More than 1,400 flood buckets delivered

United Methodists respond to central Indiana flood survivors

The United Methodist response to the massive central Indiana flooding in early June has been phenomenal as hundreds of congregations have assembled and/or delivered an estimated 1,400 flood buckets and the numbers increase.

Flood waters inundated 37 central Indiana counties the weekend of June 6-8, displacing more than 25,000 residents and claiming thousands of acres of corn, wheat and soybeans.

In immediate flood relief efforts, several congregations quickly organized to assist survivors from one of the worst floods in central Indiana history.

At press time, Heidi Player of the South Indiana Conference treasurer’s office said more than $60,000 was received from South Indiana United Methodist churches for flood relief. Funds continue to come in to assist flood survivors in central Indiana. Brent Williams, treasurer of the North Indiana Conference, told Together that he has received and sent to the South Indiana Conference more than $5,600 for central Indiana relief.

During the first Sunday of flooding, Mohawk United Methodist Church in the Indianapolis East District, north of Greenfield, put flood bucket clean-up kits together, blessed them in worship and transported them to Grace UMC in Franklin to deliver them to aid agencies.

United Methodists of the greater Bloomington area assisted survivors with flood buckets distributed to residents in flooded areas. On June 12 volunteers delivered 200 flood buckets to Worthington, Ind. The buckets were supplied by the Midwest Mission Distribution Center, a depository near Springfield, Ill., where UM congregations donate relief supplies for distribution.

In mid-June, the Bloomington District office received a phone call from State Senator Vi Simpson of Bloomington regarding an urgent need for flood buckets in Brown County.

Thanks to the generous donations of our United Methodist churches as well as residents in this area, Bloomington District volunteers assembled 94 flood buckets and received eight buckets already assembled from another congregation. The last week of June, another 37 volunteers assembled more than 120 flood buckets that were transported to the Red Cross relief center in Terre Haute.

First UMC in Vincennes made flood buckets and health kits last summer to be stored at a distribution center to be used as needed. Not knowing if the flood waters would hit Vincennes, First UMC delivered cases of bottled water and Gatorade to the local high school where 400 National Guard members set up camp to help with flood relief.

According to Pastor Perry Richards, the West Street UMC in Shelbyville assisted flooded residents in that area with contributions for flood buckets. Between 200 and 300 homes were damaged or destroyed by flood waters from the Flat Rock River. In Shelbyville, the Salvation Army provided lunch and dinner to between 200 and 400 flood survivors each day during the first week of flooding, plus provided shelter for 55 survivors.

During the flood, Dan Sinkhorn, pastor of First UMC in Sullivan, coordinated the collection of supplies there.

The last week of June, the United Methodist church in Terre Haute checked on the residents of Bethesda Gardens retirement/nursing home which was flooded and evacuated. Centenary also assisted the American Red Cross at Terre Haute North High School where evacuated residents were first taken to be kept safe from the flooding.

Spencer UMC worked very closely with the Red Cross center at the elementary school. The church’s food pantry and mission store were opened for food and clothing.

Mr. Auburn UMC in Greenwood coordinated its efforts with other Christian groups to assist the flood survivors living in Friendly Village Mobile Home Park, providing bottled water, food, toiletries and cleaning supplies.

In Columbus

The Columbus District Disaster Relief Coordinator Keith Chanley asked flood survivors with needs to contact the Columbus District Office. During the first days of flooding, the district office ordered 100 flood buckets to be delivered to Asbury UMC in Columbus for distribution.

Asbury UMC was officially designated the disaster center for this area by United Methodist Committee On Relief. This means they housed and fed volunteers. According to Asbury Pastor Al Styron, Asbury’s relief efforts in Columbus continue to progress. He said Columbus has multiple needs and our community is coming together with an intentional ecumenical effort to minister to many who are displaced and hurting.

First UMC in Columbus accepted clothing, books and toys to be donated to the flood survivor families.

All six United Methodist churches of Columbus united in the relief effort. Asbury, First, Petersburg, Sandy Hook, East Columbus and Mt. Olive churches meet together at Asbury UMC to review combined needs and to discuss their shared outreach ministry. The churches expect several work crews to sleep at Asbury as they mobilize to meet the needs of combined United Methodist families and many others.

“We are grateful for the flood buckets and look forward to hundreds more. Every day of work uncovers more damage and our work crews are stretched but committed. We are in great need of work crews outside of Columbus to come join us now and for months ahead. We are not weary of the work, but we are growing weary in the work. Thanks, in advance, to all who will come to the rescue,” said Styron.

Disaster response

South Indiana Conference Disaster Response Coordinators Bob Babcock and David Powell, both of Danville UMC, toured flooded areas south of Indianapolis and visited with responders and flood survivors in Columbus three days after the storms. They found Edinburg dealing with both flooding and tornado relief. Edinburg is now receiving volunteers to assist residents. A Red Cross staging area has been set-up at Edinburg’s Eastside Elementary School.

The American Red Cross at Greenwood distributed flood buckets that came from First UMC in Noblesville and Smith Valley UMC in Greenwood.

Members of the Centenary UMC in Lebanon opened their church June 10-20 to be a drop-off point for Lebanon area residents to deliver flood buckets and

Continued from Page 3
Staying focused

Our two conferences here in Indiana have approved the Imagine Indiana plan for us to become one new conference. We will have a Special Called Session of the two separate Conferences on Saturday, Oct. 4 from 1-4 p.m. at the State Fairgrounds to finalize the few amendments to the plan, to elect trustees and the Council on Finance and Administration for the new conference, and to worship and celebrate our creating a new conference in Indiana.

All clergy and lay members of the North and South Indiana conferences should plan to attend this Special Session. We expect many guests will be with us for this historic occasion. The new Indiana Conference will hold its first Annual Conference Session in June 2009, and the combining of budgets, pensions, insurance plans and the rest will happen Jan. 1, 2010.

Many decisions will need to be made in the next 18 months of transition. I will be naming the Transition Team to coordinate this movement from two conferences to a new conference, and that group will nominate and select many other groups to form the new conference. Some of our decisions together will be difficult, so I ask for your prayers for wisdom, direction and guidance as we create a new conference together.

From my perspective, it is important that we remain focused upon these issues:

1. We are forming a new conference, not just merging two existing conferences. I will work hard to remind all of us that we are not going to do “business as usual.” We are going to keep focused upon creating the new and not just continuing the old.

2. We are working toward our mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” Each decision we make as a new conference should reflect that mission and help us United Methodists move toward it.

3. We are rebuilding our connection from the local church perspective. For this reason, the two current Indiana Cabinets have agreed that the first task is to design, create and launch our Ministry Clusters. We will work with all of our congregations to select their clusters, and we will use those clusters later to finalize district lines, resource center sites and other decisions. Our focus is upon helping local churches first, and then building the district and conference structures to support our congregations and clusters.

4. We must be flexible and nimble as we design this new conference. It is likely we will use many terms like “interim” and “temporary” and “transitional”—all in hopes of keeping our options open for continued revision and change. None of us is wise enough to find all of the right answers the first time, so we must learn from our mistakes and be flexible enough to correct them.

5. We will be tough on problems but also care for people. We want the right people in the right positions in the new conference, therefore we must not fall into the trap of trying to protect anyone’s turf. However, we will work to provide supportive and caring transitional plans for each one whose current position or place is not continued. Keeping focused will not be easy. The Bible reminds us that the “Back to Egypt” tendency is strong. We can easily become distracted from our main purpose. I promise to do my best to stay focused, and ask you to do the same. We are forming a new Indiana Conference, all to the glory of God. Let’s stay focused on this great movement.

Bishop Michael J. Coyner
Indiana Area of The United Methodist Church
“Making a Difference in Indiana ... and around the world”

INDIANAPOLIS – Indiana Area Bishop Mike Coyner recently announced the appointment of the Rev. Douglas Anderson to serve as superintendent of the Michiana District and North Indiana Cabinet member effective July 1.

