

Both the Indiana Conference Center in Marion (the former North Indiana Conference) and the Indiana Conference Center in Bloomington (the former South Indiana Conference) continue to operate from the Marion and Bloomington locations.

The Connectional Ministries staff members occupied their space in the new Indiana Conference Center Nov. 9. The staff includes: Connectional Ministries Director James Bushfield, Associate Director for Missions and Advocacy LeKisha Reed, Associate Director for Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry Services Brian Durand and Associate Director of Clergy Services Sandy Harlan.

Assistant Director for Office and Conference Services Ruth Ellen Needler also has occupied her office. Needler and Director of Administrative Services Brent Williams are working between the Marion and Indianapolis centers.

Ian Hall, of the Bloomington Center, continues to connect computer and telephone systems as staff members move into the new center.

Administrative, benefits, finances, media centers and other conference services will continue operations in Bloomington and Marion until further notice.

Both the Bloomington and Marion centers plan to close at the end of the day on Tuesday, Dec. 22. After the holidays, the Indiana Conference Center in Indianapolis will open Jan. 4.

A united Indiana Conference Media Center also will open in January at Marion, offering DVDs and other resources from both previous media libraries.

Holy Dove Foundation honors two United Methodists during celebration

INDIANAPOLIS – The Holy Dove Foundation, a Turkish organization dedicated to interfaith dialogue and understanding especially among Jews, Christians and Muslims, bestowed two of three annual awards on two prominent Hoosier United Methodists – U.S. Senator Richard Lugar and his pastor, the Rev. Kent Millard of St. Luke’s United Methodist Church in Indianapolis.



Lugar

The Holy Dove Foundation presented the awards during its annual interfaith dialogue banquet at the Columbia Club on Monument Circle in Indianapolis.

Lugar was given the organization’s Peace Award.

The Holy Dove Foundation also honored Millard with its Friendship Award for his efforts in bringing together faith groups to celebrate each others’ holy days. He said he got the idea from a Muslim family he visited in Turkey who hosted him and other Hoosiers during a Holy Dove Foundation trip a couple of years ago.



Millard

Hoosier United Methodist NEWS is designed for use with church newsletters or worship bulletins, bringing news of the United Methodist state and world “connection” home to congregations. It is a free service of Indiana United Methodist Communications, www.inumc.org. We welcome your comments and questions via e-mail: editor@inumc.org. Daniel R. Gangler, editor

Inner-city church gives hope to neighborhood each Friday night

INDIANAPOLIS – With a concern for 80 percent of African-American youth in the inner-city being raised in single-parent female homes without father figures leading to boys joining gangs, selling drugs and dropping out of school, seven of the city’s predominately black congregations united to form a coalition to improve the destiny of youth.

They were backed by the 80-member City of Peace coalition which represented black ministerial groups across the city. The center of this near northwest side neighborhood is Barnes United Methodist Church and its newly expanded facility.

What was originally dubbed at Barnes as a Family Life Center has become more of a community center directing teens and young adults off crime-ridden streets into the church at 900 West 30th Street. During the past two-and-a-half years, a top priority for the center has become Club Hope, which ministers to between 50 and 100 neighborhood youth every Friday night.

Club Hope takes its lead from more than 20 dedicated volunteers under the direction of Barnes Pastor Charles Harrison. It meets from 7 to 10 p.m. and provides basketball in the church’s full-size gymnasium, dance, video game room, pool and a variety of activities for kids who wish to hang out. The church’s



Together photo

Neighborhood youth play basketball during Club Hope on Friday night at Barnes UMC.

fellowship hall becomes a snack area providing light meals. Club Hope realizes many of the kids come from lower income or no income homes that may not have food.

Club Hope also provides 15 minutes of conversations about what's going on in their lives, an opportunity to direct the kids to Barnes' sanctuary doors. During the past two years, seven Club Hope attendees have professed their faith in Christ and have joined Barnes. Four now attend college.

