



UMMEN

The magazine of United Methodist Men



**How to reach men
outside the church**

A letter from the General Secretary

Authors featured in this month's magazine are men scheduled to speak at the 11th National Gathering of UM Men in Nashville this July.

I pray you will get the sense of excitement surrounding an amazing event to be held at Belmont University, a fairly compact campus with excellent facilities.

In addition to the opportunity to hear these nationally known speakers, you will have a chance to participate in one of three on-campus mission projects on Saturday. That afternoon, you will get to select 2 of 18 workshops. You will also have an opportunity to help us select favorite hymns/praise songs that will fill the Curb Center—I can't wait to hear 2,000-3,000 guys sing "Here I am Lord."

There will be great music, inspired preaching, wonder-filled worship, humble service, on-target workshops, fantastic fellowship, and time of personal and corporate prayer.

You will leave on Sunday blessed, inspired and equipped.

There will be additional opportunities for training in men's ministry and scouting ministry in pre-event workshops, Friday afternoon. The first major speaker will be Friday evening, and the event will conclude Sunday morning after our last major speaker and Communion.

Our music leader will be Phil Stacey, an American Idol finalist and outstanding Christian artist, who will also perform a concert Saturday night. One of his songs on his first CD is the basis for the theme of the



event, "Inside Out."

Please accept this magazine as my personal invitation to attend. For those who have never attended let me add that each time I have come to these events I came with a group. That fellowship can be an additional blessing. Other denominational men's groups have been invited, so bring your friends from church and from work. Some of the major

speakers are clergy as are several of the workshop leaders, and CEU's will be available for your pastor. Many groups "gift" this event to their pastor; and that would be a special blessing for him or her.

Last time, many guys brought their families, and "he" went to the event while "they" enjoyed the wonderful community of Nashville. Please let us know if you have questions, or if you need additional information.

Also in this magazine are additional stories of faith, mission, and discipleship. You will learn of the ministries and service in men's ministry and scouting from churches just like yours. You will also meet the awesome leaders of our new board.

I do not share the despair some have for the UMC. From where I sit I see more than its faults, I see the wonder of the ministry that changes lives for Christ every day. I am honored to serve you and your local church.

*Striving to be His servant-
Gilbert C. Hanke, general secretary
General Commission on
United Methodist Men*



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Vol. 16, No. 1 Winter 2013

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General Commission on United Methodist Men

UMMen magazine is published four times a year, winter, spring, summer and fall by GCUMM: General Commission on United Methodist Men 1000 17th Ave. S. Nashville, TN 37212 (615) 340-7145 Internet address: <http://www.gcummm.org>

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Send the mailing label with your new address to:
UMMen
1000 17th Ave. S.
Nashville, TN 37212
(615) 340-7145
Allow six weeks for changes.

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The publishing of advertising in *UMMen* does not constitute endorsement by *UMMen*, General Commission on United Methodist Men or The United Methodist Church. Advertisers and their agencies assume liability for all content of advertisements printed or representations made therein.

Subscription: Subscriptions are \$25 a year (4 issues). Bulk subscriptions available. Send check or money order to:

UMMen
Subscription Fulfillment
1000 17th Avenue
Nashville, TN 37212
(615) 340-7145

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UM Men

Winter 2013

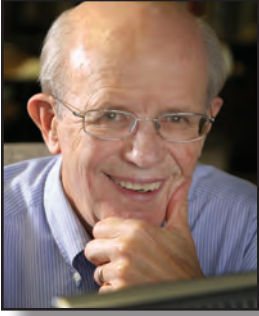
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Editor's note: This magazine includes articles from individuals who hold diverse opinions. We hope all articles are thought provoking; they are not necessarily the opinions of the General Commission on UM Men.



According to a recent Pew Landscape Survey, men are significantly more likely than women to be unchurched.

Nearly 20% of men say they have no formal religious affiliation, compared with roughly 13% of women.

Among Americans, ages 18-29, 25% say they are not currently affiliated with any particular religion.

This large and growing group of Americans is less religious than the public at large on many conventional measures, including frequency of attendance at religious services and the degree of importance they attach to religion in their lives.

However, a survey by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, conducted jointly with the PBS Religion & Ethics News Weekly, finds that many of the country's 46 million unaffiliated adults are religious or spiritual in some way.

Two-thirds of them say they believe in God (68%). More than half say they often feel a deep connection with nature and the earth (58%), while more than a third classify themselves as "spiritual" but not "religious" (37%), and one-in-five (21%) say they pray every day.

While the unaffiliated may have personal beliefs in God and perhaps engage in prayer, they personally are not interested in attending church or becoming involved in a men's

organization. With few exceptions, the unaffiliated say that religious organizations are too concerned with money and power, and they are too focused on rules and too involved in politics.

"Unchurched people are not just lazy or unformed," said George Barna, a noted researcher. "They are wholly disinterested in church life—often passionately so. Stirring worship music won't attract them because worship isn't even on their radar screen.

"More comfortable pews cannot compete with the easy chair or the bed that already serve the unchurched person well," said Barna. "Church events cannot effectively compete with what the world has to offer. The only thing the Church can provide that no one else has is a life-changing, practical encounter- and on-going relationship with the living God and with people transformed by similar encounters. Until such a connection is made, focusing on features, programs and benefits other than such a life-shaping encounter is more likely to lose ground than to gain it."

The fact that 68% of the unchurched believe in God and 21% say they pray daily, provides evidence that if men were introduced to life-shaping encounters with Jesus Christ they would welcome the opportunity to grow in their faith. That introduction might begin with an invitation to a barbecue, a ball game or a mission trip.

This issue of *UM Men* gives us some handles on ways to understand the unchurched and ways to offer life-shaping encounters to young people and unchurched men.

Rich Peck



How to reach all generations of men

by Bishop James Swanson

There is a praise song titled “Everything” with lyrics by Tye Tribbett and G.A.

The song begins: “Everything. You’re everything, you’re everything to me.”

The leader of the song then says, “Don’t sing this to us!” In other words, “Sing it to the Lord.”

This is what most of the world wants from the church.

They want us to sing, to worship, to work, to serve, to do all to the Lord and not to the institutional church. Nowhere is this insight more important than to men and particularly to those outside of mainline churches

It is no secret that Christianity in general, and the United Methodist brand of Christianity in particular, is struggling to appeal to and to attract men.

In the midst of a world that is losing faith and confidence in the institutional church how do we flip this script and become attractive to men so they will listen to our message, give that message consideration, and enthusiastically make a commitment to Christ and the UMC? How can we get men to draw their friends to this movement?

It is the responsibility of the leaders of the General Commission of UM Men to speak the truth about our church’s inability to reach men for Christ. Our ineptitude has accelerated in recent years as young men have become disenchanted with an institution that appears to be more occupied with itself than with the pains of this world.

One of four generations

Our church does an excellent job of

addressing the silent generation (those born between 1925 and 1942). This generation is made up of hard working people who rarely challenge what is expected of them. The church flourished when this group was in the majority because conformity was the order of the day.

However, the church has failed to address some of the cultural shifts that have occurred over the last 60 years.

Our church does a poor job of addressing Baby Boomers (born from 1946-1964), Gen Xers (born from 1965-1981), and Generation Y, also known as the Millennial Generation (born from 1982-2001).

We continue to speak to the above three cultures of men in a language designed to reach the Silent Generation.

Today, people are suspicious of conformity. They want to be free to explore, ask questions and to contribute their thoughts, ideas and even their feelings. They want and need our encouragement to do just that.

The church is at its best when it responds to shifting cultural forces that influence how people hear us. Our ability to do this determines whether we are ineffective or fruitful.

Learning from Barnabas

If we look very closely at Barnabas, the son of encouragement, I believe we may see some principles we may glean from him that we can use to reach men across various generations. Consider the following account:

Some of the believers, who were scattered by the persecution which took place when Stephen was killed,

went as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, telling the message to Jews only. But other believers, who were from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and proclaimed the message to Gentiles also, telling them the Good News of the Lord Jesus. The Lord's power was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. The news about this reached the church in Jerusalem so they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw how God had blessed the people, he was glad and urged them all to be faithful and true to the Lord with all their hearts. Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and many people were brought to the Lord. — Acts 11:19-24

Barnabas offers three guiding principles:

1. Be open to God speaking through new people in new ways

If we desire to reach men who are not already within the sphere of our local church's influence, we must ask men who are not in the inner circle of leadership to spearhead this effort.

Evangelism is best done through relationships. The men on the edges of our church's ministry are the ones most likely to have relationships with men outside our faith communities. The Holy Spirit is leading and even pursuing us into reaching these unchurched men.

These "edge sitters" have the relationship credibility, speak the language and possess the zeal and emotional energy needed to reach that new culture. The edge

sitters need our approval and our encouragement to penetrate this new culture.

We are often unwilling to let go of control so this can happen. But we need to anoint these brothers and send them out in the name of Jesus and under our local church banner with our supporting prayers.

2. Celebrate with enthusiasm the blessings of God.

Men's ministry in the future must be characterized by joyful celebration.

New harvest is good news! It calls for a party, a celebration, a time of laughter, affirmation, worship and praise to God for the blessing of new brothers.

Whether it is of one or one hundred, we know this happens because of the blessings of God, a generous act that calls for celebration.

New converts need to know that the church is excited about their commitment to Christ. This encourages them to never turn back and it affirms their decision. Celebrations also encourage the witnesses who were brave enough to share their stories and to speak a word of Good News.

3. We must move from membership to disciple making

Men are not interested in being members of an institutional club. They want to be on a journey of growth—an adventure that allows them to explore ways to enrich their lives with Christ.

Barnabas "...urged them all to be faithful and true to the Lord with all their hearts."

Please note. Barnabas never urged them to be faithful and true to the church
No! Barnabas urged them to be faithful and true to the Lord with all their hearts.

Men's ministry must be a call to be faithful and true to Christ with all our heart. This means, we must develop resources that equip each man with the opportunity to grow in his relationship with Christ.

We need to raise up many Barnabases who will encourage—no urge—them to be faithful and true to the Lord with all their hearts.

As UM Men, we must commit ourselves to helping men in their local setting to make this a reality. And so, I say it again:

"Say, Everything. You're everything to me. Everything, you're everything to me. Say, Life and breath. Don't talk to us. Everything, to me. Say, You're my peace. Everything, You're everything to me. Joy in sorrow. You're everything to me.

Hope for tomorrow. You're everything to me."

Now let's go down the list.

"Master, Master, Savior, Ruler, Redeemer, Shelter, Provider, Deliverer, Healer, Father, Father, Father, Savior.... Call him Jesus, Jesus, Jesus "The only name that has power. We are not ashamed of this name. Now give praise to this name. I bow before the King, I bow before the King."

That's the future of Men's ministry. 

Mississippi Area Bishop James E. Swanson is president of the General Commission on United Methodist Men



UNITED METHODIST MEN
INSIDE OUT
FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

Set plans to attend:

National Gathering of United Methodist Men

Belmont University, Nashville, Tenn.

July 12-14, 2013

Speakers:

Don Davis, former NFL player
David Delk, president of Man in the Mirror
Bishop James Swanson
The Rev. Shane Bishop

Singer

Phil Stacey, American Idol finalist



How to make your church more welcoming to men

By the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Wilson

Jen Wilson is one of a very few pastors of either gender who has more men in her congregation than women. She was featured in a film produced by David Murrow, author of Why Men Hate Going to Church.

- CJ just returned home from deployment in Afghanistan. He struggles with PTSD.
- John is a high-level manager for a computer company. His son was arrested recently and faces charges of battery.
- Clyde's wife of 54 years is leaving him. She has Alzheimer's Disease and lives in the nursing home now because he could no longer care for her at home.
- Jorge just found out he has prostate cancer.
- Aaron is an addict.
- Except when it comes to removing the lace doilies from the chancel area.
- Except when it comes to the organist or choir director.
- Except when it comes to holding hands at the end of the worship service.
- Except when it comes to church décor.

These guys need the ministry gifts you have to offer, but, would they get the help they need from you and your church?

If they came to church this Sunday, what message would they hear?

Would the environment, liturgy, hymns or content of the message make them feel comfortable and help them make the first step toward becoming a fully committed follower of Jesus Christ?

Sadly, many churches are not filled with men who are on fire for God. Most guys are anywhere BUT church on Sunday morning. So, how do you change that? I'm so glad you asked...

There is a saying in leadership circles: the speed of the leader is the speed of the team. When leaders engage their God-given authority to lead, they stir things up and they get results. I believe God gives a clear mandate for the church and when He leads, we follow. Got it? Agreed?

Good.

Trust me. CJ doesn't want to hold hands with John.

Clyde can predict the prelude, offertory and postlude with amazing accuracy because he's heard the same tunes for 54 years.

Jorge will not use the women's restroom...ever!

Aaron looks at the lace and doilies and thinks lingerie.

It takes incredible courage to take a good hard look at our churches. But, the process of becoming more guy-friendly can be incredibly powerful when the reason for the changes is clearly articulated and understood. Once a congregation engages the Great Commission in their cultural context, the people outside the church take notice. No grandmother I have ever met would insist on the doilies if she understood what her grandson was really thinking when he came to church.

Environment

The church sanctuary is a very unnatural environment. Few people have pews in their living room or eat on a dining room table that says "Do This in Remembrance of Me."

Are you doing everything you can to make the sanctuary inviting for everyone? Could the sanctuary become natural?