In his announcement, Coyner said, “Doug has previously served as a superintendent of the Muncie District, so he brings a wealth of experience to this position. Given the transitional nature of the Imagine Indiana design, along with the administrative assistant in the district office.”

Installation service for the new superintendent of the Michiana District will be at 6 p.m. on Sunday, July 20, at First UMC, 333 North Main Street in South Bend. Bishop Coyner will be leading an installation service. All clergy and laity of the Michiana District are invited and encouraged to attend.

The Rev. Robert Dexter, who served as superintendent of the Michiana District, was appointed to Mt. Olive United Methodist Church in Muncie effective July 1.

Subscriptions are $20 for two years.

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

Change of Address: Send the mailing label with your new address to: Emertime@inareaumc.org

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Thank you for your support.
Allowing God to transform us

The final approval by three out of four present at both North Indiana and South Indiana conference sessions was a major departure in business as usual in The United Methodist Church of Indiana. Now that we, the conferences, have made the decision to unite and form a new conference, it’s time to fill in the gaps and allow Image Indiana to become a reality.

Discerning what most conference members believe is God’s will for the church here, we are experiencing a new way of seeing our future and the future of the church, while being connect-ed to Jesus Christ. But are we really sure about our transformation, in the biblical sense, not conformed to the world but tak-ing on a new form beyond the usual course of society?

New structures alone do not transform the world. We cannot transform the world until we al- low God in Jesus Christ to trans- form us – create in us new beings. To be transformed, we need to see our congregations as welcoming stations and not family chapels, remembering Jesus had no syna-gogue, no congregation. He cre- ated a new community of believ- ers from those who were not ac- ceptable to congregational life. This new community lived out his challenge to be transformed through radical hospitality.

God is steadfast and comes to us in many ways. We, as the emerging United Methodist Church in Indiana, are reordering the structure of the church to the reordering of our Christian faith in a pluralistic, primarily secular society. We also need to claim and hold firm to our identity as Wes- leyan Christians.

Bishop Coyner has said on many occasions “Evangelism is in.” But how many people have we personally welcomed into the Christian faith as ambassadors of Christ? Or are we fearful of what people might say or do if we seem 8807. Organizers request volun-teers not bring children. For fur- ther information, log on to www.franklincollege.edu.

Jenni Walker, resource adminis-trator of the South Indiana Con- ference, says she is receiving be-tween 25 and 30 e-mails a day and numerous phone calls about volun-teering for flood recovery ef-forts in South Indiana. Walker can be reached at 812-893-1760 or by e-mail at jenniwalker@mac.com. She is working with numerous church groups across central Indiana including the American Red Cross to place volunteers where they are needed in flood recovery efforts across central Indiana.

Case management training coming

Babcock informed Together that he has arranged for UMCoR staff to come to Indiana for two two-day training sessions at two locations. Each session is identi-cal in content.

The second session is scheduled for July 9-10 at First Christian Church, 89 S. Main Street in Martinsville, Ind. All sessions begin at 9 a.m. and run to 5 p.m. each day. A complimentary lunch and snacks will be furnished at no cost. At-tendees may register with Jenni Walker at jenniwalker@umcor.org or by calling 812-893-1760. Reservations are en-couraged, however walk-ins will be accepted.

Babcock said volun-teers from other areas, includ-ing the Terre Haute, Vincennes and Remington, Monti-cello and Delphi areas.

A work team from Wesley UMC in Indianapolis was able to complete work on three projects during the week of June 8 in the Delphi area. Volunteers stayed in the Delphi Middle School Gymnasium, courtesy of the Delphi Conference. The school corporation has made the facility available to the Disas-ter Assistance for Northwest In-diana (DANI) volunteers througho ut the summer for work teams that may need housing.

DANI Director Alan Welch of Lafayette took e-HUM, “We are in need of help with housing some long-term volunteers from outside our area. These folks might be here from two to four weeks. Some will need space for a camp-er or RV, and others will need a room and bath. If you can help, please contact me right away.”

Welch also needs anyone with connections to local campgrounds who might be willing to provide space for these volunteers to con-tact him.

To contact Welch, call 765- 740-4717 or e-mail welchak@gmail.com.

According to Welch, DANI currently does not have enough money to begin many construc-tion/re-construction projects. DANI seeks donations that will assist recovery projects through this early period. Please inform

Welch and forward contribu-tions as soon as possible. DANI will not schedule projects until the director knows DANI can pay for them.

More than $29,000 has been received in cash and another $42,000 in in-kind gifts and ser-vices have been received. An addi-tional $30,000 has been prom-ised but not yet received.

DANI was formed this spring by United Methodist congregations, congregations of other churches and community groups as a response to the recovery needs of flood survivors in this three-county area.

The Walker said DANI’s overall fi-nancial need is estimated at $3 million, but leaders say they hope to reduce the cash that needs to be raised substantially with effective case management, efficient ad-ministration and volunteer labor.

If your church or organization wishes to sponsor an event with the proceeds going to DANI flood recovery efforts, Welch will send a DANI representative to the event and will supply fact sheets or bro-chures for distribution. Churches and organizations also can consider themselves as a Nehemiah Par-tner (http://dani/nehemiahpartner.htm). A PDF document of the current Nehemi-ah Partner brochure is available on the Web site.

A fact sheet with current under-standing of the flooding recovery in the DANI region is available at the Web site: http://dani/pdf/DANIfactSheet.pdf.
South Indiana Conference introduces Katanga leaders to state leaders

INDIANAPOLIS – South Indiana United Methodist leaders not only hosted dignitaries of the Katanga Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo, but also brought them into direct contact with Indiana state leaders.

The Rev. Bob Walters, associate council director of the South Indiana Conference, introduced Dr. Ilunga Ndjoko, minister of health, and Sula Kabasa, judicial assistant to the Governor of Katanga, to officials of Gov. Mitch Daniels' administration on May 19 at the Statehouse.

State Senator Patricia Miller of Indianapolis and a member of Old Bethel UMC helped with arrangements and hosted the two Katanga Province cabinet members of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The delegation met with Dr. Suellen Reed, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Virgil Madden, policy advisor to Indiana Lt. Gov. Becky Skidmore; and Matt Hoosier, assistant director of Research and Policy Analysis with the Indiana Department of Agriculture. They also met in the governor's office with Ste. St. at South Indiana Cabinet, the governor's economic advisor, and Earl Goode, chief-of-staff.

Ndjoko and Kabasa asked each of the Indiana officials for assistance and partnerships in developing Katanga and the DRC, a fledgling democracy, in its economy, education, health and agriculture. Ndjoko, the Kokomo District Superintendent, endorsed as episcopal candidate for the North and South Indiana Conference Black Methodists for Church Renewal, the Rev. Dr. Julius Calvin Trimble as episcopal candidate for the Central Jurisdiction.

“Katanga officials Sula Kabasa (left) and Dr. Ilunga Ndjoko (right) enjoy a day at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway as guest of IMS CEO Tony George. We are excited about the possibilities.”

Indiana Conference introduces Katanga leaders to state leaders.

Indiana Conference

By United Methodist News Service

Both the North and South Indiana annual conferences recently joined the South Indiana Conference Black Methodists for Church Renewal, the Black United Methodist Pastors (BUMP) of the Indiana Area and the North and South Indiana Cabinets endorsing the Rev. Dr. Frank Beard, Superintendent of the Kokomo District, as an episcopal candidate. Beard is one of 10 endorsed candidates in the North Central Jurisdiction.

Beard also has been endorsed by the two North Central Jurisdictional Conference delegations of Indiana.

With the annual conferences adjourned, United Methodist attention shifts to July gatherings of jurisdictional conferences at which nine new U.S. bishops are expected to be elected. Like General Conference, jurisdictional conferences meet once every four years. However, while General Conference handles denominational matters across the globe, each jurisdictional gathering covers business related to one of the church’s five regional jurisdictions in the United States.

