

UMM MEN

The magazine of
UNITED METHODIST MEN

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100 Years of Scouting in the Methodist Church



letter from the **GENERAL SECRETARY**



GIL HANKE

*General Secretary/
Chief Executive Officer*

This issue has multiple articles about scouting. As you probably know, we are the largest non-government sponsor of BSA, and a leader in Girl Scouts USA, Campfire and Big Brothers Big Sisters. As will be further revealed in the following pages, I am very proud of my son and granddaughter for their participation in BSA.

Some may think that the only benefit of scouting is to reach the highest rank, but I want to make the case of some additional ways scouting impacts people....people like me. Simply put, I have some unique ways of compensating for what teachers would call "poor auditory retention." Just watch me try to write down a long-distance number from a rapid voice on an answering machine. And in the 1960s, requirements for rank in BSA were rather unbendable, and one of the requirements for my next rank seemed impossible to me. So, I told my scoutmaster that I was quitting since I was stuck, which was not news to him, as he had tried to help with the task. Rather than letting me give up, he knew I was good with a hand axe and knife, and I appeared to have some teaching skills, so he gave me a special position to teach my troop about the requirements and skills for the Toten-Chip award. It was my first attempt at teaching, and my first leadership position. And it kept me in scouting for an additional season and when I left, I did so with some feeling of success.

I know that scouting worked for me, for my son, and for my granddaughter. I also know being a "Big" to my "Little" through Big Brothers Big Sisters, works for him, and for me. It is not too late for you. I hope you will add or expand the blessing of scouting in your local church.



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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 United Methodist Men. Articles without bylines are written by commission staff.

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REV. RICH PECK
Editor

100 years of Methodist Scouting

In 1920, 8,000 Scouts from 34 nations attended the first World Scout Jamboree in London.

During this 10-day summer gather, Baden Powell, the founder of Scouting, was acclaimed the “Chief Scout of the World.”

I would guess that some of the 8,000 Scouts and leaders attending the July 30 to Aug. 8 event were from Methodist churches in the U.S.

We know there were Scout troops in Delaware, Ohio; Brentwood Tenn.; Park Ridge, Ill., and Mt. Vernon, N.Y. Doubtless there were hundreds of other troops meeting in Methodist churches across the U.S.

A few months earlier, James West, the chief executive of the Boy Scouts of America, had signed an agreement with James Thompson, superintendent of Young People’s Sunday School of the Methodist Church, formalizing the relationship between the church and the scouting organization.

There is no record, but I’m guessing the two Jims hooked up in London

It is likely that our 2020 attention on COVID-19 and events in the denomination have distracted us from observing the 100-year anniversary in any significant manner.

Scouting, as almost all other activities, has changed in the past few months, but we hope this issue of the UM Men magazine will allow us to celebrate this remarkable 100-year relationship.

It is evident that Scouting would not have had any prominent place in this denomination without the support of Methodist and United Methodist Men.

Now, more than ever, we need the
**POWER OF
COMMUNICATION**





100 Years of **SCOUTING**

Happy 100th birthday to Methodist Scouting

Scouting was officially recognized by the Methodist Episcopal Church in February 1920.

In truth, Methodist churches were supporting Scout troops prior to 1920 when James V. Thompson, superintendent of Young People's Sunday School, wrote to James E. West, chief executive of Boy Scouts of America.

But that letter marks the first formal relationship between the Methodist Episcopal Church and Boy Scouts of America.

First local church

Grace Methodist Church in Delaware, Ohio, may be the first local church to sponsor a troop. In 1908 The Rev. L. Eugen Rush wanted to keep Methodist boys off the streets, and he founded the Eastside Roughnecks. The name was eventually changed to the East Side Gang and they became involved in activities like Scout troops engage in today.

Rush later contacted Sir Robert Baden-Powell, a British military hero who founded the Boy Scouts in England.

Baden Powell sent Rush a charter, making East Side Gang a troop in the British Scouting movement.

When the Boy Scouts came to America in 1910, Rush's troop became Troop No. 1 in Delaware, Ohio. Now there is a Number One BSA Troop in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. There were dozens of Methodist Churches in 1908-1909 who had established Boy Scout Troops. They joined the

BSA after its creation in 1910. The pastor was often the first Scoutmaster. The connection of values, character, and the church was natural.

UM Men take the lead

Led by Steven Scheid, the Center for Scouting Ministries of the General Commission on UM Men takes the lead in nurturing scouting ministries in the denomination. Today 3,111 UM congregations charter 9,611 Scout units serving 309,739 young people. UM churches provide home base for more Scouts than any other denomination in America.

The UMC designates the second Sunday in February for Boy Scouts of America and the second Sunday in March for Girl Scouts of the USA. Many congregations use a Sunday of their choice to celebrate all ministries offered in collaboration with the Center for Scouting Ministries.

Scouting ministry specialists

There are 171 active scouting ministry volunteers serving conference, district and local church Scout units across the U.S.

These specialists encourage local churches to sponsor Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY) classes for four age groups. Some pastors use God and Church courses in confirmation classes. In addition, these scouting ministry specialists provide churches with information about awards to honor Scouts and express appreciation to leaders.



A chronological history of Methodist scouting

1899

Robert Baden-Powell publishes his military book *Aids to Scouting for NCOs and Men*. An atypical manual including personal stories and games to enhance and test the learning of scouting skills.



Robert Baden-Powell

came to his aid. After guiding Boyce to his destination, the boy refused a tip, explaining that as a Boy Scout he would not accept payment for doing a good deed. This anonymous gesture inspired Boyce to organize several regional U.S. youth organizations.

1903

Baden-Powell returns to Britain to find his book a best seller. It is used by youth groups and young people all across the country. Young people ask him to re-write the book for boys and to become their leader.

1908

The Rev. L. Eugene Rush, pastor of Grace Methodist Church in Delaware, Ohio, forms the Eastside Roughnecks. Rush later asks Baden-Powell, to make the gang a troop in the British Scouting movement.

1905

Baden-Powell connects with youth leaders worldwide. He includes the ideas and methods of others, including Thomas Seton's *Woodcraft Indians* and Daniel Beard's *Sons of Daniel Boone* in the USA.

1910

Boy Scout troops are chartered by Brentwood (Tenn.) UMC, East End Methodist Church, Nashville; First Methodist Church, Park Ridge, Ill.; and First Methodist Church, Mt. Vernon, N.Y.

1907

At Brownsea Island, 21 boys from diverse backgrounds assemble for the first Boy Scout camp. The skills games and tests serve as an outdoor laboratory before publishing.



James E. West at the White House, with U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Walter W. Head, BSA national president (seated, left) in 1937

1908

The Boy Scouts movement is formalized in England with the publication of Baden-Powell's *Scouting for Boys*. The same year, William Boyce, a Chicago publisher was lost in the London when a Boy Scout

1911

James West is named chief executive of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), serving from 1911 to 1943.

James E. West at the White House, with U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Walter W. Head, BSA national president (seated, left) in 1937

1912

Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low forms the first Girl Scout troop in Savannah, Ga.

1913

Jessamine Flowers Link starts the second Girl Scout troop at Hyde Park Methodist Church in Tampa, Fla.

1916

Baden-Powell organizes Wolf Cubs, which becomes Cub Scouts in the United States

1920

The first international Boy Scout Jamboree is held in London, and Baden-Powell is acclaimed as chief of world scouting. Scouting is officially recognized by the Methodist Episcopal Church when James Thompson, superintendent of Young People's Sunday School, signs an agreement with James West.

1928

Edgar Welch, president of the Welch Grape Juice Company, is elected president of the Wesley Brotherhood. Branch Rickey, future manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers, is elected vice president.

1937

The first national jamboree is held in Washington, D.C. in July. Some 25,000 Scouts set up campsites around the Tidal Basin.

1939

Three Methodist denominations merge into The Methodist Church. Meeting in Atlantic City, the united General Conference creates a Board of Lay Activities based in Chicago; that board elects Edgar Welch president. Dr. George Morelock, lay leader of the Memphis Annual Conference, is named executive secretary and Dow Bancroft associate secretary.

1941

Sir Baden Powell dies

1942

The name Methodist Men is adopted. First six charters are issued and Methodist Men organizations charter Scout troops.

1945

The God and Country Program is established as an award for Boy Scouts, age 12 and up.

1950

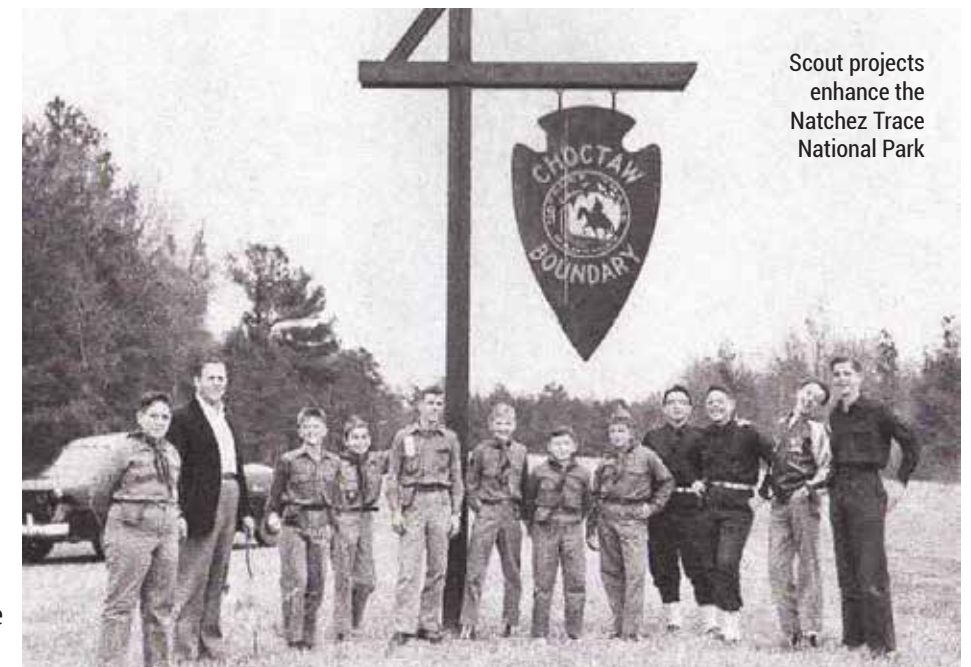
The National Scout Jamboree is held on the sites of the 18th century Valley Forge, Pa., encampment. President Truman and General Eisenhower speak.

1953

National Jamboree, Irvine Ranch, Calif.

1956

Scout projects enhance the Natchez Trace



Scout projects enhance the Natchez Trace National Park

National Park

1957

National Jamboree, Valley Forge.