Consider changing the color of the walls in your sanctuary. Are the walls flesh tones that most men call 'pink?' Don't insist that the color complements the stained glass. Insulting men or their opinion is not God honoring. Pink is pink. Earth tones like green, blue or tan are more inviting for men and will still complement the windows.

While you're at it, consider painting not just the sanctuary but the narthex and fellowship areas. If costs are a factor, consider making this a year-long project. Men will move faster and accomplish more when they experience the benefits from the first change in the sanctuary.

Also be aware of what is displayed on the walls. Do not put the old wine into the new skin. Imagine having a conversation about homemade banners with CJ, John, Clyde, Jorge and Aaron. Friendship is far more important to them than fancy design work. People are masterpieces. Nothing we create could ever compare. Think nature or natural. Maybe the walls need nothing at all.

Context

Churches have personalities. Authentic Christ followers have Christ-like characteristics that distinguish them from the rest of the world but they manage to continue to live among earth's inhabitants.

Consider church architecture, size and location. Rural churches continue to hold a nostalgic place in American society. They stand out but are they outstanding? Beauty is skin deep—the same goes for churches. Outstanding worship of God comes from the heart regardless of the means by which we praise Him. When the heart of worship is right—everything makes sense.

Theologically, where are you? Can you identify yourself? Does your church help others articulate what they believe? Has your church drifted off course from the foundational teachings of the Bible toward being culturally relevant? When churches drift from being biblically centered, Jesus is no longer the cornerstone. Human beings become the topic of concern and worship. Churches that are Christ-centered reflect his winsome personality but understand what it means to pick up the cross and follow him daily.



Consider what others say about your church. Gather a range of opinions and listen to criticism. There are needs in the community that you can address and make an impact for Christ. Find the truth and it will set you free.

Language

True story: I listened to a senior leader deliver what he considered to be an inspirational devotion with a group. I don't remember the topic but the word "groping" was used twice. The first time he said "groping," it caught my attention. The second time, I was turned off.

Consider the audience when you speak. Sit in their seats. What language do men like CJ, John, Clyde, Jorge and Aaron use on a daily basis? If teens giggle at your word choice, make a different selection.

Leaders who follow Jesus know he weighed his words carefully. He was the Word that became flesh. Yet, he communicated with the audience in a way they could understand. Jesus used parables **not** because he wanted to impress others with his deep spiritual understanding or knowledge but so that the audience could relate to his point.

Test the language and metaphors used in liturgy. Congregational liturgy and prayers need to be authentic. If you use liturgy in worship, look at last week's bulletin. What do guys think of it? What resources are used and how much time actually goes into selecting the liturgy? Leaders don't abdicate their responsibility for making choices by following the lectionary or using books with prewritten resources. Step out and make the liturgy match your context.

Hymns


"He Touched Me" may be one of the great spiritual songs of the church but the new guy will ask: "Who is he and why is he touching me?" Generations define their spiritual lives according to their context. Guy-friendly hymns or songs help build a friendship with Christ. Music is crucial to the worship experience and will stay in someone's mind or heart long after the worship service has ended.

Making a church more guy friendly is a process. Be aware of the environment, context and language. What I suggest you do is take a few steps toward building relationships with those who wait outside your door each week.

Those who wait outside are husbands, sons and men who search for God but refuse to come in.

Find out why.

Jesus provided the perfect example as one who chose to mediate between the supernatural and natural worlds. The church belongs to him but we are responsible for it here and now.

How many guys will be in worship next weekend? With some careful planning and determined execution, the guys will come. Then you've have to find something to do with them. 



The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Wilson is pastor of Grace UMC in LaSalle, Ill., and a board member of the General Commission on UM Men. She will be a leader of a workshop at the National Gathering.



Pastor finds ways to reach men

COLUMBIA, Mo.—

From his first student appointment at the age of 18, every church the Rev. Bob Farr has served has increased attendance by at least 50 percent. During his last two church appointments, he started a new church that grew to an attendance of 450, and he took a church in decline that was averaging 505 in attendance and led it to grow to 1,064 congregants.

What is his secret?

One of them is he has found ways to reach men.

Thought church was for women

Growing up in a small Missouri town, Bob Farr, the oldest of three boys, attended church and Sunday school with his mother while his fire-fighter dad stayed home or was at the station.

"I thought church was just for women and children," said Farr. "We had a woman pastor and 99 percent of the people attending services were either women or children."

That attitude was enforced by his dad who thought church was for sissies. He only attended when his wife insisted.

Although Farr received his credentials as a fireman, he disappointed his dad by saying that he would go into the ministry.

"What kind of job is that? Can you make a living at that?" his father asked.

Looking back on those days, Farr notes that the fire station was only three blocks away from the church. Members could have easily visited the cussing firemen to assure them that the faith community was there for them.

Goes where men meet

When Farr was just beginning his ministry at age 22, his father died. That's

when Farr made a vow to do whatever it took to bring men back to God.

He began that effort with a visit to the neighboring fire station, and ever since that time he has served as a volunteer fire chief, a fire-fighter or a chaplain of a fire department.

"I served as volunteer fire chief for eight years in the Lake Latawana Fire Protection District, a bedroom community outside Kansas City, while I was planting a Grace UMC in Lee's Summit. About one-third of the men at the station started attending our church.

"I always try to place myself with men who have no connection with the church," said Farr. I ride a Harley motorcycle with unchurched men, and started baseball and basketball teams. I do what I can to show there is a place in the church for men."

Seeks congregational excellence

Since July of 2007, Farr has served as director of the Missouri Conference Center for Congregational Excellence where he is responsible for 16 church starts and providing collaborative learning opportunities leading to congregational transformation.

In this position Farr pioneered the Healthy Church Initiative, a consultation process which provides an in-depth analysis of a local church, develops a prescription for transformation, and offers the services of consultants to churches that agree to adopt the prescriptions. A dozen other UM conferences have adopted revitalization programs modeled after the initiative. Farr has introduced a version of the initiative especially designed for small churches.

Many of Missouri pastors are now part of a peer-mentoring group begun by Farr, and more than 300 lay leaders have participated in a lay leadership development

program, with 36 trained facilitators in the conference. 



Farr, 52, is a 1981 graduate of Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, Mo., and 1985 graduate of Perkins School of Theology in

Dallas. In 2011, Central Methodist University awarded him an honorary Doctorate of Divinity degree.

He is the author of Renovate or Die – 10 Ways to Focus Your Church in Mission (Abingdon, 2011).

For more about Farr's work with the Healthy Church Initiative, visit www.healthychurchinitiative.com.

Rules for reaching men in your community

DO

- 👍 Have activities focused on felt needs: finances, marriage, career, recreation
- 👍 Incorporate recreation or hobbies: sports, cars, movies
- 👍 Advertise honestly: Yes, it's at a church. Yes, we will talk about God at some point. Yes, we will make it fun and engaging.
- 👍 Have fun.
- 👍 Make it easy and natural for men to begin to develop relationships.
- 👍 Give them the "right next step" - invite them to another opportunity.
- 👍 Make men want to come back.
- 👍 Think long-term, low pressure.



DON'T

- 👎 Advertise activities as being focused on purely spiritual needs: prayer, fasting, quiet time
- 👎 Incorporate activities that will make these men uncomfortable over anything but Christ: long prayers, singing 10 worship songs in a row, "hellfire & brimstone" speakers, and holding hands.
- 👎 Bait and switch: "Before we play basketball, we have a short, 35-minute evangelistic film we'd like to show you."
- 👎 Make men feel guilty about behavior.
- 👎 Ignore the new guy or create contrived exercises to make men talk.
- 👎 Make them have to figure out what they should do next if they are interested.
- 👎 Drive them away.
- 👎 Forget it takes a long time to make a disciple.

These rules are from Disciplemen.com, hosted for the National Coalition of Men's Ministries by Man in the Mirror.



What's a man, anyway?

By David Delk



I recently met a young man who had a remarkable story. After briefly attending college, he joined the military and served for five years. Now he is out and has landed his first civilian job.

Yet it was obvious in talking to him that he has had almost no male role models who could show him what it meant to be a real man. His dad was not really involved in his life and his mom, while well-meaning, had trouble providing emotionally, economically, and spiritually.

So here he sits, in his mid-twenties, wondering what a man really is and how to become one.

You might be thinking, "What's so remarkable about that?" The remarkable thing is that his story is not remarkable at all.

We've created a culture where what should have been the exception—young men drifting through life without mentors, training, or direction—has instead become the norm. There are literally millions of men in America just like my new friend. And as a country we are reaping the devastation that follows.

Consider how confusing our culture is for young men today. They see lots of caricatures of manhood paraded before them. And each one is subtly held up as a standard to live by.

Do you recognize any of these manly archetypes?

Success Man—This image promises that the key to happiness is getting your act together and doing well in every area of your life. Get a great job, drive a nice car, marry a beautiful woman—then you will be a real man.



Macho Man—In some versions of manhood, men have to be able to handle anything and everything. Nothing is too difficult for a real man—just grit your teeth and bear it. And don't let anyone disrespect you. Real men are willing to do anything to preserve their reputation.



Outdoors Man—This perspective says that men today are too tame and timid. Real men hunt things and then eat their bloody hearts. The more you can be in the woods or on the water, and the more dangerous the activity, then the more that you will become a true man.



Sensitive Man—This image tells men that they need to connect with people emotionally (especially women) and talk about their feelings. Tears are good—tears over a good book with some wine and cheese are even better.



Bumbling Man—It doesn't take seeing many commercials or sitcoms to realize that men are incompetent and incapable. They can't shop, cook, take care of the kids, or remember birthdays and anniversaries. But it's okay because they are kind of cute and everything works out in the end.



Family Man—This idea emphasizes that real men are committed to their wife and kids. They don't have time for themselves; they're too busy carting their children across town from one activity to the next. Whatever their kids want or need, they get.



Religious Man—Men need to be committed to their churches and do what their pastors tell them to do. Playing by the rules is the most important thing in life. Being a man of integrity who is respected by others is the definition of success.



Sports Man—Real manhood is derived from watching and, occasionally, playing sports. Being a loyal fan—even when your team stinks year after year—is a badge of honor. Real men spend tons of time arguing over and cheering for other guys that are actually doing something.



I'm sure some of those images seem familiar to you, and you could probably add a few more. No wonder men are so confused.

True Manhood

The Bible clearly demonstrates that real manhood is grounded not in cultural expectations and norms, but rather in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Without the gospel, all of us are broken shells of what we could be. No matter what we pursue to satisfy our hearts, outside of the gospel it will never be enough.

But through the gospel Jesus changes everything. When a man finds himself forgiven and healed in Christ, he is then free to pursue manhood not from need or duty or obligation, but rather as

an overflow of God has made him to be.

I recently had a chance to take my fifteen year-old son on a special trip. We went to ride roller coasters at Cedar Point. As part of our experience, I wanted to emphasize for him some aspects of biblical manhood. I thought it was fitting to use the acronym F. L. I. P.

Faith—“*Holding on to the One who will never let you go.*” I shared with my son how the Bible says that all of our life should be ordered around loving and worshipping God. We don't have faith in our own effort, or even in our own faith and belief; we have faith in Christ who is majestic and strong. He is the one who can do in us what we could never do for ourselves.

“But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe” (Romans 3:21-22a).

Leadership—“Following His vision, serving others, and loving people well.” We talked about how the gospel compels us to want to make a difference in the lives of other people. There will always be contrary voices trying to distract you and other men; God calls us to follow His trail and bring along as many others as we can.

“Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:26-28).

Integrity—“Making the way you live match what you believe.” In a world of temptation, the gospel gives us the power to obey. It's not our self-effort that allows us to avoid sinful behaviors, but rather a heart that worships and desires to honor Jesus Christ. When the glory of Christ is more important than my short-


term desires, integrity is assured.

How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. *“I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands”* (Psalm 119:9-10).

Perseverance—“Allowing the hope that God gives to help you push through hard times.” We will all face difficulty and suffering. The gospel gives us the key to making it through. Jesus says there is something greater and more lasting than this life. Because we have a sure hope before us tomorrow, we can endure the hard times we face today.

I say to myself, “The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.” The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD (Lamentations 3:24-26).

It was a wonderful experience. We rode some great roller coasters, and more importantly, had some great discussions about what it means to be a man. We had blue wristbands made for the conclusion of the trip—one for him, one for me, and the others for him to distribute in the months ahead. Each wristband is embossed with the letters F. L. I. P. as a reminder of how the gospel teaches us to be real men.

Do you know young men who are confused about true manhood? Tell them to forget the nonsense of modern American caricatures and to F. L. I. P. out instead. 




David Delk is president of Man in the Mirror and speaker at the National Gathering.

Reactivate the inactive

While your UM Men organization works on ways to reach men outside your church, don't lose men out the back door.

Too frequently a man just drops out of all activities and no action is taken.

Here are some suggestions to retain members:

1. Create partnerships. Consider asking men in your organization to become partners with other members. When a man doesn't show up, the partner should call and ask why. Maybe he just took time off or had a conflict, but if there is trouble or illness, find ways to help.
2. Listen. A man may stop attending for a variety of reasons. He may be tired, feel overworked, or maybe he is angry. There is a story behind every man who stops attending. Meet him where he is and discuss ways for him to become involved again.
3. Introduce a new activity. Occasionally a man may grow tired of the same meet-and-eat routine, but he would consider participating in a new activity.
4. Invite him to participate in a mission project. A Barna Research study reports that 22 percent of young people who disconnected from a local church say that the church is “ignoring the problems of the real world.”
5. Share information. Ask the inactive member for permission to share the reasons for his inactivity.
6. Improve. Use the information you receive to improve your group. Bishop Ken Carder encourages leaders to “identify common threads in the stories of inactive members. As a pastor,” he said, “I learned a lot about the congregation from those who no longer attended, and the learning often led to changes in the congregation and my own pastoral care.” 



