

UM MEN

The magazine of United Methodist Men

What will the
ministry of United
Methodist Men
look like in 2062?



A letter from the General Secretary

I hope that you will find in this issue, some celebrations of today's ministries, and a glimpse of what may be ahead in our future.

Change is tough, exciting, and challenging. Some rejoice in it. Some run away from it. Yet, whatever the future holds, we know God holds us in His hand. That may be the only thing we can count on, but, as Paul writes, that is "sufficient."

Gridlock, dead lock, or a let's-kick-the-can-down-the-road attitude is not in harmony with God's plan. Sure, we want to assign those traits to others, but I see it in our local churches and in our homes.

We can allow fear to let the future happen to us, or we can plan out of clear focus.

I recently attended a one-day motorcycle-safety course, and the instructors made two points very clear:

1. When making a sharp turn, look to where you want to go.
2. Sometimes putting on the brakes is the fastest way to fall.



So the articles in this issue may frighten you, but that is not our intent. We can lead in making changes, and there are some tools to help. I have read *Switch*, by Dan and Chip Heath, subtitled "How to change when change is hard." I found it very helpful.

Our intent for this issue is to help us see where we want to go and some places we don't. The data are

very clear that men's ministry is a key factor in growing UM churches. This is not a time to brake, but rather a time to move forward with a clear focus on making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Some of our plans include fall webinars, presentations at the quadrennial training event, Jan. 17-19, 2013, in Nashville, and training, worship, hands-on mission work, and great music at the 11th National Gathering of UMM at Belmont University July 12-14, 2013.

I invite you to fully participate in the bright future of UMM.

Gil Hanke



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UM Men

Fall 2012

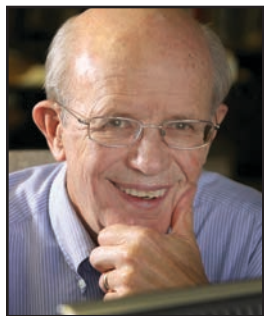
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Editor's note: This magazine includes articles from individuals who hold diverse opinions. We hope all articles are thought provoking; they are not necessarily the opinions of the General Commission on UM Men.



I confess, I selected the topic “What will the ministry of United Methodist Men look like in 2062” because I am positive I won’t be on

this planet and no one can tell me how wrong I was.

While my view of the future in 50 years is foggy, my view of the past is clear.

There were 18,000 chartered Methodist Men organizations in 1962. That may well have been the zenith of charters since there were only 10,000 chartered groups six year earlier in 1956 and only 9,941 five years later in 1967. The number fell even further a year later; in 1968 there were only 4,861 chartered groups of Methodist Men.

Yes—I understand the number of chartered units is only one of many indications of a healthy men’s ministry, but the rising and falling numbers are still indicative of something going very right and very wrong.

If there was that much fluctuation over that 11 year period from 1956 to 1968, one may be certain that the path to 2062 also will not be a straight line projection. Whatever our route to that year, we will write some troublesome and some celebratory chapters.

In 1962, there were 9 million members of the Methodist Church in the United States with an additional 1 million members outside the United States.

Today there are 12.1 million United Methodists, with some 4.4 million members living outside the United States.

Assuming the continued membership growth in Africa and Asia, one could easily project there will be equal numbers of United Methodist in the United States and outside the United States. That eventuality will likely lead the church to move from a U.S.-based structure to a truly international structure in 2062.

Looking back at the world in 1962 is also instructive. This is the year of the Cuban Missile Crisis, a 13-day confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union. President John Kennedy’s decision to establish a military blockade brought both nations close to the terrifying “mutual assured destruction.”

Today, the Soviet Union no longer exists and we may still have some troubling relations with Russia, but we no longer fear a nuclear attack from that nation. Today we are more likely to fear an attack from Iran, North Korea or a rogue state.

Looking 50 years into the future the number of nations with nuclear weapons is likely to increase and so too is the likelihood that some nation will finally use one again.

When you add environmental damage presently inflicted on our planet to the possibility of annihilation by nuclear weapons, one might wonder if humankind will make it to 2062. God has consistently permitted us to reap what we sow.

But, I am convinced that if humankind can avoid a nuclear holocaust and if we can repair the damage already inflicted on mother earth, and if there is an organization of UM Men in 2062, that group of committed Christians will continue to provide ways to enrich the spiritual lives of men in all parts of this planet.

Rich Peck

Where will men's ministry be in 2062?

by Gilbert C. Hanke

When I was invited to write this article, one reality came into focus on May 28, 2012.

You see, I know that in 50 years, I will be long gone, and in 50 years my son will be well into his retirement. But in 50 years, my new granddaughter, Gentry, will be in the prime of her life. What will the church hold for the men of her life?

For the church to be vital in 2062, a decision will need to be made soon that will change its current trajectory. In 2012 we have talked a great deal about structure of the general church, about lay and clergy leadership and about theological education worldwide. Making those adjustments and additions will not guarantee vital churches in 50 years. I believe there is at least one more imperative change that must take place.

Most men in today's church are "doing what is expected." And it is that expectation that has morphed in the last 50 years. Depending on how that expectation changes now, will be the determining factor in men's ministry in the next 50 years. Basically today we accept any relationship a man might

offer to our church. If that means he only comes to worship, and he does it to "fit his schedule" the church accepts that as appropriate and "meeting his needs." Even though we know that the chances of him being disciplined in two hours a month hiding in a congregational setting are dismal, we take what he determines works for him. This behavior will not sustain the church.

So the short answer for this piece is that if expectations are not changed, in 2062 there will be no meaningful men's ministry in any denomination. Men will meet in service organizations and professional organizations or in electronic world-wide discussion groups but the main expectation will be for self-interest and self-promotion. If there are needs in the community (whatever that may look like) those needs will be outsourced to persons who are employed to address those needs. We will not follow Matthew 25; we will have "people" paid to do that.

But let us consider an alternative. What would happen if it became a challenge to be a full member of a church?



For a taste of possibilities we can look at high expectation churches and other organizations today. Whether you strive to be an Eagle Scout (as did my son) or to be a fellow in a national professional association (as I did) part of the drive is to be as Paul states, “set apart.” Part of the drive is to exceed expectations. That is a major drive for men, as well as many women.

There are UM churches growing today that require years of preparation before membership is offered. The church needs to be a place open to all, welcoming to all. But being present in a class doesn’t mean that you learned anything.

What would our ministries look like in 2062 if we stopped counting members and began measuring changes in discipleship behavior? What if all our men’s ministry opportunities had the expectation of moving from ordinary to extraordinary? If we expect little we get little. Men—particularly young men—want to be challenged. In 2062 the Christian walk will be even more counter cultural than it is today; there will be a clear distinction between those who live for self and those who live for Christ.

So a vibrant UMC in 2062 will have high expectations for all its members. I doubt the monthly meetings for gender-specific ministries will look anything like they look today. Most meetings for all the work of the church will be electronic, and small Wesley-style accountability groups will be no exception. Daily devotions will have moved from print to text on cell phones and other devices yet to be conceived.

The Rev. Robert Williams, general secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History, suggests that—as in 1962 and 2012—in 2062, men will gather around food, and some may continue to be content to discuss trivial matters, while others will explore

spiritual matters deeply. The other unifying element will be “direct services to others that make a difference. The value of the experience will determine if someone takes part.”

The Rev. Jay Voorhees, a pastor in the Tennessee Annual Conference, suggests, “The church of 50 years from now will likely look very different from today’s program-oriented church. For men in particular, the movement from programs toward small communities of disciples will be a blessing, for in those groups, men will discover a space in which they can openly share the struggles they face, including the fears that lead them toward destructive behaviors. In these communities, men will discover new ways of expressing faith in which humility and gentleness are not seen as weakness, but rather as expressions of God’s Spirit. In many ways, these groups will look much more like a 12-step recovery group—places where we are able to acknowledge those things that keep us from God with all honesty, and receive the support of others who have wrestled with the same struggles.”


Similar suggestions have been made by other leaders in men’s ministry. David Murrow, author of *Why Men Hate Going to Church*, states, “Jesus gave men three things: great teaching, personal coaching, and a formal structure that ensured their growth. Many churches present good teaching, but almost none offers the kind of mentoring and structure Jesus gave his men.” Murrow suggests a model taken from the Gospel of Luke for men mentoring men as a successful model for the church of the future.

As we struggle with what “community” will look and feel like in 50 years, Bishop James Swanson relates, “If the church is going to be an

attractive place for men 50 years from now (or even now) we need to create opportunities for men to be with men in situations where community among men can develop.

“Men like to hang out with men and it is in that setting that the Holy Spirit speaks to men, inspires men, encourages men and sends signals to men that help them to be emotionally and psychologically comfortable in church. It is at this level that Jesus helped the disciples to feel comfortable, to learn from Him and eventually give up everything to follow Him,” says Swanson.

“We struggle to win men because we discourage camaraderie, development of belonging, group mentality and a shared vision. We will have a thriving men’s ministry 50 years from now if we encourage the development of this where it is absent and expand it where it is already present.”

The keys for success in men’s ministry in 50 years are the keys for us today. Be open and inviting, but with high expectations; a safe community where men can share, grow, mentor and be mentored, seek God, and act out their faith within the larger community through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. 




Gilbert C. Hanke is general secretary of the General Commission on United Methodist Men



How the church can survive and thrive to 2062.

by Bishop William Grove

1. We must get our global structure right. The U.S church must have the same autonomy as the central conferences do now.
2. We must at all levels of the church, understand and commit ourselves to our Wesleyan theology which, among other things, affirms respect for diverse opinions (read John Wesley’s sermon “Catholic Spirit,” which contains the text, “If your heart is as my heart, give me your hand”).
3. We must commit ourselves to Wesleyan spirituality and a new commitment to personal and social holiness. Distrust and cynicism are the toxic opposites of faith and trust. If we cannot find the way past them, they will kill our church. 

Excerpted from an article in the May/June issue of The West Virginia United Methodist.

What will men's ministry look like in 2062?

By Dr. Lew Parks

I offer a hopeful vision in three broad themes. My hope is not based on present trends but on the confidence in our ability as a church to name those trends and stay focused on addressing them. My hope is sustained by a belief that God who created us "male and female" has some truths of differentiated gender identity to give the human race as a blessing through the generations, from the beginning of human history to 2062 and beyond.

1. More men and more active in our congregations. Throughout nearly forty years of ministry I have served in churches where the dominant numbers in worship and the dominant persons in leadership were women. I was of the generation that celebrated the empowerment of women for church leadership. It was a necessary and festive period of gifts discovered and doors open. Fifty years ago, my daughter who is a United Methodist pastor could not have exercised the congregational and connectional leadership roles she does today.

But during that 1962 to 2012 period there was a quiet exodus of men from our congregations. Their absence registered in various ways. The power of the purse was one. The inability to hold young boys beyond a certain age was another. The failure to connect with men and walk with them through the cultural swings of recent decades is another. By 2062 we will have learned how to reconnect with men so they are no longer under-represented in our congregations. We will do this with a

combination of marketing, targeted programming (UMM, Scouting, sports teams), and intentional preaching from the pulpit.

2. More help for men who are primary caregivers or living alone. I am still trying to fathom the congregational development implications of recent census data that found only 21 percent of U.S. households are married couples with children and more than one in three households are persons living alone. Much of my ministry has targeted the nuclear family; but as I look back there are faces of men (and women) who were on the periphery of our congregational life. Sometimes we offered them the so-so blessings of a Christian Singles' group. The implied message was this: "The trouble with you is that you need a good helpmate." Now in the rich biblical tradition of Genesis 2:18, that is not a bad solution; but it is also not the solution for many men today. There are fathers single by death or divorce and/or by choice. There are stay-at-home fathers by choice or because of unemployment. There are sons caring for aging parents who live longer than their resources hold out.

Fifty years from now the flourishing congregation will have learned to do two things well. First, it will have learned how to extend the blessing of a surrogate family to these men as most congregations have done with "the widows" from New Testament times. Congregations will have learned how to share goods, labor, and emotional support with

these men. They will be there for them through the trials of nourishing children or caring for aging parents. Second, congregations will offer more training in life skills that target a male audience such as cooking on the run, talking to one's teenager about sex, or companionship with Alzheimer. This training will offer the theological foundation and motivation not found elsewhere.


3. More men will be giving smaller congregations a second look.

There are some reasonable assumptions behind this. (1) Big isn't for everybody. (2) Persons reach a point in life where they are ready to give themselves away in corporate stories, especially where they can see the fruit of their labor. (3) Both the largest United Methodist congregations (1,000+ average worship attendance) and the smallest (50-or-less average worship attendance) are holding their own at a time when average worship attendance is decreasing in all other sizes. The prognosis is good that both the largest and the smallest congregations will be around in fifty years.

But here is a significant difference: the economic cost of formal church leadership will have a much greater impact on the small congregation. It already has had a profound impact. In recent years many of these congregations have gone from full-time ordained leadership, to full-time licensed leadership, to part-time licensed leadership, to certified lay-

minister leadership. The connectional church (General Conference, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and district committees on ministry) are running hard to adapt to the changing scripts of congregational leadership.

One group's crisis is another person's opportunity. As the connectional church seeks new ways to prepare and sustain formal church leadership, local congregations can use this season to take its own pulse and rediscover its own Spirit-*animated* vitality: the priesthood of all believers, the plethora of spiritual gifts, the creativity of indigenous worship.

Fifty years from now, I see men of all ages, but especially young adults of an entrepreneurial spirit, drawn to this venue precisely because it is unfinished and open to intervention. May it be so, and may they shine when they get there! 



Dr. Parks is professor of theology, ministry, and congregational development, and director of the doctor of ministry program at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC

Len Sweet offers roadmap for the United Methodist Church

UM Men magazine asked Dr. Leonard Sweet about the state of the world in 2062 and the place of the United Methodist Church in that future.

Sweet serves as the E. Stanley Jones professor of evangelism at Drew University, Madison, N.J., and visiting distinguished professor at George Fox University, Portland, Oregon. He has served as vice president of academic affairs and dean of the Theological School at Drew University for five years.

