 (9 a.m.-4 p.m.), Marion First UMC OR  
October 20, 2005 (9 a.m.-4 p.m.), Valparaiso First UMC

\$150 (\$60 for appointed NIC ministers)

The PREPARE/ENRICH program is designed to assist counselors in working with premarital or married couples. Clergy and counselors attend a daylong seminar to learn how to use the program effectively with couples.

### "How to Assimilate Newcomers Into Your Church" (NIC)\*

A Net Results Workshop led by Charles Arn  
Feb. 12, 2005 - 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Grace UMC South Bend

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION** (before Jan. 12) is \$35 for 3 or more from the same church or \$40 each. Registration after Jan. 12 is \$50 each. For more information or to obtain a registration form call: (574) 288-4789. Lunch is included in the workshop fee. [www.GraceMethodist.org](http://www.GraceMethodist.org)

### Great Books Seminars (NIC)\*

February 21-22, 2005 (Mon. 6 p.m.-Tue. 4 p.m.)  
April 4-5, 2005 (Mon. 6 p.m.-Tue. 4 p.m.)  
November 7-8, 2005 (Mon. 6 p.m.-Tue. 4 p.m.)  
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, Downtown Fort Wayne  
Led by The Rev. Leonard Sweet, Ph.D.

\$160 per session plus cost of the book (\$60 per session for appointed NIC ministers)

This seminar is based on discussion of "cutting edge" books related to ministry or life in general, which participants read before the seminar.

### Professional Boundaries - The Things We Do For Love (NIC)\*

(Required Workshop for ALL Appointed Ministers)  
February 24, 2005 1 p.m.-5 p.m. @ Kokomo St. Luke's UMC  
June 25, 2005 8 a.m.-12 p.m. @ Mexico New Life UMC  
September 8, 2005 1 p.m.-5 p.m. @ South Bend Grace UMC  
Led by Gergory A. Hinkle, Ph.D.

\$60 (FREE for appointed NIC ministers)

In this seminar, participants will seek to understand more clearly the nature and process of a professional boundary violation,

recognize the ease with which we can slip into boundary violations, foster greater self-awareness of our own behavior and develop strategies for self-restraint. This is a mandatory workshop for every minister (clergy, lay pastor or diaconal) under NIC appointment.

### What's New in Biblical Archeology (NIC)\*

February 28 - March 2, 2005  
Mon. 10 a.m.-Wed. 12 p.m.  
St. Joseph Conference Center, Tipton

Led by Charles Page

\$165 (\$60 for appointed NIC ministers)

### Spiritual Formation (NIC)\*

*A Common Journey for Pastor and Congregation*  
March 14-15, 2005 (Mon 10 a.m.-Tue 4 p.m.)  
St. Joseph Conference Center, Tipton

Dr. Marcus Smucker

\$100 (\$60 for appointed NIC ministers)

### Ministering To and With Singles (NIC)\*

April 11-12, 2005 (Mon 10 a.m.-Tue 4 p.m.)  
St. Joseph Conference Center, Tipton

Sheron Patterson

\$125 (\$60 for appointed NIC ministers)

### Making A Good Move (NIC)\*

Grace UMC, Rochester  
Douglas T. Anderson  
Part 1a: April 29, 2005 (10 a.m.-4 p.m.)  
Part 1b: June 10, 2005 (10 a.m.-4 p.m.)  
Part 2: August 19, 2005 (10 a.m.-4 p.m.)

\$60 for both sessions (\$40 for appointed NIC ministers)

The purpose of the two days is to help ministers make their move a good one by leaving well and getting off to a positive start in their new church.

### Sidewalk Sunday School (NIC)\*

April 19-20, 2005 (Tue 10 a.m.-Wed 4 p.m.)  
St. Joseph Conference Center, Tipton

Billie Fidlin

\$100 (\$60 for appointed NIC ministers)

Sidewalk Sunday School is a ministry that focuses on teaching urban children and their families the basic fundamentals of Christianity, facilitating empowerment through Jesus Christ to turn away from the negative community cycles that face them.

### Adult Renewal/Refresher Retreat

A retreat for "mature adults" will be held at the Santa Claus Campground May 22-25, 2005

The theme of this year's camp

## Making disciples

is "Isn't It Amazing?" There will be worship led by the Rev. John Adams from Dale, Ind. and a Bible study led by the Rev. John Abbott from Sellersburg, Ind. The camp begins on Sunday afternoon, May 22 and will end after lunch on Wednesday, May 25. For Registration information, contact Imogene Lutz, at 812-423-6568 and leave a message or call toll-free 1-800-475-2244 and while buzzing add 8331641.