Life is all about transition

The fatherly advice of a former NFL player is valid for all of us

By Don Davis

August 2012 marked the start of a new journey for my family as my oldest daughter started college at the University of South Florida.

While I watched her going through

orientation and

registration,

I had mixed

emotions. On

the one hand,

I was excited

for her to

grow, mature,

and leave the

nest. On the

other hand,

I was fearful

and anxious

knowing that

she is now on

her own for

the first time

in her life. I

thought about

all the fatherly

wisdom that

I could give

to her as well

as all the advice on what to stay away

from. After much prayer, I decided to

narrow my "How to be successful in

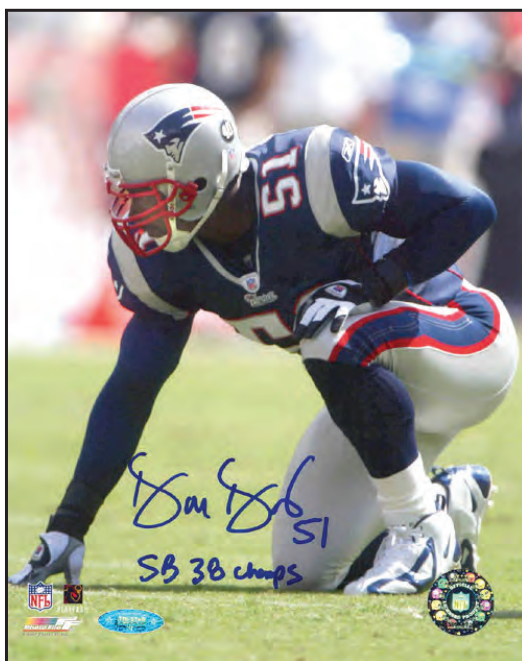
college speech" to three main keys:

Fight- There is an endless supply of wickedness and foolishness that we confront on a daily basis. In order to make it through the college atmosphere, one must fight to do what is right.

(James 1:13-15) James tells us that

when we are lured and enticed by our

own desires, it only leads to sin which also leads to death. Since we are all selfish, self-centered sinners, it is so important that we fight every day to do what is right.



Focus- Not everything that comes our way is sinful. Sometimes in life we can allow the good to get in the way of the great.

No matter what phase of life that we are in, we

have to learn to

focus on what is

most important.

There are times

when a decision

may seem

innocent, but

after evaluation,

the price turns out

to be extremely

high. In Hebrews

12:2, the writer tells us to throw off the

weights that hold us down and focus

our eyes on Jesus. If we evaluate every

decision that comes our way through

the What-Would-Jesus-Do lens, we will

stay focused on the right things.

Find- The next four years is a period of transition for my daughter.

It will look and feel much different

than anything she has been through.



You need a pilot

Terri asked her Sunday school class to draw pictures of their favorite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle's picture, which showed four people on an airplane, so she asked him which story it was meant to represent.

"The flight to Egypt," said Kyle.

And that must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus," Terri said.

"But who's the fourth person?"

"Oh, that's Pontius-the pilot.

Secret Service

William was coming out of church and met the preacher standing at the door.

The preacher called him aside and said, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!"

"I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor," replied William.

"How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?" asked the pastor.

"I'm in the secret service," whispered William.



Good enough for the Presbyterians

Members of the United Methodist women's church circle in one Wisconsin town were disturbed because a widowed church member and her three small daughters were staying away from services. Finding the reason to be a lack of suitable clothes, the ladies' group corrected the situation in a generous manner.


When the little girls still failed to appear at Sunday school, some of the ladies called to inquire about their absence.

The mother thanked them sweetly for the clothing and explained, "The girls looked SO nice, I sent them to the Presbyterian Church!"



She needs to find out who she is and more importantly, for whom she was created. In Ephesians 2:10, Paul tells us that we are created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand. God has given us a road map to life and it has already been walked by Jesus Christ. He knows the way, and if we want to find out who we are and what we were created to be, all we have to do is follow Him. He will never lead us down the wrong path.

After looking at this information, I realize that not only are these keys for success applicable to college students, but also to us all. Life can get tough at times, and we aren't always sure if the road we're on is the correct one. However, if we fight to do what is right, focus on what's most important, and find out who we are and what we are created to do, then life just seems to make more sense.

I pray God's blessings on you as you follow our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and commit to being a servant and a steward for Him. 



After 11 years and two Super Bowl championships, Davis retired from the NFL in 2007. Over the last five years he has dedicated his life to helping players transition into and out of the NFL. Currently he is

a regional director of the NFL Players Association as well as director of NFL programs for Pro Athletes Outreach. He will be a major speaker at the National Gathering of UM Men in August



A fire-breathing Shetland

By the Rev. Shane Bishop

I was ten years old when we lived three miles north of Pinckneyville, Ill., in the tiny parsonage belonging to the Oak Grove Baptist Church.

It was 1971 and my father served as the pastor, athletic director, secretary, youth minister, custodian, bus driver and pest exterminator of the small country congregation.

In addition to the parsonage, Dad received \$150 per week for his services (whether he needed it or not). The 1,000-square-foot parsonage in which we lived was later moved off the church property and now sits about two hundred yards to the north but it is still there.

A huge, metal fire tower nestled in a small pine grove was located to the south of the church. I loved to climb that thing. From there I could see the world! Every now and then I would buy a wooden glider airplane from the Ben Franklin store on the town square, take it to the top, let it soar and watch until I couldn't see it anymore.

I imagined that it flew for miles and maybe a kid in Okawville or DuQuoin found it and believed that God sent him a free airplane.

We had a dog named Sniffie (he sniffed a lot and I was very clever with names), a grey-spotted white cat named Loopy and two Shetland ponies named Brownie and Ginger. Brownie was a brown pony (I told you I was clever with names) and about 200 years old. In fact, dad had ridden Brownie when he was a boy but it was her final offspring; a diminutive palomino named Ginger that was my particular nemesis. This animal was a fire-breathing spitfire with an untameable spirit.

It was Ginger who dealt me my first life defeat when I tried to saddle break her and was summarily punished by her fury. When dad put the saddle on her, she was clearly agitated but when I mounted the saddle she was suddenly possessed and began to buck, snort and spin.

I lasted a fraction of a second before being hurled to the ground. If you are wondering how a human can get consistently bucked off a pony the size of a German Shepherd; I want you to know that it is not only possible but likely if you mount a particularly nefarious pony.

Every time she bucked me off, I would climb back on and she would immediately buck me off again. Finally, her persistence paid off; Ginger broke me, I gave up and that was the end of it. I don't think this is how stories are supposed to end...it is just the way most stories actually do.

I sometimes wonder how the story of the United Methodist Church will end.

History will look upon the years that spanned our lifetimes and declare them to be a period of seismic cultural shift.

In the same way the Gutenberg Press changed the world in 1439, the advent of the personal computer changed America in the 21st century.

The Norman Rockwell America in which many of us were reared has given away to an emerging world having little in common with the world it replaced.

As a result, most of us were formally educated to succeed in a world that no longer exists.

We are conducting ministry during a time of seismic shift where the old world

has almost completely crumbled—except for a strong pocket here and there. The new world seems alien, jagged and volatile.

For some today, the church has become the last enclave of the old world where they can exercise power in an economy they understand, slow things down and take solace in their cultural sanctuary.

The problem is that many churches have become “Ecclesiastical Amish” and while they do provide a much desired and appreciated service to their ever declining memberships, they are failing miserably in their commission to continue the ministry of Christ to a new generation.


If we cannot reach this new generation, the United Methodist story will end like my Shetland pony rodeo career.

I have known a lot of folks over the years that once held God-sized dreams in their hearts. But after they got “bucked off” a few times by a frenzied Shetland or two, they just settled. They didn’t quit... they just settled. They sit through the services, recite the liturgy, grill the burgers and serve on committees with no real hopes of being powerfully used by God.

They exist—to be sure—but they fail to live. They have forgotten the words of

Jesus who said, “I have come that you might have life and life abundantly!”

United Methodist Men, let’s cowboy up, dust off our discouragement and get back in the saddle! Let’s put our deepest hopes, boldest dreams and most Godly aspirations back on line! Let’s determine that when it comes to becoming the men God created us to be, we will never ever give up—no matter how many times we get bucked off!

The fire breathing, three and a half foot tall Shetland ponies of the world will always snort and buck but they should never be allowed to defeat mighty men of God. 



The Rev. Shane Bishop has been the Senior Pastor at Christ Church in Fairview Heights, Illinois, since 1997 where weekend worship attendance has increased from 200 to 1,700. Shane

is a Distinguished Evangelist of the United Methodist Church and will serve as a keynote speaker for the 2013 ECG Conference in England and the 2013 National Gathering for the United Methodist Men.

No answer

A lion in the jungle approached a campfire around which sat members of a sightseeing safari. Hiding behind a clump of bushes, it listened as the tourists argued over who was the “king of the jungle.” Finally a consensus was reached: the lion was king. This pleased the lion

The next day, the lion tested his kingship. Whomever he met—a leopard, a tiger, a panther, a rhino, a hippo—he asked the same question: “Who is the ‘king of the Jungle?’” Every animal gave the same trembling response as the lion roared with approval: “You are, Mr. Lion.”

Then the lion encountered a huge mother elephant. He let out a mighty roar, and asked “Who is ‘king of the jungle?’”

Whereupon the elephant wrapped her trunk around the lion’s neck, spun him around several times over her head, then tossed him hard against a tree fifty feet away.

The dazed lion slowly got to his feet, looked over at the elephant and said: “Gee whiz! All that fuss just because you don’t know the answer!”





How to mentor a young person

By Reginald Grant

Most people think mentoring is all about guiding a young person in the direction they think the young person needs to go.

In reality, mentoring is all about being a sounding board for the young person. A mentor should be a person who will listen without judging, without placing their morals and values on that young person and without preconceived notions about what the young person needs.

If you want to become a mentor, you must understand: your job is to help young people find themselves, their passion and their own way in life.

A real mentor allows young people to grow at their own pace and direction. As a mentor, you should be someone who truly cares and wants the best for your mentee.

Are you perfect? I'm not!

So, as a mentor you are supposed to help the mentee understand that mistakes happen.

We all make them; it's a matter of mitigating the mistakes, learning from them and hopefully making mistakes that are small.



Reginald Grant speaks to the 2009 Waykins Award Gala for high school scholar athletes in Los Angeles.

I've been mentored by coaches, teachers and my parents. I have not always realized or understood that I was being mentored.

A great mentor helps the young person to find their direction by being a person of patience, faith and trust. A good mentor is open enough to talk about his imperfection and lets the mentee understand that we all make mistakes.

We just want to help to ensure that the mistakes are life lessons and that we learn and grow from those mistakes.

In some sense, a good mentor serves as a sounding board. He listens without judging.

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

1 Peter 4:10-11

Young people want direction and love. They need positive relationships with positive adults. Constructive, one-on-one



A member of the New York Jets, Grant sits on the bench during a NFL game at the old Shea Stadium.

interaction with adults beyond their own families provides this impact.

To mentor is to help another person without expecting any personal gain. Are you willing to be of service to God, by serving others?

There are several ways to become a mentor:

1. Become a Boy Scout or Cub Scout leader, or Join a mentoring program sponsored by Boy Scouts. As a former Scout, I know first-hand about the importance of Scout leaders.
2. Become an Amachi volunteer. Big Brothers Big Sisters has identified children of prisoners who need to be matched with adults. "Amachi" is a Nigerian Ibo word that means "Who knows but what God has brought us through this child." Currently there are 250 mentoring children of prisoner programs in 48 states. They have partnered with more than 6,000 churches and served at least 100,000 children.
3. Join a local mentoring program. Frequently local churches host reading programs for young people or tutoring programs.
4. Start your own mentoring program.
5. Become a coach of a local sports team.

No matter which choice you make, you can make a difference. 

Reginald Grant is a high school English teacher, a board member of the General Commission on UM Men, and a former football player for University of Oregon and the New York Jets. He will be a workshop leader at the National Gathering.



Reggie Grant trains players during a 2008 Youth Impact Program training camp at the University of Southern California.

Reginald Grant has over 30 years of experience as a mentor.

He has been involved with The National Alliance of African American Athletes, which for the past 16 years has presented the "Watkins Award" to the top high school scholar athlete

He has been involved with Powers, Inc., a nonprofit which provides entrepreneurial leadership training and mentoring for women and youth in the Los Angeles region since 1998.

As a high school English teacher, Grant has taught and mentored hundreds of kids during the past 14 years.



I won't die of it, but I will die with it

By Larry Price

The lead lay delegate of the South Georgia Annual Conference to the 2012 General Conference tells how his faith helped him through 37 full-body radiation treatments and enables him to live a life centered on Christ

When I was in the 10th grade, the crusty men of Forest Street Methodist Church in Valdosta, Ga., invited me to eat breakfast with them on Sunday mornings and to help with their barbecue fundraisers.