UM Men interviewed Sweet on 24 May, also known as "Aldersgate Day," the 274th anniversary of the day John Wesley said his heart was "strangely warmed" at "about a quarter before nine" while listening to someone read Luther's preface to Paul's Epistle to the Romans.

UM Men: *What will be the role of the United States on the global stage in 2062?*

Sweet: India and China will be thriving super nations and leading the world in arts and sciences. People in the United States are already being operated on by Chinese and Indian surgeons. Another nation that is emerging as a surprising international power is Canada. That nation is now exploring its vast natural resources in the north and is in the midst of a renaissance. Some of the best novelists, musicians, poets, artists, now live in Canada. It already has been awarded "best cheese in the world" ("Cinderella cheese") and the number one place to do business.

The role and place of the United States is uncertain. Our future in 2062 may be similar to the position of France and England in 2012 if we continue on the present trajectory.

UM Men: *What about religion in 2062; will present tension*

between Muslims and Christians increase?

Sweet: We are coming to understand that we must all live on this planet together, and I think we quickly will come out of present tensions between Muslims and Christians.

The major competition in the future will be between the religious and non-religious. The number of people who express no religious preference will grow larger. Religious people will occupy a back corner and the rest of the world will wish they would shut up.

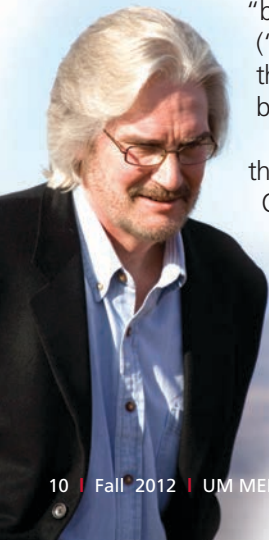
UM Men: *What about the future of the United Methodist Church?*

Sweet: Daniel Pink has observed that the well curve has replaced the bell curve (see sidebar). The middle class is declining and the United Methodist Church is a church of the middle. All middles are in trouble.

The challenge for the church is to tribalize (particularize) in order to globalize (universalize). We need to "make my parish my world" before we can follow John Wesley in saying, "The world is my parish." We need churches to love their zip codes and their heritage—I don't mean love their bishop and polity. I mean churches must know and love people in their community and their "campfire" heritage.

The emergence of the well curve should be good news for neighborhood United Methodist churches. People hunger for the small town—the unique, the artisanal, and the home-made. Just as pedestrian malls have replaced parking malls, so too pedestrian churches will replace large churches. We have a unique history that is based on music and passionate love that connects us to Christ and to one another.

As a part of the well curve, I can imagine a future that has mega churches—such as the million-member churches in Korea—and satellite churches where celebrity preachers will appear as holograms in local churches and homes.



UM Men: *If pastors simply love and minister to people in their zip codes, is there a danger of losing the prophetic edge of the gospel?*

Sweet: When I say love your zip code, I don't mean to confine that love to the people in the church. I'm talking about loving the entire community. How many pastors visit businesses in their communities and ask how they might be helpful?

I don't want pastors to become chaplains to their institutions, that's a role for clergy in prisons and hospices. I want them to be pastors to a missional movement. The form of the church will follow its function.

UM Men: *What will be the role of the denomination in the future?*

Sweet: There can be no role for a denomination that tries to regulate its pastors and churches. No one wants to pay to be regulated; they will pay for resources. We need to replace Robert's Rules of Order with St. Paul's Rules of the Spirit.

UM Men: *What is the future of men's ministry?*


Sweet: I just came from an event in Paris, Ontario called "Pitch & Pray." Thousands of high school students pitched their tents for four

days and I preached every evening at 11 p.m.

American Methodism began with camp meetings—they were the engines of male evangelism. Men like the outdoors; it is a place where they are comfortable and where they are allowed to let their emotions out. Camp meetings were a huge force for keeping men in churches. We need to create ministries like our ancestors did that are male friendly.

While I dislike the term "mission" trip, since all of our life should be a mission trip, micro-mission trips should include all generations in order to connect the younger with the older. Everyone in the future will be coached, and be a coach.

UM Men: *With your advice to return to neighborhood churches and campground meetings, are you suggesting we should return to the past?*

Sweet: I'm saying, we can't drive forward without a rear view mirror. We need to live out of the past – not in the past. In Hebrews 6:18-19 we are told to "lay hold upon the hope set before us: which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast." Here tradition is an anchor we throw out ahead of us (not drop behind us) to help us move into the storm as we winch our way forward, holding on to that "sure and steadfast" rope of hope. 

The bell curve is being turned upside down

by Daniel H. Pink

In the mid-19th century, a few of Europe's finest scientists and mathematicians noticed something peculiar about the way the world organized itself. When they measured large samples of various things such as the price of certain goods over time, the results tended to cluster around an average. When plotted on a chart, the data took the shape of a bell. This bell curve, as it was dubbed, defined "normal distribution."

Although bell curve distribution is still considered normal, a surprising number of economic and social phenomena now seem to follow a different arc. Instead of being high in the center and low on the sides, this new distribution is low in the

center and high on the sides. Call it the well curve.

It's popping up everywhere. Take the size of organizations. Large companies—pairing off like beer-goggled students at a frat party—are becoming gargantuan enterprises. Think HP-Compaq, Citigroup, and AOL Time Warner. Meantime, small enterprises are also proliferating. The US Census Bureau reports record numbers of "non-employer businesses"—teensy firms without any paid employees.

Yet while the big grow bigger and the small multiply, midsize enterprises are waning. The pattern is similar in geopolitics.

The past decade saw the rise of both huge multinational federations (Nafta, the European Union) and tiny secessionist movements and small independent states. But the political entities in the middle—countries such as Italy and Spain, for example—are on the unprecedented brink of losing population. 

A few entries from Jack's future journal

Dr. Thomas Edward Frank predicts what his nephew, Jack, will be writing in his 2062 journal

June 7, 2062

Another gray day – we've had constant overcast in Virginia all year, only one day of sunshine since January. I remember when I was, let's see, 13 years old in 2012 we had lots of hot sunny days around here. Even then people talked about the climate changing because of human pollution, but I thought, how bad can it be? Everybody kept buying stupid stuff that they didn't need and drove all over the place burning gas.

Now the fuel is mostly gone and by law at least four people have to be in a vehicle. Some of my friends have electric cars but I don't know very many people who have their own car. In some ways I think it's good – we need each other more. Our men's group gets together more often for sure, and some of us see each other pretty much every day. Being together helps me remember that God gave me a life to live and I'm going to live it and do what I can for others.

June 9, 2062

Didn't get to write yesterday. It's kind of a blur so many things were happening. Several of us in the men's group were working the garden that we put in some years ago where the church parking lot used to be. Sometimes we laugh that we've gone back to life the way our great-great-grandparents lived it, and I suppose there's some truth in that. Growing food takes a lot of care now that we don't get the clear sunshine much. But we work together and share out of what we grow, and there's enough to distribute around to people who need it.

So yesterday we were working the garden, and then a group of us started repairing the third floor rooms that haven't been used in years. The cornerstone on that wing says "Education Building 1962" but it's not in too bad a shape for 100 years old and we need all the space we can get.

Our whole church complex is really hopping and our men's group does the maintenance to make sure it all works. I used to hear from the old-timers how church attendance started dropping fifty years ago and most of the building was empty most of the week and the church folks couldn't seem to figure out why they were there. I mean, they'd been a congregation in this town for over a hundred years even then, and I guess they felt like maybe the community had gone off and left them. Well that's not a problem now. Heck, we have over 20,000 square feet in this old place and we are using every bit of it.

We've got classes on carpentry and gardening and pottery to help people get more self-sufficient. We've got music lessons and singing groups. All kinds of community groups that need space are using our classrooms; our technology center provides a place for people to work without having to set up a home office; and the kitchen is set up for cooking classes and fixing fresh meals with stuff from our garden for people who can't cook for themselves.

I think the energy and drive for these ministries comes from all these groups at our church that are pretty much doing what John Wesley recommended 300 years ago – having morning and evening prayers, reading scripture together, talking about our


lives and our faith, and the Lord's Supper is offered almost every day and definitely every Sunday. I know for sure that we couldn't live without it.

June 16, 2062

Missed a week in my journal – too hard to write when I'm at conference. I like being a lay member from our church. I've got a book around here somewhere written by my great-uncle Tom early in the century. It was about the United Methodist Church, but that went away over forty years ago. He was still living then, and he told me once that he thought maybe it was a generational thing. His father was a minister in something called The Methodist Church. That lasted about thirty years. Then Uncle Tom was in the UMC and that lasted about fifty years. Now we have the Methodist Church in America (MCA) that started when the UMC broke up. A lot of people thought the UMC was functioning more like a business corporation than a Wesleyan society (those were Uncle Tom's words). So the MCA started out trying to be more, I guess, close-knit is a good word, more based on regular conversations in small groups, and in smaller conferences that meet more often. We still use the term "connection" like he wrote about, and maybe it's even stronger because the Megamet has so many great ways to communicate around the world. So we stay in touch regularly with Methodists in like Africa and Russia even when it's not practical to meet together.

June 17, 2062

I was thinking about Methodism more when I woke up this morning. One time when I was starting to get active in my church and men's group, I asked Uncle Tom what he thought the genius of Methodism was, I mean, just thinking of it as an organization, it has lasted a really long time. He said, "Jack, the genius is that Methodism is local and personal while it also connects people to something bigger beyond themselves." He went on to say that he thought Methodists had always been connection-makers, community-builders, in love with the land and the people, and eager to serve the human community that had grown up in a particular place and make it stronger.

I think he'd be happy in 2062 because whatever "local church" meant back then, our churches are really truly local now--we aren't "involved" in the community like old-timers used to say--we are the community. We've been here 200 years. We can't be separated from the community, and what we do is essential in our local place. At the same time, we are connected all over our region and even with other countries, so we can share resources and ideas and support each other in each place. And I think that's what God is calling us to do--to be the love and mercy of God where we are. 



Dr. Thomas Edward Frank is a history professor at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C. He also teaches leadership courses in

the School of Divinity and courses in the history of American religious institutions.

Men and the church in 50 years

By Kwasi Kena

Look at the historical arc of the church and you'll find a story worthy of the silver screen. There is drama and intrigue, soaring triumph and dangerous detours. Why should we expect anything different over the next 50 years?

In 2062, the church screenplays will be similar to the ones we see playing in Western churches today. Some will continue to work through their latest identity crisis while others will be releasing laity to do purposeful mission and ministry. In the former churches, the male population will shrink—endless debates over theology and policy tend to repel guys. In the latter churches, men of all ages will engage in learn-by-doing Christianity.

Historically, the church regularly remembers and regularly forgets its fundamental purpose—to love God entirely and to love neighbor as we love ourselves.

To refresh our memories, we chase buzz words as if we were in pursuit of the Holy Grail. Think about the trendy church words that came and went over the past five decades: “church-growth movement,” “healthy,” “vital,” “organic,” and “emergent.” We're hovering over the word “missional” now.

The church's penchant for the rediscovery of relevance is predictable.

The 500 year itch

Phyllis Tickle, author of *The Great Emergence*, quotes Episcopal Bishop Mark Dyer who says, “About every 500 years the church feels compelled to have a giant rummage sale.” By this, Tickle explains, the church engages in a theological upheaval over such topics as: the authority of scripture, the purpose of the church, the activity of the Holy Spirit, the role of women, the role of laity, and who can or cannot do something.

Beneath the upheaval, Tickle reminds us, grassroots believers increasingly turn to Jesus and believe that what he said, he meant. Quietly, groups of Christians travel along the following trends:

Ministry in community

People will do more things communally. This makes good biblical sense. Jesus had the twelve disciples, and sent other disciples out two by two. I need to add a word of caution here. Adherents to the communal approach to Christian faith and practice (the new monasticism) will tell you this is not for everyone. A small percentage of a local congregation may enter this disciplined lifestyle—and then only for a season in their lives. Nonetheless, this expression of Christianity is on the rise.

Dr. Elaine Heath, associate professor of evangelism at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, now invites seminary students into new-day communities—a type of modern-day monastic experience. These students live in community and serve their surrounding neighborhood. They order their lives by adhering to a Rule of Life they compose. A Rule of Life is not a series of prohibitive regulations, it outlines the reasons for living. The rule expresses how participants will love God and neighbor in practical, explicit terms.

Selfless service

Some young people are now embracing “downward mobility” by choosing to live in impoverished neighborhoods to improve the lives and living conditions of the poor. Reggie McNeal, author of *Missional Renaissance* cites a *New York Times* magazine article titled, “Giving It Away” as an example of a current phenomenon—people determined to share their wealth and make a difference. That's happening in the secular

world. Why not in the church?

Men who value working together in community and men who want to make a difference will participate in selfless service initiated by like-minded Christians.

Agile and spontaneous

The future church will be much more agile and spontaneous. The virtual, online world will provide 24/7 faith development: devotions on the go, interactive Bible study, live-streamed worship, and instant-message prayer requests or ministry opportunities. With a click or a tap, Christians will learn how to stay connected with the Body of Christ locally and globally.

Young people love gadgets. Because they live in the virtual world daily, churches that have a dynamic, meaningful presence in cyberspace will increase their chances of attracting young men.

Men learn by doing

The views of David Murrow, author of *Why Men Hate Going to Church*, remain relevant. Murrow says men don't want to come to church to learn to be nice. Imagine Elijah, John the Baptist, Peter, or Paul coming to your church. Would they want to serve as an usher or sit on a committee and follow Roberts Rules of Order? What do churches offer to engage the rough and tumble types of men?


Men want and need to be involved with hands-on Christianity. Too often our church culture prefers studying and gathering information about God, the Bible or ministry, but fails to provide practical venues for experiencing faith in real life. Christianity flourishes when churches focus on "how to live" instead on "what to believe." Churches that urge members to make a difference in people's lives through short-time, practical ministries will attract men.

A word to clergy

A major key to creating a church culture relevant to men is the pastor. I suggest the following to clergy.