### The Academy for Church Growth (NIC)\*

Session III: June 14-16, 2005 (Tue 10 a.m.-Thu 12 p.m.)

Session IV & V: January & June, 2006

St. Joseph Conference Center, Tipton

Led by Douglas T. Anderson

"The Academy for Church Growth" is a two-and-a-half-year training process for developing clergy and lay leadership in the area of church growth.

It is offered in five full sessions. \$775, \$155 per session (\$300 [\$60 per session] for appointed NIC ministers)

For more information, contact North Indiana Conference.

### North Indiana Conference 2005 School of Christian Mission

July 14-16, Meanchester College in North Manchester, Ind.

The Children's Mission Camp and the Young People's Mission Camp also will be held at the same time. The 2005 Mission Studies include: Children of the Bible, India/Pakistan and Public Education. Registration and brochures are scheduled to be ready this month.

### South Indiana Conference 2005 School of Christian Mission

July 15-16 Weekend School  
July 17-20 Weekday School

Both schools will be held at the University of Indianapolis. The 2005 Mission Studies include: Children of the Bible, India/Pakistan and Public Education.

### North Indiana Conference Impact Colorado Utah Arizona

Native American Children (Ute Mountain, Ute and Navajo)

2005 Dates: July 21 - August 1, 2005

Cost: \$580

Sponsored by the NIC Camping Program, Impact 2818

For more information, contact Paul F. Rogers, Sunnycrest UMC, 1921 W. Bradford Street, Marion, IN 46952 or call 765-662-6265

## BODY, MIND &amp; SPIRIT

## Pathways to peace

By Todd Outcalt

Jesus often noted the furious nature of the world we inhabit – the wars and rumors of

wars, murderous hearts and the anger and pride that lead to all things violent. Although these problems may seem all the more evident to us today, we often feel at a loss to stem the tide of violence, or even address it. In many ways, we simply become immune to the barrage of imagery we encounter, or turn a blind eye to the plight of those in harm's way.

In our time, we speak of road rage as a matter of course (something we have to deal with every day), or we dismiss violence in sports as adrenaline rush. And if we don't want to see images of war, we can simply turn off the television.

As we approach the season of Lent, however, I wonder if the peace of Jesus might not hold new sway and meaning for our world? Our malaise, perhaps, offers us an opportunity to see the world through the eyes of God or to open ourselves to new forms of healing and reconciliation.

We may begin, perhaps, with our own hearts. Or, as the song says, "Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now." Peace can't break out until individual hearts are open to God's reconciliation. It's peace of mind and peace within that leads to peace without.

God also can heal our relationships – which goes a long way toward a restorative peace. It is difficult for us to imagine a world without warfare, in

part, because we see the fragmentation of families, communities and churches. It is tough to enter into the bigger fray when our own pain is so close at hand.

Looking within, we can see that there is usually something missing from our intent and direction. In our frantic search for individual peace, we often shut out the stranger, the orphan

or the widow – or, in our time, perhaps someone of a different economic status, a different neighborhood, or a different nationality. Many people give up on hospitality and welcome because it's just easier (supposedly) to suffer alone.

This Lent, perhaps we can begin to see how the cross is still with us – through the suffering of the world and our personal tragedies. And in the story of Jesus and his love we might embrace a new way of praying for peace or working for it in our little corners of the world.

I think of this often when I partake of communion and hear the words of Jesus from the gospel of John: "My peace I give to you ... not as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." Or, as the author of 1 John affirms, "Perfected love casts out fear."

Let us cast out our fear as we move toward Easter. Let us make a way for peace – beginning with ourselves and then offering it to one person at a time.

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



Outcalt

### \*(NIC)

For more information, contact the North Indiana Conference P.O. Box 869  
Marion, IN 46952  
765-664-5138 or  
800-783-5138  
[www.nicumc.org](http://www.nicumc.org)

### \*(SIC)

For more information, contact the South Indiana Conference P.O. Box 5008  
Bloomington, IN 47407  
812-336-0186 or  
800-9198160  
[www.sicumc.org](http://www.sicumc.org)

## PROVERBS

"Give us clean hearts, clean agendas, clean priorities and programs and even clean financial statements."

United Methodist Pastor Kirbyjon Caldwell of Houston, during the benediction at the Inauguration of President George W. Bush.