1960

National Jamboree, Colorado Spring, Colo.

1964

National Jamboree, Valley Forge

1967

12th World Scout Jamboree Farragut State Park, Idaho, USA

1968

The Methodist Church and The Evangelical United Brethren Church unify into the United Methodist Church. Men's ministries are combined into UM Men. Scouting ministries is assigned to the General Board of Discipleship.

1969

National Jamboree, Farragut State Park, Idaho

1973

National Jamboree, Farragut State Park

1974

The God and Country program is expanded to three levels (God and Family, God and Church, and God and Life).

1976

The Protestant Committee changes its name to the Commission for Church and Civic Youth Serving Agencies (CCYSA). Programs of Religious Activities with Youth is (P.R.A.Y.) is created as the business office of the CCYSA. The commission continues to function as the Protestant Committee for BSA.

1980

The Board of Discipleship determines it is no longer be able to fund scouting ministries. Jim Snead, Claude Love and Dale Waymire create the UM Men Foundation to assure the ministry will continue. Jim Tarr, chief Scout executive for the BSA, helps the foundation raise funds.

1981

Dale Waymire is elected president of the UM Men Foundation. Dave Worley is named the first director of scouting for the General Board of Discipleship. Part of his salary is funded by the UM Men Foundation. The foundation introduces the John Wesley Society. The BSA National Jamboree is held in Fort A.P. Hill, Va.

1982

Worley introduces Bishop's Dinner for Scouting and Bowl-a-Thons in which sponsors paid bowlers for the number of pins knocked down. In 12 years, Bowl-a-Thons raised \$1.2 million. Worley recruits people to serve as conference and district scouting coordinators. Gene Hazlewood is named the first full time executive director of P.R.A.Y.



Dr. Albert Outler speaks to the 1968 Uniting Conference.

1983

Torch Awards, Cross and Flame Awards and the Bishop's Award of Excellence are introduced. Mark Hazlewood becomes executive director of P.R.A.Y. after his father dies.

1984

Clergy and laity come to Nashville to start process of providing new training materials.

1985

National Jamboree is held in Fort A.P. Hill

1988

Chuck Jones, Van Nuys, Calif., is elected chair of the newly formed Men's Division at the Board of Discipleship. UM Men Foundation scouting endowment reaches \$202,821.

1989

National Jamboree, Fort A.P. Hill.

1990

David Worley leaves post as director of scouting ministries to become associate director of the Relationships Division of the national BSA office in Dallas. .

1991

The Rev. Byron White is named scouting ministries director. UM Foundation for Scouting assets total \$480,272.

1992

In order to make it clear the ministry includes Girl Scouts, 4-H and Camp Fire, the position is given a new title: director of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/ Scouting.



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UMC Giving

1993

National Jamboree, Fort A.P. Hill

1995

UM Men Foundation assets total \$1,081,769.

1996

General Conference creates the General Commission on UM Men. Bishop Raymond Owen is elected president of commission. Bishop Joe Pennel is named chair of the Scouting Advisory Committee.

1997

Dr. Joseph L. Harris, a district superintendent in the Oklahoma Conference, is elected general secretary for the new commission.



Larry Coppock

Larry Coppock is named director of youth-serving ministries. Three thousand three hundred Scouts attend a UM Communion service at the National Jamboree in Fort A.P. Hill. Coppock attends the Camp Fire Congress in Kansas City.

1999

Forty-three people attend a Scouting Ministries Workshop at the Philmont Scout Ranch. Some 421,000 youth belong to scouting units sponsored by UM congregations. Evan Hunsberger, a California Boy Scout, seeks commission help to republish World War II book Strength for Service to God and Country

2000

Bowl-a-Thon is changes to Sport-a-Thon. Participants may seek dollars for pins down in bowling, miles biked, walked, or run, or holes completed on golf courses.

2001

Cal Turner, chief executive officer of Dollar General, makes a \$1 million gift to the UM Men Foundation. National Jamboree is held in Fort A.P. Hill

2004

Commission signs a covenant with Big Brothers Big Sisters. The Wesley Foundation chapter of Sigma Theta Epsilon in Tahlequah, Okla., provides funds for 2,700 Backpacking New Testaments to add to the



The Rev. Joe Harris presides over the work of the legislative committee of the 2019 United Methodist General Conference in St. Louis. Photo by Mike DuBose, UMNS.

supply of 8,000 provided by UM Men. The 10,700 books are given to Scouts visiting Philmont. Some 7,500 UM churches have 400,000 scouting youth, including 25,000 Cub Scouts. Joe Harris receives the Silver Buffalo Award from BSA.

2005

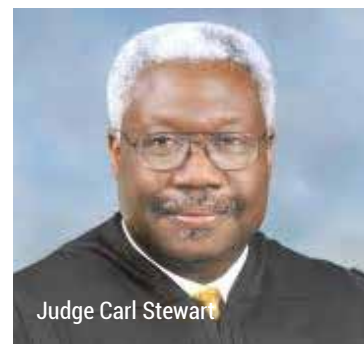
The commission signs an agreement with Girl Scouts of the USA. They agree UM churches will support troops and Girl Scouts will provide troop leaders with information about religious recognition programs. Some 27,000 troops comprising 120,000 girls meet in UM churches. Harris resigns as top staff executive of the commission to return to Oklahoma Conference as director of communications and assistant to the bishop. Four adults are killed while trying to put up a dining tent for the National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill. The metal pole hit a power line killing them instantly. Twenty clergy serve as chaplains for the event and 10 serve in the exhibit area.

2006

Commission moves into new offices on Nashville's Music Row. The Rev. David Adams, a Tennessee pastor, is named general secretary. Some 250,000 copies of Strength for Service are distributed. The ministry publishes a Scout edition of the book. Nearly 400,000 youth in 12,000 units meet in 8,500 UM churches.

2007

The National Gathering of UM Men is moved to Nashville. Previous gatherings were held at Purdue University. Carl Stewart, judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals based in Shreveport, La., is elected chair



Judge Carl Stewart

of the Scouting Ministry Committee of the General Commission on UM Men.. A record 12 young people receive Good Samaritan Awards from First UMC in South Bend, Ind.

2008

Scouting introduces scouting ministry specialists along with the Silver Torch Award and Shepherd Church Charter Recognition. Big Brothers-Big Sisters added as partner agency. More than 369,000 young people participate in BSA programs sponsored by UM congregations. First UMC of Turlock, Calif., presents 31 P.R.A.Y. awards.

2009

Bishop James King elected president of the commission. David Adams resigns as general secretary to return to local church ministry. Forty-five people certified as scouting ministry specialists. More than 370,000 youth participate in 11,237 Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops and Venturing crews sponsored by 6,600 UM churches across America. Sixty-seven volunteers now serve as scouting ministry specialists. The office gives 1,800 Back Packing New Testaments to Scouts at high-adventure camps. International Scouting accepts the anti-malaria "Nothing But Nets" effort as its first "Good Turn" project. Inspired by Sports Illustrated columnist Rick Reilly, the campaign was created by the UN Foundation in 2006, and it was adopted by the UMC.

2010

Gil Hanke, former president of the commission, is elected general secretary of the commission. Eighteen clergy serve as chaplains at the National Scouting Jamboree in Fort Hill, Va. In



Gil Hanke

addition, 11 UMs, led by Larry Coppock, staff an exhibit at the jamboree. Some 5,500 UM Scouts and leaders attend a worship service during the 9-day event. The office gives 5,000 Back Packing New Testaments to the Scouts. Pittsburgh Area Bishop Thomas Bickerton preaches at the service, and Scouts contribute \$17,500 to Nothing But Nets. One hundred people volunteer to serve as scouting ministry specialists. Twenty-three scouters attend a UM Scouters Workshop at the Boy Scout Florida Sea Base in February. There are now 371,000 Scouts participating in 11,237 Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops and Venturing crews sponsored by 6,700 UM churches across America.

2011

There are now 371,000 young people involved in Scout troops and Cub Scout packs meeting in UM churches. During the year, BSA launches a Faith-Based Initiative to retain and strengthen relationships with religious groups. One hundred and thirty people certified as scouting ministry specialists. UM Men Foundation has assets totaling \$2.26 million. P.R.A.Y. presents 26,072 awards; 6,642 were presented by UM congregations. Five Scout units sponsored by St. Andrew's UMC in Virginia Beach prepare 24,000 dehydrated meals for Haitians during a Stop Hunger Now packaging event.

2012

A total of 6,700 UM congregations enrich the lives of 371,491 young people through 11,078 Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, and Venturing crews. The Rev. Dr. W. Kenneth Lyons Jr., a retired UM pastor and district superintendent in the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference, is elected to a two-year term as president of P.R.A.Y. Twenty participants in a national UM Scouting Ministry Workshop at the Philmont Scout Ranch volunteer to become scouting ministry specialists, bringing the total number of people helping local churches expand their ministries to young people to 183. General Conference marks the 100th birthday of the Girl Scouts.

2013

More than 20 volunteer UM leaders serve in an exhibit area at the first BSA National Jamboree to be held at the West Virginia Summit. Some 30,000 Scouts and 7,000 leaders participate. The Rev. Dr. Bruce Reed, a UM pastor, preaches at the Protestant worship service. The Rev. Greg Godwin coordinates the Protestant service. West Virginia Area Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball serves as celebrant at a Methodist Communion service. The Strength for Service Committee publishes a Boy Scout edition of Strength for Service to God and Community, a book of daily devotions for first responders. The first 2,000 copies are given to Scouts at the jamboree,

2014

Eight Scout leaders participate in a training experience at the Philmont Training Center. Ty LaValley was named as a Scouting missionary in Cote d'Ivoire. The Latimer High-Adventure Center, a 1,550 acre camp

in Tennessee, is dedicated. Bishop James Swanson, president of the General Commission on UM Men, speaks to 1,500 attending a Duty to God breakfast at the National BSA gathering in Nashville. Some 6,500 Backpacking New Testaments are presented to Scouts at three high-adventure sites. More than 365,000 youth are involved in scouting ministries at UM churches.

2015

UM Men cooperate with four other denominational groups to provide 20,000 New Testaments to Scout troops. There are 10,503 scouting units serving 331,000 young people in 6,500 UM congregations. They are supported by 303 scouting ministry specialists. UM churches presented 5,716 P.R.A.Y. awards to young people. Theo Johnson, a Boy Scout in Troop 175 chartered by First UMC in Waukesha, Wis., serves as the sole ambassador of Boy Scouts of America to the August Scout Nagasaki Peace Forum. One person from each of the 161 nations attending the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in Yamaguchi, Japan, was invited to participate in the forum. Greg Godwin serves as the only clergy delegate to the international event.