For the next 16 years, I served on several church committees and taught Sunday school, but I only had Jesus in my head not in my heart.

I moved to Albany, Ga., in 1975 to open a wholesale plumbing supply business. The following year, during a Bible study with six couples, I asked Christ to come out of my head and into my heart.

I have never been the same.

Cloudy days

Becoming a Christian does not mean you will always live under sunshine and blue skies. It does mean that you will be able to find joy in all things big and small.

In May, 2008, I was diagnosed with an islet cell tumor on my pancreas.

I had already made plans for a mission trip to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, so while praying for the tumor to disappear, I left in June for the two-week trip.

By the time I returned, the tumor had grown.

With faith that God was in control I prayed for guidance before, during, and after the “whipple” surgery.

God gave me the words from Psalms 118:17 “I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.”

I had asked for crumbs and received a banquet. The tumor came back benign,

praise the Lord.

I was ready to testify how much God had helped me, and I made plans to get into full-time lay evangelism ministry after my retirement, but I didn't know what was about to happen to me.

Unwelcome words

It started incessant itching on all parts of my body.

When tumor biopsies on my face came back, in July of 2011, I heard the words no one ever wants to hear. “There is no cure, these are third stages mycosis-fungoides tee-cell lymphoma cutaneous, you better go home and get your things in order this is an aggressive cancer.”

I was told to come back in two or three weeks to check with the radiation oncology department.

I didn't think I could wait that long and I prayed for an earlier appointment.

Twenty minutes later the doctor came back and said there has been a cancellation and asked me to come the following day at 10 a.m. Isn't God wonderful!

We went home and got back up at 5 a.m. to travel from Albany to the medical center in Atlanta. All during the trip, I remembered a conversation with a nurse dermatologist following an earlier biopsy. She said, “Lymphoma and melanoma are the kinds of skin cancer that can kill you.”

LYMPHOMA—the diagnosis kept repeating in my mind. I wanted to deny the truth, but I slowly accepted the truth and started to cry. My wife asked me to pull over so she could drive, but I declined. “Just let me get through this,” I said.



Larry Price retires after 30 years of service with Albany Winnelson Company.

An hour later I received peace. The radiation oncology doctor gave me hope as she explained that radiation was a tried and true process. We started a series of 37 total body radiation treatments from head to toe with ceramic coated lead shields under my eyelids and lead shields over my fingernails and toenails.

Four hundred miles for each treatment!

God gave me a wonderful Christian technician to administer my treatments who played worship and praise music as I endured 37 treatments three times a week.

Driving 400 miles back and forth to Atlanta on the same day was too much for me, so God gave me dedicated Christian men and women who volunteered to take me there and back each time.

Three days each week, it was a blessing to share my faith on each seven- to eight-hour trip. Finally, on December 5, 2011, I received my last radiation treatment. I would no longer have to endure burning, swelling and hair-loss results.

The oncologist spoiled my celebration during a Dec. 16 follow-up visit. "You won't necessarily die of it, but you will die with it," he said.

I had been elected as lead lay delegate from the South Georgia Annual Conference for the 2012 General Conference and had been elected as incoming president of the Southeastern Jurisdiction United Methodist Men. I thought surely the pain is over and I was ready to move on.

Wrong.

My heart went into atria fibrillation due to the stress. "God," I prayed, "Don't I already have enough testimony about your healing power?"

I questioned whether I could continue in the offices to which I had been elected, but God gave me assurance that He would bring me through the situation.

I was put in the hospital for a week,

and in six days I lost 40 pounds of mostly fluids. Finally, on Feb. 2, 2011, an electro cardio version restored my heart beat to normal functioning.

God allowed me to witness and pray with all the nurses, technicians and visitors while I was in the hospital.

Ready to serve


Now I am ready to serve. I retired from my plumbing supply business on July 31, 2011, to establish a lay evangelism ministry.

I attended the 2012 General Conference in Tampa and the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference in July at Lake Junaluska, N.C. I assumed the presidency of the Southeastern Jurisdiction UM Men, and I serve as a member of the General Commission on UM Men.

It is terrific to know that God is not through with me yet.

When we give our hearts to God He empowers us to serve Him in ways we never dreamed possible. I look forward to going and telling my story where and when I am asked.

You can too! Do not be discouraged, beaten down and give up. Just persevere and know God will strengthen you to serve Him. He does not call the powerful; He empowers the weak.

I encourage you to seek God daily for His wisdom. His word will overcome all the obstacles you might be facing. Remember the rewards go only to those who finish the race. 



Larry Price is president of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of United Methodist Men and a board member of the General Commission on UM Men.

Eleven tips for starting a UM Men repair ministry



Recruit an experienced site manager for each repair job

Don't tackle a job without someone who is qualified to lead the team. In some cases, this will mean someone who is professionally licensed for the task. Also, don't expect to have the same person lead every repair job.



Select a team

Every job will require a different number of team members. You may need 20 men to install a roof and two men to repair a kitchen sink. It's frustrating when you have too many volunteers, and it is equally frustrating when you have too few. Ask your site manager.



Secure equipment

Don't arrive at a work site and discover you don't have the necessary tools. Ask the site manager what tools he has and what tools team members will need. Ask team members to bring tools, or rent or secure the equipment in another manner.



Check insurance policy

Check with the church treasurer or business manager. Is there insurance coverage in case one of the team members is injured on the job? If not, get a member of your UM Men organization to investigate possibilities.



Establish criteria for accepting jobs

Do you help a member of your UM Men's organization simply because he is a member? Do you only respond to people who are incapable of doing a repair job or people with limited funds? Do you only make repairs on the church? Any of these would be correct, but you need to think about the precedent you are setting when you agree to work on any project.



Consider an application process.

As your ministry grows, you may want to offer a way for people to apply for help. You may want to create a request form on your website. That request form should clearly indicate the types of work your group accepts and the maximum amount of money available for the work.



Develop plan to raise funds

There is no limit to the ways UM Men raise funds: golf tournaments, pancake suppers, nights at a ball park, bowling, garage sales, chili competition, and talent shows. Look in the "Around the Nation" section of *UM Men* magazine for ideas.



Establish a budget

While your organization will want funds for the charter and a variety of mission projects, you will also want to establish a budget for



Men from Andrews Chapel in Jonesboro, Ga., help rebuild an Americus, Ga., home that was destroyed by a tornado.

your repair ministry. That total can be supplemented by pledges for a particular project. For example, lots of people might want to help a church member who needs a handicap ramp. Provide a way for them to help.



Seek contributions from businesses

Frequently Lowes, Home Depot, and other companies will provide lumber or equipment for charitable work. They may also provide discounts for church groups. You may also seek grants from businesses. You might begin with the businesses with which your men have close relationships. Recognize their contributions on your church website, church directory and parish newsletter.




Feed the team

Prior to the workday, seek volunteers to provide lots of water, snacks, and lunch. You may find a fast-food business that would be happy to provide free lunches to volunteers.



Thank team members

Arrange for photos during the work project and write a story for your parish paper, community paper and *UM Men* magazine. This will give your men some public recognition for a job well done. Make a special effort to publically and privately thank your site manager. 

Hope of Hearing restarts in Haiti

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti—

A three-member team led by Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men, conducted hearing tests on 415 children in three schools in this island nation.

During the Nov. 3-10 trip, the team fit 30 children with hearing aids and they made ear mold impressions for 55 children who will receive hearing aids and batteries when a second team comes to Haiti in January.

Hanke has made 25 mission trips to Haiti, some of them with construction teams.

A reluctant recruit

“My first trip was in 1988,” says Hanke. “I was invited to participate on a medical and construction team, but I thought I would be useless because I could not speak Creole. As

it turned out I was able to use my training as a speech pathologist to work with children who are deaf in St. Vincent School in Port au Prince. “Since I knew sign language I found that I could be helpful only to the children who could understand me.”

The following four years, Hanke served on several other mission trips to Haiti where he spent most of his time on construction crews, but he also found time to work with children at the St. Vincent School.

Hope of Hearing

In 1992, he led a team of audiologists to test the hearing of Haitian children and supply them with hearing aids. In every year since, the speech pathologist has led a “Hope of Hearing” team to Haiti.

“We missed a couple of years because of political unrest in Haiti and the project was put on hold after



Dr. Sally Muhlbach and Dr. Ricardo Gautier test the hearing of Haitian school children.



Gil Hanke and one of the 415 Haitian children tested for hearing loss, and suitability for hearing aids.

the January, 2010 earthquake," said Hanke.

He had also participated in 2010 and 2011 construction teams to repair damaged buildings, but this is the first time the Hope of Hearing team has returned since the earthquake.

Hope of Hearing works through the Texas Annual Conference Partners in Mission; it is supported by the National Association of Conference Presidents of UM Men, Rotary Clubs, churches, and individuals. In-country housing and transportation were arranged by the Methodist Guest House in Haiti.

A difficult restart

Restarting the project required the coordinated efforts of the Methodist Church of Haiti, the UM Committee on Relief, UM Volunteers in Mission, the General Board of Global

Ministries and Haitian schools.

"Our primary focus was to return to the schools where we had worked in the past" relates Hanke. "We also wanted to help schools that were not getting any assistance from other sources."

Hanke told of a particular difficult experience with one school.

"A U.S. hearing aid company came to their school after the quake with a pop star, took lots of pictures, and did not test a child or fit a single hearing aid," said Hanke.

"In previous trips this same company had provided hearing aids to the team. But just weeks before this trip, they declined to make a donation. In fact, they wanted us to blow off the plans we had made, and test at another site, so they could come in later with another celebrity and fit those children for another photo op," said Hanke.

“Dr. Ricardo Gautier, a team audiologist fluent in Haitian Creole, called the school and assured them that this was not another photo op, and that the team was not representing the same hearing aid company.”

Successful trip

In spite of the pre-trip obstacles, the trip ran perfectly. Testing was completed on 415 children in four days, at schools in Croix des Bouquets, St. Marc and Jacmel, and the team made a return visit to St. Vincent School. They did not conduct hearing tests at that Port au Prince school since it was receiving help from a team out of Canada.

St. Vincent officials helped Hanke contact that Canadian team and Hope of Hearing plans to work in partnership with that group in the future.

The schools at Croix des Bouquets, Jacmel and Port au Prince were destroyed by the earthquake and are in the process of rebuilding. “The testing we did in Jacmel was under a mango tree, the coolest place we could find,” said Hanke.

Children respond

“Almost all these children have had a significant loss of hearing since birth,” said Hanke. “They have been tested before in a variety of ways and even if some minimal residual hearing was detected, there was little available to help them. So for some as soon as they sit down, they raise their hands repeatedly, even before any tone is introduced hoping to get help. Others sit with a frown expecting nothing, resigned that this is a waste of time. Then unexpectedly, they hear a tone. They look at us at first bewildered,

unsure of this new sensation, their eyes widen, and a smile lights up area; they are transformed.”

One young boy entered the testing area, very shy, unsure of these strangers at his school. Hanke examined his ears, Dr. Gautier did the testing, and Dr. Sally Muhlbach fit him with a hearing aid.

“He began to hear the noise of his classmates and a plane landing at the nearby airport,” recalled Hanke. “He smiled broadly, stood up straight and literally strutted back to the other students. He entered meek, but left a young man with a new value of himself; assured that his horizon was forever changed.”

Request from the Methodist Church of Haiti

The team met with the chairman of the Methodist Church of Haiti (similar to a bishop in the UMC). He asked them if they could provide hearing tests and intervention for children in schools run by the Haitian church.

“This restart of the Hope of Hearing did more than provide testing and hearing aids,” said Hanke. “The teachers and administrators of the schools saw the team as tangible evidence that they had not been forgotten. Many go on mission trips and promise to return; this trip and this team illustrated to these special places that even an earthquake and church red-tape cannot stop them from fulfilling their promise to return.”

Donated hearing aids of any kind and any condition or financial donations can be made to:

The Hope of Hearing
3644 Burwick Place
Antioch, TN 37013



Across the Nation

PENSACOLA, Fla.—

Couple leads special-needs troop

For 25 years, Richard and Claudia Coleman have led Troop 409, a group of men with disabilities such as Down syndrome, autism and spina bifida. Troop members have earned 1,000 merit badges and eight have attained the rank of Eagle.

Richard, 66, a former Air Force sergeant, deploys tough love to teach skills like cooking over an open fire, building weather vanes and staking out campsites. "To me they aren't disabled," he says. "They're Scouts, and that's how I treat them."

"When I made Eagle, my heart dropped to my ankle," said Mark Drummond, a 36-year-old who has autism and bipolar disorder.

The troop meets in Cokesbury UMC and it was featured in *People* magazine.

MORGANTON, N.C.—

Men provide firewood

UM Men of the First UMC provide free firewood to people who use wood for heat.

The names of the people in need of wood are provided by the Burke United Christian Ministries. Most of the recipients are elderly and live alone, but some are unemployed.

Men bring chain saws, mechanical splitters, go devils, and pickup trucks. Many hands are needed to carry, load, unload, and stack wood. Rarely is a live healthy tree cut down. Most of the wood comes from trees that have blown down, or are dying, dead, or unwanted from construction or wooded residential areas.

People gather at designated areas to cut, split, load, and deliver wood via pickup trucks. Often hotdogs, hot and

cold drinks, and marshmallows are provided for the volunteers.