First, don't focus on "what to believe" to the neglect of describing "how to live." Scholars reason that the shift in seminary education away from spiritual theology to a more academic approach to ministry contributes to the strong emphasis on belief. Spiritual theology, which has attracted growing attention, focuses on teaching clergy how to experience and lead others in the basics of loving God and neighbor. I encourage clergy to rediscover the role of spiritual guide and leader by reading works provided in the resource list on the following page. Men need the practical faith not theoretical musings.

Second, when the function of clergy in the Methodist Church shifted from circuit rider to stationed professional pastor, the level of lay involvement in ministry diminished. A great resource aimed at mobilizing laity is *Heartbeat! How to Turn Passion into Ministry in Your Church* by Charles Arn. The author outlines a process by which laity initiate, launch, and maintain ministry that engages the unchurched.

In summary, men need to see and experience practical, accessible, and relevant Christian faith. Some churches and some small pockets of Christians are exploring this type of faith now. Look, learn, and launch practical ministries and you too will set the pace for the future. 



The Rev. Dr. Kwasi Kena, former director of evangelism at the General Board of Discipleship, now serves on the faculty of the Wesley Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion,

Ind. Prior to his work with the Board of Discipleship, he served as a staff executive with the General Commission on UM Men.



RECOMMENDED READING

The Great Emergence

by Phyllis Tickle

Missional Renaissance: Changing the Scorecard for the Church

by Reggie McNeal

Missional Communities: The Rise of the Post-Congregational Church

by Reggie McNeal

Longing for Spring: A New Vision for Wesleyan Community

by Scott Kisker and Elaine Heath

Why Men Hate Going to Church

by David Murrow

Heartbeat! How to Turn Passion into Ministry in Your Church

by Charles Arn

Spiritual Theology

by Diogenes Allen

Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places: A Conversation in Spiritual Theology

by Eugene Peterson

The Contemplative Pastor: Returning to the Art of Spiritual Direction

by Eugene Peterson

humor

Read Mark 17

A minister told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17."

The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Every hand went up. The minister smiled and said, "Mark has only 16 chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."



Denominations face major reset

By Lovett Weems Jr.

Most congregations know the financial squeeze of recent years from the economic recession. What is more striking is that the financial downturn for denominations is even more pronounced long lasting. Recent developments in the UMC may serve as a bellwether for others. As Loren Mead recently noted, it was Methodists in 1966 that for the first time ever had a decrease in membership that signaled a downturn soon matched by all the mainline denominations.

Fewer people giving more money

As membership decreased over the decades, giving continued to increase even after factoring in inflation. Every year, fewer people gave more money. That model worked for a long time. For United Methodists it lasted until 2009. In fact, for a 30-year period through 2007, annual total giving for all purposes by United Methodists increased from \$100 to \$300 million (before inflation). In 2008, the increase was a modest \$4.8 million. Then, for the first time in the memory of most, total giving declined in 2009 by about \$60 million. Does this begin to sound like another bellwether moment?

The coming death tsunami

But won't denominations return to the previous performance when the economy improves? Not likely.

The practice of depending on fewer people to provide more money is unsustainable in the face of the coming "death tsunami." The U.S. death rate is currently in a stable period that began in 2003 and is projected to continue until 2018. But what follows this plateau is a death wave in which there will be more deaths and a higher death rate than at any time since the widespread introduction of antibiotics and other medical advances.

The total number of deaths each year will go up until 2050, and the majority of these deaths will be older non-Hispanic whites and African Americans, the two largest constituencies of mainline churches.

Resetting the financial baseline

Therefore, a major financial reset is needed by most denominations to position them for these seismic changes ahead. As with any organization facing the future after 45 years of unabated decline in its constituency, there must be a stepping back to a new and lower baseline in order to move forward.

Otherwise, all energy must go to maintaining the old unrealistic financial baseline.

The purpose of resetting the financial baseline is to free the preoccupation *from* money to reaching people for Christ through vital congregations. The criteria that matter going forward must be around reaching people, and the whole system needs alignment toward that goal. Money is a lagging indicator. We reset in order to return to the basics on which all giving depends—changed lives and transformed communities. There is no future for U.S. denominations that cannot reach more people, younger people, and more diverse people.

The death tsunami is coming. If it sweeps over a church already stretched to its limits to survive financially year by year, the result could be catastrophic.

However, if it comes to a church that has reset its baseline and demonstrated the ability to begin growing, then the losses will occur, but will not deter the “field of energy” already moving in the denomination. Such a church will not only survive but come out on the other side as a growing, missional, and spiritually alive instrument of God.

The time to make choices is now—while there are still choices to be made. Otherwise, circumstances will make the choices for us in the future.



Dr. Lovett H. Weems Jr. is director of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership.

Give new devotional books to first responders

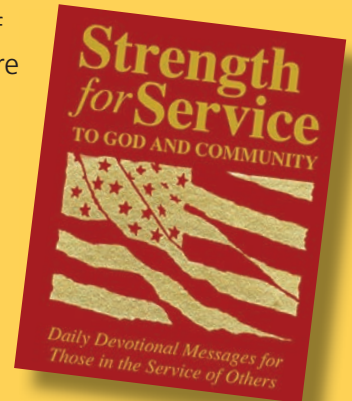
Your UMM organization may want to give copies of a new book of daily devotions to police officers, fire fighters, EMT workers and other first responders.

Strength for Service, the organization that supported the re-release of the historic *Strength for Service to God and Country* for members of the armed services, has created *Strength for Service to God and Community*, a book for public servants in your communities.

Check on the date of availability and prices at the www.strengthforservice.org website.

At the same website you will also find information about the historic *Strength for Service to God and Country*.

Your organization may support the effort to provide free books to members of the military through the website or the Advance Fund (No.3021221). Federal employees may support the effort through the Combined Federal Campaign (No. 45689).



How to engage in men's ministry in 2062

By the Rev. Tom Albin

Don grew up in a Christian home and regularly attended church as a boy from the time of his birth in 1962.

All of his friends went to church of one kind or another; and, his high school team prayed to God in the locker room before each game.

The men of Don's church met monthly for a meal and inspiring speaker who would give them practical advice about some aspect of Christian life. The stream of cultural Christianity was wide, if not deep, and it all flowed in the same direction.

Business men, doctors, lawyers and farmers all got to know each other at church, discussed future business opportunities at church dinners and made decisions about how they would vote at the next school board election or county council meeting.

Christian values, virtues and practices were the norm. Divorce was rare, adultery was uncommon (or at least not talked about) and the vices of lying, stealing and cheating received a negative response from the larger "Christian" community.

Things have changed

In 2012 the stream of cultural Christianity has dried up in most parts of the USA. Men who depended on those waters to carry them and their families into the future are sitting in a boat with no motor, no oars and no water. They are stuck and frustrated, desperately hoping that if they wait long enough the tide will come in or the rain will refresh the river.

In many parts of the USA, the river has not only dried up, it has changed course and is flowing the opposite direction. Fewer men go to church, a prayer in the high school locker room will result in a court case, very few men will come to a breakfast or dinner

meeting to hear an interesting speaker, and more community decisions take place at the country club or the local tavern than at the poorly attended meal for UM Men.

Today, Don is grieving the loss of many things he relied on.

What will it be like in 2062?

If Don continues to grieve the loss of the Christian culture of 1962, he will not be able to find his way into the future.

As the developed nations move from mechanical to digital (home phones replaced by mobile phones, postal mail replaced by email, calculators replaced by computers, analogue TV replaced by HD, desktop machines replaced by the internet "cloud," etc.), the religious culture is shifting from "pro-Christian" to "un-Christian" and, many say we are moving rapidly toward "anti-Christian."

Don will be wise to look for help in the early church, when Christians were a persecuted minority, instead of the centuries after Constantine (313AD) when Christianity was the approved religion of the state. We have come full circle: from persecuted to privileged and back to persecuted.

I believe the best days of ministry with men are ahead.

By 2062 things will be similar to the time when Jesus called Peter, James and John. Discipleship (the call to follow Jesus) will include a call to apostolic mission (being sent out in Jesus' name). The first Christians went preaching, teaching and discipling others, man-to-man, house-to-house, city-to-city, with the real possibility of being, arrested, harmed, persecuted, and killed.

Jesus' ministry with men in the early church engaged real issues and real people in a difficult context. He took his disciples with him as he engaged in the work God

gave him to do. He did not utilize a classroom or a synagogue as the primary setting for his ministry with men.

But Don needs to do seven things in order to become an effective disciple maker in 2062:

1. First, Don needs to respond to the invitation to costly Christian discipleship, accepting Jesus as both Savior and Lord. This is more than a casual assent to membership in a Christian club or church. It is an active response to the call of Jesus to take up your cross and follow him—day-by-day, hour-by-hour, week-by-week. It is trusting in Jesus Christ alone for salvation; AND, it is also committing to his lordship and mission—to make disciples who can teach others also. The goal of every disciple is to make other disciples (Matthew 28:18-20). In other words, the goal of every Christian man is to become a spiritual father and grandfather.
2. In order to be effective in men's ministry, Don needs a spiritual guide or mentor, someone more spiritually mature than he is and someone willing to teach him: beginning with the basic spiritual disciplines of worship, prayer, searching the scriptures, the Lord's Supper, family prayer and small group leadership. Then going on to more mature issues like the "meat" of the Word, spiritual discernment, spiritual maturity and spiritual reproduction.
3. Don will need a 3-6-person team to pray for him as he grows, matures, serves, leads and disciples others. Jesus is on our prayer team right now, interceding for Don at the right hand of God. However, he also needs other Christians praying with him and for him so he might be fruitful and multiply.

4. Don needs to regularly meet with a small, committed group of Christians for prayer, support, and mutual accountability. No man can be effective without some form of small group with confidentiality, trust, maturity, and enough respect to allow its members to "speak the truth" to one another in love.
5. Don will also need to connect with a larger body of Christ, where the Word of God is faithfully proclaimed and the sacraments regularly offered. It is important not to confuse the unique roles of the church (the gathered community) and, the small group (where Christian discipleship takes place). Jesus regularly participated in both; the same was true for John and Charles Wesley, and is true today.
6. Don needs intentional involvement with people outside the Christian community. Jesus invested time with sinners and tax collectors; so must we. Every man needs to be active in some club, sport, or organization that brings him into regular contact with non-Christians; otherwise, we are hiding our light under a basket.
7. The final thing Don needs to be effective is an intentional participation in the life of Jesus. Daniel Wolpert reminds us, "A life with God is a life in which the rhythms of silence and listening alternate with the rhythms of sharing and service." (*Creating a Life with God* p. 159).



*The Rev. Tom Albin
is dean of The Upper
Room Ministries and
Ecumenical Relations*

From memory to vision in mission work

By Thomas Kemper

Our United Methodist mission, theology, and practice are in transition.

We have significantly moved from “memory”—the colonial/empire model of Edinburgh 1910—to an emerging vision where the universal gospel is held and shared in diverse cultural forms. To support my thesis, I offer these five propositions:

Equality.

Equality is a hallmark of the new series of regional and topical mission roundtables we have launched at the General Board of Global Ministries. The principle is no longer that of whoever has the most money calls the shots. We are leaving that era in favor of one of mission trust and collaboration.

Everywhere to everywhere missionaries

We are making significant strides in moving away from the colonial model in which missionaries were white Europeans and Americans. Today, missionaries are from everywhere to everywhere, as was famously said at the 2010 Edinburgh Missionary Conference. Today, we are commissioning missionaries from 11 countries. Almost 50 percent of our international missionaries are now from outside the United States.

Partnerships.

We are forging genuine partnerships that avoid replication of ministries and taking our cues from the priorities of indigenous Christians. The importance of listening to the people of any particular place was dramatic in the Act of Repentance we experienced at General Conference. As a church, we have often ignored the spiritual capacity and wisdom of people outside of Western culture.

Strengthening churches.

We are developing missionaries and mission volunteers in ways that complement and enhance partner efforts, except in situations of genuine

pioneer missions, such as Southeast Asia, Mongolia, and several regions of Africa. Our scholarships and leadership development grants are no longer just for individual scholars but are designed to complement and undergird church priorities, such as the current four focus areas. Several of the recently commissioned missionaries received parts of their education through World Communion offering or other study grants provided by the Board of Global Ministries.

Intra-Methodist and ecumenical work.

We are promoting intra-Methodist and ecumenical efforts in mission and ministry. Two emerging examples are new offices in Hong Kong and the Holy Land.

The Hong Kong mission gives testimony to our commitment to mission in China and other parts of Asia. The office is being organized in close collaboration with the Methodist Church of Hong Kong.

The Jerusalem office is a joint project of Global Ministries, the British Methodist Church, and the World Methodist Council. It will also cooperate closely with the World Council of Churches' Jerusalem Center. One major objective of this office is to help Methodist pilgrims to the Holy Land experience the realities and challenges of Palestinian Christians, whose numbers are being reduced by political and economic factors. Our pilgrims need to experience “living stones”—faithful Christians in a troubled land, as well as the archeologists' stones.



Dr. Thomas Kemper is the top executive of the UMC's General Board of Global Ministries. This article is adapted from remarks he made at the Friends of Mission Luncheon on

April 29 in Tampa, Fla., during General Conference.

A midsummer nightmare

by Bishop Woodie W. White

There is nothing quite like an early summer storm. We thought the rain would never end. My wife and I talked late into the night with the rain pounding against our bedroom window.

For some reason our late-night conversation turned to the recent General Conference. The conference has become a quadrennial rhythm of our married life. I was a delegate to five, and for the first time since 1964, I did not attend the recent one. So we talked about the future of our church.

Our roots are deep in Methodism; she is a fourth generation New England Methodist, and my family (maternal and paternal) are Eastern Shore Maryland Methodists dating back to before the founding of our home church in 1865. A faithful remnant still worships on the original site.

The rain stopped. The storm ended, and sleep came. So did morning.

I prepared for my early morning walk with my dog, Buddy, and was stunned at how green and lush everything looked following the rain. As I walked along the familiar wooded paths, it seemed trees had grown taller overnight.

I have a favorite spot where I sometimes sit, overlooking a tiny creek. However, even it seemed larger with streams of water cascading over familiar rocks. Soon a friendly stranger joined me. He looked at me curiously. But quickly we began a conversation and I learned he was United Methodist.