2016

Phil Howard is elected chair of the Scouting Committee and 333 scouting ministry specialists work with 6,500 UM congregations with 320,000 young people in 10,000 Scout units. The Office of Scouting Ministry helps provide 10,000 New Testaments to Scouts at four high-adventure centers. Twenty-four Scout leaders receive advance training at the Bechtel Summit Training Course. P.R.A.Y. welcomes Jason Noland as executive director.

2017

Larry Coppock is named top executive of Strength for Service and the commission begins a search for a new director of scouting ministries. Fifteen UM clergy serve as chaplains to the 30,000 participants in the National BSA Jamboree and 35 volunteers provide information about the UMC in the Faith and Belief exhibit area of the Summit Bechtel Reserve in Glen Jean, W.Va. An estimated 12,000 Scouts visit the exhibit. Twenty-five Scout leaders gather for a Scouting Ministry Workshop at the BSA Florida Sea Base.



UM Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball blesses the elements of Holy Communion during the 2017 National Scout Jamboree at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in Glen Jean, W. Va.

2018

The commission agrees to operate out of two centers, The Center for Men's Ministry and the Center for Scouting Ministry. Steven Scheid is selected as director for the Scouting Ministry Center. He leads an effort to get UM congregations to welcome Latter-day Saint scouts into their troops as that faith community ends its relationship with BSA at the end of 2019. A record 46 people attend UM Scouters' Conference at the Philmont Training Center.



Steven Scheid

2019

BSA declares bankruptcy Scheid says ministries in local churches will not be affected by the action. The LDS Church discontinues its relationship with BSA. UM churches add 377 new Scout units. The World Scout Jamboree is held at The Bechtel Summit Reserve in Mt. Hope, West Virginia. 45,000 Scouts from around the world and 11,000 adult volunteers attend. Thousands experience the Duty to God in North America marking the first World Jamboree presentation of Duty to God.

2020

The UMC and Boy Scouts of America celebrate their 100th year of formal partnership. P.R.A.Y. classes and troop and pack meetings are moved on-line as the nation struggles with the Covid 19 virus.



As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Committee on Relief assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need.



UMCmission.org/UMCOR

Famous Scouts who belonged to troops chartered by UM churches

Astronaut Neil Armstrong

In the late 1950s, Armstrong signed up at a Methodist Church to lead a Boy Scout troop. The paperwork asked the applicant about his religious beliefs. Armstrong wrote in "Deist." On his 1969 trip to the moon, Armstrong sent a radio message to wishing Scouts a good time while camping at the National BSA Jamboree in Idaho. He carried a World Scout Badge to the surface of the Moon and back. The badge is on display at the World Scout Bureau office in Geneva, Switzerland.



Astronaut Roger Chaffee

The astronaut who died in the Apollo 1 disaster, was a member of Troop 15 (later renumbered 215) chartered by Trinity Methodist Church of Grand Rapids, Mich. He earned his first merit badge at the age 13. After becoming an Eagle Scout in 1951, he earned another ten merit badges, for which he was awarded the bronze and gold palms. As an astronaut, Chaffee was part of the delegation NASA sent to the Philmont Scout Ranch to study geology.



President Gerald Ford

Ford was an Episcopalian, but he also was a member of the troop chartered by Trinity Methodist Church. He was in the troop from 1925 to 1930. He became an Eagle Scout in 1927. In 1970, when Ford was House Minority Leader, he received the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. Ford became president in 1974 and died in 2006.



President George W. Bush

Former President Bush was a member of the UMC. During the 2005 National Jamboree, the former Cub Scout told 40,000 Scouts, "Through your Good Turn for America initiative, Scouts have given more than 1.4 million hours of volunteer service this year alone ... On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank the Boy Scouts for serving on the front line of America's armies of compassion."



Senator Hubert Humphrey

The future senator was born in a room over his father's drugstore in Wallace, S.D. His father was a licensed pharmacist who served as mayor. The family later moved to Huron, S.D. where Humphrey attended Huron Methodist Church and became scoutmaster of the church's Boy Scout Troop 6. He started basketball games in the church basement.



Governor Rick Perry

The former governor of Texas from 2000 to 2015, Perry served as secretary of "Energy from 2017 to 2019. Perry was a member of Tarrytown UMC in Austin. He was an Eagle Scout in a Methodist Church and the BSA later honored him with the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award.



BSA Executive Michael B. Surbaugh

Mike served as the chief executive of the BSA from 2015 to 2019. He earned his Eagle Scout award in Troop 360 in Bethel Park (Pa.) UMC, and he served on the summer camp staff of the Allegheny Trails Council.



BSA Executive Joseph Merton.

As a member of the Tuskegee Airmen in World War II, Merton flew 28 combat missions over Germany and he became top executive of the BSA Older Youth Division in 1977. In that role, he reminded America that scouting isn't just for families in the suburbs. He retired in the early 1990s and died in 1995 at age 71.



Joseph Merton reads Boys' Life magazine with J.L. Tarr, BSA chief executive.

Bishop Will Willimon

Willimon says the work he completed for his God and Country Award was instrumental in his call to the ministry. The bishop of the Birmingham Area is a former assistant scoutmaster and is currently a district committee member. He attended the 1960 National Scout Jamboree in Colorado Springs. His son, William, is an Eagle Scout.



Bishop He soo Jung

The bishop says he was a Boy Scout in Kwan Hwa, South Korea. "In some ways it was a lot like para-military training. "There was a lot of tension living near the demilitarized zone that separated North and South Korea, and we were trained about ways to deal with disaster. It was a lot like participating in the Korean military.



Bishop Lindsey Davis

The bishop says he was a member of a Boy Scout troop at Asbury UMC in Durham, N.C. He says, "It was through that scouting involvement that I was introduced to camping,



became a good swimmer, learned first aid (which has come in very handy several times in my life), learned basic leadership skills (and found that I could be good at it), and developed some self-confidence."



The Rev. Greg Godwin

Greg has attended two World Jamborees and eight National Jamborees. He was part of the Chaplain Crisis Intervention Team for the 2005 National Jamboree when four Scout leaders were killed when a metal pole for a dining tent hit a power line. He has also served as coordinator for the Protestant Worship Services and the UM Communion service at the jamborees. Greg has also served as chair of the BSA's Protestant Working Group for the Religious Relationships National Committee, and vice-chair of the Scouting Ministry Advisory Committee for the commission.



Greg Pope

Greg is an Eagle Scout instrumental in reestablishing Troop 47 chartered to Hixson UMC in Chattanooga Tenn. He enlisted his father to serve as Scoutmaster. In 1983, Greg was selected as the BSA's youth representative to the sixth World Scout Forum. As an adult he served several years on the UMM Foundation Board, as commissioner for the Middle Tennessee Council and Southern Region Area 6. He was also active in Strength for Service. He is an author and respected authority in the fields of philanthropy and not-for-profit leadership.



Greg Pope as a youth.

Larry Coppock

Larry's dad died when Larry was eight and he never had the opportunity to be a Scout as a youth. He became a professional scouter at age 27 when he served three Boy Scout councils from 1979-1992. That experience laid the foundation him to become director of scouting ministries for the General Commission on UM Men in 1997. During 21 years as the director, he made an impact



LARRY TAKES A BREAK FROM SEA BASE TRAINING IN 2013 TO VISIT KEY WEST.

the youth and adults through the creation of new awards, the introduction of new training events, and recruiting chaplains for national jamborees.

Steven Scheid

Steven started in Cub Scouts when he was eight years old. He continued through scouting to receive the Arrow of Light and Eagle Scout rank. He has served as adviser to Venture Crew 518 and assistant scoutmaster and chaplain in Troop 518. He is a three-bead wood badge leader. Through teaching God and Life, he accepted a call to the pastoral ministry. Upon the retirement of Larry Coppock, Steven became the director of the Center for Scouting Ministries.



Steven Scheid with long time Scouter John Anderson of Alaska.

Gil Hanke

Gil was in BSA for a few years in the 1960s, at his church, Dulin Methodist Church in Falls Church, Va. His scouting career was uneventful, but fun. In 1991, Gil became the Tiger Cub coach for son Carl at Perritte Memorial UMC, in Nacogdoches, Texas. In 2003, Carl Hanke became an Eagle Scout in Troop 107, and now works for BSA as a field director, at the Last Frontier Council, in Oklahoma City, Okla. Carl's daughter, Gentry, is in now a Wolf in Pack 3335 and is working on her God and Me. Gil serves as the charter organization representative for Pack 2862, which meets at Antioch (Tenn) UMC where he and his wife are members.



Carl and Gentry Hanke

ALL I NEED TO KNOW

A Sunday school teacher decided to have his second grade class learn Psalm 23.

He gave the kids a month to memorize the whole chapter. One of the girls was really excited about it, but she simply couldn't memorize the Psalm. Although she practiced hard, she could hardly get past the first few lines.

So the day came for the children to recite Psalm 23 before the school board and that little girl was nervous.

When her turn came, she stepped up to the microphone and proudly said, "The Lord is my Shepherd and that's all I need to know!"



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United Methodists are donating to local churches in honor of someone who's made a difference to them, then posting on social media to inspire others to do the same. Resources are available to help you launch the campaign in your church and community!

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ResourceUMC.org/IGiveUMC



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UMC

Faith-based Scouting in a COVID world

By Chris Karabinos

It's fascinating to see how creative Scouts and Scout leaders have become during the COVID shutdown of our world.

Like everything else in the country, Scouting shut down abruptly in mid-March, then people figured out things were going to stay that way for a while.

We had to figure out quickly how we were going to eat, get medical care and continue to work. Were we going to attend church, go out to eat, and get our hair cut? Our kids had to learn how to go to school virtually and whether they could continue with extra-curricular activities.

Out of this confusion, some Scout leaders figured out pretty quickly they could use the virtual meeting platforms they use at work, like Zoom and Teams, to conduct Scout meetings for leaders and Scouts.

We first started seeing Boy Scout Councils hold training and roundtable sessions via Zoom. Then some troops held troop meetings virtually. Girl Scout troops were also having meetings online. By the end of April, councils were having virtual camporees with families camping in their own backyards and dialing into community gatherings with other Scout families around their city, state and country.

The creativity in using Zoom and other virtual platforms to replace almost any kind of Scout activity was astonishing. The ubiquity, ease-of-access and low cost of Zoom helped power a quick virtualization



Chris Karabinos is Scout Coordinator of the North Georgia Conference having served as a Boy Scout leader at the pack, troop, crew, church and Boy Scout district and council levels for 20 years and as North Georgia CSC for 4 years. He has also served on the Methodist Scout Week training staff the past three years and is director for the 2021 course at Philmont next June.

of almost any type of Scout event within a 6-8 week period. By mid-July, most Scout organizations (packs, troops, crews, districts, councils, national organizations in Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts) had widely adopted virtual events as a key part of their program, if not the core part of their program, until things open back up.