TUCSON, Arizona—

Scouting ministry specialist meets scientists who built Mars rover

Douglas Wright, a scouting ministry specialist, was invited by University of Arizona officials to witness the complex landing sequence of the \$2.5 billion Curiosity Mars Science Laboratory. He met mission scientists from the university who designed and built many of the 12 instrument packages aboard Curiosity and he watched a live feed of Pasadena flight controllers who guided Curiosity to a safe landing on the distant planet.



Following the safe landing of Curiosity, Doug Wright congratulates Peter H. Smith (left), principal investigator for the Phoenix Mars Lander program that carried instrument packages designed by University of Arizona space scientists. Wright is a 1971 graduate of the school.

ANNAPOLIS, Md.—

Churches renovate fellowship hall

UM Men of Calvary UMC in Annapolis joined with trustees of Fowler UMC to renovate Fowler's fellowship hall and restrooms. Calvary UM Men raised \$3,000 to help refinance the renovation work. Most of the money came from a yard sale.

LINTHICUM HEIGHTS, Md.—

Superintendent tours district on bike

Shortly after his appointment to the Greater Washington District, the Rev. Evan Young made a 55-mile prayer tour on his bicycle from Friendship UMC to Linthicum Heights.

Along the way, the superintendent encouraged some of the 73 district congregations to canvass their neighborhoods to see if they had a church home.



The Rev. Evan Young tours his new district. A UMNS photo by Christina Zimmerman.

ROCHESTER, N.H.—

Pastor coaches football team

Shortly after being appointed to First UMC in Rochester, N.H., the Rev. Jeff Hunt, 43, was named assistant football coach of Spaulding High School. Hunt also served as a coach in Brunswick, Maine, where he served for

six years as the senior pastor. He also served that community as a firefighter.

PETERSVILLE, Ind.—

Church aids tornado victims

On March 2, 2012, several small towns in southern Indiana were struck by tornadoes.

On March 14, men of Petersville UMC responded by helping cleanup debris in New Pekin.

For the next 22 weeks, 8- to 15-member teams left the church at Petersville each Wednesday for the Henryville area. The men cut up fallen trees, moved brush, and cleaned fields.

The biggest project called for the reconstruction of a garage, breezeway and beauty shop across the street from the Henryville High School.

Don Jackson coordinated all work trips with the help of Don Partlow, a member of the Henryville UMC, a retired shop teacher and a professional builder.

Petersville men drove 6,035 miles (365 hours) and spent 1,141 hours on work sites during the 23 weeks they were involved in working in the tornado-stricken area.



Steve Smith, vice president of Petersville UM Men (left), and Don Harris (right) clean out a hayfield near Henryville. Caleb Loper works in back.

OCEAN VIEW, Del.—

Church hosts Biker Sunday

Mariner's Bethel UMC hosted a September Biker Sunday service in conjunction with Bike Week in Ocean City.

The Rev. Dave Humphrey, pastor, said several of the regular attendees rode motorcycles and we didn't know it. "It also was something that got some folks involved in the church because they didn't think wearing their biker gear in church was allowed, but they were warmly welcomed."

PONCHATOULA, La.—

Ponchatoula men express appreciation with new chainsaw

After Hurricane Isaac, Bob Deich and volunteers from Denham Springs UMC cut a tree off the roof of First UMC of Ponchatoula, and they installed temporary tarps.

None of their three chainsaw would start easily or run dependably, but they still got the job done.

Later, Ponchatoula UM Men presented a new Stihl chain saw to the Rev. Bob Deich, pastor of Denham Springs UMC.



From left: Lawrence Powell; Hervey McIntyre; the Rev. Mike McLaurin, pastor of First UMC in Ponchatoula; and Richard White, treasurer of UM Men of Ponchatoula, present a chain saw to the Rev. Bob Deich, pastor of Denham Springs UMC. Walter Parker Sr., local disaster coordinator from Ponchatoula, stands next to Deich. Photo by Kirby Larpenter

CRYSTAL SPRINGS, Miss—

Church receives Secretary of Defense award

Crystal Springs UMC received the 2012 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award for supporting their pastor while he served with an Army National Guard unit in Iraq.

When the Rev. Mark Branning, 38, was called to serve as a chaplain, the Crystal Springs congregation allowed his wife, Traci, who was expecting their third child, to remain in the parsonage during his deployment from November 2010 to November 2011.

In his absence, the Rev. Johnny Crosby, district superintendent at that time, preached every Sunday for five or six months. A retired pastor filled in for the remaining time.

While he served as a battalion chaplain in Iraq, church members watched over his two sons, B.J., now 10, and Aidan, now 5, providing child care when their mother was at work.

The congregation also paid for parsonage expenses and school fees. When it was time for Traci Branning to give birth to



Paul Davis (left), chair of Crystal Springs Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, accepts the 2012 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award presented by Jim Rebholz (right), honoring the church's support of U.S. Army Chaplain Mark Branning (center). A UMNS photo by Jay Mallin.

their son, Jasper, on March 1, 2011, church members accompanied her to the hospital and set up a Skype connection so the pastor could be present for the delivery electronically.

CHESAPEAKE, Va.—

District men learn about the man code

In September, Elizabeth District officers, unit presidents, sub-district coordinators, and a pastor took part in a two-day session at Oak Grove UMC on Understanding Men's Ministry.

Johnnie Draughon and Alan Burtchell led the men through the course based on Patrick Morley's "No Man Left Behind" model.

They tackled topics like the "portal priority" and the "man code" and learned that "true disciples become workers out of the overflow of their growing relationship with Jesus Christ."



BURAS, La.—

UMCOR delivers aid to Louisiana churches

Some 78 hours after Hurricane Isaac struck Louisiana, an 18-wheel truck from the UMCOR Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, La., arrived at Trinity UMC in Buras with 1,200 cleaning buckets and 2,000 health kits.

"He had to come through 22 inches of water, doing a great job of staying between markers that indicated where the road was located," said the Rev. Dave Carlton, pastor of Trinity UMC.

“The truck dropped off some of the supplies in Boothville where the National Guard was distributing water and food. Then he brought the rest to Trinity UMC, where we unloaded 800 buckets and 200 health kits with the help of church members and community volunteers.”

One storm-weary man stood in line for supplies. “He was covered with dirt. You could tell he had been working on all kinds of things after the storm,” said Carlton. “When we handed him a health kit, he said that he hadn’t had a bath in a week. The guy was so excited about the kit. You know, there’s just something about a good bath that helps you feel ‘normal’ again.” Carlton said. A half-mile of cars lined up to receive the kits.

More than 18,500 health kits and 6,000 cleaning buckets were distributed.



Freddy Cooks, UMCOR staff, loads cleaning buckets into trailer headed for First Street PW UMC in New Orleans.

TERLINGUA, Texas—

Men conquer peak, explore mine

Last September, 17 UM Men of the Southwest Texas Conference spent five days in worship, discussion, and exploration of Big Bend National Park.

Following a Thursday visit to old Judge Roy Bean’s place, the group made the Terlingua Ranch Café their base of operations.

“The food was good and the people were great,” said Jim Callaway, vice president of conference men.

On Friday, the group explored the old Mariscal Mine, and on Saturday, six men made the 10-mile trip up the 7,825-foot Emery Peak, the highest point in the park.

On Sunday, the men closed with a Communion service.

“We made friends wherever we went and we made sure that everyone knew we are the Southwest Texas Conference UM Men,” said Callaway.

MILLS RIVER, N.C.—

Men raise \$20,000 for uninsured expenses of church member

A member of Mills River UMC was diagnosed with leukemia. After a marrow transplant she had to stay in a sterile environment at Duke medical facilities for three months. Medical insurance paid the cost of the transplant, but not the cost of housing. Jim Chapman, president of UM Men, says the organization held a golf tournament to help the family with uninsured expenses. Ninety golfers participated and each paid \$100. A barbecue cooked by UM Men and a silent auction helped bring the total to \$20,000, twice the goal amount.

BARNARDSVILLE, N.C.—

Special-needs troop finds home in UM church

Autistic young adults and Scouts with Down’s syndrome will soon be working for God and Country Awards, presented by St. Louis-based Program of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY).

Tim Buckner, a scouting ministry specialist and father of one of the Scouts, serves as scouting coordinator for Barnardsville UMC.

“Most of our Scouts are over the normal age for these awards but they are active Boy Scouts in spite of their age,” says Buckner. “The scouting organization here has been very supportive and has indicated that these young men may remain Scouts for life. I will be working with our minister here at Barnardsville UMC to pick the best and most appropriate of the instructional booklets to use by our guys.”

The Office of Scouting Ministries has waived age limits for this troop.



Tim Buckner and his son

WASHINGTON, D.C.—

Church celebrates men’s ministries

Each Sunday in the month of June, the achievements of a male member of Asbury UMC were highlighted during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. This year’s luminaries were Robert L Mallett, Esq., the Honorable Henry H. Kennedy Jr., Curtis Cole Jr., and Robert Reid.

On Saturday, June 9, 100 people attended a prayer breakfast where Dr. Leonard L. Haynes III, a nationally known lecturer, was the speaker. The D.C. Boys Choir and the Phoenix Boys Choir presented a concert in the afternoon.

On Sunday, June 10, Dr. Rodney T. Smothers was the guest preacher. He is the former director of evangelism and revitalization ministries at the General Board of Discipleship in Nashville.

The men surprised the Rev. Dr. Louis Shockley, pastor of Asbury UMC, by inducting him into the John Wesley Society.



The Rev. Dr. Louis Shockley and present and past presidents of Asbury UM Men greet the Rev. Dr. Rodney T. Smothers after a June 10 worship service. From left: Dr. Dewitt Fortenberry, Albert M. Dickson, Dr. Smothers, Dr. Shockley, Herman Thompson, James Nero, and Frederick Price.

DENTON, N.C.—

Troop visits South Dakota

Last July, Troop 101 of Central UMC visited the Crazy Horse Memorial in Custer County, South Dakota. Located 17 miles from Mount Rushmore, the sculpture will be carved out of Thunderhead Mountain. The final dimensions are planned to be 641 feet wide and 563 feet high.



Denton Troop members stand before a statue that depicts how the finished sculpture will appear. The monument has been in progress since 1948 and is far from completion.

LAFAYETTE, La.—

Woman wins with father's car

Heather Lecky won the 2011 Asbury UMC car show with a 1968 Camaro convertible her parents bought when she about 2 years old. She got to drive it when she turned 16.

"Since the car was older, Dad and I spent many a weekend fixing this or that to keep it running," said Lecky.

She officially inherited the car in 1997 when her father died at age 57.

"It wasn't until 2007 that, by the grace of God, I was in a position to start restoring the car," said Lecky. Luckily, she met Jay Patin, who painstakingly tore the car down to the frame and rebuilt it from the ground up to be the Best in Show at the annual Asbury UMC car show.

"While I can still hear his voice and my father's memory lives on in all of us, the Camaro is the one tangible link to him that I have left," said Lecky. "This is why it will always be more than just a car to me."



Heather Lecky and her mother stand by their winning 1968 Camaro showing photos of the car as it appeared when originally purchased by Heather's father.

ROCKFORD, Ill.—

Concert raises more than \$12,000

A 2012 concert sponsored by UM Men of the Rockford District raised \$12,093 for food banks in northern Illinois. The concert was the fourth annual event and raised the four-year tally to \$28,428.

The concerts began in 2009 when UM Men noted that 1 in 8 of their neighbors were without sufficient food supplies. They hosted "Harmony for Hunger Concert."

John Tallacksen, a WFEN radio personality, served as emcee for three local southern gospel quartets. The 2009 event raised \$4,180 for five agencies.

In 2010, a similar event raised \$5,561.

In 2011, the men brought in Triumphant Quartet and the Alleluia Quartet, two award winning quartets and raised \$6,594.

In 2012, the same venue resulted in \$12,093 with every penny going to help feed the hungry population of the Winnebago/Boone County area.



Bert Schweinler and John Vanderheyden from the Rockford District UM Men hold a check for presentation to representatives from the Society of St. Andrews Meals for Millions, Rock River Valley Pantry, Cornucopia Food Pantry, Belvidere/Boone County Food Pantry, Rockton Roscoe Food Pantry, and the Pecatonica Food Pantry. The check was presented during a July 2012 River Hawks game.

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Church hosts 100-year-old Scout troop

East End UMC received the Shepherd Church Charter Recognition for hosting the 100-year-old Troop 3.

“Our church has a very positive commitment to the troop. We’re very proud of it, and we see it as one avenue of youth ministry,” said the Rev. Diane Blum, East End pastor. “As charter organization of the troop, the church has an obligation to see that it not only survives, but thrives.”

The scoutmaster is Libor Koudelka who is originally from the Czech Republic.

BAYTOWN, Texas—

Church receives Shepherd Church Charter

St. Mark’s UMC received a Shepherd Church Charter Recognition for hosting a Cub Scout Pack, a Boy Scout Troop and a Venture Crew.

Last summer the Venture Crew attended a conclave at Baylor University in Waco. The three adults and ten youth learned about Native American ceremonies, costuming, dancing, singing, and drumming.

WICHITA, Kan.—

UM Men partner with apartment complex to aid recently released prisoners

UM Men of Saint Mark UMC expanded their ministry to prisoners through a partnership with the Liberty Way Apartment Community, two buildings each housing 21 apartments.

Thanks to efforts by the Rev. Junius B. Dotson, pastor of Saint Mark UMC, and David H. Wilkinson, founding member of Saint Mark Prison Ministry Group, the apartments now serve as home to former prisoners dealing with addiction

problems. The apartments are less than a half-mile from the church.