When I told him I was a retired United Methodist bishop, I was

unprepared for his response.

"Well you're certainly rare," he said.

I wasn't sure what he meant, so I asked him to explain. "We don't have many African Americans in The United Methodist Church anymore, and I am not sure if we have any who are bishops."

I quickly corrected him, citing the names of more than six active bishops, before he stopped me, and gave me a sudden jolt.

"What are you talking about mister? That was a long time ago."

Now confused, I began to fear that some form of dementia had set in, so I asked him what was the date.

His response, "Why it's Saturday, June 23rd, 2062."

How could that be, Kim and I were just discussing the 2012 General Conference last night. It was Friday, June 22, 2012. There was a late storm. All these thoughts were racing through my mind. What was happening to me? How could 50 years have passed overnight? Was I having a vision? Was I delusional?

Yet, everything seemed so ordinary, so natural. The man seemed so real.

I began to question, my fellow Methodist, "What do you mean, Methodism has few African Americans?"

"Well frankly it's closer to none," was his response. He went on, "Actually, though our population is very racially and ethnically diverse here in Georgia and the nation. The United Methodist Church is just about all white. It is a bit baffling—in a country where white people are now in the minority—for us to

have so few persons of color in the church.”

I reminded him of the growth the church has experienced in Africa and in the Philippines.

Then he informed me that what I had known as central conferences were no longer part of The United Methodist Church. In fact, there was now a United Methodist Church of Africa, of Europe, and of the Philippines—each a separate denomination.

“The bodies come together every five years in a non-legislative gathering, for a time of worship and celebration,” he said. “The United Methodist Church is now confined to the United States, with no membership outside.”

Bewildered and growing more confused, I said, “That might make The United Methodist Church membership a bit smaller. We had some 12 million members worldwide, and more than 7 million in the United States.”

“You’re talking about the glory days, sir.” He went on, “But, we are doing better than some denominations.”

“We’re actually holding our own—with a little under 3 million members now. But, we are active and vital in the communities where we are located.”

I was eager to ask more questions, but I could see my new friend was anxious to leave

and continue his walk.

I was becoming more frightened and confused and wondered what had happened to me, and what had happened to my church.

“One last question...,” but I did not get a chance to ask it.

“See you sir. Nice talking to you.” And he was gone.

I guess, I had stayed too long on my early morning walk because Kim, had come looking for me. I heard her calling, “Woodie. . . Woodie.”

I responded in a loud voice, “Yes, here I am.”

It was then I awoke.

“What were you dreaming?” Kim asked. “You were talking in your sleep.”

I simply responded,

“I had a nightmare”. 



Bishop Woodie W. White serves as the bishop in residence at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta. He was elected to the episcopacy in 1984 while serving as the top staff executive of the General Commission on Religion and Race. He served as president of the Council of Bishops (1996-1997).

The top ten reasons a United Methodist man can't play baseball

10. Doesn't practice all week, but expects to start on game day.
9. Gets upset when every ball that's hit doesn't come directly to him.
8. Never swings at a pitch because, “this pitcher doesn't throw like the last pitcher. The game's just not the same since he left.”
7. Wants to run home before going to first base.
6. Chatters in order to keep his own teammates from hitting the ball.
5. Doesn't come to the game unless the coach personally calls him on the phone, each week, and invites him to show up.
4. Won't run after the ball if it's more than three feet away. After all, surely somebody will get it sooner or later.
3. Thinks baseball cleats are for leaving neat designs on his teammates' backs.
2. Gets upset because the phone line to the bull pen doesn't have call waiting. If it did, he could gripe about how bad the pitcher is doing, and yet never miss out if someone wanted to talk about the catcher.
1. Thinks the game will last so long, that the concession stand will be closed before it's over.

humor

UM Men lead effort to restore Baltimore cemetery

BALTIMORE, Md.—

United Methodist Men joined a community celebration of the conclusion of a four-year effort to restore a historic cemetery established in 1872 as “The City of the Dead for Colored People.”

At a rainy May 14 celebration of the restored cemetery, Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley said he remembers passing the site in 1999 and asking, “What is all that over there?” The site was indiscernible as a cemetery housing 48,000 graves of African Americans.

Now called the Mount Auburn Cemetery, the 34-acre site is owned by Sharp Street UMC, and it contains the



Sherman Harris, a leader of Baltimore-Washington Conference UM Men and the leader of the effort to restore the Auburn Cemetery, views the results of four years of work.



Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley speaks to the assembly celebrating the restored cemetery.

graves of Bishop Edgar A. Love, Bishop A.C. Hughes, Lillie Carroll Jackson, a civil-rights activist; John Henry Murphy, the founder of an Afro-American newspaper; William Ashby Hawkins, the first African American to run for the U.S. Senate; Louise Young, the first African-American woman physician in Maryland, and Joseph Gaines, the

first African-American U.S. lightweight boxing champion.

Sherman Harris, a leader of UM Men in the Baltimore-Washington Conference, led the effort to restore the historic cemetery in 2008. He recalls the project began on a Saturday with 12 UM Men wielding machetes, chain saws and long-handle clippers. That initial effort was later supported by workdays sponsored by Smith Chapel UMC, 40 pastors of the Baltimore-Washington Conference, and members of the Baltimore Region Discipleship team.

The renewal project took a huge step forward when the Rev. Douglas Sands, chairman of the Mt. Auburn Cemetery Corporation and the Rev. Del Hinton, pastor of Sharp Street UMC asked the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services for help from inmates. With help from former Baltimore Police Commissioner Frederick Bealfeld III, the project was approved.

The inmates completed about 85 percent of the work, including the

Jesus wins computer competition



A large crowd, including Bishop John R. Shol, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rowling Blake and other church, state and city officials attend the May 14 celebration.

restoration of a 12-foot iron gate and a fence that surrounds the cemetery. Members of Sharp Street UMC would occasionally bring food to the inmates while they worked, and the inmates would attend services at the church.

Since September of 2008, 41 inmates worked more than 2,400 days clearing 300 dumpsters full of trees, weeds and debris.

Rowling Blake, secretary of the department, attended the May 14 celebration along with several of the inmates that helped restore the cemetery.

The future of the cemetery appears bright. Sharp Street UMC is developing a maintenance plan and will establish a columbarium for cremated remains.

Tegeler Monuments is restoring headstones, and Morgan State University will utilize global positioning systems to determine if the headstones are aligned correctly. 

Jesus and Satan were having an on-going argument about who was better on the computer. They had been going at it for days, and frankly God was tired of hearing all the bickering.

Finally fed up, God said, "THAT'S IT! I have had enough. I am going to set up a test that will run for two hours, and from those results, I will judge who does the better job."

Satan and Jesus sit down at the keyboards and type away.

They moused. They faxed. They e-mailed. They e-mailed with attachments. They downloaded. They did spreadsheets. They wrote reports. They created labels and cards. They created charts and graphs. They did some genealogy reports.

Jesus worked with heavenly efficiency and Satan was faster than hell.

Then, ten minutes before their time was up, lightning suddenly flashed across the sky, thunder rolled, rain poured, and, of course, the power went off.

Satan stared at his blank screen and screamed every curse word known in the underworld.


Jesus just sighed.

Finally the electricity came back on, and each of them restarted their computers. Satan started searching frantically, screaming, "It's gone! It's all gone! I lost everything when the power went out!"

Meanwhile, Jesus quietly started printing out all of his files from the past two hours of work.

Satan became irate.

"Wait!" he screamed. "That's not fair! He cheated! How come he has all his work and I don't have any?"

God shrugged and said, "JESUS SAVES." 

World War II vet gives same devotional book to grandsons

DE SOTO, Mo. —

Paul Adams, 86, a World War II Navy flight engineer and mechanic who carried *Strength for Service to God and Country*, gave updated versions of the same book to two grandsons serving in the military.



Paul Adams



Paul Adams as World War II Navy flight engineer and mechanic

Grandsons Mark Hurd, stationed in Afghanistan, and Major Chris Weaton, a U.S. Air Force pilot, are now reading the same devotions originally addressed to World War II troops.

Adams served aboard a PB (PB for patrol bomber, Y for consolidated) that accompanied ship convoys across the Atlantic in the early years of the war.

"I didn't get involved in too much trouble and never saw any subs," said Adams. "But we were there if needed." Adams says some flights lasted 20 hours.

"I weighed 110 pounds and had a 30 inch waist," said Adams. "I don't want to say what the measurements are now."

Adams recalls reading from the *Strength for Service* book and wanted to make certain that Cpl. Mark Hurd, now serving in Afghanistan and Major Chris Weaton, a B1 and EC 130 pilot, also have the same chance to receive assurance and inspiration from the same book. Chris' wife Amy, was also in the Air Force, but is now


a civilian raising two adopted boys.

After his military service, Adams enrolled in the Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics under the G.I. Bill. After graduating from the institute in 1949, Adams studied aerospace engineering at the Brayton School in St. Louis. One month after graduation, Adams was designing hydraulics on F84Fs.

Adams says he worked closely with the mechanics. "I believe mechanic training should be a requirement for pilots and engineers, as this equips them to do a better job," says Adams.

In 1957 he worked at Douglas Aircraft and in 1958 he moved to the McDonnell Aircraft where he worked on the F-4, F-15, and F-18. He retired from McDonnell in 1981 after the death of Mr. James S. McDonnell.

He then moved to Lockheed-Martin where he worked on the Space Shuttle launch at Vandenberg Air Force Base until the Challenger disaster. In 1986, he worked at Northrop on the B-2 and A-12 until his 1989 retirement.

During all this time, Adams was active in local churches and he partnered with the Man in the Mirror ministries from 2002 to 2010. 



Corporal Mark Hurd, grandson of Paul Adams, now stationed in Afghanistan



Major Chris Weaton in cockpit of EC-130

In Memoriam

Leland McKeown, 83, past president of the UM Men of Florida Annual Conference and past president of UM Men of First UMC, Brooksville, Fla., and past president of the former Leesburg District UM Men, died May 28.



He was the first man in Florida Conference to be elected as a fellow in the John Wesley Society and he held numerous leadership positions in First UMC of Brooksville.

He graduated from Hernando High in 1946 where he was captain of the 1945 football team and was selected to the All-Conference team.

During the Korean War, he served in the 103rd Naval Construction Company in Guam and played football as a Seabee (1950-1952). He married his childhood neighbor and playmate, Barbara Breen in 1952, opened and managed the Men's Quality Shop of Brooksville (1953-1958), worked for JC Emerson (1958-1960) and worked as a State Farm agent from 1960-1981.

He is survived by Barbara, his wife of 60 years, their son and daughter-in-law: Leland P. and Sue Jacobsen McKeown of Wilmore, Ky., and their four children and two daughters-in-law: his daughter and son-in-law: Marilyn McKeown and Dan Clark of Brooksville, Fla., and their three children.

Jack McGee, 82, former president of the North Texas Conference UM Men, died July 22, 2012 following a life of service to others.

"Jack was a guiding inspiration for UMen in the North Texas Conference. I shall not easily forget his kindness," said Tom Hull, who succeeded McGee as president.

McGee served as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict and was a 1954 graduate of the University of Oklahoma.

In 1954 he opened one of the first Dairy Queen franchises in the Southwest. He was appointed postmaster by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1956, a position he held until his 1989 retirement.

Loyal to the UMC for more than 60 years, he chaired the Administrative Council and taught Sunday school in Wetumka, and served on the Oklahoma Conference Boards of Evangelism and Communications, and Board of Trustees for the Oklahoma Boy's Ranch. In Irving he was active in the life of First UMC and served on the board of Promise House, a home for at-risk youth in Dallas. Under his leadership of UM Men, the conference gave \$150,000 to Promise House.



Leader of military ministry cherishes her father's book of daily devotions

CHESAPEAKE, Va. —

Cathy Disher, affiliated with Military Missions Network, has always had a special appreciation for men and women serving in the military.

Her father was a Marine who served in Korea in the 1950s, and her U.S. Army (National Guard) nephew served in Iraq, 2003-2004.

While her nephew was in Iraq, Disher sent him a birthday present ~ a pewter shield on dog tags with a passage from the first chapter of Joshua: "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

Disher's father Howard Richard Disher, died November 9, 2003. Her nephew chose to share the Joshua passage at the eulogy.

The following year Disher's stepmother sent

her several items belonging to her father, among them was one of the original copies of *Strength for Service to God and Country*, a book her father received from his mother and father while he was stationed at Parris Island, S.C., in 1945.

"I never knew my father possessed


this book, and it is now one of my greatest treasures," she said.

"After I received the book, I immediately turned to the meditation for November 9, the day my father died.

"The scripture reading was Joshua 1:9; the very same passage I shared with my nephew and that he shared at my father's funeral. Amazing, simply amazing!"

Disher is a graduate of Michigan State University (B.A. in music/music therapy), Southeastern Bible College (B.A. in biblical studies) and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div. in biblical counseling).

She has always felt a call to a ministry to the military, and while she was studying at the Baptist seminary in Louisville, she worked with "Operation Appreciation" at Fort Knox, KY and served as a Chaplain Student intern at the Robley Rex Veterans Hospital in Louisville, KY. These experiences served to deepen her love for military ministry.

In January, she became affiliated with the Military Missions Network, a network of evangelical churches, chaplains, and para-church ministries ministering to military members and families worldwide. 



Cathy Disher



*Howard Richard Disher,
Cathy's father*

I stepped into my closet to pick out my clothes for the day.

"What will it be today, sir?" asked Jesus, scaring the daylights out of me.

"Oh, uh, good morning, Lord," I said, breathless from having been startled.

"I'm here to help you get dressed."

"Help me get dressed? Thanks—I appreciate it. My fingers do have a tough time with buttons, and tying a tie is as though I'm in slow motion."

"That's not what I mean."

"Oh. What do you mean then?"

"Well, we could put on your Batman cape, or maybe you should go as Superman today."

"Batman...Superman...what?"

"Oh, I found your old band uniform from college. I even tried it on. I look pretty good in it, if I do say so myself."

"I'll bet."

"You know, I'll bet it was fun playing the tuba in the college marching band. We didn't have a marching band when I was growing up. We didn't even have a football team."

"No football team?"