Troop Meetings

For example, Troop 143, chartered by Johns Creek (Ga.) UMC has been holding merit badge clinics on their traditional troop meeting night since the third Monday in April. They are conducting rank advancement sessions, Scoutmaster Conferences and Boards of Review online.



They participated in the Atlanta Area Council's virtual camporee in late April and have had leaders attend council and district training sessions virtually in the spring.

Many packs, troops, crews and posts have been holding activities and events online while venturing outside with some activities observing safe physical distancing practices.

One of the interesting and unintended benefits of this virtual scouting world is that many Scouts now view Scouting as more interesting in some ways since it uses technology in a way they are comfortable with.

P.R.A.Y. Programs

This virtual transformation includes Faith-based Scouting as well. For example, the Rev Scott Pickering, pastor of Cornerstone UMC in Newnan, Ga., led Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) classes via Zoom in April.

Scott had 17 students enrolled in a God & Me class and 13 students in a God & Family class for an entire week. He held a one-hour daily session for five consecutive days with each class completing their requirements for their award. This virtual P.R.A.Y. Day Camp is a great example of taking advantage of an opportunity to be in ministry with our youth.



District Roundtables

Another example is when the Northern Ridge District (Atlanta Area Council) decided to host their April Roundtable (adult training meeting) virtually on April 16th. I led a breakout session called "Building Scouting as a Ministry" as one of five breakout sessions that night. The district continues to host monthly Roundtables virtually and will do so until COVID-19 recedes.

Scouters Religious Academy (SRA)

One of the more interesting events held virtually this year due to the virus was the annual Scouters Religious Academy (SRA) on May 16. Originally scheduled as an on-site training conference in Atlanta, the United Methodist Committee on Scouting of the North Georgia Conference changed the conference to a virtual event in late March with only a seven-week notice. They decided to test the idea in a virtual format rather than cancel the event to see what would happen.



Rather than the 75-100 attendees they were expecting at an in-person event, they had more than 300 people attend a six-hour Saturday conference via Zoom.

Word-of-mouth excitement about this program being delivered virtually over a new platform brought attendees from 42 states, including Alaska, Hawaii, and five countries. Girl Scouts leaders were one-third of the group with priests and ministers also in attendance. Forty-seven percent of participants were Roman Catholic, 37 percent were Protestant and the rest from Hindu, Jewish, and Eastern Orthodox faith communities. Feedback in the chat rooms online during the event and via the survey post conference was overwhelmingly positive. This experience show Scouting virtually can actually grow an event.

Methodist Scout Week

Based on the success of the Scouters Religious Academy, two other faith-based Scouting conferences went virtual.



Methodist Scout Week, which had been scheduled at Philmont Training Center for the week of July 4, was cancelled in early May because of the virus. Steven Scheid, executive director of the Center for Scouting Ministries, made the decision immediately after the successful academy meeting to convert Methodist Scout Week to an online conference.

The first virtual Methodist Scouters Conference was held via Zoom on June 27-28 with six hours of course content presented in two three-hour sessions. It, too, was a major success as there were Methodist Scouters from 25 states in attendance. Feedback following the event was extremely positive.

BSA Virtual Interfaith Week

The other faith-based conference to go virtual this year was the National BSA's Interfaith Conference originally scheduled for Philmont over a two-week period in early July. Since their in-person event was also cancelled due to the virus, the National Religious Relations Committee of the BSA converted their conference to a full schedule that included an incredible 60 courses over a seven-day period, June 29 - July 5; all via Zoom. The virtual Interfaith Week attracted hundreds of Scout leaders from almost every state in the U.S. and several foreign countries. It was an incredible event as well.



As these events are assessed for future consideration, the North Georgia Conference Scout team has already set its next virtual Scouters Religious Academy for October 2021, although they will also host an in-person academy in April 2021. They see the value in hosting both type conferences and hope other conferences may offer virtual and in-person conferences too.

It's truly interesting to see how the COVID-19 virus has caused us to think outside the box in terms of delivering the Scout program and how we now realize that this brings new opportunities, if one is willing to view it that way.

May the Great Scoutmaster of all Scouts be with us until we meet again..

We can't go back

By the Rev. Dr. Rick Vance

As a world and as a ministry, we are facing realities that we would have never dreamed possible.

When we concluded the National Association of Conference Presidents, we never thought that would be the last in-person meeting to date.

Within a few weeks of that early March meeting, not only were meetings cancelled, we were also not meeting in person in our churches. Most businesses were closed and most people were working from home. While not stopped, ministry slowed down. By the middle of March, members of the commission staff were working from their homes.

Call for more resources

In April, the commission began to get requests from men throughout our UM connection for Bible study and small-group resources. Men began looking for new ways to connect with other men for accountability.

It seemed that the physical distancing and slowing down of schedules were providing men with the time to look for a new meaning in their lives.

Since the spread of COVID-19, leaders of UM men have been meeting regularly for prayer and support.

More men have been involved in UM Men-sponsored leadership training, Class Meetings and



The Rev. Dr. Rick Vance is director of the Center for Men's Ministries at the General Commission on UM Men.

on-line prayer gatherings in the last five months than in any other five-month period in recent years.

Less busy

The major reason for this change is that we have been forced to be less busy.

Simply put, COVID-19 slowed us down.

In *Subversive Spirituality*, Eugene Peterson writes: "Busyness is the enemy of spirituality. It is essentially laziness. It is doing the easy thing instead of the hard thing. It is filling our time with our own actions instead of paying attentions to God's actions. It is taking charge."

Many men have found that becoming less busy frees them to have closer relationships with God and with each other.

Acceptance of new technology

Another observation from the new COVID-19 period is that all men, young and old, have accepted new technological ways to connect.

The normal way for men to gather has been the in-person breakfast meetings.

Since COVID-19 men have been meeting through on-line video chats. Even men who have said they were too old to learn this new technology, have begun to embrace the opportunities to meet screen-to-screen with other men. Local churches, conferences and jurisdictions have now embraced video conferencing as a way of not only meeting for business but also for fellowship. Several churches are having virtual breakfasts, and many are engaged in on line Class Meetings and Bible studies.

Thinking about the future

As we continue to move forward, we must embrace the lessons we have learned over the last several months.

First, we cannot go back to the way it was. Like it or not, COVID-19 has taught us there are new ways to gather and communicate. While face-to-face communication is the best way to develop relationships, we must not forget that there will be those who can not gather with a group in person. We have learned they can be included utilizing technology like video conferencing.

Second, while fellowship is important, helping men "thrive through Christ" occurs when men study together, pray together and hold each other accountable in intentional small groups. John Wesley believed that people should gather in

larger groups, however the genius of the Wesleyan movement was the Class Meeting. This must be a priority for ministry as we move ahead.

Third, given the opportunity, men will always fall back into a habit of busyness. Men need to develop a better way to be less busy and spend more time in relationships with God and others.

For men's ministry to continue to thrive, men need to continue to implement the strategies we have learned.

The corona virus has been one of the most devastating events I have experienced. Through this, however I believe we have seen the resilient nature of our men and men's leaders that gives me hope for the new reality we are and will live in. God has and will continue to be faithful in guiding us into the future. Our job is to be open to the moving of God's spirit.



Branch Rickey served as vice-president of the Wesley Brotherhood

By 1928, the Wesley Brotherhood of the Methodist Episcopal Church adopted a slogan: "A million Methodist men making the mind of the Master their main motive and mission."

The Men's Work Commission consisted of 30 men. Edgar T. Welch, president of the Welch Grape Juice Company, served as president

Branch Rickey, then vice-president of the St. Louis National League Baseball Team, served as first vice president.

Rickey signs Jackie Robinson

In 1942, Rickey moved from the Cardinal organization to become manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Five years later he signed Jackie Robinson to a minor league contract.

"He's a Methodist, I'm a Methodist... And God's a Methodist; we can't go wrong," said Rickey.

Robinson was quickly moved from the minors to the Dodgers where he became the first African-American player in the major leagues.

Rickey told Robinson, "We can't fight our way through this. We've got no army. There's virtually nobody on our side. No owners. No umpires. Very few newspapermen. And I'm afraid many fans will be hostile. We'll be in a tough position. We can win only if we convince the world that

I'm doing this because you are a great ball player and a fine gentleman."

Rickey's roots

Rickey was born in Stockdale, Ohio, in 1881. And he played football and baseball for Valley High School in Lucasville, Ohio. In 1899, he entered Methodist-related Ohio Wesleyan University where he played baseball and football. Following his 1903 graduation, Rickey was named coach of the school's baseball team while playing football for the Shelby Blues football team with Charles Follis, the first Black professional football player.

Rickey says his inspiration for bringing Robinson into baseball derived from the mean manner in which teammates treated his Black catcher Charles Thomas in 1903 and 1904.



Rickey as a Cardinal

In the fall of 1904, Rickey was named athletic director and coach of the baseball, basketball and football teams at Allegheny College in Pennsylvania.

Rickey debuted with the St. Louis Browns in 1905, and was traded to the New York Highlanders in 1907, Rickey could neither hit nor field while with the club, and his batting average dropped below .200. One opposing team stole 13 bases in one game while Rickey was catcher, which was minor league record until 1911. Rickey also injured his throwing arm and retired at the end of the season.



Jackie Robinson and Branch Rickey

going to bed. "It's the best way to get closer to God," Robinson said, and then the second baseman added with a smile, "and a hard-hit ground ball."

In 1935, Robinson enrolled in John Muir High School where he played shortstop and catcher on the baseball team, quarterback on the football team, and guard on the basketball team. He also won the broad jump with the track team.

After high school, Robinson attended UCLA, where he was the first person to letter in four varsity sports in a single year.

During his 10-year career with Major League Baseball, Robinson won the inaugural Rookie of the Year Award in 1947, was an All-Star for six consecutive seasons from 1949 through 1954, and won the National League Most Valuable Player Award in 1949. He played in six World Series and contributed to the Dodgers' 1955 World Series championship.

Robinson was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962 and died in 1972.



Jackie Robinson speaks to the Boy Scouts

Rickey then entered the University of Michigan where he studied for his Bachelor of Law degree while coaching the baseball team.