Kokomo District Superintendent endorsed as episcopal candidate

Jurisdictional conferences will elect, assign bishops in July

Continuing conversations

Each of the Indiana state officials welcomed the idea of continuing conversations with the DRC in general and Katanga in particular. Taylor Walters Denyer, daughter of Bob Walters, served as translator for the delegation. She previously served in North Katanga as that conference’s director of communication. She is now a student at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.

Katanga’s Governor Moise Katumbi Chapwe and Bishop Ndombe Nkulu of North Katanga, also a senator in the DRC Parliament, were scheduled to meet with Governor Daniels’ staff, but were unable to be present for these introductory conversations. Daniels was in Iraq.

The United Methodist Church has been an active partner with Katanga in education and health. For relaxation, the delegation spent Sunday, May 18, at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway as guests of IMS CEO Tony George at the request of Mark Eutel, a lay member of the Linden UMC and an officer of the 500 Festival.

Methodist Hospital

In addition to introducing the two-member Katanga delegation to Governor Daniels’ staff and giving them a VIP experience at IMS, the Walters also introduced them to Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis during a noon luncheon.

Ndjoko and Kabasa met with Dan Evans, CEO of Clarion Health; Rhonda Smith, VP for Patient Care Services, and Dr. Paul Niemeyer, Chief of Intensive Care Services at Methodist; and Steven Ivy, Sr. VP of Values and Pastoral Services of Clarion.

The first hour included a discussion of health care policy and financing as well as a review of their needed resources. Their needs include equipment to rebuild their hospitals and clinics, updated training for nurses and physicians, and trained hospital and clinic administrators.

The next two hours included a tour of hospital facilities including mother-baby areas, intensive care, trauma, and radiology.

The two Katanga government leaders returned to the DRC the next day. Talks and more visits between Hoosiers and leaders of Katanga will continue. Walters told Together that their visits to both Ohio and Indiana United Methodists and to state leaders were a very productive first round.

“Change is not easy. Change is risky. Change is scary. Change is going into the unknown,” he concluded.

Lay Leader comprises ‘connectionalism’ of church to a basketball

Emphasizing the importance of the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church during his June address to the conference, South Indiana Conference lay leader Ike Williams of Carmel, compared our connectionalism to a basketball.

Using his experience as an engineer, he said the basketball is a hollow sphere.

He said the most basic characteristic is its roundness. This roundness is the strength for the sphere. It can take internal and external pressure yet remains round. This doesn’t happen to most hollow structures.

Continuing to share characteristics, he said, “Everything is connected to each other without interruption. No single part is strong on its own. The strength comes from all parts working together.”

He said, the church (clergy, members, youth and more) is like the basketball. It’s all the parts of the local church working together. The strength comes from all, said Williams, also likening the general church and annual conferences to the basketball as well.

Williams said connectionalism is spoken about in I Corinthians 12:4-24 where the Apostle Paul talks about the gifts of services and activities of the early Christian community.

The Apostle Paul is telling us we all bring strength to our local church. Not one of us can do all the work of Christ by ourselves.

We are all working together and that gives us strength, he said.

Williams also shared several observations on his recent participation in General Conference that showed connectionalism in ministries and languages used.

He encouraged the laymen to read the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations, as well as Three Simple Rules. Using what you find in those books, find ways your local congregations can bring people to Christ, he said.

“Change is not easy. Change is risky. Change is scary. Change is going into the unknown,” he concluded.

NCJ BMCR endorses Ohio candidate for bishop

Members of the North Central Jurisdiction Black Methodists for Church Renewal recently announced their endorsement of the Rev. Dr. Julius Calvin Trimble as an episcopal candidate for the 2008 North Central Conference of the United Methodist Church.

He currently serves as the Senior Pastor of Aldersgate UMC in Warrensville Heights, Ohio. Under his leadership, the congregation experienced growth and continued to commit to connectional conferences is the election and assignment of bishops.

The jurisdictional conferences will meet simultaneously July 16-19 in their respective regions, except for the Northeastern Jurisdiction, which meets July 13-18.

For the complete story and candidates’ bios, log on to www.ncj2008.org.

July/August 2008
Indiana United Methodists approve unity plan.

By Daniel R. Ganger

The North Indiana and South Indiana annual conferences approved a plan to unite the two conferences into one new Indiana Annual Conference.

Bishop Mike Coyner announced the results of votes by each annual conference during the closing session of the South Indiana legislative gathering June 7 at the Indiana University Auditorium in Bloomington.

South Indiana members voted 616-185 on June 6 to unite with the North Indiana Conference. North Indiana members, meeting May 30 in West Lafayette, voted 730-192 for the merger.

The votes conclude 62 years of Methodist and United Methodist annual conference sessions at Indiana University. The former Northwest Methodist Conference met in Lobe Playhouse at Purdue since the mid-1950s. The first met in Lobe Playhouse at Purdue during 1957 and 1958. The second met in Emens Auditorium at Ball State University in 1969 and continued until this year at Purdue University in the Elliot Hall of Music.

The unity vote results, Coyner said, “I am delighted that the two conferences approved the Imagine Indiana plan by such large margins. This means that we are moving forward in creating a new conference which will be streamlined in administration, local church focused in providing resources and passionate in our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We all know that this is not the end of the process, but another important step along the way as we learn together how best to serve God here in Indiana and around the world.”

Coyner called a special session of both conferences Oct. 4 from 1-4 p.m. at the Indiana State Fairgrounds to finalize amendments, elect committees and begin plans for the first combined Indiana Annual Conference session, scheduled for June 25-28, 2009, at Ball State University in Muncie.

The spring 2009 the two conferences will align themselves to be one conference under the new plan on Jan. 1, 2010.

Uniting conferences

The uniting of the two conferences is designed to streamline administration of the Indiana Area to bring resources closer to congregations for their support.

Features of the new annual conference, which was two years in design, include:

- Forming clergy into covenant groups and all 1,200 congregations into ministry clusters for the support of and accountability;
- Dissolving the 18 districts and establishing five resource centers to support 10 districts; and
- Creating a new conference structure and new conference center in Indianapolis.

The only major amendments to the 50-page unity document aimed at youth was withdrawn in the discussion-making process of the statewide church and added more staff in youth and young adult ministries to the five resource centers across the state.

Transition team

Coyner announced July 2 the 14 members of the Imagine Indiana Transition Team. It includes:

Al Brothers, NIC layman of Lodi;
Herk Boswulda, NIC large church pastor of South Bend;
Beverly Calender-Anderson, SIC layperson of Bloomington;
Jim Coy, SIC layperson of Evansville;
Brian Durand, SIC youth minister of Indianapolis;
Ida Easy, Rushville DS of Rushville;
Bert Kita, SIC clergy of large church of Carmel;
Ashley Mooreland, NIC young adult of Fort Wayne;
Kaye Mykrantz, NIC Lay Leader of Logansport;
David V.W. Owen, Exec. Assistant to Bishop;
Kaye Patton, NIC clergy of medium church of Marion;
Ronald Reynolds, WD of Warsaw;
Roger Summers, NIC layman, attorney of Fort Wayne; and
Ike Williams, SIC Lay Leader of Carmel.

The team will be staffed as needed by both conference treasurers Brent Williams of NIC and Jennifer Gallagher of SIC, plus Directors of Conference Ministries Mark Gough of NIC and Jim Bushfield of SIC.

Coyner, said the Transition Team is scheduled to meet July 10 first with the former Design Team followed by its first meeting as a new team. The new Transition Team will pass along the drift to the new conference and establish the mission that will carry forward. He said, “No staff will be on the Transition Team, because of possible conflict of interest. The staff will be advised to support the work of the Transition Team at later times.”

South Indiana Conference ordains 10, welcomes one from another church, commissions 12 clergy

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — With a unanimous vote of more than 400 clergy members of the South Indiana Conference, 5 Elders, 1 Deacon, 4 Associate Members, 1 member from another denomination and 12 probationary clergy members were welcomed into the conference June 5 at First UMC in downtown Bloomington.