"Nope. Think about it. What's your nickname for the football?"

"We call it a pigskin."

"Right. That wouldn't have gone over well in first century Israel."

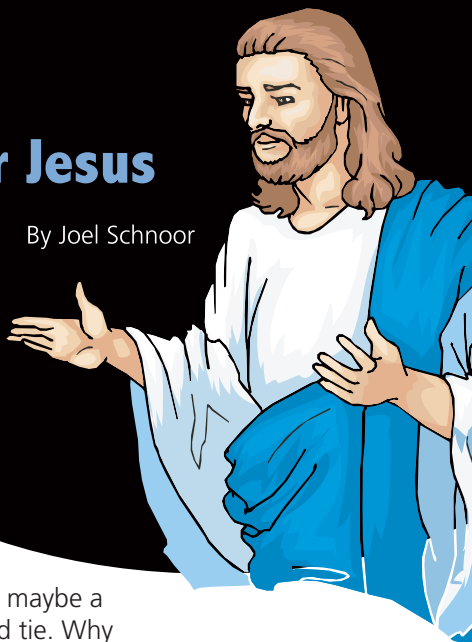
"I suppose not. But you're not really here to talk about football and marching bands, are you?"

"You are astute this morning. So what costume do you want to wear?"

"It's Sunday. I thought I'd get dressed for church—you know, church

My butler Jesus

By Joel Schnoor



clothes, maybe a coat and tie. Why would I need a special costume?"

"Oh, I don't know. Your persona seems to change on Sundays. You're a different person. It's as though you are Bruce Wayne, sliding down the bat pole and turning into Batman; it's as though you are Clark Kent, stepping into the phone booth and turning into Superman. When your car pulls into the church parking lot, you assume your mega-Sunday-hero identity."

Ouch. That stung.

"Am I really that different on Sundays than I am the rest of the week?"

"Let me ask you this. In the office, what would people say about you if you weren't around?"

"All modesty aside, I think they'd say I'm a nice guy. I have a Bible on my desk and I participate in a Bible study at work, so people know I go to church."

"That's fair. What about people who don't know you?"

"What do you mean? People who don't know me, don't know me."

"Tell me about last night."

"Last night? I grilled burgers for dinner, and I steamed up a head of

broccoli to go with it.”

“No, I mean before that, on your way home from the grocery store.”

“I stopped for gas.”

“Yes. What did you notice at the gas station?”

“The gas prices are outrageous.”

“What else?”

“What do you mean?”

“Was there anybody else there?”

Was there anybody who could have used your help?”

“No, I don’t think...oh, wait. Well, there was a car there with its hood open, and some guy was looking at it.”

“What was the problem with it?”

“They thought the starter had died.”

“How do you know that?”

“The gas pump receipt didn’t come out, and the little ‘See Attendant’ sign came on. I had to walk right by the car as I went into the office to get my receipt.”

“Yes, that’s true. It was no accident that the receipt didn’t come out of the machine. What else did you hear?”

“Well, I heard one man say that an auto parts store down the road was still open. They just needed a way to get the part. It’s not really a big deal. I’ve replaced starters before.”

“Maybe it wasn’t a big deal to you, but they didn’t have the part,” said Jesus, softly.

“They didn’t ask me to help.

Besides, I was in a hurry.”

“Hurry? Why?”

“I had to get dinner on the table.”

“True, your wife and kids expected dinner on time.”

“Well, they’re out of town this weekend.”

“Oh, they are?”

“Yes, but...you already knew that.”

“What would you have done if the person at the gas station was your buddy Larry?”

“I would have helped him in a heartbeat.”

“You didn’t know this guy, though.”

“No, I didn’t. I guess I could have helped.”

“Now, tell me about the grocery store.”

“Ground beef was on sale.”

“Tell me about the check-out line.”

“Oh, that was a mess. There was this lady who was in front of me, and she didn’t have enough money to pay for her groceries.”

“Tell me about her.”

“I didn’t know her.”

“Tell me about her,” he repeated.

“Well, okay. I could tell by the way she dressed that she probably wasn’t very well off.”

“She wasn’t very well off?”

“Okay, maybe that’s an understatement. In fact, she looked quite poor.”

“Anything else?”

“Well, her hair was kind of disheveled. Her hands were dirty and gnarled. She was distraught because somehow she had miscalculated the grocery bill and she was \$10 short.”

“She was \$10 short.”

“Yes. If she had been a dollar or two short, I could have helped her out. Ten bucks is a lot of money though, even these days.”

“Do you remember two years ago, when you got laid off?”

“I’ll never forget that experience! It was rough going for a while.”

“How so?”

“For a month or two there, we had difficulty even paying for groceries.”

“How’d you make it through?”

“Someone at church—an anonymous donor—gave us \$200. Boy, that was a God-send.”

“Yes it was. This woman at the grocery store last night though...it would have been quite the hardship for

you to help her out, even with a ten dollar bill in your pocket.”

“Yes, it...hey, so you knew about the ten dollars in my pocket.”

“Yes, of course. But I’m sure you really needed the 12-pack of soda that you bought at the gas station with that ten dollar bill.”

I was overwhelmed by a feeling of conviction. “I blew it, didn’t I, Jesus? I had an opportunity to help two people and I screwed it up.”

“Well, yeah, but it’s more than that. There will always be people who need help. There will always be the poor. Last night, though, was an opportunity to witness to two people who need to see God’s love, two people who could have been brought into the kingdom.”

“Oh Lord, I hope more opportunities come my way.”

“You want more opportunities? They’re out there every day. All you need to do is keep your eyes open. Stop listening to your own voice, your own heart, and start listening to mine.”

“Maybe I should go to church as Batman today, Jesus.”

“Batman? Why?”

“I don’t think going as Joel is adequate.”

“Going as Joel is what I want you to do. Go as the transformed Joel, not the old Joel.”

“The transformed Joel?”

“Yes. Do you remember that verse in Romans, the one that says do not be conformed to this world, but be—.”

“—transformed by the renewing of your mind. Yes, I know that verse. It’s Romans 12:2.”

“Transformed doesn’t mean just altered on Sundays. It’s all the time.”

“How will I know when you want me to help somebody?”

“Oh, you’ll know. Just approach

life with an attitude of being thankful for all God has given you—keep that in the forefront of your mind—and you’ll know when there’s a situation where I need you to step in and help. It will feel very right.”


“Maybe I should go to the grocery store more often,” I suggested.

“Maybe the grocery store or the post office or the bank or right there at the dinner table. The person needing my love may be closer than you think.”

“Thanks, Jesus. Hey, what tie should I wear today—the green one with yellow stripes or the blue...”

Jesus was gone. I looked in the closet and I looked around the room. He had vanished.

“You know,” I thought to myself, “maybe I won’t wear a tie today. I have a feeling I’ll be replacing a starter today. In fact, it’s still early enough...if I leave now, I might be able to get it done before church.”

I walked out of the house with a smile. Something felt very right about this. 



Joel Schnoor and family

Joel Schnoor of Apex, N.C., was diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease 13 years ago at the age of 38.

He is active with

his four children, plays the tuba in a church orchestra, and he coaches in the Homeschool Football League. His latest book, *Off Balance: Getting Back Up When Life Knocks You Down*, describes his faith journey as he deals with chronic illness (www.Gennesaretpress.com).

My experiences as an Amachi mentor

By Bill West

United Methodist Men formed a partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) to provide mentors for children of incarcerated parents. The program, called, Amachi, has been introduced by the Commission on UM Men into 17 areas, including the Denver metropolitan area.

"Amachi" is a Nigerian Ibo word that means "Who knows but what God has brought us through this child."

Bill West, president of Rocky Mountain Conference UM Men and conference Amachi coordinator, describes his experiences as a mentor.

DENVER, Colo.—

In September 2011, I agreed to fill temporarily the position of coordinator of the Amachi Mentoring Program for Rocky Mountain Conference.



I decided to become a mentor as a way to help change a trend in which some 70 percent of children of incarcerated parents also become incarcerated.

I also thought that becoming a big brother would also help me explain the relationship to potential mentors.

If I would be talking the talk then I felt I should also be walking the walk.

So on Nov. 16, 2011, I applied to become a mentor. The screening and training period under the auspices of BBBS took approximately two months.

I was matched with a little brother on Jan. 10, 2012 when a BBBS staff member introduced me to AJ and his family.

Five days later, I attended one of AJ's basketball games. This was a good start as AJ was happy to see me support his team.

AJ is bright nine-year old; he excels in school studies, and has a supportive family. I quickly learned that my first challenge would be to help AJ develop goals for his future. To work on this challenge I knew I had to gain AJ's respect and confidence.

Starting on Jan. 19, 2012, AJ and I went on two-hour outings once a week to



Bill West, president of Rocky Mountain Conference UM Men, enjoys watching little brother AJ offer his head to a snake at a Denver museum.

various events and places. I always show up on time to show AJ that he can depend on me to be there for him when I say I will.

BBBS provides frequent suggestions and free tickets for outings and monitors progress of the relationship at least monthly. BBBS also puts on monthly training sessions to help mentors and mentees with their relationships.

During the first six months, I've learned a lot about AJ and what inspires and motivates him, and I hope AJ has learned a lot about what I'm trying to accomplish.

Our relationship is strong and AJ looks forward to our outings each week.

During the next six months I plan to introduce him to my family and friends as other role models.

This has been a rewarding experience for both AJ and me. 



What to do when the bottom falls out of your world

by Walter Albritton

Calamity happens. It may be of your own making. It may be the result of a natural disaster like a tornado. Or your misfortune may have been caused by other people. But whatever the source of your trouble you must respond to it—unless you decide to throw in the towel.

So the question is: What is the best way to respond when the bottom falls out of your world? Let's think this through together. Here are a few principles that helped me:

- 1. React wisely.** You are in control of your reactions; you cannot control the actions or reactions of others. Neither despair nor anger will help, so do not overreact. To do so will usually make matters worse and bring on later the pain of regret.
- 2. Step back from your trouble.** Ask yourself some hard questions: Am I responsible for the trouble I am in? If your trouble is mostly of your own making, then repent and ask God to forgive you. He understands you better than anyone. The process of repentance and forgiveness includes forgiving yourself. All of us

make mistakes; no one is perfect. Jesus gave us no beatitude that says, "Blessed are those who despise themselves." Self-despising is self-defeating so refuse the temptation to continually kick yourself.

- 3. Take the initiative to make things right with anyone you may have offended or wronged.** Seek forgiveness. Now and then someone may not forgive you; their reaction is out of your control. But at least, ask for forgiveness. Until you do that you will not be able to move on with your life. Do it and you're free to move on,
- 4. If you are angry at someone (or yourself) be smart enough to put your anger aside.** Anger will not help things get better; it will definitely make things worse. To be angry about our troubles is to be stupid because anger pours more fuel on the fire. Anger leads into the blame game; blaming others for our misfortunes is a waste of time. Blaming someone else is always counter-productive, so flush it.

5. Consider your options carefully and choose to do the right thing, one step at a time. Do what is right for others; do what is right for you. Respond to your troubles with integrity. You will never be embarrassed for having chosen the pathway of integrity. To do so is to react with honor and truthfulness. Do the honorable thing one day at a time—for the rest of your life. Wake up every morning and resolve to do the right thing.

6. Seek the counsel of good friends. Pain can cloud our vision. Friends can help us see the best way to go. You must make your own decisions, but you will be wise to test your conclusions with others whose judgment you trust. Good friends will never guide you in the wrong direction.


7. Take time to think through your dilemma but beware of procrastination. While you should not rush into important decisions, remember that pain often results in inertia. If that happens then take yourself by the nape of the neck and get back in the game. Nothing good ever comes out of lethargy. Inaction produces no positive change.

8. Get on your knees and ask the God who loves you and is always in your corner to give you the grace to face your trouble squarely. Then get over it and move on. Life is not over as long as you are still breathing. The God who created you is more ready to help you than you ever dreamed. So let Him help you! Choose to believe that God's

plans for you are good! When you decide to love God more than anything else in this world, things and people begin to fall in place in your life.

9. Get up every day and remind yourself that the God who guides the sun and the moon in their orbits is willing to guide you into a new life of meaning, joy and peace. He can do it. He will do it—if you ask Him! If doubt makes you question this, then do what I do often. I start singing an old song that soon chases my doubts away. It goes like this, "Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but thou are mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand. Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more." It works for me!

10. Never give up on yourself. Never give up on God. Never give up on the wisdom of doing the right thing again and again. Never give up on the future. Never give up on your potential. Never give up on Christ's power to give you a new life!

You are not the first person who had to start over. Wounded people have made new beginnings since the world began. So stop babbling and take charge of your life. And never forget that God is using the pain and trouble of this world to prepare you, and the rest of us, for something better. 



The Rev. Walter Albritton is pastor of congregational care at St. James UMC, Montgomery, Ala.



Across the Nation

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Church responds to emergency appeal

Members of Hillcrest UMC responded to an emergency appeal from the Society of St. Andrew. The society sent out a notice that a North Carolina grower was offering 6.3 million pounds of sweet potatoes—an amount that could provide 18 million servings of food for hungry people.

The society said UM churches had to work fast since the grower needed to clear his warehouse in three weeks from the date of the April 15 appeal. The potatoes would go to a landfill if churches did not respond.

Hillcrest asked for a truck to deliver 42,000 pounds of sweet potatoes to their church for hungry people in the Nashville area.

Other churches also stepped up so the entire 6.3 million pounds of sweet potatoes were delivered to food pantries across eastern United States.



MUSTANG ISLAND, Texas—

UM Men host Luau for 250 youngsters

In July, Jim Callaway, vice-president of Southwest Texas UM Men, and some 50 adult leaders hosted a Luau for 250 kids on this 18-mile island off the Gulf Coast. Nine UM Men cooked 130 pounds of pork, 40 chicken breasts, hamburgers, and a 30 pound whole pig.

ROCKFORD, Ill.—

Illinois men raise funds for devotional book

UM Men of Northern Illinois Conference raised \$7,251 to provide 1,200 *Strength for Service to God and Country* devotionals and 216 Faith Sharing New Testaments to U.S. troops.