Conference chooses ten District Assistants

INDIANAPOLIS – Indiana Bishop Mike Coyner announced Nov. 9 the employment of the Indiana Conference's ten district assistants. These employees will assist district superintendents in their work across the state.

They will begin their new responsibilities in these new District Centers effective Jan. 1. They include by District:

1. North in LaPorte – Jan Fager
2. Northeast in Fort Wayne – Sherry Fulbright
3. Northwest in Lafayette – Shirley Dominick
4. West in Greencastle – Katie Swisher
5. North Central in Kokomo – Becky Rees
6. Central in Indianapolis – Robin Brown
7. East in Muncie – Berneice Jamison
8. Southeast in Columbus – Becky Huff-Cook
9. Southwest in Evansville – Joy Ahlemeyer
10. South in Georgetown – Lynda Alexander

More information about the ten district assistants and their new positions will be shared in the January issue of *Together* and online at www.inumc.org.

Changes in Church Development announced

Bishop Mike Coyner announces that the Rev. Dr. Doug Anderson, currently part-time interim superintendent of the Michiana District of the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church, has been hired as a part-time Associate Director of Church Development for the Indiana Conference, effective Jan. 1 when his term expires as a superintendent.

The Rev. Mark Gough, conference director of Church Development, recently accepted the resignation of the Rev. Stephen R. Seitz of Jasper, Ind., as a half-time associate director of church development. Seitz expressed his desire to return to pastoral ministry.

A tribute to the ministry of Mary Barnes

Mary Barnes retires in December as the South Indiana Media Center Director for the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church in Bloomington. I have appreciated her special ministry that has paralleled my ministry in communication since the 1980s.

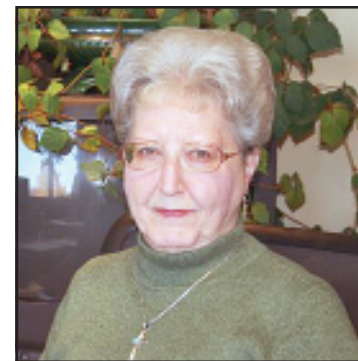
Recently she wrote, "I have always envisioned my ministry as a servant ministry, one focused on meeting the needs of primarily those in local church, though I also take seriously my responsibility to serve individuals at all levels

of the connectional system."

Mary began her employee relationship to the former South Indiana Conference in 1985 as secretary to then Associate Council Director Susan Ruach. She began her ministry as director of the Media Resource Center in 1987. Her ministry has spanned years of change from splicing 16mm films, patching broken video tape, to wiping clean small compact disks.

As Mary retires, what also is retired is a daily, individual presence in a conference media center. We will miss both. Fortunately, an Indiana Conference Media Center remains in the new conference with the combined DVD libraries of both North and South media centers. Angel Rea, current director of the North Indiana Media Center will continue the legacy left by Mary with a commitment of serving the media needs of individuals and congregations from a Marion location, however on a part-time basis. The importance of instructional and informational media in Christian ministry remains, what is changing is the delivery of such media from physical to electronic means.

We wish Mary well in retirement and thank her for her years of service to The United Methodist Church.



Barnes

New Indiana Conference Center coming to life

INDIANAPOLIS – One by one, the offices in the new Indiana Conference Center are coming to life as employees continue to move in. Like many new things, phone and computer systems are being finely tuned. Staff members try to remember where they put things. And the commute to the office is becoming routine.



Together photo

Director of Connectional Ministries James Bushfield moves into his space at the Indiana Conference Center in Indianapolis.

The Indiana Area Office of The United Methodist Church has occupied its section of the new Indiana Conference Center in Indianapolis since Oct. 26, including Bishop Mike Coyner, the Episcopal and Communication staffs.

The former Indiana Area Office on West 42nd Street is now being remodeled to accommodate regional offices of the Presbyterian Church USA.