## New Connectional Table plans state-of-church report

SAN DIEGO (UMNS) – An annual state-of-the-church report will be presented to members of the United Methodist Church around the world. That's the first major decision made by the newly created Connectional Table, meeting Jan. 20-23. The 60-member body, comprising representatives of denominational agencies, ethnic caucuses and jurisdictions around the world, invited the Council of Bishops to join in preparing the annual statement. If the bishops agree, the first report would be issued in 2006. Bishop John Hopkins, chairman of the Connectional Table, said during opening remarks: "We are modern magi who have come to experience God's love, and our expectations are high. I don't expect the journey of the Connectional Table will be easy, but our goal is to help people know who Jesus is."

## Church would be healthier if bishops elected nationally, dean says

SAN DIEGO (UMNS) – Electing bishops on a national instead of regional basis could be good for the United Methodist Church, said the Rev. Russell Richey, dean of United Methodist-related Candler School of Theology in Atlanta. Speaking to members of the Connectional Table, the seminary dean noted that before the 1939 merger of three Methodist churches, elections were held nationally. "We've become an increasingly regional church, (and) we would be healthier as a church if we elected bishops on a national basis," he said. Richey's suggestion came in a question-and-answer period after he traced the history of ways in which Methodists have organized for ministry. He told the table's 60 members that the rich variety of organizational styles over the last 220 years should give them the freedom to suggest alternative structures and patterns.

## 'Joan of Arcadia' helps families, teens discuss touchy topics

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) – The idea of God talking to a teenage girl might sound like a conversation stopper, but parents and teens who are fans of "Joan of Arcadia" say the TV drama provides a weekly basis for discussions about faith, relationships and a host of other real-life topics. The youth Sunday school class at Blakemore United Methodist Church in Nashville often watches the show, then discusses it on Sunday mornings.

## Top evangelism award goes to Reynolds Greene, Walter Kimbrough

ATLANTA (UMNS) – The Rev. Reynolds W. Greene Jr. and the Rev. Walter L. Kimbrough have been chosen by the National Association of United Methodist Evangelists as this year's Philip Award winners. The two Georgia pastors were recognized at the annual Congress on Evangelism, held in early January in Atlanta. Named for the apostle Philip, the award has been presented to two people annually since 1974. Greene is director of development at the World Methodist Evangelism Institute, a cooperative ministry of the World Methodist Council and United Methodist-related Emory University in Atlanta. Kimbrough

is senior pastor of Cascade United Methodist Church in Atlanta.

## Duke receives \$6.7 million from Lilly Endowment

United Methodist-related Duke University Divinity School in Durham, N.C., has received \$6.7 million from Lilly Endowment Inc. based in Indianapolis to promote innovative pastoral leadership and excellence in ministry. The grant supports "Advancing Pastoral Excellence," a new phase of the program "Pulpit & Pew: Research on Pastoral Leadership." The Indianapolis-based endowment also funded the first four-year phase of Pulpit & Pew, which is based at Duke Divinity School and has undertaken research projects in partnership with churches and church leaders across the country.

## Lilly Endowment awards theological schools grants to 'make connections'

INDIANAPOLIS (UMNS) – Three United Methodist seminaries are among 23 theological schools nationally to receive \$42.5 million in grants in the Making Connections Initiative of the Lilly Endowment to nourish a new "ecology of ministry." Making Connections is the endowment's latest initiative to address issues facing many Christian denominations in recent decades: declining numbers of young people entering the ministry, the "dropout" rate among new clergy and the often-felt isolation of practicing pastors. The seminaries, including Boston University, The Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta which houses United Methodist-related Gammon Theological Seminary, and Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, will establish programs to expand existing efforts to call a new generation into Christian ministry, educate them and support excellence among practicing clergy.

## GCFA buys new office building in Nashville

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) – The United Methodist Church's finance and administration agency has closed on the \$2.8 million purchase of a building previously occupied by RCA. The General Council on Finance and Administration will have its new, consolidated headquarters at 1 Music Circle North. The offices are 27,000 square feet on two floors – about the same amount of space now occupied by GCFA in its Evanston, Ill., headquarters and Nashville branch. Built in 1990, the building will be renovated before current Nashville staff move into it this summer. There are 11 employees in Nashville and about 40 in Evanston. The number of staff relocating from Evanston and the timeline for their move will be determined in the spring.