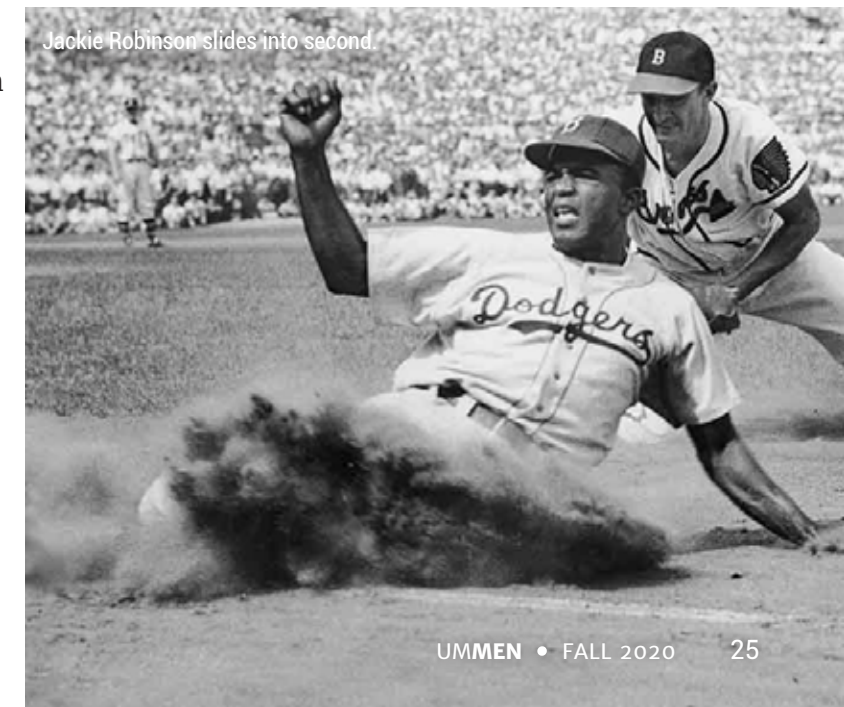
Following service as an Army officer in World War I, he served with the St. Louis Cardinals organization until 1942 when he began his career with the Brooklyn Dodgers. He coached until 1950 and died in 1965.

Robinson's roots

Born January 31, 1919, in Pasadena, Calif., Robinson was influenced by the Rev. Karl Downs, pastor of Scott Methodist Church where the ballplayer's mother, Mallie, attended services. Downs helped Robinson develop his faith.

Rickey spoke often about his faith, but Robinson kept his faith quiet.

At one point the second base man told a reporter that he kneels down every night to pray before



Jackie Robinson slides into second.

Time to bring hope

By Louis Johnson

In our silence, following the brutal killing of Ahmaud Arbery, we are complicit in yet another tragedy against an unarmed Black man. In our silence, and misguided priorities, we have given, yet again, tacit approval to man's inhumanity to man. In our silence, we relinquish all power vested in us to bring light to a dark and angry world.

We, my dear brothers, are not powerless to affect change in this instance. Indeed, we are called to act. We will not yield to the doers of evil. Instead, today, we stand up and let our light shine as men of God. Let us set aside our politics and worldly aspirations, acknowledging that perpetrators and victims alike, are our brothers and it is incumbent upon us to lead our families, our communities, our churches, and our nation out of this intolerable and despicable American nightmare.

Yes, it is on us to restore hope to what appears to be a hopeless situation. Our nation aches for our leadership.

We are required as leaders and fishers of men to call on our brothers (Black and White, Asian, and Hispanic) God's men from every corner of the earth to say, "No more." Let us seek peace and respect God's creations. No man is entitled to take the life of another nor can we retreat to the comfort of our church pews in quiet, shameful, and silent cowardice. This is not what God would have us to do. This is not how Jesus would have us to behave toward one another and therefore, my brothers, because we know better, we must do better.



Louis Johnson is president of UM Men of the North Georgia Conference and second vice president of the Southeastern Jurisdiction UM Men.

Men, we express our unity today and forever, under one God, unified under one spirit to put the world on notice that we stand on one accord to:

Embrace legislation to establish statutes against hate crimes and require our government to eliminate all barriers and impediments to true justice for all.

Propose solutions and collaborative opportunities that bridge the divide between us through education and understanding.

Teach together, preach together, and pray together with one message of love, truth, and justice.

Bring down the walls of racism that separate us.

Eliminate violence against women and girls.

We call upon UM men to bring into being a new America where lives of Black men have the same value as the lives of White men, where every man is free to live the American dream, where our Asian and Latino brothers are valued because they are children of God.

Let us never be silent again. We stand together like David, armed with the power of God, with our rag and our stone, fearless to slay this mighty Goliath called racism and bigotry. This colossal giant was constructed through hatred and systematic injustice for over 400 years in America. Let us bring him down together once and for all – unafraid – leaving him still and quieted forevermore.

DEEPLY ROOTED PEOPLE OF GOD

Economic inequity -- The foundation of racism

By Reginald Grant

Partially because of the brutal killing of George Floyd, systematic racism is now viewed as one of the biggest issues facing our nation and the world.

But, African Americans, and other people of color, have lived with racism for generations.

In spite of a long history of stolen and enslaved people, stolen property, stolen intellectual property, and cultural misappropriation, it took a brief video of George Floyd's death to ignite and bring the racial injustice to the forefront.

Technology allowed the issues to unify the mindset of diverse people around the world. They unite in calling for improved police practices, equal access to capital, and access to equitable justice.

Perfect storm highlights racial inequities

It took the perfect storm to focus the attention on racial inequities and injustice. I did not say a good storm; people dying from COVID-19, without access to enough food, a lack of access to medical care, and the negative economic impact, are all bad. But, economic inequity is the underlying foundation for racism. A lack of access to medicine, access to opportunities, and access to education, all of this is enforced by systems that discriminate because of race.

Protesting is based upon the fundamental rights spelled out in the U.S. Constitution. But, the

Constitution has not protected African Americans and other people of color. And, for clarification: looters and thieves should be punished, peaceful protesters should not.

African Americans and other people of color must be treated with the same respect as other members of our society.

Resistance to change

The spotlight is shining bright on people in power who resist change, but like the dinosaurs, they will become extinct.

Those who do not understand that the world is a diverse and different place are like ostriches who put their heads in the sand.

The adage "the only thing guaranteed is change" is appropriate in the new wave of change

Companies and governments now have an opportunity to address systemic, institutionalized racism.

America's superpower

Diversity is America's superpower, a power we have refused to fully embrace.

A recent study by the Boston Consulting Group found that diversity increases the bottom line for companies. The study found that "increasing the diversity of leadership teams leads to more and better innovation and improved financial performance." A study of 1,700 different companies across eight countries found that increasing diversity has a direct effect on the bottom line. Companies that have more diverse management teams have 19% higher revenue due to innovation and inclusive teams make better business decisions up to 87% of the time.

Talent, creativity, and intelligence do not recognize color, but opportunities have been limited for African Americans and other people of color.

When will this nation take steps to ensure our future, and make opportunities available for all?

Personal experience

I have been an entrepreneur my entire life, I am also an African American man. So, I have seen the greatness and opportunities that America offers but I have also seen and experienced the inequities of America.

African Americans and other people of color do not want nor need a hand-out, we just want the opportunity to compete without the additional burden of systemic, institutionalized racism. The barriers to capital, quality education, and jobs impact the entire nation and reduce productivity.

During my 17 years as a certificated English teacher, I saw firsthand the inequities in the educational system. I taught students in urban Los Angeles in some of the worst schools in America. I also taught extremely wealthy students and international students and the inequities are real.

I have worked on statewide assessments still in use for the State of California and taught courses for Boston College. Educational inequity impacts people for life by limiting access to economic opportunities.

No one deserves to die like George Floyd! And, far too many African Americans and other people of color have been victims of a system stacked against them. Our police must be held accountable, not disbanded. Our companies, leaders, politicians, institutions, and the government will be held accountable one way or another.

In my opinion, the most significant thing ever stated by Martin Luther King was "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

So, where do we go from here? Technology will continue to be a window into every action and inaction. What are you going to do? The decision is yours and will determine how we move forward from here.

Will you be a part of the solution or a part of the problem?



Reginald Grant is a member of the General Commission on UM Men, a business strategist, former NFL player, and a retired English teacher



Give Day October 19,

For I am convinced that neither Covid 19, nor racial tension, neither our presence in worship, nor our absence, neither a poverty of resources, nor divisions within our denomination, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

—A paraphrase of Romans 8:38–39

Paul assures us that no matter how many difficulties we face some 2,000 years after he walked this planet, nothing can separate us from the love of God.

The only question we face is, “How will we respond to this ever-present gift?”

The General Commission on United Methodist Men understands we face postponed events and division within our church, our country, our culture. We know we can’t do what we used to do because of pandemics, distrust, disappointment, limited resources, and uncertainty.

Never-the-less, leaders in men’s and scouting ministries have done the unthinkable. We are expanding our ministries.

We invite you to join our expansion team on October 19, our second annual Give Day.

The “why” is simple, there is a need to dramatically expand our discipleship opportunities for men and young people, and we have found ways to make that happen.

Former funding sources are struggling, and, last year, your generosity allowed us provide a myriad of faith-building opportunities while finishing in the black.

Consider this— in the last six months hundreds of men and women, clergy and lay people across this country joined in a grass-roots prayer ministry. They met together electronically and prayed for three hours in five different settings. These were sponsored by United Methodist Men in the five U.S. jurisdictions. This is unprecedented. These men and women are hungry for more training and more resources.

Also, within the last six months, hundreds of scouting volunteers have been trained by professionals reflecting our work with youth in BSA, Girl Scouts, Campfire, and Big Brothers Big Sisters. In 2020, we trained more leaders in these areas than any previous year.

When face-to-face events were cancelled, our work continued and expanded through technological processes. We lead the nation in these partnerships, and these volunteers want multiple days of training, not just a 60-minute webinar.

And in the last six months multiple new Class Meetings have been created. Three eight-week trainings were held at the same time, and each member of those classes started new trainings on The Class Meetings within their context. These trained volunteers came from every U.S. jurisdiction. We combined replication with transformation.



We are called to reach and disciple more men and more youth, and the demand for more materials in men’s and scouting ministries dramatically increased during this year.

In spite of the increased costs, we are writing and producing much needed new print and electronic resources.

We are also bracing for a dramatic increase in travel once this pandemic is behind us. Yes, Zoom is serving us well, but face-to-face meetings with new users will be important as we move forward.

We were fortunate to have completed the meetings and elections of the National Association of Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men and the United Methodist Men Foundation just weeks before the pandemic hit the U.S. Each of these new leaders hopes your commission staff can help them in their context when travel is again possible.

Paul assures us that neither life nor death can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. We are expanding opportunities to share that good news and we hope you will join us in that effort on Oct. 19.

Three easy and safe ways to contribute:

**Text:
UMMen to 44321**

Click: here

**Send a check to:
P.O. Box 440515.
Nashville, TN 37244-0515**

UM Men sponsor five national days of prayer

Scores of men and women from across the nation joined in five three-hour National Days of Prayer during the months of June, July and August. The on-line prayer sessions were sponsored by UM Men in each of five U.S. jurisdictions.