Volunteers from Operation—Support Our Troops, a program of Blue Star Mothers of America, included the books in boxes they mail to troops.

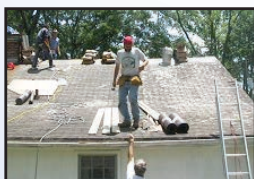


From left—A volunteer for Support our Troops receives copies of *Strength for Service* from George Groves, president of the Aurora District; the Rev. Oscar Carrasco, superintendent of the Elgin District; and Steve Nailor, president of Northern Illinois Conference UM Men.

AUSTELL, Ga.—

UM Men repair roof

Twelve men from Lithia Springs UMC ranging in age from 21 to 78 repaired the wood deck and replaced shingles on a house in Austell.



HANOVER, Pa.—

Golf tournament raises \$5,400-

Men of First UMC held their 15th annual Mission and Benevolent Golf Tournament at Flatbush Golf Course, Littlestown. The group raised more than \$5,400 for charities.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—



The winners, with a score of 10 under par, were, from left—Rick Baliles, Bert Luke, Norman Downes and Wayne Trout.

UM men give magazine to members

Men of Bearden UMC charge their members \$20 and give them free copies of *UM Men* magazine. While this is short of the \$45 EMS membership, it is a first step. When 10 or more copies of the magazine are sent to the same address, the cost is only \$10 a year.

Bearden UMM has a philosophy of “Ministry in Place,” a way of recognizing that men are already doing great things in the church.

ENGLEWOOD, Fla.—

Men award scholarships to 21 students

Men of Englewood UMC awarded \$25,468 in scholarships to 21 local students for the 2012-2013 school year. The generous group also provided financial support for the Florida UM Children’s Home, Englewood Helping Hand, a domestic abuse shelter, and Meals on Wheels.

Part of the funds came from an annual rummage sale and brunches.

“We thank 100 volunteers, including very helpful women, as well as the patrons to whom we served 28,000 pancakes,” said

Peter Patrick, chairman of the brunches.

LYCHBURG, Va.—

UM Men support homes for people with intellectual disabilities

Since 1999, men of Virginia Annual Conference have supported Heart Havens, homes for adults with intellectual disabilities.

In 2011, 64 UM Men organizations raised \$58,376 for the homes. The men also fixed plumbing, repaired roofs, put up gutters and built ramps for some of the 13 homes across the state.

WINTER GARDEN, Fla.—

Pancakes for early risers

For 14 years UM Men of First UMC have prepared a pancake breakfast for people who attend an Easter Sunrise Service.

This year they served 100 early risers. Proceeds are given to the scouting ministry program.



DANVILLE, Va.—

UM Men rebuild home

Carol Seay is now living in a renovated home.

Men of Trinity UMC purchased materials and supplied 900 hours of labor to renovate her two-bedroom home

Under the guidance of Habitat for Humanity,

the group insulated the walls, installed new windows and doors, provided new appliances and bathroom fixtures, and built a shed in the backyard.

NORCROSS, Ga.—

Mentoring program initiated in 18 cities

The North Georgia Annual Conference initiated an effort to match adults in the Atlanta area with children of incarcerated parents.

The mentoring program, called "Amachi," was begun in 2000 by John Dilulio, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, and W. Wilson Goode, former mayor of Philadelphia.

"Amachi" is a Nigerian Ibo word that means "Who knows but what God has brought us through this child."

Led by UM Men, Amachi has been launched in the Tennessee cities of Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Memphis; the Texas cities of Dallas, Houston, Lubbock and San Antonio; and California cities of Los Angeles and San Diego. Volunteer efforts are also underway in New Orleans, Detroit, Baltimore, Louisville, Denver, Phoenix, and Oklahoma City.



Atlanta area men involved in the effort to recruit and train adults to mentor children of incarcerated parents include (back row from left): Norman Johnson, president of North Georgia UM Men; Khalid Battle, executive of UM Children's Home; Robert Rowe, president of UMM of Central UMC; the Rev. Max Vincent, pastor of Allen Memorial UMC, Oxford, Ga.; Jasper Russell, conference prayer advocate; and Larry Coppock, GCUMM staff member. Terence Johnson (left) executive of UM Children's Home and Scott MacKenzie, Big Brothers staffer, kneel in front.

SHREVEPORT, La.—

Men provide food for Louisiana food pantries

Working through the Society of St. Andrew, Sonny Evans, hunger relief advocate of the UM Men of Louisiana, presented 500 ears of sweet corn and 500 pounds of sweet potatoes to a food bank in Robeline. They later took corn to First UMC in Bossier City, the Fellowship Church food pantry, and Noel UMC food bank in Shreveport.

“Folks are glad to get real corn,” said Evans.

The men then boxed 4,000 pounds of sweet potatoes for members attending the Louisiana Annual Conference at Centenary College in Shreveport. Church members were invited to take boxes home for local food pantries

The sweet potatoes and corn came from Dawson Farms in Delhi La.



People attending the Louisiana Annual Conference are invited to take home food for local food pantries.

JOHNSTOWN, Pa.—

Men from four churches repair homes

Dennis Pentrack, Malcolm Snyder and Walter Freidhoff have joined with men of four Johnstown churches to make home repairs for area residents.

Called Johnstown UM Parish (JUMP), the ministry includes men from Franklin Street UMC, First UMC, Trinity-Asbury UMC and Trinity UMC.

Pentrack, JUMP vice president, said volunteers have built ramps, handrails, stairs and porches and have completed plumbing and electrical repairs.

Last year the ministry completed 16 jobs. Labor is always donated and the cost of materials is based on the person's ability to pay. JUMP is supported by foundations and the Western Pennsylvania Conference.

A lumber company and hardware store offer discounts on materials.

THOMASVILLE, Ala.—

Scouts collect 370 food items

Sixteen members of a Boy Scout troop, chartered by Thomasville UMC, collected 370 items for a local food bank and 15 Scouts helped raise money for the Salvation Army by serving as bell ringers for the Red Kettle project.

The troop received the Bishop's Award of Excellence.

CHEVERLY, Md.—

Great start for newly chartered group

For a long time, the Rev. Saroj Sangha wanted a UM Men group at Cheverly UMC. Finally, last January, a group of seven men elected David Watkins as president and applied for a charter.

Since that time, the men installed new fixtures and a new ceiling in a church bathroom. The men also filled a 4-ton dumpster in the process of cleaning a basement room in the Cheverly church.

The 30-member group meets monthly and sponsored a fish fry.



FORT SCOTT, Kans.—

UM Men sponsor blessing of the bikes

The Rev. Kenton Van, pastor of First UMC, conducted his first “Blessing of the Bikes.”

Sponsored by UM Men, the event began with a church service followed by a lunch. Van, a motorcycle enthusiast himself, gave a general blessing for the eight bikes and riders. Then, members of the Shepherd’s Soldiers, the Fort Scott chapter of the international Christian Motorcyclists Association, prayed for each bike and rider. Following the event, they took a ride to Dairy Queen

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—

Six cyclists raise \$30,000 for Imagine No Malaria

In June, five cyclists rode 335 miles from Washington, D.C. to Pittsburgh to raise funds for Imagine No Malaria. Calling themselves “Nothing But Spokes,” the group raised funds from church members, friends, family, and business associates.

Southwest District Superintendent Jim Todd organized the trip, but after a herniated



Philadelphia Area Bishop Peggy Johnson (center front) had a prayer with the group before their ride. Cyclists include (from left): Jim White, St. Mark’s UMC in Mt. Joy; the Rev. John Pfeil, West Willow UMC; Shelly Trego; Mt. Zion UMC, Narvon; the Rev. Jim Todd, superintendent of the Southwest District; and Jay Horning, Grandview UMC.

disk, he was only able to ride 33 miles with the group.

SALEM, N.C. —

Students received God and Me Awards



Twenty-one Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and other young people show off the game boxes they made during a God and Me class. The study and award are sponsored by St. Louis-based Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY).

“This is the first year that our church held this class, and we had so much fun I plan on continuing it for years to come,” said Tricia Burgess, PRAY counselor:

HUNTINGTON, Ind. —

Cub Scout pack receives bishop’s award

The Rev. Dr. Marti Lundy, pastor of Evangelical UMC, offered God and Country courses by PRAY.

“I mentored four young people in ‘God and Me,’ six in ‘God and family’, and eight in ‘God and Life,’” said Lundy. “The greatest celebration was that six of the eight Scouts were recognized as Four-Star recipients.” Three young people also achieved the rank of Eagle and the pack received a Bishop’s Award of Excellence.

XENIA, Ohio — Gardens provide vegetables for food pantries

Men of Faith Community UMC have planted two 30x40-foot gardens. One plot has tomatoes and the other has zucchini and potatoes.

All harvested vegetables are donated to a local food pantry.



FORT WAYNE, Ind. —

Six young people honored in youth service

Aldersgate UMC conducted a youth Sunday in May and presented Good Samaritan Awards to Lydia Dempsey, Jared Thompson, Derek Gulley, Rhys Weber, Lucy Lundergan, and Shannon Mackenzie.

FORT WASHINGTON, Pa.—

UM Men sponsor softball tournament

UM Men of Eastern Pennsylvania Conference sponsored the 20th annual softball tournament with 140 players from eight churches.

Conference President Ross Brightwell organized the tournaments and UMM Athletic Ministry Coordinator Clifton Hubbard led the opening devotion.

RICHMOND HILL, N.Y. —

Some shade on a hot day

Facing a hot and humid day, UM Men of Richmond Hill UMC provided shade for a weekly food pantry.



humor



The Lone Ranger and Tonto went camping in the desert. After they got their tent all set up, both men fell sound asleep.

Some hours later, Tonto wakes the Lone Ranger and says, "Kimosabe, look towards sky; what you see?"

The Lone Ranger replies, "I see millions of stars."

"What that tell you?" asked Tonto.

The Lone Ranger ponders for a minute then says, "Astronomically speaking, it tells me there are millions of galaxies. Time wise, it appears to be approximately a quarter past three in the morning. Theologically, the Lord is all powerful, and we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it seems we will have a beautiful day tomorrow.

"What does it tell you, Tonto?"

"You dumber than buffalo poop. Someone stole tent."

Society of St. Andrew

GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

**During Advent, Christmas, & Lent
make feeding the hungry
your mission**

Advent Devotions

Daily scripture, prayer, and reflection.

Nourish your spirit and feed your hungry neighbors.

\$1 donation per day (\$24) provides about 1,200 servings of nourishing food for hungry families.



How

Lenten Devotions

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Take seriously scriptural injunctions to care for the poor.

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Materials for both devotional programs are free and there is no obligation. Order sample packets today: 800-333-4597; Church@endhunger.org; or order online: EndHunger.org/advent.htm & EndHunger.org/lent.htm



Alternative Christmas Card

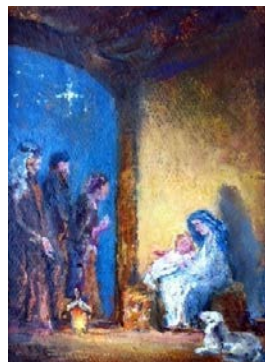
Finish your gift shopping today!

We will send your honorees our Alternative Christmas Card designed exclusively for Society of St. Andrew. The card features original art and inspirational verse blessing your loved ones with God's nourishing love. This one-of-a-kind card announces your generous gift to feed the hungry in the name of your honorees. You'll also receive the card with our thanks and confirmation of your order. It's an ideal gift for sharing not just with friends but with those in need as well.

**Your \$12 gift puts 600 servings of
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Card is full color front
folded card is 7"x5"

Men's commission employs a new administrator

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

The General Commission on UM Men welcomes Joseph Strausbaugh to the staff.

After serving as a data administrator for the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, he is well qualified to serve as the charter system administrator for the Nashville-based commission.

Strausbaugh succeeds Ann Waller, who left the staff last July to attend school with her daughter in Copenhagen, Denmark. Ann was a beloved staff member who served as the voice of the commission as she fielded telephone calls and responded to e-mail inquiries. After 14 years of service with the agency, she easily provided the information without having to call upon the other seven staff members for assistance. She also processed all requests for charters and charter renewals.

People now making inquiries and seeking charters will find Strausbaugh is equally friendly and helpful. He has a rich background with the UMC after serving the past two years with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in Nashville, and three years as a student assistant

with the General Commission on Archives and History (2007-2010) while attending Drew Theological School in Madison, N.J. He also served an internship with the General Board of Church and Society in Washington, D.C., in 2008-2009.



A magna cum laude graduate of Gettysburg College (B.A.) and Drew University Theological School (M.Div.), Strausbaugh says, "I am enjoying the opportunity to work directly with constituents and to help continue and expand ministry to men in the UMC. It is vital to our work of 'making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world'."

"Joseph brings to us some wonderful skills in working with data, but also brings great interpersonal skills and a unique knowledge of the UMC at a local and national level," said Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men. "Additionally, his very strong academic credentials are clearly applicable to the mission and ministries of the commission."



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

Member of Circuit Rider Society holds 22 patents

SCHAUMBURG, Ill. —

John Machonis, a member of Our Redeemer's UMC and advocate for Society of St. Andrew efforts to eliminate hunger, holds 22 U.S. patents and 14 technical papers in the field of chemical engineering.

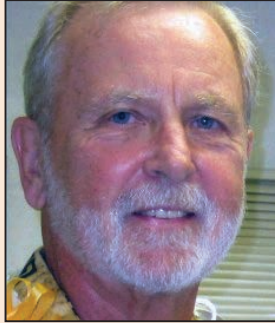
The active United Methodist layman is also a member of the Circuit Rider Society, a group of men who annually pledge at least \$1,500 to support men's ministry around the world.

A 1963 chemical engineer graduate of Worcester (Mass.) Polytechnic Institute, Machonis worked in the plastic raw material industry for Mobil Chemical, Chemplex Co. and Morton Chemical.

In a career that ranged from research and development to business management, he ended up as partner and co-founder of Soarus and MSI Technology, specialty plastic businesses.

Machonis and his wife, Edie, are involved in mission work through the Appalachian Service Project and a feeding

program called Feed My Sheep in Maui, Hawaii. "Our family is dedicated to fighting M.S. through our daughter-in-law's foundation 'Crop for a Cause, Making M.S. a Memory'," says Machonis.