## New hymns respond to need for healing in wake of tsunami

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) – Beyond the call for prayer, donations and manpower in the aftermath of the world's deadliest natural disaster, some United Methodists say they have been moved to bring an offering of song to those who are suffering as a result of the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami. Yet Dean McIntyre, director of music resources for the United Methodist Board of Discipleship, says the musical scores arriving at his office bring a wonderful opportunity for expres-

sion to those who will hear and sing them, as well as healing to their authors. "Hymns help us to pray when we cannot pray for ourselves," McIntyre says. A hymn recording is available at <http://umns.umc.org>.

## Forgiveness offers hope for healing after national conflicts

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) – Nohle Mohapi sat straight and dignified as she recounted her imprisonment, the interrogations, beatings and torture under South Africa's apartheid government to South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 1996. That commission has become a model for seeking national healing and forgiveness in a world where no country can claim a flag completely free of stains. The commission emerged as a beacon of hope for many nations emerging from brutal civil wars and prolonged conflict and seeking to break the cycle of hatred and violence. "We knew we needed the truth to build a new nation. Without truth, no healing. Without forgiveness, no future," says the Rev. Peter Storey, a South African Methodist who served on the commission and currently teaches at United Methodist-related Duke University Divinity School in Durham, N.C.

## Student Forum 2005 set for May at Millsaps College

JACKSON, Miss. (UMNS) – "Thy Kingdom Come: Becoming the Body of Christ" is the theme of the United Methodist Student Forum 2005, set for May 26-29 on the campus of denominationally related Millsaps College. The forum of the United Methodist Student Movement will offer students opportunities to voice concerns and opinions about the life and organization of the United Methodist Church. About 400 student leaders, college chaplains and campus ministers from across the United States are expected to represent their annual (regional) conference campus ministries. Further information, including a full list of advisers, is available at [www.umsm.org/studentforum](http://www.umsm.org/studentforum), or from Student Forum 2005, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, PO Box 340007, Nashville, TN 37203-0007; phone: 615-340-7415; e-mail: [studentforum@gbhem.org](mailto:studentforum@gbhem.org).

## Process for Stroud appeal begins

PHILADELPHIA (UMNS) – The process for an appeal hearing has begun in the case of Irene Elizabeth "Beth" Stroud, a former United Methodist pastor in Philadelphia who was stripped of her credentials. The Rev. William "Scott" Campbell, chairman of the committee on appeal for the denomination's Northeastern Jurisdiction and pastor of Heritage-Epworth United Methodist Church in Cambridge, Mass., said he hopes to announce a hearing date soon for the case involving Stroud. Campbell told United Methodist News Service that Stroud and her attorneys have until Feb. 14 to submit their briefs. From that point, counsel for the church then has another 30 days to submit papers.

## Florida Bishop urges United Methodists to oppose abortion

WASHINGTON (UMNS) – Bishop Timothy Whitaker called on United Methodists to oppose the "moral horror of abortion" during the annual Lifewatch worship service Jan. 24. The service was held in the United

Methodist Building to mark the 32nd anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion. "In the United Methodist Church, we ought to apply our theological reflection, our pastoral guidance and our public witness against the violence of abortion in the name of the God of peace," said Whitaker, who leads the church's Florida Area. In the church, many are silent and passive about abortion but at the same time active against war and capital punishment, he said. "Do we not perceive how opposition to violence requires us to be as vigilant in our witness against abortion as in our witness against war as a normal political tool, and our witness against executions by the state?" Whitaker noted that the issue of abortion has become politicized, but Christians must not let their politics stand in the way of their witness.

## Bishop Nichols dies

Bishop Decatur Ward Nichols, 104, the senior of senior bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, elected in 1940, died Jan. 24. The funeral was scheduled for Jan. 29 at Emanuel AME Church in New York City.

## Allen named to GCF&A position

James R. Allen has been named general counsel by the churchwide General Council on Finance and Administration. Allen succeeds Irene Howard, who was elected deputy general secretary for strategic initiatives. As legal counsel, he will direct the council's Legal Services Department, which also provides legal services to the Council of Bishops and other agencies, and supports chancellors and other lawyers representing annual conferences. He is responsible for consolidating GCFA's offices in Evanston, Ill., and Nashville, Tenn., into a new Nashville location.

## Bradfield hired GCF&A deputy general secretary

The Rev. Michael "Terry" Bradfield, a member of the West Virginia Annual Conference, has been hired to fill the position of deputy general secretary for administration and finance at the United Methodist General Council on Finance and Administration beginning July 1. He will work to bring together the accounting and financial services functions currently in Evanston, Ill., and Nashville, Tenn. He will also oversee the former office of Records and Statistics as it moves from Evanston to Nashville with the consolidation of GCFA's offices.