“We are on a journey of eradicating racism,” said Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Bishop Peggy Johnson during a June National Day of Prayer sponsored by the Northeastern Jurisdiction. “We need to acknowledge white privilege [and] keep the pressure on and do the next faithful thing instead of moving on to the next flavor of the month.”

Indiana Area Bishop Julius C. Trimble told participants in the fourth National Day of Prayer that in spite of “social distancing” UM Men are not in “spiritual isolation.”

Trauma among young men of color

The Rev. John Russell, a pastor at University UMC in Indianapolis, told the on-line gathering that 74 percent of young men of color experience trauma.

He told how he is routinely treated as an African-American.

“It is a weight we carry through life without knowing it,” he said. “I know I must be better than my counterpart in order to receive the same recognition.”

The pastor told how he was frequently pulled over by police when he drove

a Buick Riviera, but he was not stopped when he drove a pick-up truck.

“It should not be the responsibility of the victim of racism to resolve it.”

Curtain ripped away

The past few months have ripped away a curtain revealing a deeply shameful, unacceptable reality that racism is a rampant reality,” said



The Rev. John Russell



Bishop Hee Soo Jung

Wisconsin Area Bishop Hee Soo Jung. “Our whole country has been awakened to a painful reality.”

The bishop said Jesus “made it crystal clear that the best way to honor and serve Him is to welcome the stranger, comfort the afflicted, feed the hungry and visit the prisoner.”

He lamented the fact that Christians have a long history of using passages of Scripture to justify racist behavior, but Jesus taught us to love our neighbor and through a parable He made it clear that “those who are hated and despised are our neighbors.”

“Every human being on earth bears the image of God,” said the bishop. When one part of the body is harmed we are all harmed. When George Floyd “can’t breathe,” we all can’t breathe.

A link to all five National Days of Prayer is located [here](#).

In addition to the five National Days of Prayer GCUMM issued a book of UM Men Prayers for Peace with Justice. That book can be downloaded [here](#).

Don’t go back to normal, says bishop

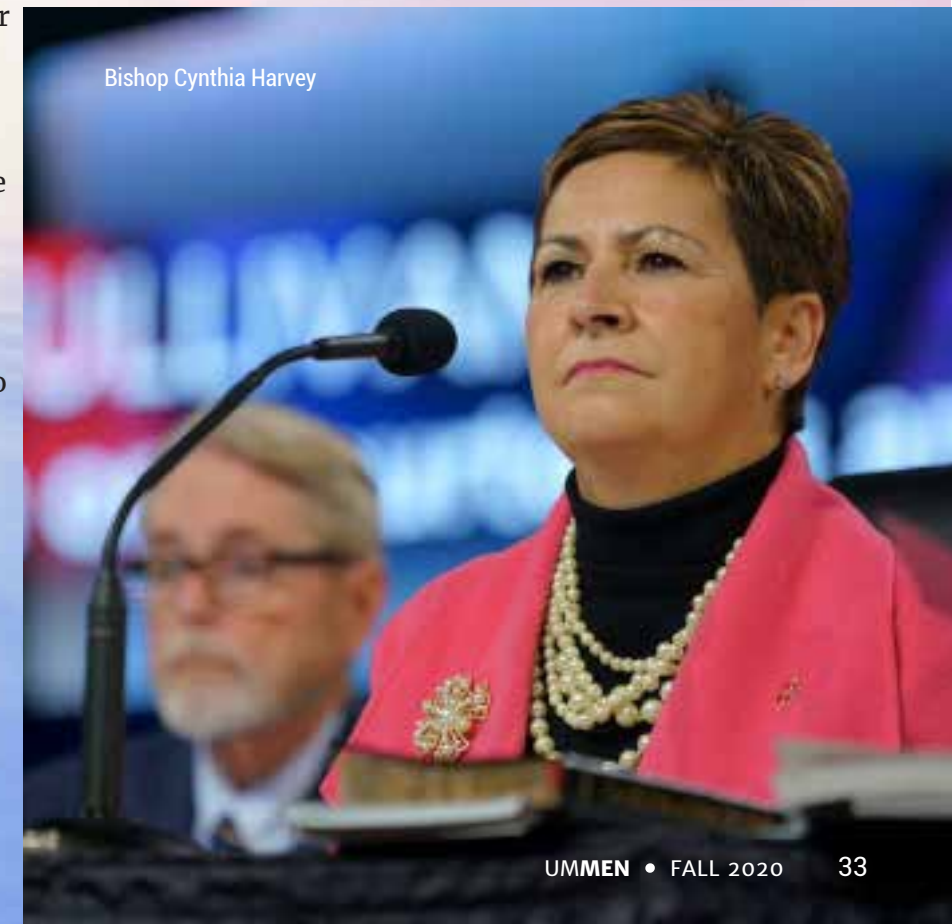
In the fifth UM National Day of Prayer, sponsored by UM Men of the South Central Jurisdiction, Louisiana Area Bishop Cynthia Harvey noted the presence of multi-faceted pandemics, saying, “Nothing in front of us looks like anything in our rearview mirror.”

While many look forward to a return to “normal,” the bishop, who serves as president of the Council of Bishop, said she does not want to return to a place with consistent racism and divisions in the church and society.

She told participants in the August 23 Zoom call, “I pray we don’t go back to normal.”

She suggests the virus and social distancing “have given us time to refocus.”

“The world is pretty dark right now,” said the bishop. “We can bring the light [and] prepare the way for a better tomorrow.”



Bishop Cynthia Harvey



he Rev. Dr. Joe Harris presides over a session at the 2019 General Conference.

Observing that many people are experiencing fatigue in addressing racism, Harris said the absence of effort “leads to backlash.”

“This is not a black issue,” said Harris. “This is a Kingdom issue. . . Help us to see ourselves as incarnational missionaries.”

Toxic individualism

The Rev. Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, top staff executive of the UM Connectional Table, urged conference participants to address an additional pandemic: “A toxic individualism that denies mutuality and compassion.”

“I can’t be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be,” she said. She said our self-focus

too often makes us think of the 175,000 people who have died of COVID-19 as simple statistics rather than as members of grieving families; this individualism fails to recognize that the losses disproportionately affect people of color.

“Compassion” derives from two Greek word ‘com’ meaning ‘with’ and ‘pati’ meaning suffer. “To have compassion means to suffer with.”

If you are suffering, I am suffering.

“I’m not ok unless you are ok.”

A fearful beginning

The Rev. Dr. Joe Harris, assistant to the Oklahoma Area Bishop and former top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men, told participants about a black clergyman who had been appointed as a district superintendent some years ago.

The district parsonage was located in Little Dixie, Okla. The town had “sunset laws” which prohibited people of color from being on the street after sunset, and one week earlier, the Klan had passed through the community.

The pastor was fearful about moving into such a community, and the night after his move, he and his family expected to see a cross burning on their front lawn.

That didn’t happen, and that clergyman went on to serve the district for eight years.

“I was that person,” said Dr. Harris.

Emphasizing what one person can do in the face of racism, Dr. Harris said he later learned that one individual had stood up and warned the Klan and other racists not to do anything against the new superintendent.



The Rev. Kennetha Bigham-Tsai

MY COMFORTER

Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about.

The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt."

Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about.

He said "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."



And the answer is?

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor thy father and thy mother," she asked "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters.

Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

TRAVEL INSTRUCTIONS

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you know what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy," the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"



Preserved to the end of time

By Walter Albritton

A pandemic changes relationships. Time changes traditions. New sensitivities change interactions. New administrations change laws.

Change is constant in sphere of life.

Church rituals also change, but in the case of Baptism, I prefer the older ritual because of these stirring words:

“The church is of God, and will be preserved to the end of time, for the conduct of worship and the due administration of God’s Word and Sacraments, the maintenance of Christian fellowship and discipline, the edification of believers, and the conversion of the world. All, of every age and station, stand in need of the means of grace which it alone supplies.”

The phrase, “Will be preserved to the end of time,” says it all. That is an important truth for the church to affirm. In the midst of a world that is constantly changing, we need to remind ourselves that nothing can stop the plan God has begun in the world through his church. In Christ God has opened the door to Heaven for all who believe. No man can ever shut that door!

Faith continues

The pandemic has taught us that even when we cannot worship together, the Christian movement remains strong. The people whose hearts God has touched are not dependent upon the ability to shake hands. God’s plan can be fulfilled in a variety of ways.



The Rev. Walter Albritton is pastor emeritus of St. James UMC in Montgomery, Alabama.

Judaism is an example of how God works. Repeatedly the Jews have been crushed, defeated, enslaved and slaughtered. But God has continued to restore them by his mighty power. Israel belongs to God to the present hour.

God is the sovereign ruler of the universe. He has ordained that in the end love wins and hate loses. Those who perpetuate hate and violence can inflict suffering upon millions but the ultimate victory belongs to God.

The apostle Paul understood that. He was convinced that nothing, absolutely nothing, “will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:39).

A lesson for old Neb

Long ago the ruthless King Nebuchadnezzar confiscated the sacred vessels of the temple. He destroyed the temple. No doubt he thought, “That is the end of Judah and the end of the Judahites. They are finished.” But old Neb was wrong. God always has the last word. God had a plan, a plan that can be assaulted but not thwarted by recalcitrant men.

The prophet Jeremiah understood this plan. He knew God could not be defeated. The prophet was convinced that God’s power was so great that he could even use the pagan King Cyrus to accomplish his purposes – and God did! When Cyrus came to power over Babylonia he gave the exiled Jews the freedom to worship the God of their choice. They began to worship Yahweh more faithfully than ever before. Exile had taught them the foolishness of worshipping pagan gods.

With no temple to use for worship the Jews developed synagogue worship. In these small groups they began to love the Holy Scriptures more than ever. The Jews became a people of the book, and that book was God’s Word. Out of that environment God brought forth his only Son Jesus,

the Messiah for whom the Jews had waited so long. God does mighty things with people who meet and study his Word – and then practice its truth.

God used the exile of the Jews for their good and his glory. Slowly they realized that God had a plan and that his plans cannot be ultimately stymied.

The prophet Ezra tells in Second Chronicles of a mighty moment among the Jews. My heart skips a beat when I read it. The priests and heads of families “got ready to go up and rebuild the house of the Lord in Jerusalem.” They got ready! Why? Because God stirred their spirits! The power of God was so real that even King Cyrus’ heart was stirred. He returned to the Jews the vessels that King Nebuchadnezzar had desecrated by using them in pagan worship.

Time for a new beginning

We live in a time when God’s people need their hearts stirred again by the Spirit of God. We are prone to forget that God is still at work in the world.

Violence and disease try to rob us of hope. Divisions cause us to take a dim view of the church.