The clergy celebrated the active ministry of 11 retiring clergy representing a total of 314 years of ministry. They include with years of service: Byron T. Hamrick (34), Howard W. Carlisle (32), Gary Houston (28), Carl A. Martin (17), Robert A. McMillon (38), Margaret L. Pruden (16), Gerald E. Roberts (45), David N. Stevens (23), Donald A. Watson (42), Carl R. Wiley (21), Stanley J. Mullin, (41) and Donald Reed (9).

Retirees were recognized June 6. Cyndi Allen, registrar of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, also reported that Adam Shoures was transferred to the United Methodist Church of the Southeast.

Probationary candidates approved by the clergy session included: Sharon Lea Baker, Micha-
Both conferences oppose expansion of legalized gambling in Indiana

Both Indiana Area United Methodist annual conference sessions approved a resolution asking Indiana law makers to bring any vote on the expansion of gambling to the state’s citizens. This action followed a presentation to both conference sessions by the Rev. Tom Grey, field director of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling. Grey told conference members this was his 20th trip in the past 15 years to Indiana to speak against the expansion of legalized gambling. He said the mission before us is crisis intervention.

Grey said he foresees casinos coming to Fort Wayne and Indianapolis, plus the push for the leasing of the state lottery. He said, “We need to march the Social Principles (of The United Methodist Church) and fight for the faith. We have always had the truth. We also had a network. We lack a plan and instant tactics. We are going to explode on this (state) legislature. Fortunately, we have a battling bishop.”

“We need to march the Social Principles and fight for the faith.”

– Tom Grey

The Rev. Scott Shaugh, chair of the North Indiana Conference gambling concerns committee, presented the resolution against the expansion of gambling in Indiana by asking the General Assembly to pass a law requiring a public question be asked of the voters on the expansion of legalized gambling. The Rev. Perry Richards, chair of the South Indiana Conference Board of Church and Society presented the same resolution to the South Indiana session.

Both conferences passed this resolution with an overwhelming standing vote.

Young adult from Congo ordained Elder to go to Perkins


An open house honoring Christian was held at the Wesley Foundation at noon.

Christian left West Lafayette on June 25. After spending a month in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zimbabwe, he will return to Dallas, Texas, for seminary. He will be working on a Master of Arts Degree at Southern Methodist University’s Perkins School of Theology in Homiletics/Preaching and plans to receive a Ph.D. before returning to teach and train other pastors in Africa.

Grey

Grey said Bishop Mike Coyner fought against legalized gambling in South Dakota. Grey believes Indiana has the connectional church and can decide from the bottom up.

He said, “We don’t want anymore backroom decisions made by politicians about the future expansion of legalized gambling. Indiana is the number two state for gambling revenue. We need to hold our politicians accountable.” He asked members to join the bishop and the statewide Indiana Coalition Against Legalized Gambling.

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Dona Lou Imler (left) and Bill Imler (right) present Bishop Mike and Marsh Coynier (center) with an embroidered ulos ceremonial shawl during the Saturday morning session. The gift was presented on behalf of the Methodist Church of Banda Aceh as a thank you to Indiana United Methodists who gave more than $200,000 to the church for its restoration following the deadly tsunami.


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Lafayette church presents children’s home with activities bus

By Susan Bennett, Indiana United Methodist Children’s Home susanb@iumch.org

LEBANON, Ind. – Members of Christ United Methodist Church in Lafayette, Ind., donated an activities bus to the Indiana United Methodist Children’s Home Board of Trustees during the board’s recent meeting at the home in Lebanon.

The activities bus was previously used for an outreach ministry at Christ Church which was organized by long-time member, Mary Kay Long. Claude Sawyer, chairperson of the church’s council, said, “When considering where to donate the activities bus, our trustees, under the leadership of Steve Habben, wanted to make sure the vehicle was going to be used frequently so we sent the word out to many organizations around the state. Christ UMC trustees chose Indiana United Methodist Children’s Home. We knew the bus would be used frequently by their Christian Education Department. We also knew we would be helping a vital United Methodist ministry serving children and families throughout Indiana.

According to Gary J. Davis, LCSW, executive director/CEO of the Children’s Home, “We are honored by the church’s commitment to the Home. In view of the fact that the committee had 67 applications from statewide organizations, we are touched that committee members selected the Children’s Home as the recipient of their bus. "The youth at the Children’s Home take great comfort in knowing other people care about their happiness and well-being. This is an excellent example of thoughtful and caring stewardship from one of our United Methodist churches.”

— Gary Davis

Scouting event, Lincoln bicentennial involve United Methodists

By Matthew Oates

LINCOLN CITY, Ind. – “It’s going to be a good day today,” proclaimed Randal Craig as he looked out the Little Pigeon Creek Welcome Center overseeing several scouting troops coming and going.

Approximately 4,000 Boy and Girl Scouts and 300 volunteers descended upon Lincoln State Park and the Lincoln National Boyhood Memorial from May 9-11 to celebrate the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth at the Lincoln Bicentennial Encampment.

The 16th president – while born in Hodgenville, Ky., in 1809 – called Southern Indiana home from 1816 to 1830.

Craig, senior district executive for the Lincoln Heritage District of the Boy Scouts of America and a member of Shiloh UMC in Jasper, Ind., served as one of the organizers of the encampment.

“The National Park Service wanted to do something to mark the bicentennial of Lincoln’s birth,” said Craig. “We thought we could make this event large and we jumped on the bandwagon.”

“We looked at this as an opportunity to share with our youth today what life was like back in the early 1800s,” he said. “We had a lot of input form people who have studied that time period, sharing of various events such as log cabin building, living history lessons and 53 other demonstrations.”

Mother’s Day

With it being Mother’s Day weekend, the scouts also took the opportunity to honor Lincoln’s mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, who is buried at the Lincoln National Boyhood Memorial.

The Scouts learned about the types of things Lincoln learned from his family – losing his mother at a young age, losing children to illness and other tragedies, “Lincoln learned to stand by his family despite the hard times,” she added.

Coyner preached

As part of the experience, Catholic and Protestant worship services were held Saturday evening. Indiana United Methodist Bishop Michael Coyner preached on the shores of Lake Lincoln in Lincoln State Park. Coyner talked about Lincoln’s mother, life in Indiana and the four things that guided Lincoln during his life: faith, failure, family and forgiveness.

Coyner read his Bible daily because of his mother’s “God had called him in his life,” said Coyner. “He also learned about dealing with failure,” he shared with the Scouts, citing the list of things Lincoln had failed at: business, farming, running for political office, losing appointments, but then winning the presidency. “Failure is not the ending.”

Despite all that happened with his family, losing his mother at a young age, losing children to illness and other tragedies, “Lincoln learned to stand by his family despite the hard times,” Coyner added. Finally, Lincoln can teach us about forgiveness, as he pardoned more prisoners during his presidency than his predecessors.

Life is lived best when you are compassionate.”

Greg Graham, director of creative arts at Blue Grass UMC, and Adriane Beasley of Blue Grass UMC provided the music. The Rev. Glenn Howell, superintendent of the Evansville District welcomed participants.

Matthew Oates serves as the North Indiana correspondent for Indiana Area Communications and lives in Lafayette, Ind.
Bishop urges Africa University grads to make a difference

By Andrea Stevens

MUTARE, Zimbabwe (UMNS) – In an address that elicited laughter, cheers and ultimately a standing ovation, United Methodist Bishop Woodie W. White (former Indiana Area bishop) urged Africa University’s newest graduates to live a principled life and to make a difference, especially in Africa.

"In all that you do, do to help somebody.” – Woodie W. White

As he congratulated the graduates for their individual achievements, White highlighted the investment of The United Methodist Church in Africa University and its students. He reminded the graduates that the institution was meant to benefit communities that have great needs. He spoke of the sacrifices their families had made so that they could be trained and told each graduate to “stay with the church and be a person to work for change to improve the surroundings wherever you find yourself. … In all that you do, do to help somebody.”