John Machonis

A 36-year member of Our Redeemer's UMC, Machonis serves as a lay member to the Northern Illinois Conference and a member of the finance committee and treasurer of Our Redeemer's UM Men. For 19 years, he has also led fund-raising efforts for the Society of St. Andrew.

Married to Edie for 49 years, the couple has two sons and two grandsons. They frequently play golf with their sons and grandsons and spend their winters in Maui.

Asked why he is a member of the Circuit Rider Society, Machonis says, "I believe it is the responsibility of all Christian men to lead their families to a relationship with Christ. This task cannot be accomplished alone. I find support within the United Methodist Men, be it at my church or at the district, conference or national level."

Conversation on an airplane

humor

An atheist was seated next to a little girl on an airplane and he turned to her and said, "Do you want to talk? Flights go quicker if you strike up a conversation with your fellow passenger."

The little girl, who had just started to read her book, replied to the total stranger, "What would you want to talk about?"

"Oh, I don't know," said the atheist. "How about why there is no God, or no Heaven or Hell, or no life after death?" as he smiled smugly.

"OK," she said. "Those could be interesting topics, but let me ask you a question first. A horse, a cow, and a deer all eat the same grass. Yet a deer excretes little pellets, while a cow turns out a flat patty, but a horse produces clumps. Why do you suppose that is?"

The atheist, visibly surprised by the little girl's intelligence thinks about it and says, "Hmmm, I have no idea."

To which the little girl replies, "Do you really feel qualified to discuss why there is no God, or no Heaven or Hell, or no life after death, when you don't know [crap]" [original word edited here]

And then she went back to reading her book.

UM Men Awards

Quillman Wood

Men honor church founder

SALISBURY, N.C.—

Men of Milford Hills UMC presented a lifetime membership in UM Men to Quillman Wood, 92, a church founder and the first president of UM Men in 1957.

Wood serves in the Gideon Bible Society and participates in a prison ministry. He has taught Sunday school and served on every church group except the choir over the 57-year history of the church. His financial support enabled the church to purchase adjacent property.



From left: Randy Russell, vice president of UM Men, Quillman Wood, Daryl Presson, president of UM Men, and the Rev. Steve Combs, pastor of Milford Hills UMC, gather after Wood is presented with a surprise award.

The Rev. David Bachelor

Church honors pastor

CLOVIS, N.M.—

UM Men of Kingswood UMC honored their pastor, the Rev. David Bachelor, with a Cross and Flame Award at a May ceremony at the church.

The founder and headmaster of The Cornerstone Christian School in England, Bachelor returned to the states and was appointed pastor of Mountainside UMC in Cedar Crest, N.M. While serving that church, he became involved in “Love Waits,” a program encouraging girls to wait until marriage, and he created a similar

program for boys, called “Extreme Commitment.”

The busy pastor also served as a chaplain for the Cedar Crest Police Department and the U.S. Navy Reserves.

After two U.S. Navy deployments to Iraq, he was assigned to Kingswood UMC, where he started “Power Zone,” a children’s church. He also reinstated a Cub Scout pack.



The Rev. David Bachelor



Bachelor in Iraq with Yosef, an Iraqi youngster

The Rev. Nancy Cobbs

Church honors associate pastor and five lay members

BAYTOWN, Texas—

Eloy Valdes, scouting ministry specialist at St. Mark’s UMC, gave Good Samaritan Awards to Matthew Broussard and Zachary Mulrow. He also presented Cross and Flame Awards to Wayne Hanson, Robert Pickering, Samantha West, and the Rev. Nancy Cobbs, associate pastor of the church.

Cobbs was raised in the Evangelical United Brethren Church in northern Indiana and received baccalaureate and graduate degrees from Indiana University before attending Perkins School of Theology in Dallas. After completing her



The Rev. Nancy Cobbs

M.Div. degree, she served as associate pastor in Mineola, Texas, prior to her appointment to St. Mark's.

Paul Durham

Men induct church leader into John Wesley Society

ST. LOUIS, Mo. —

Men of Grace UMC tapped the head usher as a fellow in the John Wesley Society.

Ken Dillner, president of Grace UM Men, said Durham was selected because of his contributions “to the spiritual growth and fellowship of our congregation.”

Each week, Durham purchases and delivers items to the food pantry and he leads the annual church rummage sale. The active layman also prepares Easter breakfasts, coordinates and plays on the church softball team, and sponsors youth activities. He always brings his father-in-law in a wheelchair to worship and other church activities.

Ed Diaz

Men honor chaplain of Detroit Tigers

LAKELAND, Fla.—

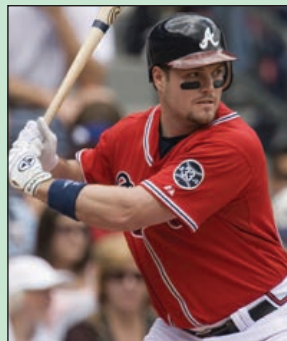
Florida Conference UM Men inducted Ed Diaz into the John Wesley Society.

The co-author of *The Winning Run and Other Life Lessons* from Baseball (Nav Press, 1999), Diaz served for many years as spring-training chapel coordinator for the Detroit Tigers.

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Dallas Theological Seminary, Diaz co-founded Walk-thru-the-Bible ministries in Portland, Oregon. Ed and his wife, Gwen, later moved to Florida to work with Search Ministries. For the last 30 years, they have focused on evangelism in the business community under the Search umbrella.

Ed and Gwen have four sons and ten grandchildren. In 2007, two of their sons

played together on Turner Field. Matt Diaz played for the Atlanta Braves and brother Jonny played guitar. Matt slammed a 347-foot home run in the second inning, and Jonny brought the crowd to its feet at the post-game Third Coast Sports Faith Night concert.



Matt Diaz, son of Ed and Gwen Diaz.

Matt continues as an outfielder for the Braves.

The Rev. Bill Mason

Pastor inducted into John Wesley Society

TULSA, Okla.—

The Rev. Bill Mason, a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and Perkins School of Theology, served as pastor of Asbury UMC in Tulsa, Okla., for 29 years. Under his leadership, Asbury grew from 118 members in 1964 to 5,250 members in 1993. The church budget increased from \$10,000 to \$2.5 million.

Bishop Jeremiah Park

New York Bishop receives a surprise award

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y.—

Royston Bailey, an officer of Long Island East UM Men, surprised Bishop Jeremiah Park by inducting him into the Society of John Wesley during the June session of New York Annual Conference.

Bishop Park, 56, was elected to the episcopacy in 2004 while serving as superintendent of the Palisades District in New Jersey.



He was born in Korea, and received a bachelor of divinity degree from Methodist Theological Seminary in Seoul in 1973.

He was coordinator of World Vision of Korea and assistant to the pastor at First Methodist Church in Seoul during the 1970s.

Bishop Jeremiah Park

He earned a M.Div. degree in 1979 and D.Min. degree in 1990, both from Drew University School of Theology. Park also served as a council director and associate council director for Northern New Jersey as well as associate director of the Northeastern Jurisdiction's Multi-Ethnic Center for Ministry.

Charlie Gooden

Men honor former conference president

LAKESIDE, Ohio—

During the East Ohio Annual Conference session, UM Men inducted Charlie Gooden as a fellow in the John Wesley Society.

Gooden, vice president of North Central Jurisdiction East and president of his Cleveland church UM Men organization, served as president of East Ohio Conference



East Ohio Conference UM Men President Leland Spencer (right) presents Charlie Gooden with the John Wesley award.

UM Men for 10 years.

Bishop Larry Goodpaster
Men honor bishop

LAKE JUNALUSKA, N.C.—

Hank Dozier, president of Western North Carolina UM Men, presented Bishop Larry Goodpaster with a lifetime membership in UM Men during the laity session of the 2012 conference.

Elected to the episcopacy in 2000, Goodpaster served eight years as bishop of the Alabama-West Florida Conference. Prior to his election, he served as a pastor and district superintendent in the Mississippi Conference. He was appointed to the Western North Carolina Conference in 2008, the same year he was named president-elect of The Council of Bishops, a two-year term that began in 2010.



Hank Dozier (left) presents a lifetime membership certificate to Bishop Larry Goodpaster in response to the bishop's support of men's ministry.

The Rev. Wallace Wheelles

Men honor pastor who hates casseroles

KENNESAW, Ga.—

UM men presented a life membership certificate to the Rev. Wallace Wheelles, pastor of Kennesaw UMC. He was honored for eight years of service to the church and men's ministry.

A graduate of Candler School of Theology (M.Div.) and McCormick Theological Seminary (D.Min.), Wheelles has served North

Georgia Conference churches since 1967.



The Rev. Wallace Wheelles

“He ranks second to none in visitation—whether it is to a hospital, a kid in college or a visitor,” said UM Men President Jimmy Stephens. “The only downside to Wallace is his dislike for casseroles.”

George Williams
A mission-minded disciple

CHESAPEAKE, Va.—

George Williams has encouraged men and women to join him on mission trips near and far. He has invited people to make repairs to local homes, clean up after Katrina and join him on mission trips to El Salvador and Haiti.

No wonder men of Great Bridge UMC presented him with a life-membership award.

Hank Dozier, Tim Strickland and Allen Reinhardt

Conference men honor three leaders

KING'S MOUNTAIN, N.C.—

The executive committee of Western North Carolina UM Men presented life memberships to Hank Dozier, conference president; Allen Reinhardt, president of North Wilkesboro District; and Tim Strickland, president of Lake Norman District.

Clyde Ellis

UM Men present seventh life membership

DENHAM SPRING, La.—

Men of Denham Springs UMC presented a life membership certificate to Clyde Ellis, president of the Baton Rouge District UM Men and former local church UM Men president. The 40-year member of the church is the seventh church member to receive a life membership.

The award was presented by his dad, Ofney, a life member and former president of Louisiana Conference UM Men.



Ofney K. Ellis (left) presents a life membership to his son, Clyde. The Rev. Bob Deich (right), pastor of First UMC of Denham Springs, is also a life

Ingram Howard.
Tennessee Conference honors president

BRENTWOOD, Tenn.—

During the June session of the Tennessee Annual Conference, Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men, inducted Ingram Howard, president of the Tennessee



Conference UM Men, into the John Wesley Society. He was honored for 20 years of continuous service to men's ministry.

"I am privileged and honored to be among those fellow members who have received this high recognition," said Howard. "It is certainly a career highlight for me and I wish to express my sincere thanks to all those who helped make this award possible."

Gil Hanke (left) fastens a John Wesley Society pin to the collar of Ingram Howard. Photo by Tom Nankervis.

Hugh Westbury
Trustee receives gold ladder and gold light bulb

COLUMBIA, S.C.—

After 40 years of service, trustees of Ashland UMC named Hugh Westbury a trustee emeritus. For many years, he led devotions at UM Men meetings.



Tom Wilkinson, chairman of Ashland Trustees (left), presents a plaque to Hugh Westbury, trustee emeritus.

"He knows all things structural about the church," said Jimmy Smith. "He has climbed to the top of everything at Ashland on his ladder and changed all light bulbs in every fixture countless times." Declaring that he has set the gold standard, the men presented Westbury a miniature gold ladder, a gold light bulb and a plaque.

Conley Hobbie

Man of the year receives Dan Stanley Award

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—

Conley Hobbie was named “Man of the Year of Mandarin UMC.”

He received the Dan Stanley Award during the annual Low Country Boil and Oyster Roast at the Mandarin Garden Club, an event that included 110 “young men” aged 14 to 91.



Trent Hobbie and David Hobbie are proud of their father, Conley, as he accepts the Dan Stanley Award from none other than Dan Stanley.

Mike Smith

Past president inducted into John Wesley Society

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—

The Holston Conference inducted Mike Smith, immediate past president of the conference UM Men, into the Society of John Wesley.



Mike Smith

The chairman of “Calling All Men” gatherings, Smith is also a member of the Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries in state prisons, a leader of Amachi ministry to children of incarnated parents, and Society of St. Andrew efforts to alleviate hunger.

He is a Stephen Minster, co-chair of the Habitat for Humanity Golf Tournament, and a member of a work group that makes church repairs.

“I am very humbled and honored by being named a fellow in the John Wesley Society,” said Smith. “I feel that I am not deserving of such an award as I feel there are many more men and women in our church that are much more deserving than I am.”

Larry Green

Chapter presents 13th John Wesley Award

CASEYVILLE, Ill.—

The Orville N. Mueth Chapter of the UM Men presented its 13th John Wesley Society Award to Larry Green, a member of Caseyville UMC for over 50 years and “a diligent worker at the church behind the scenes.” The chapter has 200 members and 40 EMS members.



Rick Penny, president of UM Men of Caseyville UMC, inducts Larry Green into the John Wesley Society.

Forty-five years of service

MIO, Mich. —

Men of Mio UMC honored Bill Kusey, long-time president of UM Men with a lifetime membership. The award was presented on the 45th anniversary of Bill’s joining the church.

A retired staff member of the Michigan State Park System Department of Natural Resources, Bill has served the church in many capacities.

The Rev. Dwight D. Prowell

Men induct pastor into John Wesley Society

JACKSON, Miss.—

Men of Mississippi Conference honored the Rev. Dwight D. Prowell, pastor of Aldersgate UMC, as a fellow of the John Wesley Society. An ardent supporter of the men’s ministry, he was selected to be the speaker for the 2002-2004 Mississippi Annual Conference Retreat of UM Men.

He also received the Outstanding Campus Minister Award (2002); the Tobias Gibson Award (2003); the Faith-Based Initiative Award (2004); Operation Iraqi Freedom Award (2005); Man of the Year Award (2008); United Methodist of Mississippi Credit Union Award (2011); and the Exceptional Service Award (2011).

Life-long Scout leader becomes a scouting ministry specialist

POUGHQUAG, N.Y.—

Jim Thomas began his career in scouting as a Cub Scout and a member of the now 100-year-old Troop 1 in Wayne, Pa.

His adult career began when his oldest son, Max, became a Tiger Cub in Pack 172 in Westfield, N.J. Jim served as a den leader, and when second son, Ben, joined the pack Jim was serving as a den leader and assistant cubmaster.