Some of us become apathetic.

But the good news is that God will not leave us alone. He finds us in the darkness of our disobedience and restores our hope that his plan for the world will not fail. He raises up another Ezra who motivates us to “get ready” to do God’s bidding. He energizes us to do our part in completing His plan.

When God stirs us to action we get busy doing his will – forgiving and loving one another and sharing Christ with our neighbors. We find the divine energy to do our part, no matter how small, to help the kingdoms of this world become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ!

Only then – when almighty God has stirred us out of our lethargy – will we have the courage to face even the worst of times with joy and hope.



Foundation is cornerstone for UM Men ministries

By Steve Nailor

The cornerstone is the most important stone of any building.

This stone normally established the 90 degree angle between the front of the building and the side.

If the stone cutter has cut the cornerstone at the northwest corner of a 100-foot building by 89 degree angle instead of the 90 degree angle that one-degree error will make the east side of the building nearly two feet shorter than the west side (1.74 feet).

The same is true of the UM Men Foundation, this cornerstone of ministries to men and youth aligns the ministries of the General Commission on United Methodist Men and the National Association of Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men.

If donations to the foundation fall short by even \$100, ministries to men and our youth will be adversely affected in unsuspected way.

In some cases cornerstones carry a time capsule so if the building is ever destroyed, people can learn something about the early formation of the building.



In 1981, the foundation was established when it appeared the UMC was about to drop financial support for scouting ministries. Since that time, the foundation has supported the Office of Scouting Ministries, the Office of Men's Ministries, the Upper Room Prayer Line, and evangelism opportunities.

If the cornerstone is chipped away or damaged, the entire structure is endangered.

In recent months and years, inflation, coronavirus, escalating needs, and compassion fatigue have eroded the cornerstone.

The stone is reinforced by people who honor people by inducting them into the John Wesley Society or presenting them with Life Achievement Awards.

However, those who serve as Legacy Builders (those who contribute more than \$10 per month) serve the most important role in the preservation of this cornerstone.

To protect that cornerstone, [CLICK HERE.](#)



Steve Nailor is president of the UM Men Foundation

One world, worlds apart

By Tom Tozer and Bill Black

We struggle to explain to our children the death of African Americans at the hands of those entrusted to protect us.

Tom's father, a preacher, and Bill's dad, a frequent guest speaker, often referred to John 13:34-35, "As I have loved you, so you must love one another." Rather than ease the struggle, those words intensify our mental tug of war.

Our reflections in the mirror reveal two privileged white men who insufficiently understand the disadvantage so many men of color have endured. Too often there have been limits to the love we have practiced. We have fallen short of Christ's admonition.

The story as familiar script

When we conducted interviews of African American fathers for a future book, we heard the same story over and over – "I tell my son, be watchful, don't be idle. If you're driving and are pulled over by the police, have your ID out, put your hands on the steering wheel, don't reach for anything unless you let the officer know, be polite, and do not look him in the eye."

Hold it! Wait a minute! Neither one of us ever said that to our own children. It never occurred to us.

One of the dads, a university administrator, told us straight up, "Every one of my friends from school is either in prison or dead." We were stunned. We didn't know anyone in prison.



Tom Tozer and Bill Black are authors of *Dads2Dads: Tools for Raising Teenagers*. Like them on Facebook and follow them on Twitter at [Dads2Dadsllc](#). Contact them at tomandbill@Dads2Dadsllc.com.

The offspring of expectations

We live in a severely polarized society today. White friends are concerned by the unbalanced burden carried by African Americans and outraged by their deaths at the hands of police. The African American dads we know express no surprise. They have lived a different experience—and those experiences ... are the offspring of expectations and opportunity.

Our children know the names of too many black Americans who have lost their lives in our nation. The rising awareness of racial divisions offers a chance for us to talk to our children about living the values expressed in "love your neighbor," and speaking out when things are not right.

Dad, we need to teach our kids by example to face the scourge of discrimination in our society. We need to help them reach out and listen to our black brothers and sisters. We must help them understand that we all are one human family. It does no good to think of some as "other." We are not two ball teams; we are all on the same team. When one hits a homer, we all hit a homer. When one strikes out, we all strike out.

As Martin Luther King Jr. reminded us, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

Heart attack and stroke symptoms: the difference between men and women

by Bryant Stamford

Until recently, heart disease was considered a man's disease. One of the reasons is that men tend to have heart attacks at a younger age, and the younger you are the more attention it gets.

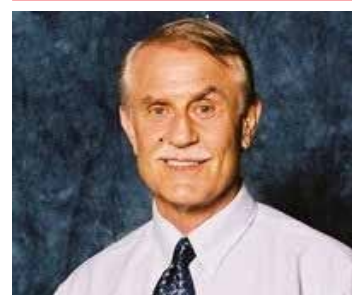
In addition, women are much more concerned about breast cancer, believing it's their major risk for a fatal disease. Breast cancer is, of course, a major problem, especially in younger women.

But when women hit their 50s, heart disease claims more lives, and by age 75, death from heart disease is eight times more likely than breast cancer.

Because heart disease was believed to be a man's disease, men were the primary focus of research and little attention was paid to heart disease in women.

It was assumed that the established risk factors of smoking, high blood pressure, high serum cholesterol, lack of exercise, etc., applied equally to men and women, and this is largely true.

However, we now know the symptoms that signal a problem may be different, as well as the triggering event, and therefore, if a woman expects to have the same experience as a man, she may misinterpret what is going on.



Bryant Stamford is a professor of kinesiology and integrative physiology at Hanover College in Indiana. This article is courtesy of the Louisville Courier Journal.

Triggers and symptoms

For men, a heart attack is likely to be triggered during exertion, things like lifting and carrying, climbing stairs, cutting the grass, etc.

The triggering event in women is more likely to be stress than exertion. Therefore, if a woman is not exerting herself, she may ignore signals that something is wrong.

For men, the key symptom that something is wrong is sharp, burning pain and tightness in the chest. There also can be nausea, dizziness, difficulty breathing or pain in the upper body, neck or jaw.

Women differ from men and severe chest pain is less likely. Instead, there may be unusual upper body discomfort, difficulty breathing, extreme fatigue or nausea. Symptoms in women are more easily dismissed, which can delay medical intervention.

This is a big problem because during a heart attack immediate medical attention is critical to outcomes and survival.

The underlying cause of a heart attack is similar for men and women. In both cases, the problem is cutting off blood flow and oxygen supply to the heart muscle. But, there also is an important difference here as well.

In men, there is likely to be problems with blockage in the larger coronary arteries that impede blood flow to the heart muscle. Detecting blood flow problems in men is much easier because the blockage in larger arteries is more obvious and easier to measure.

In women, the problem of reduced oxygen supply is more likely to occur in small vessels. Damage to the inner walls of small vessels can cause spasms

that squeeze the vessels closed, stopping blood flow. This is more difficult to determine, which means even with sophisticated testing, problems in women can be overlooked.

Stroke

As with heart disease, men and women differ in some ways when it comes to stroke. Again, men tend to have strokes at a younger age, but overall, more women have strokes because they live longer. Men and women experience common symptoms for strokes.

There may be sudden weakness or numbness in the face or a limb on one side of the body. Trouble speaking or understanding speech and severe headache can occur.

Along with symptoms common for both men and women, women may have "other" symptoms, including hiccups, extreme fatigue, nausea, racing heart rate, sudden pain in the face, arm or leg. Unfortunately, these other symptoms often are ignored because they don't fit the typical pattern we assume will occur.

A big item that also differs between men and women is that women are the caretakers. When a man has a problem, the women in his life make sure he gets immediate attention.

Women, on the other hand, are less likely to speak up about feeling bad and no one notices. This can waste valuable time.

For heart attack, you have about two hours before heart tissue

begins to die. For stroke, tissue plasminogen activator (tPA) must be administered within three hours to dissolve blood clots that may be blocking blood flow to the brain.

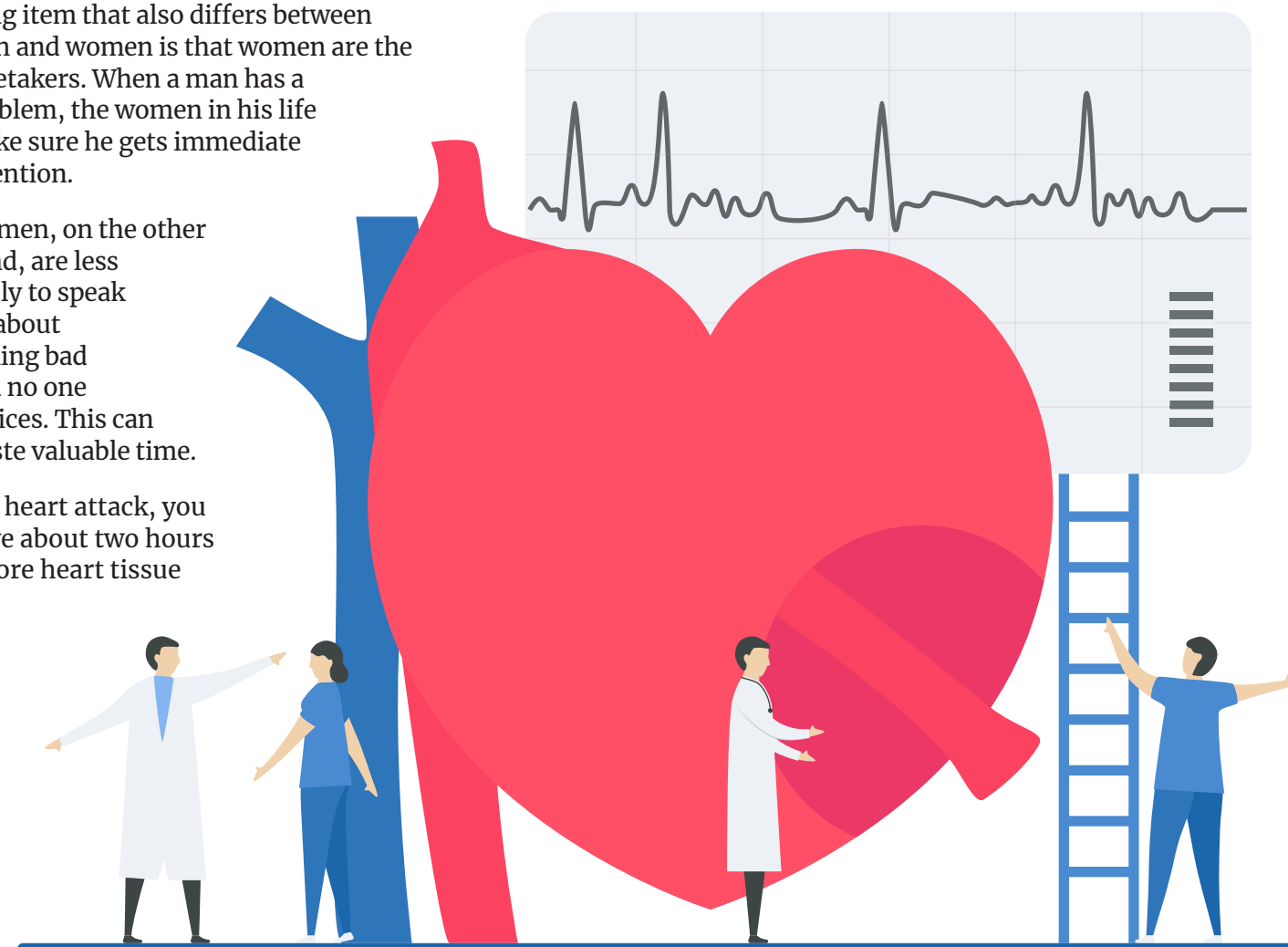
As to whether or not you are really having a heart attack or stroke, get to the hospital quickly and don't worry about being wrong.