White is bishop in residence at United Methodist-related Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta. His association with Africa University dates to the institution’s inception.

As the bishop in Indiana, White led area congregations in a fundraising campaign for Africa University that resulted in the construction of four three-story residence halls housing 108 students each. His leadership was recognized by the naming of one of the halls in honor of him and his wife, Kim Tolson White, an elementary school teacher who retired from the active episcopacy in 2004.

Andra Stevens serves as the director of Africa University’s Office of Public Information.

Purdue University students pave paths for Costa Rican cows, orphans, campus ministry partnership

By Lana Robyne

Here are reflections on the Wesley Foundation’s student trip to Costa Rica written by Lindsey Junk of Angola, Ind. She will be an intern at Wesley Foundation this coming school year.

First UMC in Valparaiso.

“In Costa Rica we met with College Connection friends. Following a day of site-seeing, we started working at the orphanage run by Charlie Strong, a famous campus minister. We were surprised to be asked to help create paths for the cows of the Vista del Mar orphanage’s diary. This dairy not only provides milk for the children of the orphanage but also creates some revenue to help keep their home running.

“While malaria is the reason we’re here, we still had plenty of time to play with the children of the orphanage. They were full of love despite their circumstances, that joy also was incredibly strong at Los Guidos, a church in a very troubled neighborhood. This church’s pastor and his family provide food and a safe place for up to 70 children to play every day. Even with intense violence and poverty, these children awed us with how freely they gave their love and how joyful they were.”

“The greatest difference I saw at the end of 10 days was my deepening appreciation of what grace God has given us as a people.”

Wesley Foundation students and staff are thrilled that Lindsey Junk will be an intern at Wesley Foundation next school year. She is very excited about reaching out to children and families who suffer from malaria, discuss current issues and threats posed by this disease, and seize the opportunity to help somebody.

Andra Stevens serves as pastor of the Wesley Foundation at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind.
We are in the midst of the information and technology age. Increasingly information is being transmitted by the Internet. This also is true as it regards our two Indiana Conferences and the soon to be Indiana Conference. Anyone who is in a position of responsibility that requires decision-making based upon information is going to be at a distinct disadvantage, as noted below, if they do not use the Internet. This is certainly the case for the lay member of the Annual Conference Session.

Local churches select officers and committee appointments following year usually from August through November. This includes selecting its lay member to the Annual Conference Session. This is a critical position that is unlike any other position in the local church. This individual has the responsibility of acting on a multi-million-dollar annual budget and other issues that impact the local church’s operating expense. Another major decision made during this year’s conference session was whether to move forward in becoming a statewide conference.

Shortly after the Imagine Indiana Design Team published its Feb. 25 Preliminary Report online (printed copies were not provided to Annual Conference members) questions and opinions were expressed across the conference’s e-mail discussion list known as “NicE-mail.” Thus, a three-month “conversation” took place before the beginning of Annual Conference. This provided an opportunity to bring further clarity to the report and to explain how the local church would be affected. Unfortunately, neither participants are either unaware of the opportunity to receive NicE-mail (at no cost) and/or do not use the Internet. The Design Team received more than 100 questions regarding their report. They responded to these questions and a published online Q&A; however conference officials did not distribute a printed copy to the members of the Annual Conference session. Again, someone who does not use the Internet was at a disadvantage in not being able to access this information.

With a joint special session of the two Conferences taking place Oct. 4 and the Indiana Annual Conference tentatively scheduled for June 25-28, 2009, it seems timely to become familiar with NicE-mail. To only read the posts go to http://lyris.nicumc.org/read/1/forum nicemail (also accessible from www.nicumc.org, click on “E-mail Lists”). A very simple regular subscription procedure (e.g. enter your e-mail address and setting a password) allows one to post to the list and to receive posts by e-mail.

Throughout the year NicE-mail allows the lay member of the Annual Conference session to stay abreast of Conference life and evolving issues. In my opinion, it is essential that the lay member utilize NicE-mail (or whatever is similar in the new Indiana Conference). However, all lay have the opportunity to do so.

In 2004 this writer created and continues to administer what is now (an unofficial conference Web site titled) www.layumc.org. This site is not sanctioned by the UMC or any of its conferences or associated units. Its purpose is to further inform the lay of topics and issues that are not readily and conveniently available from other sources, particularly as they regard the North Indiana Conference and the soon to be Indiana Conference, as well as the UMC in general. Other Web sites that can be helpful are: www.nicumc.org, www.sicumc.org, www.inareaumc.org, and www.umc.org.

Connection is a term frequently used in our denomination and it can mean several things. However, in this context I think of it in terms of the lay member of the Annual Conference session being well-informed of the decisions that must be made. The Internet and NicE-mail are instrumental in accomplishing this.

By Russ Phillips
rphillip@fulton@yahoo.com

Regaining meaning of membership

By Darren Cushman Wood
For all of the controversy the United Methodist Judicial Council ruling 1032 (the case involving a gay man being refused membership by a Virginia pastor) stirred up it brought to light a problem that has been brewing for more than 30 years. That problem is not homosexuality, but the meaning of church membership.

There once was a time when becoming a member of a Methodist congregation was an integral expression of one’s discipleship. The desire for spiritual growth was the primary criteria for entrance into the church and accountability was the norm for maintenance of members.

Today, we separate becoming a member from becoming a disciple. Consider how we make members. Typically, a person is encouraged to take a three-to-four-week class that covers basic information about the congregation and the denomination. Then, they are admitted into membership. Only after they become members do we attempt to disciple them and often these attempts are half-hearted.

Our approach for at least the past 50 years has been to cast the net widely, get as many as we can on the rolls, and then work at making a smaller percentage into active participants. This is a smaller number as actual disciples.

The net result has been membership rolls with large percentages of inactive members and only half of our members worship together on any given Sunday. I believe this “norm” is a symptom of a greater spiritual problem.

Today, the typical United Methodist congregation is saturated by a variety of meanings of membership that distract from “making disciples” and “transforming the world.”

Historical members – These people were active a long time ago, they left their mark, but since that time they have never come back.

Legacy members – These people were never active and they may not officially be on the rolls but assume because they were related to an active member that family ties suffice for membership.

Dues paying members – They never attend but send in the check once a year in order to keep their membership. Usually, they heard at some time an estimate on how much apportionments cost per member and (if you are lucky) they use this as a formula. They usually become upset when you remove their names from the rolls for fear that they will not have a preacher to bury them. For them, membership is like paying taxes.

Sporadic members – Most typically, they are known as “C & E” members (Christmas and Easter) but they also come in a number of varieties from the folks who come regularly for three months, then you do not see them for another three months, and then the fourth month. For them, being a part of the church is like membership in a gym or contributing to a charity – you do it when you feel like it.

Episodic members – Like the sporadic member their attendance is uneven, but unlike the sporadic member, the episodic member will become very active for brief periods when there is crisis, but once crisis is over, participation wanes.

Frozen members – John Wesley referred to them as “almost Christians.” They come on Sunday, put money in the plate, and if asked, will make a contribution. But there is no pulse, no desire for spiritual growth or missional outreach. The root cause of this separation of membership and discipleship comes from our middle-class status. We grew because we linked ourselves with the rising middle class. But success had it’s price. We watered down the Gospel in order to fit the culture. Now the culture is changing and the gain we made two generations ago is no longer paying off. Ironically, the typical Hoosier congregation cannot attract or retain people who long for spiritual growth while at the same time retain inactive members on the rolls only because they are a relative or give a modest annual donation.

With every crisis is an opportunity. The opportunity begins with pastors casting a vision through preaching and teaching that places discipleship at the center of the congregation. This vision must be communicated to all levels of leadership. Lay and pastoral leadership must lead a congregation in adopting a membership covenant tailored to its specific situation. One example of a membership covenant becomes the instrument that gives clarity to potential members, accountability to leadership and structure for the leadership in providing for the needs of everyone.