“This was a response to the national efforts of the UM Men to embrace prison ministry as a primary mission,” said Wilkinson.

The apartments, founded by Chad and Denise Dean, welcome men and women recently released from prison.

“Team members help those in transition from prison with employment, clothing, and transportation,” said Wilkinson.

“We also help connect them to the larger faith community at Saint Mark UMC.” The ministry, sponsored by UM Men, includes a large number of mentors certified by the Kansas Department of Corrections.

Wilkinson is a senior associate with Justice Concepts, Inc., a national Kansas City-based consulting firm in the area of criminal justice.



Residents of Liberty Way Apartments gather in the atrium for prayer.

CINNAMINSON, N.J.—

UM Men create grave marker

A total of 119 children were buried in several mass graves in the Asbury UMC cemetery from 1917 to 1943. Most were probably born to families who could not afford to purchase graves or tombstones.

Asbury UM Men felt there should be a memorial stone to mark the resting place of these infants and children.

“We just felt that it’s about time to do it,” said Jim Gleason, president of the men’s organization. “I think it will cause people to stop and reflect and remember the blessings of their own children.”

Following a successful fund raising campaign to cover both the memorial marker and to fund future youth programs for the church, the grave marker was dedicated on Nov. 4, the Sunday closest to All Saints Day.



SIMPSONVILLE, S.C.—

Men give devotional book to firefighters

Men of Simpsonville UMC presented copies of *Strength for Service to God and Country* to members of the Fire Department. Chief Wesley Williams said the devotions will be a good way for firefighters to start their shifts.



Simpsonville UM Men President Howard Bare presents the historic Strength for Service books to the Fire Chief Wesley Williams. Also pictured are: Lieutenant Nick Boone, Engineer Darren Kuykendall, and Firefighter Ethan Tucker

Send news of your men’s organization to Rich Peck (rpeck@gcumm.org).

Dates to remember

- Jan. 17-20 – Quadrennial training for leaders of UM Men, Nashville**
- Feb. 14-18 – Training for Scout leaders, Florida Sea Base**
- March 1-3 – National Association of Conference Presidents, Nashville**
- April 15-16 – Training chaplains of National Jamboree, Nashville**
- May 23 – BSA National Annual Meeting, Grapevine, Texas**
- July 12-14 – National Gathering of UM Men and workshops for Scout leaders and men’s ministry specialists, Nashville**
- July 15-24 – National BSA Jamboree, Summit Bechtel Reserve, W.Va.**



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Gilbert C. Hanke, General Secretary
General Commission on United Methodist



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Men's ministry agency elects officers, plans national gathering

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

The United Methodist agency responsible for ministry to men held its organizational meeting for the 2013-2016 quadrennium, elected officers, and set plans for a 2013 national gathering.

The 20-member General Commission on UMM, meeting Sept. 6-9, elected Mississippi Area Bishop James Swanson, president, and Pittsburgh Area Bishop Thomas Bickerton, vice president.

National Gathering

Meeting at the agency's office on Music Row in Nashville, the group set plans for the 11th National Gathering to be held July 12-14 at Belmont University in Nashville.

Speakers for the event, held once every four years, include: Don Davis, former NFL football player now serving as regional director of the NFL Players Association; David Delk, president of Orlando, Fla.-based Man in the Mirror Ministries; Bishop Swanson, elected to the episcopacy in 2004 and appointed to the Holston Area prior to his recent move to the Mississippi Area; and the Rev. Shane Bishop, pastor of Christ United Methodist Church in Fairview Heights, Ill., a church that increased the number of members from 200 in 2009 to 1,000 in 2012. See article by each of these men in this edition of *UM Men* magazine.

During planning sessions, the group established 18 workshops for the national gathering.

Participants will also engage in bagging 40,000 pounds of produce for Nashville area food banks, building hand carts for people in African nations who have lost the use of their legs; and preparing ingredients for dehydrated food packages for emergency situations.



Gil Hanke (left), top staff executive of the General Commission on United Methodist Men, joins Bishop James Swanson (center), president and Bishop Thomas Bickerton, vice president following the election of officers.

The theme of the event will be “From the Inside Out,” words from a song performed on a CD “Into the Light,” by Phil Stacey, one of the five finalists on season six of the American Idol television show. The Nashville public will be invited to his concert on Saturday evening.

Price for the registration and meals at the three-day event was set at \$239 for people who register before March 1 and \$299 after that date. Housing costs vary.

Other officers

Other officers elected supporting men's ministry include: the Rev. Greg Godwin, Athens, W.Va., commission secretary; Lee Donley, Oxford, Mich., treasurer of the commission; the Rev. Ed Enstine, chair of the Men's Ministry Committee; Dr. John Bright Cage, Nashville, chair of the Scouting Ministry Committee; Dan Ramsey, Houston, Texas, president of the National Association of Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men and chair of the Personnel Committee; Ed Shytle,

Ashland, Ky., president of the United Methodist Men Foundation; and LW Smith, chairman of the Strength for Service Committee.

Strength for Service

The commission celebrated the distribution of 460,000 copies of Strength for Service to God and Country, an expanded World War II book of daily devotions. As the result of gifts totaling \$1.8 million, most of the books have been given for free to U.S. service men and women.

The commission learned that the committee is now in the process of forming a non-denominational 501(c)3 non-profit corporation that will ensure the continual printing of the historic book and the March, 2013, launch of *Strength for Service to God and Community*, a similar book of daily devotions for fire fighters, police officers, health workers, and other first responders.

Scouting and Men's Ministry specialists

The commission noted the recruitment and training of 184 scouting ministry specialists and 34 men's ministry specialists.

These volunteers help neighboring churches establish and expand scouting units and develop ministries that reach men who do not belong to any church.

Some 550,000 Scouts and other members of youth-serving agencies meet in United Methodist churches, and 50 percent of them belong to families that do not belong to any faith community. Scouting ministry specialists help churches understand how these programs can help churches minister to their communities and reach families with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

While many churches have small groups of men who meet for meals and brief programs, men's ministry specialists help churches find ways to reach men who don't belong to any church and provide spiritual-growth opportunities and materials for men who are church members.

Other business

In other business, the commission:

- Received an update on the effort to raise \$34,000 for an 18-passenger bus to expand the ministries of the Vietnam United

Methodist Church (Advance Number 14932A);

- Noted that the amount of World Service monies in the 2013-2016 quadrennium will be reduced by 11 percent, but the commission is not planning any staff reductions. "Our God is a God of abundance," said Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the commission. At present, 25 percent of the agency budget comes from World Service;
- Received an expression of appreciation from Narciso Managelod, representative of the United Methodists from the Philippines, for sending the Rev. Mark Lubbock to train leaders of United Methodist Men and for a gift of \$1,700 to help establish two medical and dental missions for 300 families affected by a typhoon. Members of the agency took up a collection to provide relief goods for 500 families flooded by a week-long monsoon rain;
- Received greeting from leaders of United Methodists in Estonia from Tarmo Lilleoja, a new member of the commission;
- Learned that in 2011, UM Men led 2,067 volunteers into farmer's fields to pick up 2.55 million servings of surplus food for hungry Americans. The men provide another 8.4 million servings of fresh produce through Society of St. Andrew potato projects;
- Learned that through a partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters, the agency launched efforts in 18 annual conferences to recruit adults who will mentor children of incarcerated children. To date, 57 adults have been matched with children; and
- Continued support of the Upper Room Prayer Line which receives an average of 668 calls each day. That ministry is expanded by 155 remote line locations, and 235 covenant prayer groups. There are prayer advocates in each annual conference, and last spring these volunteers brought in \$20,000 for the ministry; and
- Created a UM Men Foundation endowment fund for scouting within the United Methodist Church Foundation

Commission begins non-denominational ministry, new book

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

The General Commission on UM Men has established a new organization that will continue the publication of *Strength for Service to God and Country*, a World War II book of daily devotions. The non-denominational organization will also publish and distribute a new book of daily devotions for community-service employees and volunteers.



Over a decade ago, the commission supported a California Boy Scout's effort to republish the historic book as an Eagle project in honor of his grandfather. A total of 460,000 copies of the updated and expanded book have since been printed and distributed, primarily to U.S. service men and women stationed around the world.

Scores of letters from members of the armed services telling of the importance of the original *Strength for Service* book may be found at the www.StrengthforService.org website.

While serving in Afghanistan, Captain Karen Bagzis, a member of the U.S. Army Nurses Corps, told the commission about how much she valued the book—especially after losing a patient.

“On one of our toughest days here I returned to my room and said to God before opening the book, ‘This better be a good one... I need you’ and the devotional spoke about ‘Glorifying God in Suffering.’ It was one of the most moving readings and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for creating this book. It has helped me through a very tough time in my life and has become one of my most treasured possessions.”

Captain Bagzis has since returned to her home in Allentown, Pa.

New book for first responders

While some of the original *Strength for Service to God and Country* books were given to fire fighters, police officers and other first responders, these public servants found the pocket-sized volumes were written for military personnel and less relevant to their needs.

In an effort to address the needs of these community workers and in order to reach people from all denominations, the commission has formed a non-denominational non-profit 501(c)(3) *Strength for Service* organization.

The new book of daily devotions titled *Strength for Service to God and Community* is now available for public servants.

After reviewing portions of *Strength for Service to God and Community*, the Rev. Dr. Daniel G. Tackett, director of the International Police & Fire Chaplains Association, said the book will become an important tool for police and fire department chaplains. “Sometimes these highly trained people can draw a blank during high stress/trauma situations . . . The book is a tool to help the mind, soul, and spirit find peace.”

If your organization would like to give copies of the new book to first responders in your community, contact Marc Stowe (MStowe@gcumm.org) (615-620-7262).

L.W. Smith, a layman from South Carolina who led fund-raising efforts for the republication of the World War II book, chaired the taskforce creating the new organization.

“I hope fire fighters, police officers, EMT workers and other first responders will also find the new book as helpful as military personnel found the 50-year-old volume to be,” said Smith. “These first responders may not receive combat pay, but they risk their lives and they know firsthand about major injuries and death. This book will address their daily situations.”

United Methodist Men lead interfaith effort against childhood obesity

NASHVILLE, Tenn. —

Children across America may be a little lighter following interfaith efforts led by UM Men.

Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men, kicked off the effort in Tennessee during an Oct. 23 event on the playground of West End UMC. He introduced 15 civic and religious leaders who are participating in the effort. The Nashville event followed a similar launch in Wisconsin, Ohio, and Colorado.

With children vying for turns on slides and swings behind them, leaders of several denominations joined with executives of civic groups to launch an effort to eliminate childhood obesity.

Over the past three decades, childhood obesity rates in America have tripled, and today, nearly one in three children in America is overweight or obese. The numbers are even higher in African American and Hispanic communities, where nearly 40 percent of the children are overweight or obese.

Vincent Demarco, national coordinator of Faith United to End Childhood Obesity,

is working with leaders of the General Board of Church and Society, UM Men and others to fight against this crisis.

“Childhood obesity is a growing threat to our children’s health,” Demarco said, noting that obesity contributes to diabetes and other health problems. “We need to deal with the problem, and it’s a problem that can be dealt with. There are things we can do to make something happen, and the faith community is in one of the best positions of anybody to make something happen.

“What faith leaders have shown in the areas where we’ve had these events is that they’re motivated, and they want to work on it,” said Demarco.

Hanke said UM Men began work with Demarco and the Faith United Against Tobacco several years ago.

“Faith United Against Childhood Obesity had an initial meeting here in Nashville to learn about the Consolidated School Health Program in Tennessee,” said Hanke. “A larger meeting was hosted by the General Board of Church and Society in Washington D.C.”

The coalition includes the African



Leaders of civic and religious groups participate in press conference at West End United Methodist Church in Nashville



Gil Hanke addresses press conference launching effort to eliminate childhood obesity

Methodist Episcopal Church; American Baptist Churches; Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); the Episcopal Church; the Evangelical Lutheran Church; the Islamic Society of North America; Seventh Day Adventists; Presbyterian Church USA; United Church of Christ; United Synagogue of

Conservative Judaism; Catholic Charities; the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation; and 11 other groups.

“United Methodist Men have a strong interest in this area because we are the connecting point to the UMC for BSA, GSUSA, 4-H, Camp Fire USA, and Big Brothers Big Sisters,” said Hanke. “We also have a long relationship with the Society of St. Andrew, the agency that provides fresh produce to the poor” (www.endhunger.org).

The anti-obesity effort is linked with “Let’s Move” (<http://www.letsmove.gov/join-lets-move-faith-communities>), a comprehensive initiative, launched by Michelle Obama.

The website offers free print materials on ways to help children grow up healthier. Let’s Move! materials may also be distributed as part of a newsletter, web site post, or to attendees of an event or rally.

In Memoriam - Former conference president dies

BATON ROUGE, La. —

Odney Ellis, 93, former president of Louisiana Conference UM Men, died Oct. 11 following a fall.

He was a fellow in the John Wesley Society, a life member, and a faithful legacy builder of the General Commission on UM Men.

After graduating from Ponchatoula (La.) High School and spending six months in the Civilian Conservation Corps, he attended Southeastern Louisiana College (now Southeastern) for two years where he was president of the YMCA and associate editor of the college newspaper. He was also the secretary of the Methodist Student Organization.