The bottom line

Heart disease and stroke are equal opportunity destroyers of health, impacting men and women alike. Know the triggers and symptoms specific to each gender and act on them immediately.

As always, prevention is the best strategy, and keeping your blood pressure down pays big dividends.

For every 10 point drop in systolic blood pressure, you reduce your risk of heart disease and stroke by more than 30 percent. So, get busy exercising, eating right and losing weight.





DOVER, DELEWARE

Wesley Church holds weekly drive-thru food collection

Wesley UMC asked Dover residents to participate in a Drive-Thru Food Pantry Collection sponsored by the UM Men each Wednesday morning.

UM Men asked those interested in donating to pull up under the portico where UM Men would take food items from the trunk.

Donations are given to the food pantry at the First Baptist Church in Dover.



UM Men of Dover UMC in the 1970s.

AURORA, ILLINOIS

Scouts post the colors

Aurora Boy Scouts are bringing rental American flags to local residents for outdoor displays on national holidays.

Through their Post the Colors effort, Scouts in Blackhawk Troop 11 at Wesley UMC place American flags in the morning and pick up flags in the evening from sponsoring residents' lawns.

Scouts supplied American flags to Aurorans who subscribed for the service. Proceeds benefit outdoor Scouting programs.

Troop 11 was chartered by Wesley Methodist Church in 1916 and is the second oldest troop in Illinois. Since its inception, 181 members of Troop 11 have earned the Eagle Scout award,



Erik Longo, 13, of Aurora, places a rental flag on a resident's lawn during a "Post the Colors" fundraiser by Blackhawk Troop 11. Photo by M. Longo.

OSWEGO, ILLINOIS

Men serve 75 free spaghetti dinners

A dozen men of the Church of the Good Shepherd, aided by church women and youth, gave away about 75 spaghetti dinners at a drive-through.

UM Men President Craig McGregor organized the dinner. Donations were accepted.



Hal Lowe sets up vehicle traffic signs for a spaghetti dinner drive-through giveaway at Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist in Oswego. Photo by Al Benson.

PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

Men set new standards in ramp building

Men of Reidland UMC, have, for over a quarter century, provided more than 800 handicap access to those who cannot safely get in and out of their homes and can't afford to hire a contractor.

Covid 19 has forced the men to change their operating styles.

Materials are delivered to building site. Volunteers pick a section of the ramp they want to complete and they come alone to build it, leaving the finished product on saw horses.

As sections and parts are completed, they're loaded onto a trailer and delivered to the recipient's location.

Teams of two work in two-hour increments to finish the ramp.



LAPEER, MICHIGAN

Men provide food for community

The Men's Club at Trinity UMC gave away a semi-truck load of boxed potatoes and onions.

The food from the Gumz Farm in Endeavor, Wis., was delivered by the Society of St. Andrew.



Aisha Ackerman of Port Huron carries a box of potatoes and onions to a vehicle while event organizers Bill Palmer and Bob Heuther speak with the food recipient. Photos by Jeff Hogan of the County Press.

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

Former member of a UM Scout troop receives 2020 Pulitzer Prize

Brian M. Rosenthal, a former member of a Scout troop that meets at St. Andrews UMC in West Lafayette, Ind., and now a writer for The New York Times, received the 2020 Pulitzer Prize.

Brian received the honor for writing "an exposé of New York City's taxi industry that showed how lenders profited from predatory loans that shattered the lives of vulnerable drivers." The investigative report led to state and federal investigations and sweeping reforms.

"I try to orient my work around trying to serve others by providing accurate information and exposing wrongdoings," says Brian. "I am motivated by the same values that I learned in Scouting."

Brian earned the rank of Eagle in 2006 as a member of Troop 335, chartered by St. Andrews UMC.

Brian's Eagle Scout service project was a massive food drive that collected nearly 2,000 pounds of food for the needy in Lafayette.



Brian M. Rosenthal as a Scout and as an adult.

OCRACOKE ISLAND, NORTH CAROLINA UM Men aid recovery effort

The Cape Hatteras wrapped up their volunteer work on Ocracoke Island after months of helping islanders recover from Hurricane Dorian.

“This was our second three-week deployment since we did one in February,” stated Dennis Carroll, director of Cape Hatteras UM men.

This time we had to do it with day trips from Hatteras Island, which made for very long days. We tried to keep skilled workers there which was a challenge. In a few cases, we had to hire [people with] much-needed special skills, using funds earmarked for Ocracoke.”

Eighteen people participated during this latest three-week window, with some volunteers going to Ocracoke Island for one day, and others heading across the inlet for multiple days at a time.

The men also provided 12 trailers for people living in areas of repeated flooding for which there is no government funding.



Mike Vercruyse helps finish work on an office.

CAMDEN, SOUTH CAROLINA Scout leader receives Torch Award

Lyttleton Street UMC presented a Torch Award to Art Graham for more than 25 years of service to scouting.

The liaison for scouting in the church, Art served in several leadership positions for the Wateree River District, and he is a member of the Indian Waters Council Executive Board.

He received the Silver Beaver Award in 2004, the Wateree District Award in 2019, The God and Service award in 2006, and The Cross and Flame in 2014.

An Army veteran of the Vietnam War, Art is a graduate of Northeastern University in Boston (B.A. and M.B.A.).

He opened Graham Realty Inc. in Camden in 1974.

He is the father of two Eagle Scout sons and a daughter, and he has five grandchildren.

Lyttleton UMC received the Bishop’s Award of Excellence for sponsoring Cub Scout Pack 303, BSA Troop 303 and GSUSA Troop 1961, with the Rev. Michael Arant, pastor.



Art Graham



GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA Hospice chaplain expresses appreciation for devotional books

Dr. Peter Tripp, chaplain and bereavement coordinator for South Carolina hospice centers, expressed appreciation for 48 copies of Strength for Service to God and Community for frontline workers in hospice centers. “Your book of devotional messages is a true Godsend at such times our world is experiencing at the present time,” said Tripp.



Chaplain Tripp opens a box of 48 devotional books.

PICKENS, SOUTH CAROLINA Men build information kiosks

UM Men of Porter’s Chapel UMC completed two information kiosks for Hagood Mill Historic Site and Folklife Center. This follows the building of two firewood kiosks at Asbury Hills a few years ago.



SWANSEA, SOUTH CAROLINA UM Men present scholarships

Sammy Fogle, president of the Swansea Community UM Men presents certificates and \$500 checks to Morgan Martin and Caleb Brunson. This marks the tenth year the men have presented scholarships to deserving high school seniors. Photo by Joe Riley.



NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS Ministry gives devotional books to health workers

Bob Hurst, a member of the Strength for Service Board of Directors provided copies of Strength for Service to God and Community to health workers at Nacogdoches hospitals.

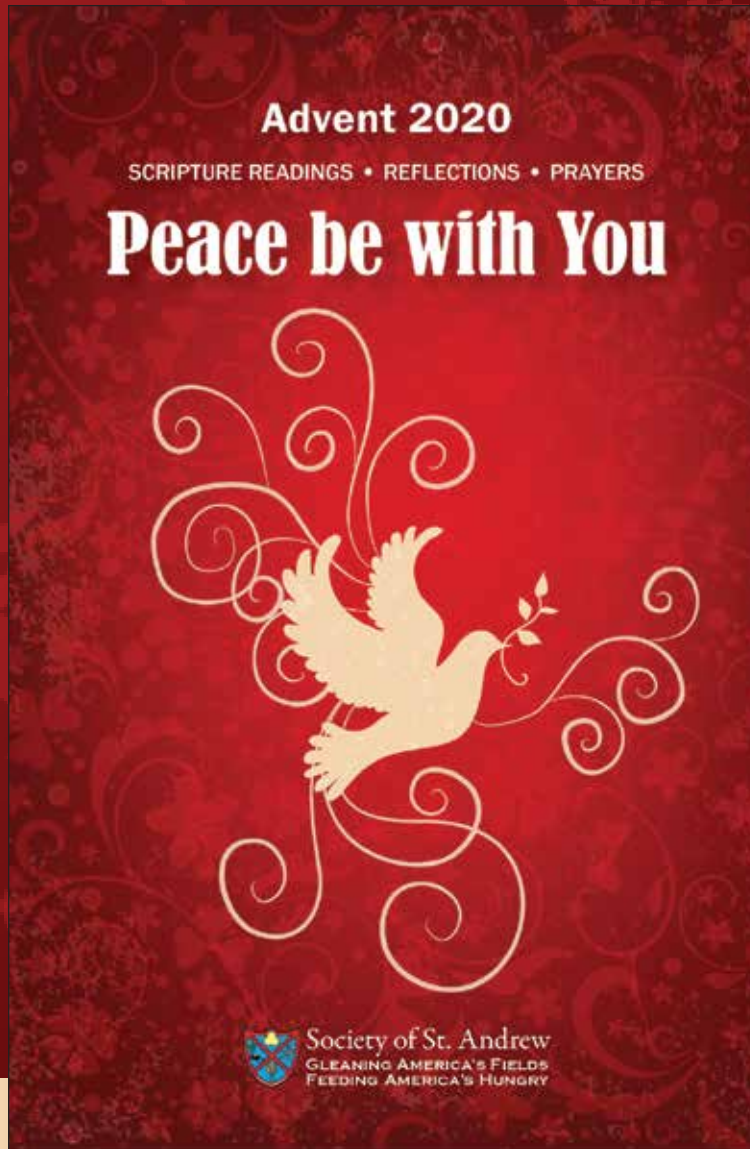


Bob Hurst presents boxes of books of daily devotions to Carmen Willis, a geriatric and bariatric surgeon and chaplain of the



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