Darren Cushman Wood serves as senior pastor of Speedway United Methodist Church.

A few months ago, Calvary United Methodist Church in Brownsburg, where I serve, ordered a “trash can decorating” contest. Perhaps you’ve seen them? They are those large steel dumpsters that sit in school yards, in alleys and in public thoroughfares advertising to take our trash off our hands — for free. Just dump and go!

Now, there’s nothing overtly theological about a dumpster — the edge of our parking lot taking up a perfectly useful space. It doesn’t look like Karl Barth or Paul Tillich and no one has yet spray painted “John 3:16” or “Jesus Saves” across the façade. I never noted anything of God in it — and least not until I received an e-mail recent from a father in the congregation.

It seems that, on the first Sunday we included an announcement about the recycling bin. It was as simple as one of the children in the family pointed out the obvious: “Dad, look, we can start bringing our trash to church!”

The dad, being the old stalwart, was quick to correct them: “I’m not sure we want to do that. Sunday morning worship just isn’t the best time to bring our trash to church. We’ll bring it over and dump it — but not on Sunday.”

But during the worship that morning the father had a revelation. That dumpster was a perfect symbol that God is present. Worship, truth and devotion to God, is all about. “Kids,” he told them on the drive home, “let’s make a practice of cleaning the edge of our parking lot every week. We’ll bring it to church and dump it. We’ll do the same thing when whatever we go to worship!”

Hey, I can’t do theology that well! But I think the truth is that sometimes people who encounter God in the smallest of things — even Sunday morning announcements — and it’s nothing we orchestrate through a sermon or an anthem. Sometimes people have powerful encounters with God while they are drinking coffee during the fellowship hour and someone asks, “How is the family?” Others might receive the touch of God when someone greets them with a firm handshake and a warm hello. Some might find God’s welcome in a parking space dedicated for guests or handicap. Others find God’s grace when a worker in the nursery receives their child.

God help me, I’m learning. Worship is so much more than a sermon or a song. It’s what happens when people encounter the Gospel and decide to carry it with them.

Todd Outcalt serves as senior pastor of Calvary UMC in Brownsburg, Ind. His blog is toddoutcalt.blogspot.com and some of his latest writing can be found in digital form on www.Amazon.com.

A very simple regular subscription procedure (e.g. enter your e-mail address and setting a password) allows one to post to the list and to receive posts by e-mail.

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Bishop Michael J. Coyner has announced the following changes within the Indiana Area. All dates effective 2008 unless otherwise noted. These appointments are based on Cabinet reports received by Indiana Area Communication during the months of May and June 2008.

North Indiana Conference

Abram, Philip E. from Hartford City Trinity, Marion to Fowler, Lafayette, 7/1
Anderson, Douglas T. from Job to Job Center, Mishiana District Superintendent, Michiana, 7/1
Babb, William C. from Deedsville, Kokomo to Deedsville and Ebeinezer, Kokomo, 7/1
Borch, Josiah S. from Retirement to Southlawn, Michiana, 7/1
Berg, Mark from Berne Trinity, Huntington to Stockwell, Lafayette, 7/1
Berkeley, Heather A. from no appointment to Meese Chapel, Fort Wayne, 7/1
Boruff, Corinne K. from South Indiana Conference ¶346.1, Noblesville First, Indiana Area Conference, 7/1
Brindel, Emojean from Frankfort St. Matthew, North Indiana Conference ¶346.1, Noblesville First, Indiana Area Conference, 7/1
Rybak, Sheryl from Anderson to Atkins Chapel, New Albany, South Indiana Conference, 7/1
Kaisler, David from New Carlisle, Michiana to Leave of Absence, Kokomo, 7/1
Klein, Darren J. from South Bend Central/South Bend Immmanual, Michiana to South Bend Immmanual, Michiana (South Bend Central merging with South Bend First.)
Knepple, Sandra J. from Winchester First, Muncie to Retirement, 6/30
Kyle, David from no appointment to Aroma, Marion, 7/1
Lawson, James J. from no appointment to Maple Grove (LP County), Lafayette, 7/1
Lentz, William from Millgrove to Calvary, Michiana to Involuntary Leave of Absence, 7/1
Lowry-Sills, Jill from Hobart First, Calvary, no appointment to Trinity Arcadia, Indiana Area to Jefferson Center/Warren, Huntington, 7/1
Madison, Chris B. from Wabash First, Huntington to no appointment, 6/30
Markle, Adam from New Carlisle, Michiana to no appointment, 7/1
Maiko, Sanora Morata from Butler Zion/Meese Chapel, Fort Wayne to no appointment, 7/1
Malcolm, William from Warren, Huntington to Retirement, 7/1
McCann, David from Fort Wayne to First priority to Services, 7/1
McKee, Donald E. from Argos to New Market/New Market, Huntington to no appointment, 7/1
Madison, Chris from Wabash First, Huntington to Jefferson Center/Warren, Huntington, 7/1
Rybak, Sheryl from Anderson to Atkins Chapel, New Albany, South Indiana Conference, 7/1
Stoops, Eric from Hamilton, Fort Wayne to no appointment, 7/1
Taylor, Marvin fromSupply, Huntington to Certified Lay Minister, Huntington, 7/1
Toole, James O. from Osceola, Michiana to no appointment, 6/30
Ward, Donna from no appointment to Anderson 5th Street, Marion, 7/1
Whybrew, Nathan from Calvary, Lafayette to Maple Grove, 7/1
Zerkel, Mark W. from Burket, Warsaw to Millgrove East, Mishiana, 7/1