He married Bessie Harris of Ponchatoula in 1939 and initially the couple moved to New Orleans and later to Baton Rouge.

In spite of the fact that the couple had two sons, he was drafted into the Army Air Corps and assigned to the Eighth Air Force in Great Britain where he flew 35 missions over heavily fortified Germany and other

European targets. He earned the Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters and the European Theater Ribbon with four battle stars.

After returning home, he helped organize a men’s organization at Winbourne (La.) Methodist Church, and he was elected as the first president.

He later served as the first president of Baton Rouge District UM Men and was the fourth president of the Louisiana Conference UM Men.

He continued to be active in local, district, and conference UM Men as well as in his local church for the rest of his life. His son, Clyde, serves as president of Baton Rouge District UM Men. .

He is survived by two sons, seven grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren.



Tennessee prison officials support DISCIPLE Bible Training for inmates

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Representatives from North Carolina-based Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries (DBOM) discussed the merits of the Bible study and trained coordinators with officials of the Tennessee Department of Corrections.

The Rev. Dr. Mark Hicks, a North Carolina pastor and president of the national DBOM, and Charles Gilliland, president of the Tennessee chapter of DBOM, met Oct. 10 with the Rev. Dr. Ron Turner, director of religious services for the Tennessee Department of Corrections, and Bill Gupton, assistant commissioner of rehabilitative services.

“Turner and Gupton were very supportive,” said Hicks. Gupton stated that these types of programs are a great benefit to the inmates, especially since they can help inmates reintegrate into society following release.

“Both Ron and Bill were impressed with the quality of the Disciple Bible Study curriculum and sound Bible teaching which is a hallmark of the study,” said Hicks.

Gilliland spoke of the change he

experienced as a participant in the Disciple study: “In my opinion it is the best program ever offered by the UMC,” he said.

The study has already been introduced in some Tennessee prisons.

Christ UMC in Franklin, Tenn., has taught courses in Riverbend Correctional Facility in Nashville for the past 10 years. That church also conducts Sunday services; 75 church members have pen pals in the maximum security prison, and church members provide jobs, transportation and housing for men after their release.

Hicks told the prison officials all coordinators of the

Bible study are trained by DBOM. Some 30 Tennessee volunteers are presently trained DBOM leaders and are waiting for placement. Gilliland and Turner agreed to discover locations for additional classes.

“The quality of the program we offer is very important to us,” said Hicks. “In addition, the full approval and corporation of the Department of Corrections is very important.”

Hicks sees the program as a win for inmate participants, local church volunteers, the UMC, DBOM national, and the Tennessee chapter of DBOM.



Mark Hicks addresses presidents of UM Men.

Federal employees invited to support World War II devotional

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

U.S. government employees and members of the military are being given an opportunity to continue the effort to provide a World War II book of daily devotions to members of the Armed Forces.

All federal employees, including military personnel, may deduct a portion of their salary for charitable causes through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).

The Strength for Service Fund (Number 45689) is among the hundreds of possible charities that can be selected for tax-deductible contributions.

Monies given to this CFC fund will guarantee the continued printing and distribution of Strength for Service to God and Country, a 1941 book published by the former Methodist Publishing House for World War II troops. The book was discontinued in 1954 after sending over 1 million copies to troops in World War II and the Korean War.

Over a decade ago, the General Commission on UM Men supported a California Boy Scout's effort to republish the

book as an Eagle project in honor of his grandfather. A total of 460,000 copies of the updated and expanded book have since been printed and distributed, primarily to U.S. service men and women stationed around the world.

Selecting the CFC fund will guarantee that the mistake of ending publication in 1954 will not be made again in 2013 or any year thereafter.

If you are a federal employee please include Number 45689 among your choices of CFC funds.

If you know federal employees or members of the Armed Forces, please encourage them to include the Strength for Service Fund in their CFS selections.



Michael Fiest sits at a Strength for Service display table during a Combined Federal Campaign event in Clovis, Calif.

A time to serve veterans and military families

Over the last few years, tens of thousands have come home from war ... bearing wounds both visible and invisible, facing unemployment, housing and other domestic issues.

A call to assist veterans and military families will be heard nationally as part of the Martin Luther King Day of Service (Jan. 21).

United Methodist Men are joining in this call to raise awareness in communities and do something to address the needs of veterans and military families. By participating in America's Sunday Supper, we can join with people beyond our church walls and do so much

more to help troops fully return from war.

Please take a moment to register to indicate you are interested in doing something to support returning troops in January.

Rethink Church is offering a free, downloadable toolkit to get you started. It contains a customizable poster to promote your work, training videos to build awareness of the needs of returning troops, a flier, ideas for serving and more. Go to www.sundaysupperumc.org to sign up today.

Email Rethinkchurch@umcom.org for more information.

A banner for "Sign up to Host America's Sunday Supper" dated January 20, 2013. The banner features the "HandsOn" logo on the left, the text "Sign up to Host America's Sunday Supper" in the center, and the "RETHINKCHURCH" logo on the right. The background of the banner shows a blurred image of people.

UM Men Awards

The Rev. Dr. Louis Shockley *Pastor inducted into John Wesley Society*

WASHINGTON, D.C.—

UM Men of Asbury UMC surprised their pastor, the Rev. Dr. Louis Shockley, by inducting him into the John Wesley Society during a June worship service celebrating men's ministries.

Appointed to Asbury in 2004, Shockley has



served in the ministry for more than 30 years. Prior to coming to Asbury, he served as superintendent of the Baltimore West District.

He is a graduate of Temple University (B.S., 1969) and Drew Divinity School (Th.M., 1974). He received a doctoral fellowship from the University of Dayton where he was sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, to study conflict management and behavioral psychology. He later transferred to the Center for Post Graduate Studies sponsored by Ohio State University, Wittenberg University and Antioch College. In 1982, he received a Ph.D. in behavioral science.

The Rev. Marcus Freeman and Robert Hilliard

St. Paul men honor two during men's day

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—

Men of St. Paul UMC presented two lifetime memberships in UM Men during their annual men's day celebration last September.

The men honored the Rev. Marcus A.L. Freeman III and Dr. Robert L.M. Hilliard, M.D. These presentation were made by Rick Sinkfield, president of St Paul's UM Men and Ernest McClure, treasurer.

Freeman, a graduate of Perkins School of Theology, is the pastor of St. Paul UMC. In 2011, he served as a delegate from the



From left: Ernest R. McClure, treasurer of St. Paul-UMMen; the Rev. James Amerson; Dr. Robert Hilliard; the Rev. Marcus Freeman; and Ralph Sinkfield, president of St. Paul-UM Men. Photo by Oscar Gooden

Southwest Texas Conference to the World Methodist Conference in Durban, South Africa. He is a recipient of a Freedom Award on behalf of the St. Paul's Christian Unity and Interreligious Concern's work to develop relations between Jews, Christians and Muslims.

Hilliard received his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch. He has served on the San Antonio City Council and is active in the Boys and Girls Club, the Claude Black Center, and the George Gervin Youth Center. He has served as a trustee, a steward, chair of the Pastor-Parrish Relation Committee, a member of the administrative council, and he is a former chair of the Men's Day.

Pastor Steve Nolin

Church honors pastor and former member

ORLANDO, Fla. —

Steve Nolin grew up in Pine Hills Methodist Church, but as a young acolyte, he never suspected that one day he would serve as pastor of his childhood church.

He continued attending during the 30 years he served the community as a fireman.

After retiring from the Fire Department, he entered the ministry and eight years ago he was appointed pastor of Pine Hills UMC.

He revitalized the UM Men Association and he



Steve Nolin

and other retired firefighters cook breakfast for the meetings.

The men presented Nolin with a life membership in UM Men.

Rodney Muller
Church honors leader of community garden

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—

UM Men of Chapel Hill UMC presented a life membership to Rodney Hill for his participation in the Green Bridges Community Youth Gardens.

Volunteers and at-risk students work in the garden together. The youth, ages 12 to 16, are assigned by the Bexar County Probation Department.

Muller also was instrumental in wiring the church security camera. He is a long-time member of the choir and a participant in an Emmaus Walk.

“This man is truly a great person, a dedicated Christian, and very loyal to his church,” said Jim Bush, president of UM Men.

Tom Shelton and Randy Lewis
Men honor former presidents

GREENSBORO, N.C.—

Men of Mount Pisgah UMC honored Tom Shelton and Randy Lewis with lifetime memberships in UM Men.

Shelton has been a member of the men’s group for over 35 years and served as president in 1980. He also served on several mission trips to Mexico and other nations.

Lewis, a 15-year member, served as president in 2010 after chairing the church outreach committee. He played a major role in acclimating five of the Lost Boys of Sudan into the Greensboro community.

The awards were presented November 26.

Sylvia, Terry, and David Mueth
Men honor widow and sons of founder
CASEYVILLE, Ill.—

The Orville N. Mueth chapter of UM Men inducted the sons and widow of Orville into the John Wesley Society.

“The money was raised in secret as is tradition for the men in Caseyville who have now presented 17 John Wesley Fellowship awards to the men and women of the Caseyville UMC,” said Rick Penny, president of UM Men.

“The sons of Orville Mueth had not been awarded previous to this date since there was always disagreement on who should be first,” said Penny. “The group took on the task of raising funds for both Terry and David so they could be awarded together. The family, friends and congregation response was so generous and swift, we were also able to award their mother during the morning worship on October 14, 2012.”

Terry and David have both been active in the music ministries and have held many other positions during decades of service to the Caseyville church. Their mother has been a member of Caseyville UMC for decades and held offices in the church and the UMW.

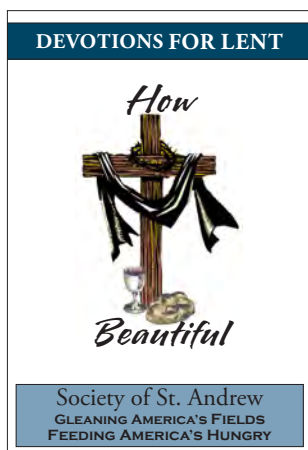


From left: Terry, Sylvia, and David Mueth join 14 other people who have been named to the John Wesley Society by the Orville N. Mueth chapter of UM Men in Caseyville, Ill.

Society of St. Andrew

United Methodist Men can be the leaders in ending hunger

This Lent answer the call to feed the hungry



How Beautiful Devotions for Lent

Program of daily spiritual reflection, prayer, and giving.

Take seriously scriptural injunctions to care for the poor.

\$1 donation per day (\$47) provides over 2,000 servings of fresh produce to those who don't have enough to eat.

All materials are FREE ♦ No obligation
Order sample packets: church@endhunger.org
www.endhunger.org/lent.htm ♦ Order a kit today!

Meals for Millions — UMMen and Society of St. Andrew are in partnership to end domestic hunger. Your donations provide millions of servings of nutritious food to the hungry. Join today and make a real difference! For more information contact Wade Mays, National Meals for Millions Director, at 800-333-4597 or Development@EndHunger.org.

EndHunger.org/UMM

Society of St. Andrew (Advance #801600)
800-333-4597 ~ sosainfo@endhunger.org

United Methodist invited to invest in future scouting

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

People who want to ensure scouting will always have a place in local churches are invited to invest in a special fund administered by the UMC Foundation.

In 2012, 6,700 UMC congregations enriched the lives of 371,491 young people through 11,078 Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, and Venturing crews.

UM churches reach countless more youth through Girl Scouts, Camp Fire USA, 4-H, and Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS).

Churches have expanded ministries to their communities through Scout troops or other civic organizations, and since about half of the young people come from unchurched families, these programs have also become ways to introduce families to Jesus Christ.

Many families have joined the sponsoring churches as a result of these ministries.

Many ways to give

Individuals who want to make certain these ministries continue are invited to transfer property, stock or cash to the foundation and receive a fixed income stream for life.

The UMC Foundation website (umcfoundation.org) offers a free guide to

preparing a will along with a planned-gift calculator. Options for planned giving include a unitrust, annuity trust, gift annuity, deferred gift annuity, and stock or financial gifts. The benefits of each are carefully defined.



Cubmaster Michael Asbell (right) leads a flag ceremony at Eakin Elementary School in Nashville, Tenn.

UMNS photo by Mike DuBose.

Scouting ministries

An investment in scouting ministries will expand current efforts to recruit and train scouting ministry specialists who help neighboring churches establish

troops, packs or civic groups. At present, 184 specialists are working to increase the number of churches with scouting ministries. They also invite congregations to initiate God and Country Awards, a program of Christian instruction sponsored by St. Louis-based Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY).

The Office of Scouting Ministries is also recruiting and training people to serve as mentors of children of incarcerated parents through a BBBS program. Without intervention, over 2.4 million U.S. children with at least one parent in jail or prison face a 70 percent chance of following the parent. To date, the mentoring program has been introduced in 18 annual conferences. Each one of these conferences is seeking big brothers

and big sisters. For example, the Northwest Texas Annual Conference is raising \$125,000 for a new BBBS office with a goal of 125 matches in the first two years.