## Educators fellowship group elects new officers

The Christian Educators Fellowship's board of directors elected new officers during its Jan. 10-14 meeting in Nashville, Tenn. They are Linda Vogel, president; Diane Olson, vice president; Bob Winstead, secretary; and Lee McKinzie, treasurer. Corinne Van Buren continues as director of member services. The board heard reports on a new Web site developed by United Methodist Communications, [www.cefumc.org](http://www.cefumc.org); made plans for the 2006 CEF Conference in Lake Junaluska, N.C.; and allocated funds from the 2004 conference to support the Africa University Chair of Christian Education, known as the Goddard-Johnson Chair. For information, visit the site or call toll-free 866-639-3311.

## South Indiana Conference United Methodist Women

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative, supportive fellowship and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

According to the Discipline, ¶ 256.5, In every local church, there shall be an organized unit of United Methodist Women.

How do we fulfill our Purpose to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ? United Methodist Women are encouraged to prayerfully retreat with God and with others. Two spiritual growth retreats are offered in 2005; the winter getaway, held each January and the Silent Retreat held March 11-13 at Sarto House in Evansville.

How do we fulfill our Purpose to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ? By developing our personal relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, Bible study, reading and studying books on our Reading program and participation in the School of Christian Mission. The School is held at University of Indianapolis July 15-16 for the weekend session and July 17-20 for the weekday session. Classes and activities are available for children and youth attending with an adult during the weekday session. The studies this year are Children of the Bible, Pakistan and India and Public Education. United Methodist Women, in all of our events and activities, uphold our commitment to our local church, our Pastor, centering on our personal relationship with God. Our programs focus on

worship, fellowship, study, growth and challenges.

How do we fulfill the creative, supportive fellowship in our PURPOSE? Through participation in local, district and conference events, we encourage each other through prayer, bible study, worship, and reflection.



**United Methodist  
Women, helping  
to make a  
difference!**

UMW DAY at Church Annual Conference will be June 10. We will celebrate with a luncheon, recognizing Presidents and Pastors. The Annual Meeting will be October 14-15 at Evansville Central, our guest speaker will be the Treasurer of Women's Division, Connie Takamine." May 4-7, 2006 is the date of The Assembly in Anaheim, California.

How do we fulfill the part of our PURPOSE to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church? UMW are focused on ministries with women, children and youth, involved in mission both locally and globally. We pledge to financially support missions through the channels of undesignated giving. We work within the guidelines of the Discipline, the Social Principles, Prayer Calendar, Program book and Response magazine. We are encouraged to work with other organizations on issues of mutual concerns.

Subscribe to our Newsletter the *Southwind* by sending \$5 to Mary Jane Compton, 2905 Dale Court, Bloomington, IN 47401-2415 with your name and address.

Check out our web site <http://www.sicumc.org/umw/> and Women's Division Web site <http://gbgm-umc.org/umw/>

South Indiana Conference † United Methodist Church † 1520 S. Liberty Drive  
Bloomington, Indiana 47403 † 800/919-8160 † Web address: [www.sicumc.org](http://www.sicumc.org)

## How Much Is Enough?

For each that answer will be different, but one thing remains true for all: Jesus himself said, "You cannot serve God and mammon." - *Matthew. 6:24*

"Stewardship" isn't about the known needs of our church, conference or denomination ....  
It's about our relationship with God.

**The Stewardship Academy** exists to help our churches find a Biblically sound balance.

The Bishop Rueben Job Center for Leadership Development presents this thorough, systematic training for stewardship, finance, and commitment development. It occurs in three 2-day sessions at Ft. Wayne's Sunrise UMC: Apr. 27-28, 2005; Oct. 27-28, 2005; and Apr. 26-27, 2006.

Led by nationally recognized experts, the Rev. Dr. Wayne Barrett and the Rev. Denny Buwalda, each session presents helpful, practical topics for both pastoral and lay leadership. Bring your team of Kingdom builders!



**BISHOP RUEBEN JOB  
CENTER FOR  
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DEVELOPMENT**

For cost and registration, call Amy Moore at 605-995-2166, e-mail [brjc@dakotasumc.org](mailto:brjc@dakotasumc.org) or visit: [www.nicumc.org](http://www.nicumc.org) to obtain directions, housing information and a registration form.

### Selected Topics include:

- The Church and the Economy
- Leadership for Stewardship Ministry
- The Congregation as Steward
- Creating Climate for Commitment
- The Financially Healthy Congregation

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