North Church Closing

Wabash Church of Our Savior closing 6/1

South Indiana Conference

Abbott, Chad R. from Indianapolis: Lockerbie Central, Indianapolis West to Voluntary Leave of Absence, 7/1
Adams, Belvis from Evansville Alfordsville, Vincennes to no appointment, 7/1
Anyike, James Chikaodili from NC Exploration to Indianapolis: South, Indianapolis East to no appointment, 7/1
Baker, Sharon L. from New Market/New Market to Waveland, Indianapolis West to Bicknell, Vincennes, 7/1
Blackford, Thomas E. from Terre Haute: Memorial, Terre Haute to Hamilton Center, Terre Haute, 7/1
Charnstrom, Andy from no appointment to Union, Terre Haute, 7/1
Clark, Sandra Lee from Taylorsville/Taylorsville: Clifford, Columbus to no appointment, 4/30
Collins, Michael from seminary student, Bloomington to Heidelberg, New Albany, 7/1
Cress, Collin Christopher from Carrollton, Indianapolis East to Freedom/Worthington: Folsom Memorial, Bloomington, 7/1
Copper, Lary from Salem, New Albany to Bethel, New Albany, 7/1
Esterline, Gorden from Freedom, Bloomington to no appointment, 7/1
Felts, David R. from Atkins Chapel, New Albany to Southwest Texas Conference, 5/13
Fisher, Ed. C. Jr. from Trinity Arcadia, Indianapolis East to Rockville: First, Terre Haute, 7/1
Foughty-Killion, Valerie Ellen from Bloomington: St. Mark’s, Bloomington to Community, Vincennes, 7/1
Garrett, Larry Alton from no appointment to Marietta, Rushville, 7/1
Gil, Todd from Extension Ministry: appointed to local church in other conference ¶346.1 to Newburgh, Evansville, 7/1
Gladdig, Edgar from no appointment to Smith Park, Terre Haute, 7/1
Green, Leslie Freeman from Marengo, New Albany to Central Barren, New Albany, 7/1
Hamrick, Byron Theodore from Dillsboro/Dillsboro, Mt. Tabor, Columbus to Retirement, 6/30
Harden, Colleen from no appointment to Prairieview Church, Terre Haute, 7/1
Hosseinman, Janice from Knightstown, Rushville to Poseyville St. Paul’s, Evansville, 7/1
Howard, Jill Mollfeet from no appointment to Terre Haute: Memorial, Terre Haute, 7/1
Ingle, Mark B. from Indianapolis: Otterbein, Indianapolis East to no appointment, 3/1
Kelley, Janet L. from no appointment to Evansville: Old North, Evansville, 5/15
Kersey, Eric F. from Monrovia, Bloomington to Mitchell: Jacob Finger, Bloomington, 7/1
Kinsey, Andrew Dale from Vincennes: Community, Vincennes to Community, Vincennes, 7/1
McCracken, Diana Jean from Connorsville: Grace, Connorsville to Salem, New Albany, 7/1
Nichols, Wayne Arthur from Indianapolis: Faith, Indianapolis East transferred to another United Methodist Conference, 7/1
Patterson, Robert from no appointment to Vevay, Columbus to Retirement, 6/30
Payne, Allen from Limecrest, Indianapolis West to Willow Branch/Willow Branch: Curry’s Chapel, Indianapolis East, 7/1
Paxton, Marcus from no appointment to Rushville to Darlington, Indianapolis West, 7/1
Peebles, In Sook from Clinton, Terre Haute to Noblesville: First, Indianapolis East, 7/1
Pollock, Mark A. from Greensboro: Sugar Grove/Sugar Grove, Rushville to Connorsville: Grace, Rushville, 7/1
Powers, Margaret from Muncie: Jacob Finger, Bloomington to Retirement, 7/1
Remley, William from no appointment to Richmond: Webster, Rushville, 4/31
Sanders, Douglas L. from Lake Center, Greensboro to Folsom Memorial, Bloomington to Lebanon: Otterbein/Lebanon Otterbein: Milledgeville, Indianapolis West, 7/1
Shaver, Byrill Eugene from Grace Community, Rushville to Retirement, 6/30
Shaver, Janet Sue from Union Chapel, Rushville to no appointment, 6/30
Shoudos, Adam Eugene transferring to Bowlinger: Wilmington, Rushville, 4/31
Sills, Kevin from Maple Grove, North Indiana Conference to Jefferson, Jefferson, 7/1
Smith-Byme, Colleen Clara from Bethel/Sandy Hook, Evansville to Community, Vincennes, 7/1
Smith-Bryden, Susan from Indianapolis: Otterbein, Indianapolis East to no appointment, 7/1
Sundquist, Daniel from no appointment to Jefferson Center/Warren, Huntington, 7/1
Vestal, Amy from no appointment to Terre Haute: Memorial, Terre Haute, 7/1
Veeckersburg/Hillsboro to Terre Haute to Owensville, Vincennes, 7/1
Walser, Thomas F. from Veeckersburg/Hillsboro, Terre Haute to Owensville, Vincennes, 7/1
Wallace, David from Maple Grove to Jefferson Center/Warren, Huntington, 7/1
Welsh, Addie Sue from West Alexandria to Owensville, Vincennes, 7/1
Wilson, Lance from Ft. Wayne to New Market/New Market, Huntington to Retirement, 7/1
Wither, John from no appointment to Evansville: Old North, Evansville, 5/15
Wolfe, John from no appointment to Salem, New Albany to no appointment, 7/1
Wright, Linda G. from Veeckersburg/Hillsboro to Evansville: Old North, Evansville, 5/15
Yarbrough, Mark from no appointment to New Market/New Market, Huntington to Retirement, 7/1
Zimmerman, Robert from Centerville, New Albany to Retirement, 7/1

July/August 2008

CHRONICLES
University of Evansville welcomes new assistant to president

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (UE) – The University of Evansville is pleased to announce the appointment of LaShone M. Gibson to the position of Assistant to the President and Director of Diversity Initiatives, effective July 28.

Gibson has served as Senior Associate Director for UE’s Institute for Global Enterprise in Indiana since 2007. This announcement comes at the end of a national search, handled by a committee including members of both the Methodist-related University of Evansville community and the Evansville community at large. More than 50 applications were received during the process.

Prior to her arrival at UE in 2005, Gibson earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and International Business from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 2000. She then went on to earn her Master’s of International Studies from North Carolina State University in 2004. Gibson succeeds Robiaun Jennings, who left the University on May 30.

In other news from UE President Stephen Jennings’ office, the Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI) this month elected Jennings as chair of its Board of Directors for a one-year term beginning July 1. Thirty-one independent colleges and universities in Indiana comprise the ICI, including the University of Evansville, the University of Notre Dame, Butler University, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Valparaiso University, and more.

Jennings’ appointment, which occurred at the board’s spring meeting, is “a great honor,” he said. Jennings has been a member of the ICI Board of Directors since joining UE in 2001.

Michiana District honors Cross-and-Flame Award recipients

The Michiana District has honored district United Methodists with a Cross-and-Flame Award at its District Conference on April 20. These outstanding United Methodists were recognized for their dedication as a disciple of Jesus Christ and work in their local church.

This year’s recipients include (name and church): Claudia Albaugh of Scott, Jer- ry Albaugh of Scott, Myrna Everill of Roll- ing Prairie, Ralph Everill of Rolling Prairie, Richard Frantz of Albright, Karen Grossman of Woodhurst Grove, Georgia Johnson of Albright, Ann Kirkwood of Albright, Pat Kyle of Broadway, Judy Mark of Albright, Dawn Miller of Lima, Faye Miller of Albright, Richard Miller of Lima, Ruth Nichols of South Bend Faith, Tracy Pelton of Scott and Rae Wright of Elkhart St. Paul’s.

Deaths

JOHN PHILLIP “JACK” AEBERSOLD, retired pastor (NIC), died May 3, 2008. A funeral service was held April 19 in the Wright Memorial Chapel in Franklin, Ind. Inurnment was in the Evergreen Cemetery in Louisville, Ky. Condolences may be sent to Lois Aebersold, Franklin Methodist Community, 1070 W. Jefferson St., Franklin, IN 46131.

THEODORE E. FORBES, retired elder (SIC), died May 3, 2008. A memorial service was held May 8, at Epworth UMC in Newburgh, Ind. Survivors include: Wife, Don- na Forbes, 6111 Jamestown Court, Evansville, IN 47715; one son, Todd Forbes; daughters, Tammy, Angelique and Wendy; and one step-daughter Lisa. Memorial contributions can be made to the Par- kinson’s Foundation.

PATRICK L. FULBRIGHT, retired pastor (NIC), died May 11, 2008. A memorial service was held Thursday, May 15, 2008 at St. Joseph’s UMC in Ft. Wayne, Ind. Survivors include: His wife, Sherry (Fort Wayne District UMC Administrative Assistant), 4612 Bradwood Trace, Ft. Wayne, IN 46825.

MARION THOMPSON GAR- RISON, surviving spouse of Bishop Edwin Garrison died June 4, 2008. A memorial service was held June 10 in the Wright Chapel in Franklin, Ind., with burial in Memori- al Cemetery. Survivors include: Brother, Paul Thompson; two sis- te rs, Gail Dwyer and Carol Thomas Shiner, 5300 W 96th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46268, along with several nieces and nephews.

EMILY B. HUIE, 69, of West Lafayette, Ind., died June 13, 2008. She and her husband John Huie were long-time supporters of Afri- can University. A memorial service was held June 22 at St. Andrew UMC in West Lafayette. Survivors include: Husband, John; two sons, John Carlton and Michael Lane; grandchildren, Matthew, Anna; Taylor, Grant and Rhett. Memorial gifts may be made to Purdue Foundation with a memo notation for Huie Endowment for IPA (Int- ernational Programs in Agriculture) in memory of Emily Huie.

Mail to: Agricultural Development Office, 715 W. State St., West Lafayette, IN 47906. Memorial contributions can be sent to John Huie at 23 Seamore Road West, Lafayette, IN 47906-9050.