The Office of Scouting Ministries also:

- Provides national training experiences at the Philmont Scout Camp in New Mexico and the Florida Sea Base
- Recruits and trains chaplains and counselors for National Scout Jamborees attended by 30,000 Scouts and 8,000 adult counselors
- Annually assists with supplying 5,000 New Testaments to Scout troops on treks from the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico and canoe trips from Northern Tier camps
- Supports a national effort to provide a historic book of daily devotions to members of the armed services. Some

460,000 copies have been distributed to date

- Provides a similar book of daily devotions to police officers, firefighters and other first responders
- Provides Scouting Guidelines, a booklet for local church scouting leaders
- Encourages youth-serving agencies to participate in *Nothing but Nets, Stop Hunger Now* and other outreach ministries.
- Sponsors an award program to encourage and support Scouts and leaders.
- Provides webinars to provide information for scouting ministry specialists and others interested in scouting ministries

For more information, contact Marc Stowe at the General Commission on United Methodist Men (MStowe@gcumm.org) (615-620-7262).

20 ideas for Scout Sunday

You may celebrate Boy Scout Sunday on February 10 and Girl Scout Sunday on March 10 or you may combine the two into one Scout Sunday.

Most churches encourage Scouts to wear uniforms on Scout Sunday, but if you begin planning now the day will be much more than a change in apparel.

Consider the following possibilities and begin planning now.

- Encourage troop(s) to wear uniforms and sit together in the worship service.
- Invite Scouts to serve as ushers and acolytes.
- Have Scouts lead responsive readings and read the Scripture.
- Have a display in the hallway about scouting.
- Provide a table for young people to sign up for troops or packs.
- Have a Saturday Night lock-in at the church, perhaps arrange a model campsite.
- Put Scouts in charge of the refreshments.
- Present a plaque with the names of church members who achieved the rank of Eagle.
- Present Good Samaritan Awards to young people.
- Present Cross and Flame Awards to adult leaders.
- Invite a scouting ministry specialist to speak.
- Ask people who have been involved in scouting in any form to stand.
- If the troop has recently re-chartered, have the charter presented by the scouting official to the pastor.
- Present the troop with a Bishop's Award of Excellence.
- Present a Shepherd Church Charter Recognition.
- Present God and Country awards received from the Programs of Religious Activities with Youth.
- Coordinate a "Scouting for Food" drive with Scout Sunday; invite church members to bring canned goods to church.
- Conduct a work day after the service.
- Honor Eagle Scouts with a copy of Strength for Service to God and Country.
- Tell story of scouting ministry in church newsletter.

For more information, visit <http://www.gcumm.org/ministries/scouting>.

Scouting Awards

Jeff Cook

Missouri Conference honors man for life-saving action

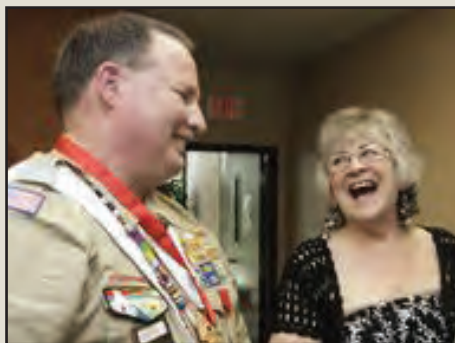
Carol Oster-Green, 74, was driving through an intersection with a green light when she was wacked on the side by a speeding vehicle. Her car spun around 360 degrees and she was unconscious as her car continued to move slowly down the street.

Jeff Cook, 52, happened to be at the same intersection. He jogged beside the car and banged on her car windows. When the driver could not respond, Cook thrust his arm through the partially open window. He yanked open the door. Smoke billowed from the car hood and gasoline leaked from a broken fuel line. He was able to jam his right foot on the brake pedal while steering with his right hand.

After Cook stopped the car, he pulled the key out of the ignition. He then assessed Oster-Green's injuries and comforted her until an ambulance arrived.

"This is why scouting matters," Cook said. "It teaches us to react and use life skills."

He received the Boy Scout Medal for Heroism and a Torch Award from Missouri Annual Conference.



Jeff Cook meets with Carol Oster-Green after an award ceremony at North Cross UMC. "I'm lucky and I'm grateful," said Oster-Green.

The Honorable Carl E. Stewart

UM Judge appointed chief of Court of Appeals

SHREVEPORT, La.—Judge Carl E. Stewart, 62, former chair of the Scouting

Ministries Committee of the General Commission on UM Men, was named chief judge of the fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Last October, he became the first black person to



preside over the court that hears appeals from Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

President Bill Clinton appointed Stewart to the court in 1994 while Stewart was serving as a state judge in Caddo Parish, La.

Stewart received his undergraduate degree at Dillard University in 1971 and his graduate degree from Loyola University Law School in 1974.

Donnie Cantrall

Church honors Scout leader for 28 years of service

CROWN POINT, Ind.—First UMC of Crown Point presented a Cross and Flame Award to Donnie J. Cantrall for 28 years of service as a leader of Troop 48 and Pack 48.

Cantrall began as charter organization representative in 1984 and continues today. He also served for five years as a Webelos leader, three years as a summer camp scoutmaster, and 22 years as a coordinator of the God and Country Awards program.

He has led numerous day camps, campouts, canoe trips, hikes, bike rides, and he has participated in four National Scout Jamborees.

He is a recipient of the Silver Beaver Award (1986); the Environment Awareness Award (a 1989 presentation during National Jamboree); the God and Service Award (1992); the Distinguished Commissioners Award (1993); and the Torch Award (2008).

The Navy veteran is also a local church leader. He served as Sunday school superintendent from 1964 to 1965. He has been a member of the Council on Ministries (1992 to present), the Building Committee (2000 to present), the Missions Commission (2005 to present), the Administrative Board (1989 to present), and UM Men (2000 to present).

He chaired the Board of Trustees for three years and presently chairs the Parking Lot Committee.

Samuel Chadwick *Scout introduces robotics challenge*

MADERA, Calif.—Madera UMC presented a Good Samaritan Award to Samuel Chadwick after he organized six elementary and middle school Lego robotics teams and provided them with the means to use science, technology, engineering and math skills in a competition.

He organized six eight-member teams to participate in a food-factor game in which teams programed Lego robots to deliver food to the market. He spent 106 hours on this Eagle project.



Samuel Chadwick explains the robotics competition to middle school children

Chris Little *Mission trip veteran receives Good Samaritan Award*

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—Chris Little has participated in seven week-long mission trips with the Appalachia Service Project in which he repaired homes in Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia.

The infatigable volunteer has taken ten week-end trips cutting, splitting and hauling wood to help people heat their homes in Marion, Va., and he spent five week-long trips repairing homes in the same southwestern corner of Virginia.

He has taken two mission trips to repair homes in Frakes, Ky., and one 10-day trip to build a parsonage in Willow, Alaska.

He has replaced a roof on a parsonage in Hartshorne, Okla., and helped with hurricane recovery efforts in Louisiana and Mississippi. He took three weekend trips to help Cleveland, Tenn., recover from a tornado and he rebuilt a porch in Mossy Grove, Tenn.

He spent four days helping residents of Louisville, Ky., remove debris after a flood and helped repair homes in Fort Worth, Texas.

It is difficult to believe that Chris also spent 10 days laying a foundation for a church addition in central Mexico and 10 days repairing church buildings in Cuba.

Emma Hansen-Smith, Corinne Williams and Sara Glazebrook *Local church presents three Good Samaritan Awards*

CLOVIS, Calif. —Memorial UMC presented Good Samaritan Awards to Emma Hansen-Smith, Corinne Williams and Sara Glazebrook.

The trio participated in a week-long



Chris Little in Alaska

Sierra Service Project (SSP), working with Native Americans in a remote corner of Shasta County. The young women will also participate in another SSP event in southern California this summer.

Emma is director of electronics for the Buchanan High School robotics team, and she served as a referee for the first Lego League at area schools. She is a member of the church youth group and the church band. She also volunteers at the Poverello House, a homeless shelter, and will go on a mission trip to Haiti this spring.

Corinne has completed her first year of a two-year Health Academy program at Roosevelt High School to become a certified nurse's assistant, and she volunteers 10 to 12 hours each week at Fresno Regional Community Hospital. Last year, Corinne ran a half-marathon and raised \$3,300 for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society. She has also served as the music director and counselor at Camp Keola at Huntington Lake, Calif.

Sara leads youth in work at a homeless shelter one Saturday each month and she will be one of the team leaders for the church 2013 mission trip to Haiti. She participated in a 2012 UVMIM work trip to prepare her for her leadership position this spring. Sara helps youth learn positive models for conflict management and drives them to various events. She also helped begin a youth band for the church and volunteers two Sundays a month as a choir director for a nearby church.



From left—Sara Glazebrook, Emma Hansen-Smith and Corrine Williams are joined by the Rev. Janette Saavedra, pastor of Memorial UMC in Clovis, Calif.

Bill Byrd *Scouting ministry specialist receives Silver Torch Award*

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Bill Byrd, the first scouting ministry specialist in Arkansas, received the Silver Torch Award for 17 years as a Scout leader.

Born in Kennett, Mo., and raised in Springfield, Mo., Byrd attended Arkansas State University, and he has been in the special-risk insurance business for 22 years.

“Bill has offered splendid leadership to the church.” said the Rev. Vick Nixon, pastor of Pulaski Heights. “He is a great interpreter about the scouting ministry to our congregation, and he is admired greatly by the Scout leaders and assistant Scout leaders.”



Bill Byrd

Kaitlyn DeHaven *Girl Scout provides bus for Romanian church*

CANYON LAKE, Texas-- After a 2010 mission trip to Romania with her dad, the Rev. Bradley DeHaven, Kaitlyn wanted to raise funds to purchase a van for the First United Evangelical Methodist Association of Romania.

Following many fund raisers, a progressive dinner, speeches at area churches, and generous responses, Kaitlyn raised \$20,620 in 16 months.

The 9-passager Volkswagen van will be used to transport congregants to worship, Bible study and other church activities.

Kaitlyn received the Girl Scout Gold Award from her troop and a Good Samaritan Award from Canyon Lake UMC.

In Memoriam — Dale Waymire

Dale Waymire, 82, former president of the National Association of United Methodist Men and the man who drafted the General Conference petition to create the General Commission on UM Men, died December 6 at the Ardmore (Okla.) Veteran's Center.

Waymire was born Sept. 24, 1930, in Seminole, Okla., where he lived until age 16 when he moved to Madill, Okla., where he resided until his death.

Perhaps the most important moment in his life came on New Year's Eve, 1949, when he met Mona Gary, daughter of Oklahoma State Senator Raymond Gary. The couple married in 1951, following Dale's graduation from East Central State with a B.A. in education. He had also attended the University of Oklahoma for two years.

After one year of teaching a 7th grade class at Lenapah, Okla., Waymire was drafted into the army in 1952 and was stationed in Fort Bragg, N.C., the same year daughter Emily was born.

Operations sergeant for atomic gun

While in Fort Bragg, Waymire was named operations sergeant for the 280 mm Atomic Gun (nicknamed Atomic Annie), a battlefield weapon designed to oppose possible offensive actions by the Soviet Union in western Europe. The gun was 85 feet in length with a diameter of 11.5 inches. It could deliver a 600 pound explosive device 25 miles. Only 24 guns were in existence during the time.

The only time a nuclear weapon was fired from Atomic Annie was in 1953 at a Nevada Test site. "We fired many practice rounds at Fort Bragg," said Waymire, "but never with a nuclear warhead."

Following two years of active duty, Waymire returned to Madill, where he was employed by his father-in-law as vice president of the Sooner Oil Company. His father-in-law wouldn't have a lot of time for the business as he was elected governor of Oklahoma in 1955 after 14 years in the state senate. That was the same year Mona gave birth to son Andy. The couple had six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Scores of church offices

While continuing to serve as a captain in the Army Reserve and commander of the 45th Division in Madill, Waymire held a succession of church offices. He was elected president of Oklahoma Conference of UM Men (1974-78), president of the National Association of Conference Presidents of UM Men

(1978-81), and lay leader of Oklahoma Conference (1980-88). He was elected a delegate to General Conference in 1980, 1984 and 1988 and he served on the General Board of Discipleship from 1976 to 1988. He couldn't begin to list the number of offices he has held in his local church.

When it appeared that the church was going to quit supporting scouting ministry, the can-do president created the UM Men Foundation and served as the first president of the fund-raising organization for scouting in 1981. During that time, he also started the prayer ministry and the National Association of UM Scouters while chairing the Protestant Relations Committee of the Boy Scouts of America.

Drafts legislation creating the general commission

In 1995, Waymire drafted a petition to the 1996 General Conference to create the General Commission on UM Men. He received support from the foundation and conference presidents for the effort.

While many questions were raised in the legislative committee about the proposal, Waymire gave assurance that if the commission were to encounter financial difficulties, the foundation stood ready to help it address those issues. That assuring word from Dale encouraged delegates to approve the petition.

"We would not be where we are today, physically, organizationally, financially, prayerfully, or as a leader in a wide variety of scouting ministries had it not be for our friend and mentor, Dale," said Gilbert C. Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on United Methodist Men.



Dale Waymire holds the first "Dale Waymire Leadership Award," presented to him at the September 2007 meeting of the United Methodist Men Foundation. Waymire served as the first president of the foundation in 1981 and held that position for 19 years. Dale received many additional awards and was also a fellow in the John Wesley Society

11th National Gathering of United Methodist Men

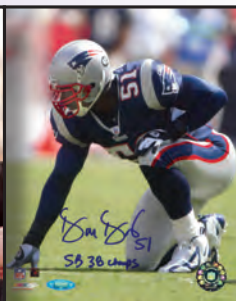


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July 12-14, 2013
Belmont University Nashville, TN



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Bishop James Swanson
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