While in Westfield, Jim also served as head usher of First UMC, and he was also a member of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, property manager and a Stephen minister.

The Westfield UMC pastor asked Jim to restart Troop 78 and Jim soon became scoutmaster and son Max became the first Eagle in the restarted troop.

The church presented the scoutmaster and advocate of the God and Country Award program with a Cross and Flame Award.

Jim's wife died of cancer in 2002, leaving him as the only parent of two sons and a daughter.

In 2005, he married Alison, the mother of four children, creating a family of nine with seven children ranging in age from 11 to 25.

In 2007, the expanded family moved to Poughquag where they attend Poughquag

UMC. Jim is again on a Staff-Parish Relations Committee and charter representative for Pack 77 and Troop 77. After receiving Wood Badge and Outdoor Webelos Leadership training, he

was named unit commissioner for the Dutchess District of the Hudson Valley BSA Council.

"The two important influences on my life were the Methodist Church and Scouting," said Jim. "It was natural for me to contact the General Commission on UMM to see if there was a position that would combine scouting and church. They invited me to be a scouting ministry specialist.

"I jumped at the opportunity. You get to introduce churches to scouting, and explain to them how scouting is a ministry. You also explain all the awards that an individual or church can earn.

Being a scouting ministry specialist got me to the New York Annual Conference where I set up a table and talked to hundreds of people about scouting, awards and God & Country studies.

I have used the things I learned in scouting my whole life. There are not many places an 11 year boy can grow in confidence, learn how to lead, and leave at age 18 with the confidence to face what comes next."

If you are interested in becoming a scouting ministry specialist, please contact Marc Stowe for information (mstowe@gcumm.org) (615/620-7262).



Jim Thomas

Wyoming Scout Leader becomes a scouting ministry specialist

KEMMERER, Wyo. —

In 1975, Rodger A. Salzman began his scouting career as a Cub Scout in Springfield, Ill.; 37 years later, he is still involved in scouting.

He now serves as Tiger Cub leader, assistant scoutmaster, and assistant commissioner of the Trapper Trails Council. He also serves on the Scouting and Youth Services Committee of the Alpha Phi Omega and is chairman of the Wyoming chapter of Sons of American Revolution Eagle scholarship program.

Salzman has been named chair of the committee coordinating activity for the Alpha Phi Omega at the 2013 National Boy Scout Jamboree. This will be his fourth national jamboree as a member of the exhibit staff for the national service fraternity. He went to the site in July for a test run of the new West Virginia site. Previous jamborees have been held at Fort AP. Hill in Virginia.

As a scouting ministry specialist, Salzman will be available to help Wyoming churches begin or expand their scouting ministries. As an Eagle Scout, he is well equipped to serve that role.

Salzman has made five trips to the Philmont Scout Camp in northern New Mexico. He has participated as a youth on treks across the Sangre de Cristo Mountains; he also attended as a member of the back-country staff, and as a participant in classes at the Philmont Training Center. He has also taken an explorer troop to the Florida Sea Base, taken boys down the Buffalo River in Arkansas, and led a kayaking trip in New Hampshire.



Rodger Salzman

He served as commissioner of Camp Laramie Peak and the Buffalo Bill Camp in Wyoming. He also served as director of Camp Bunn in Central Illinois and chaired a senior day camp.

In 2002, he was a program director for a Cub Day Camp in Wyoming and led a canoe trip from Wisconsin to the Minnesota border with his future wife, Rosa.

An adviser, camp leader and staffer at scores of Scout camps, he received Wood Badge beads in England and received the Silver Beaver Award in 2003 at Eureka (Ill.) College. He has also received a District Award of Merit and the Herbert G. Horton Award from National Scouting and Youth Service Committee of Alpha Phi Omega.

Scouting Awards

Dixie Kenyon

Forty year scouting veteran honored

HATFIELD, Kans.—

Dixie Kenyon was awarded the Cross and Flame Award in honor of 40 years of service to scouting ministries. A member of the Hatfield UMC, Kenyon comes from a family of Scouts. Her husband was an Eagle Scout as were her two sons. Her daughters and grandchildren are also involved in scouting.



Dixie Kenyon shows Cub Scouts how to tie knots.

She has served in nearly every leadership position in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. She also serves on the Hatfield UMC Board of Trustees.

L. Wayne Prejean

Fifty years and 102 Eagle Scouts

LAFAYETTE, La.—

Over 100 men and women gathered to celebrate the 50-year reunion of BSA Troop 19.

L. Wayne Prejean became troop master in 1962 and has produced 102 Eagle Scouts. Forty men who achieved the rank of Eagle under his leadership attended a celebration in his honor.



Ron Sarver, former president of UM Men in Louisiana (right) presents a Silver Torch Award to L. Wayne Prejean, a 50-year veteran of scouting, and the new Louisiana Conference president of UM Men.

The occasion included written and video tributes from Eagle Scouts all over the world as well as recognition from the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. He also received the “Key to the City of Lafayette.”

Prejean received a Silver Torch Award, which honors leaders who have contributed to youth activities beyond the annual conference.

Cameron Boyd and Kyle Vansant

Church honors former God and Country students

FRIENDSHIP, Md.—

Shari Throne-Sulima, a mentor of the God and Country Awards program, presented Good Samaritan Awards to two former students.

Kyle Vansant, 16, a high school junior, and Cameron Body, 15, a high school sophomore, received the awards for service to their Boy Scout troop, helping collect canned goods for a local food bank, and placing flags on the graves of veterans on Memorial Day. Both boys are honor students, members of a model United Nations Club, and they are active in athletics, the church's youth group, and the Voices in Praise Choir.

Kyle completed the God and Life program and he helped repair homes in Appalachia during the past two summers.

Cameron completed all four God and Country Awards provided by the St. Louis-based Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY). He also helped clean up school grounds, planted flowers and served as a parking attendant at various community events.

Bill Beach, Jr.

Church honors scouting coordinator

NICHOLASVILLE, Ky.—

The Rev. Bill Hogan, pastor of Nicholasville UMC, presented Bill Beach, a 36-year veteran in scouting ministries, with a Cross and Flame Award.

Beach has served as scouting coordinator for Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts for the past five years, and he served four years on the National Association of UM Scouters board and 12 years as a board member for the BSA Blue Grass Council.

Beach attained the rank of Eagle in 1964



Bill Beach and two of his Scouts cook lunch. The Nicholasville church provides meals each Saturday for 150 to 275 people.

and three years later attended the World Jamboree when Idaho hosted the event. In 1973, he attended the World Jamboree as a Mississippi leader, and he attended in 1993 as a Kentucky leader.

His 35-year-old son, Chris, is also an Eagle Scout serving as a sergeant with the Frankfort Police Department.

Andrew Tedor
Scout creates garden for homeless shelter

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—

Andrew Tedor, a member of Coker UMC, created a vegetable garden for Haven for Hope, a shelter serving 1,600 homeless adults and children.

Tedor cleaned up the plot, tilled the soil, and planted trees, shrubs, and vegetables. He also installed a solar-powered water fountain.



The Haven for Hope garden designed by Andrew Tedor includes places for guests to rest beside a water fountain.

Ed and Vickie Cannon
Church honors long-time Scout leaders

WICHITA, Kans.—

Calvary UMC presented Cross and Flame Awards to Ed and Vickie Cannon. Ed is



The Rev. Larry Greenwood (right), pastor of Calvary UMC, joins Ed and Vickie Cannon following a special Sunday in which the Scout leaders were honored by the Wichita congregation.

an Eagle Scout who has been a leader of Troop 662 at Calvary for more than 19 years. Vickie has been a Cub Scout leader for 16 years.

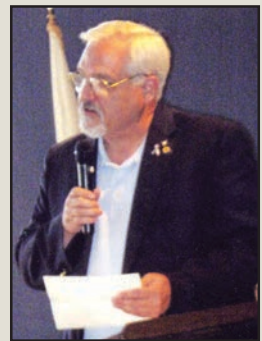
The Rev. Peter Vaught
Pastor honored for scout ministry

SIERRA VISTA, Ariz.—

Sierra Vista UMC is believed to be the only church in the Desert Southwest Annual Conference that sponsors Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, Varsity, Venturing and Crew Scout programs.

Little wonder that scouting ministry officials presented the Rev. Peter Vaught, Sierra Vista pastor, with a Cross and Flame Award.

Participants in the award ceremony included Chuck Moyer, scouting coordinator of the South District; Jim Larson, scouting coordinator of the Cochise District; William Hill scouting coordinator for Sierra Vista UMC; and Douglas Wright, conference scouting coordinator.



The Rev. Peter Vaught

Later that evening, an Eagle Scout Court of Honor was held for three Sierra Vista Scouts from the Varsity Team. William Hill II, Nathan Cunningham and Scott Gregory received Denali medals, the highest award of Varsity Scouting and Bronze Medals in Venturing.

Lynn Ahles
Scout leader honored

RICHMOND, Va.—

Ramsey Memorial UMC presented Lynne Ahles with a Cross and Flame Award for serving as a leader of Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts.

She has served as a Cub Scout den leader, Boy Scout advancement chair, summer camp leader, Brownie troop leader, Junior troop leader, Cadette troop co-leader and Senior troop leader.

She also teaches Sunday school, Vacation Bible School and three PRAY courses.

Rhys Draughon
Scout reworks flower bed

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.—

As part of his Eagle project, Rhys Draughon led Scouts from Troop 12 to rework flower beds in front of the MacLeigh-Holland Heart Havens House. Rhys, a member of Community UMC, learned about Heart Havens through his family's involvement with the Elizabeth River District Men's Ministry Team.



Rhys Draughon

Thirteen Heart Havens houses empower adults with intellectual disabilities to live and thrive in safe and nurturing environments. Heart Havens has been a ministry of Virginia Conference UMC Men since the first home was built in 1996.

Sam Baker
Restores environmental trail

STATE COLLEGE, Pa.—

For his Eagle project, Sam Baker led members of Troop 31 chartered by St. Paul's UMC, to restore an environmental trail for students at Houserville Elementary School. Sam participated in the 2010 BSA National Jamboree and went on treks at the Philmont Scout Ranch and the Northern Tier Canoe Base. He received all four PRAY awards.

Loreen McMillan
Conference presents Torch Award

LEAWOOD, Kan.—

The Kansas East Annual Conference presented a Torch Award to Loreen McMillan, a member of Topeka First UMC. She was honored for her years of service as a Boy Scout leader.



Michael Feist
Air Force veteran serves several Scout units

CLOVIS, Calif.—

A 25-year veteran of the Air Force and a scouting ministry specialist, Michael Feist has attended the last two national jamborees. He now serves Troop 199 and Crew 199 at United Japanese Christian Church in Clovis, Sea Scout Ship 63 (Golden Eagle) at Memorial UMC in Clovis, and Troop 116 at Madera UMC.



Michael Feist, a commissioner and staff member at Camp Chawanakee, leads Scouts from the United Japanese Christian in camp activities at Shaver Lake, Calif.

He also helped develop an Explorer Post and served as a commissioner and charter organization representative for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturing and Sea Scouts.

"My greatest joy is watching the Cubs have a great time, and helping the adults to receive the awards that they deserve, but don't always know about," said Feist.

A recipient of the Silver Beaver Award and a score of other scouting awards, Feist was named Scouting Legionnaire of 2010 by the California American Legion, and he recently received a Cross and Flame Award.

Chuck Jones tapped to lead scouting association

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Chuck Jones, longtime leader of UM Men and Scouts, was elected president of the National Association of United Methodist Scouters, during a June meeting of the organization here.

Jones recently retired after 25 years in lay professional ministry; his last position was director of singles ministry at Church Street UMC, Knoxville, Tenn.

The group celebrated the expected distribution of 10,000 backpacking New Testaments to Scouts on treks from the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, the Northern Tier camps, the Florida Sea Base and Girl Scout events celebrating their 100th anniversary.

Other NAUMS officers elected include Phil Craig, Paris, Tenn., vice-president; Ron Blaisdell, Ann Arbor, Mich., secretary; and John Hargrave, Dayton, Ohio, treasurer.

Reelected to serve on the board were Col. Gene Winland, St. Petersburg, Fla., Jones, and Craig. Newly elected board directors include Blaisdell and Don Shelmire, Baton Rouge, La.

This year, the organization sold 2,800 Scouting Ministries Sunday patches to raise money for backpacking New Testaments. They also sent 2,200 patches to Scouts in North Katanga.

Responding to an invitation from North Katanga Bishop Nkulu Ntambo, The Indiana Conference (including the Pathfinder Chapter of NAUMS) is planning a scouting mission trip to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2013.

Jones said 2012-13 plans include the Bible Project, a 2013 Scouting Ministry patch and worship service, and the renewal of district and conference scouting coordinators training events

in different regions.

Jones has an undergraduate and two graduate degrees from the University of Southern California. He received diaconal ministry training at the School of Theology at Claremont; the Candler School of Theology, and the Pacific School of Religion. A deacon in the Disciples of Christ Church, he is also a certified UM church business and finance administrator.



The Rev. Art Collins, former NAUMS president (left), and Chuck Jones, newly elected NAUMS president, show the Boy Scout edition of Strength for Service to God and Country, an updated World War II book of daily devotions.

Prior to entering full-time professional ministry Jones was a public school teacher, a Hollywood press agent, ground transportation specialist, and an airline flight department supervisor.

Before coming to Church Street, he served as executive director of the Southern California Ecumenical Council (of Churches); an associate in ministry and administrator for Hollywood Beverly Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); associate council director for the West Ohio Conference of The UMC, a consultant for Morning Star Ministries, and director of singles ministries at St. Luke's UMC in Orlando, Fla.

He served eight years as a director for the General Board of Discipleship and chair of the Men's Division. He also served eight years on the General Commission on UM Men (one quadrennium as vice president). He has served as a jurisdictional, conference, and district president of UM Men, a director of the UM Men Foundation and chair of a District Council on Ministries. He was elected to General Conference in 1988 and 1992.

He was named the Bishop Gerald Kennedy Layman of the Year, and is a life member of UM Men, a recipient of the Torch Award, and he is a fellow in the John Wesley Society.

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