ROSEMARY SKINNER KELLER, 73, a senior scholar at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill., and the school’s first female dean, died June 5, 2008. A memorial service and reception was held for Rose- mary Skinner Keller at Garrett- ETTS in the seminary’s Chapel of the Unnamed Faithful on June 19. Survivors include: Husband, the Rev. Bob Keller, a Yale classmate whom she married in 1958 shortly after they graduated; two chil- dren, John and Jennifer; and twin grandsons, Connor and Cameron. Her other survivors include: son, Edward Miller Jr.; and grandsons, Connor and Cameron. The family has asked that memorial contributions be made to the First United Methodist Church in Louisville, KY.

MIKE MILLER, 837 S Eickhoff, Evansville, IN 47712; daughter, Donna Par- sons; son, Edward Miller Jr.; and step-son, Randy Bailey. 3 grand- children, 30 great-grandchildren; 11 step-great-grandchildren, and 10 great-great-grandchildren

MARIAN P. MILLER, widow of the late Rev. Wilson S. Parks, (NIC), died May 19, 2008. A memorial service was held June 28 at First UMC in Mishawaka. Con- dolences can be sent to Elizabeth Parker, 3733 Humphrey Dr., St. Louis, MO 63116.

SHIRLEY PFRAEN, wife of Harold Pirgan former SIC confere- ence treasurer (1976-1990), died June 22, 2008. A memorial service to honor her life was held July 5 in the Wright Chapel at Franklin UMC Community. In lieu of flow- ers the family has asked that mem- orial contributions be sent to Honey Creek UMC, 2272 South Honey Creek Road, Greenwood, IN 46143 and Franklin United Methodist Community.

EDNA F. SCHRAM, widow of Harold Schram (NIC), died May 20, 2008. A funeral service was held on May 24 at High Point, N.C. Survivors include: Two daughters; and two sons. Condo- lences may be sent to Carolee Shinn, 8507 Encanto Way, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

PATRICIA SMOK, retired Diaconal Minister (SIC), died De- cember 2007. A memorial service was held Dec. 22 at North Lake Presbyterian Church in Lady Lake, Fla. Survivors include: Husband, William Smock, 212 Del Rio Dr., Susan and Harry Brooks (Warau-

Peru pastor opens U.S. Senate with prayer

Pastor Steve Ailes (center) of Main Street UMC in Peru, Ind., is pictured with Indiana U.S. Senator Dick Lugar (right), also a United Methodist, and Dr. Barry Black (left), Chaplain of the Senate. Ailes recently led the Senate in prayer. All three are under the watchful eye of Daniel Webster. Ailes has served as pastor of seven different communities in North Indiana and was the director of the Wesley Foundation at Ball State University.

Both conferences bestow awards on many recipients

Here is a listing by conferences of awards recipient bestowed on them during sessions in West Lafayette and Bloomington.

North Indiana Conference awards

♦ This year’s Bread and Basin recipients include: Sue Harris (Calumet); Ken Keller (Fort Wayne); Aimee Currie (Huntington); Jim Williams (Kokomo); John Mayfield (Lafayette); Joy and Don Wickline (Marion); Darl Bookout (Muncie); and Susan and Harry Brooks (Warsaw).

♦ Conference scholarships were awarded to Joel Rittenhouse of Ashbury UMC in Portland, Ind.; Allison Rock of Mentone UMC in Mentone, Ind.; and Katie Hands of Otterbein UMC in Otterbein, Ind. Each received a scholarship of $1,000.

South Indiana Conference awards

♦ M. Kent Millard was awarded the 2007 Distinguished Evan- gelist Award given by the Foundation for Evangelism of the UMC.

♦ John S. Eley, chaplain at the Franklin UM Community, was given the 2008 Chaplain of the Year Award.

♦ John Gaus, retired pastor living in Bloomington, was given a Church World Service Advocacy Award.

♦ Bob Dion, a professor at the University of Evansville, was granted the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Exemplary Teacher Award.

♦ The Harry Denman Evangelism Award this year was given to Pastor Mark Dicken of Newburgh UMC and laity Mary Lou Finchum of First UMC in Sheridan.

♦ The Outstanding Small Church Award was given to Veedersburg UMC.

♦ The Bishops Scouting Award of Excellence was awarded to Pack and Troop 301 of Evansville Methodist Temple and Pack 129 and Troop 119 of Ellettsville UMC.

Bishops and presidents together

This announcement comes at a time when 31 bishops and presidents have assembled in West Lafayette to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the United Methodist Church. This is the first time in the church’s history that all bishops and presidents have gathered together.

Logo courtesy of Sen-ator Lugar’s office

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Continuing Education Events
learning and growing together

Convocation for Pastors
Discerning God’s Will: Individually, Congregationally and Connectionally
October 13-15, 2008 at the Holiday Inn, Columbus, IN. with Bishop Judy Craig—guest preacher, Marcia McFee—music and worship, Dr. Dan Dick from General Board of Discipleship and other guest presenters. This event is for clergy only.

Worship Alive!
Roots and Wings for Transformational Worship
with Ms. Elise Eslinger on Monday, August 25, 2008 at Castleton UMC from 9-3. Registration fee is: $45 for Indiana Area clergy and lay ($65 all others). Fee includes Upper Room Worshipbook: Music and Liturgies for Spiritual Formation and lunch. There will be additional opportunity for conversations and dinner with Eslinger the evening before (August 24). This event is for clergy and lay.

Managing Our Financial Resources
with Mr. Peter Hang from the General Board of Pensions and Mr. John Charles from Social Security, Monday, Sept. 15, 2008, at the South Indiana Conference Center in Bloomington from 9-4. This event is for clergy and will cover basic financial management, social security, credit and debt management and retirement issues. Registration fee is: $25.

First Mondays
“Kickoff” is in September from 9-4 the first Monday of each month (except September which will be on the 2nd Monday). The First Monday training program is an opportunity for persons to grow in both knowledge and training towards certification in the area of pastoral care and counseling. Registration fee is $25 for each session or $125 for all 10 sessions for clergy or lay of either UM Conferences ($75 per session all others).

Urban Ministry
with retired Bishop Joseph Sprague, January 26, 2009 from 9-4. This event will be held at Meridian St. UMC in Indianapolis. More information coming soon.

Visit our website or call us at 800-919-8160 to receive/print the event registration form.

These events are made available by the Board of Ordained Ministry’s Continuing Education Panel and funded by the 2% of the “Tithe +2”.

North Indiana Conference
Upcoming Ministry Development Events

Marriage Magic for Clergy/Spouses
Get in touch with your romantic side- a get-away time to refresh and renew your relationship.
† Date: October 17-18, Friday 6-9 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
† Place: Clarion Hotel, Fort Wayne, Ind.
† Leader: Rev. Dr. Larry Ousley and Darlene Saunders-Ousley
† Fee: $100/couple (Appointed NIC minister, full or part-time)
† Clergy couples only

This workshop is designed to strengthen marriages of clergy and spouses. Participants will gain new insights and research-based relationship skills that can dramatically improve the intimacy and friendship in your relationship and help you resolve conflict in a healthy, productive way.

In the workshop, there will be humorous stories and role-plays by Larry and Darlene. Couples will work privately on exercises designed to address the challenges in their real-life relationship. Larry and Darlene will assist in processing the learning experiences. There is no public disclosure of personal information among the participants.

NOTE: OCTOBER 10 IS THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER

First 5 Years:
Things They Never Taught You in Seminary
† Date: October 9, Thursday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
† Place: St. Joseph Conference Center, Tipton, Ind.
† Leader: Rev. Dr. James C. Bushfield, South Indiana Conference, Director of Connectional Ministries
† Fee: $75 (Appointed NIC ministers, full or part-time, $60)
† Clergy only

Seminary prepares pastors for a lot of things, but not parsonage life: balancing home, family, and work; difficult boundary issues; and the appointment process. After more than 30 years in United Methodist ministry, Jim Bushfield has discovered some of the things needed to survive parish ministry.

Visit our website or call us at 800-919-8160 to receive/print the event registration form.

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