


# HOOSIER UNITED METHODISTS together

January/February 2012  
Volume 42  
Number 1

 Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.  
The people of The United Methodist Church®



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## All United Methodists invited

# Conference goes to experience community outreach, witness, fun before and after session

By Daniel R. Gangler  
Photos by Together

INDIANAPOLIS – “Come early. Stay late,” is the mantra the Rev. John Myrland repeats again and again when he excitedly talks about the upcoming Indiana Annual Conference session at the Indiana Convention Center in downtown Indianapolis June 7-9.

Myrland, pastor of McCordsville United Methodist Church east of Indianapolis and a former president of the Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce before answering a call to pastoral ministry, is coordinating Community Connection activities at the upcoming annual conference session. He brings extensive knowledge about Indianapolis and his own enthusiasm for the city, which has much to offer all its visitors, especially those planning to attend the annual conference whether or not they are a pastor or lay member of annual conference.

“Community Connection will take the church beyond the walls of the Convention Center and all into the Indianapolis community for outreach, Christian witness and fun,” Myrland told *Together*.

Indianapolis has much to offer in the way of museums and other nationally known attractions, including the NCAA Hall of Champions, Indiana State Museum, Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, Indianapolis Zoo, Indiana Historical Society (all downtown), plus the Indianapolis Museum of Art and the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis, the world’s largest children’s museum.

But that’s only the beginning.

### Partnering

Before and after the annual confer-

“Community Connection will take the church beyond the walls of the convention center.”

– John Myrland

ence session, conference leaders will be partnering with United Methodist Metro Ministries and the Greater Indianapolis Habitat for Humanity to provide a coordinated mission outreach to the people of Indianapolis.

During the past three years, more than 20 United Methodist congregations in Indianapolis and Metro Ministries have partnered with Habitat to build three homes. Conference participants will partner with Habitat again to work on a United Methodist build and join other Habitat builds in progress.

According to Metro Ministries Executive Director Lisa Morris, “Come early Wednesday and Thursday (June 6-7) to be a part of the Indiana United Methodist Mission Outreach in Central Indiana. The mission outreach is not just for those who are conference members but for all United Methodist church members in Indiana who come to Indianapolis to be a part of this vital mission outreach.”

She outlined these Indianapolis outreach mission projects being planned. They include:

- Partnering with Habitat for Humanity and the Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis Centennial Celebration on four Habitat homes to be built in the Martindale-Brightwood community,
- Raising funds for the Habitat for Humanity Martindale-Brightwood

**Making ROOM**  
INDIANAPOLIS  
June 7-9  
2012  
Indiana  
Conference  
The United Methodist Church



10-home blitz of 2012,

- Partnering with Dave Withey of the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program at Meridian Street UMC and Martindale-Brightwood Neighborhood Association on small rehab projects,
- Partnering with United Methodist-related Brightwood Community Center building a new playground next to the center,
- Providing a family night at Brightwood Community Center Wednesday, June 6, serving the neighborhood families with food, games and activity stations staffed by Indiana UMC volunteers,
- Knitting preemie hats for Riley Hospital for Children while in conference session, and
- Joining Roberts Park UMC projects (for those who do not want to use hammer and nails) by painting tile blocks and preparing sack lunches for the church’s feeding ministries. Mission outreach projects happening

Continued on Page 3



Volunteers pause during a UM-Habitat for Humanity build this past year in Indianapolis. A similar build will be part of annual conference.

Photo courtesy of Habitat for Humanity



The White River State Park Canal is only two blocks north of the Indiana Convention Center and winds through downtown Indy.

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## What will 2012 bring?

There is nothing magical about the flip of the calendar to a new year, but it does provide an opportunity for each of us to reflect upon the past and to focus upon the future as we open our lives to God's direction. I am no predictor of the future, but I do anticipate that 2012 will bring the following:

### 1. Vital Congregations

The Indiana Conference will continue to focus upon Vital Congregations. Since the forming of the new Indiana Conference following our Imagine Indiana plan, we have streamlined our structure, reduced our overhead administrative costs, and refocused our district and conference staff toward strengthening the ministry of our nearly 1,200 congregations.

As a part of that effort, we have nearly 100 congregations involved in the Fruitful Congregations Journey, led by our Church Development staff. We are not finished with that process, but now we are strengthened in our efforts by a similar move across our whole denomination called Vital Congregations.

So this year 2012 will bring a continued and growing focus upon helping each United Methodist congregation in Indiana achieve goals it has adopted to strengthen its ministry.

### 2. Stewardship

The Indiana Conference will continue to focus upon improving our stewardship, financial leadership and level of tithing. We have made great strides in this area, strengthened by our Rejuvenate program, which was funded by a generous grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc.

Hundreds of pastors and lay leaders have attended workshops and training events, and more than 200 pastoral families have been helped with their educational debts and freed to teach and lead their congregations in stewardship.

Now the Rejuvenate program has been moved into the new United Methodist Foundation of Indiana, Inc. which will allow that ministry to be on-going. 2012 will be a year in which these efforts on stewardship continue to bear fruit.

### 3. Camping Ministry

The Indiana Conference will continue to expand its Impact 2812 Outdoor Ministries. Now that the former North and former South Conference camping programs have combined, they will be bringing to the 2012 Session of the Indiana Conference a plan for continuing development of our camping sites

across the state and thus provide even more opportunities to bring young people to Christ and the church.

### 4. Mission

The Indiana Conference will continue and expand its commitment to mission. We are seeing more and more of that mission and outreach happening through the clusters of our churches across the state (like the new shelter for homeless started by the South Bend city cluster), but we also will continue and expand our connectional mission efforts. 2012 will be the 20th anniversary of Africa University, and we are nearing the 25th anniversary of Operation Classroom next year. These and other mission efforts will continue and expand, and the Indiana Conference will continue to lead our North Central Jurisdiction in mission involvement.

### 5. Corporate impact

The Indiana Conference will increase its corporate impact on the State of Indiana, through our presence in all 92 counties, our advocacy to the state government, our congregations which are filled with influential lay people, and the first-ever meeting of our Annual Conference Session in the capital city of Indianapolis this coming June. I can't predict the impact of our efforts, but I believe our lively presence in downtown Indianapolis will give us a unique platform to witness to our state.

One small part of that effort will be the Prayer Breakfast that I am sponsoring with Governor Mitch Daniels on the Saturday morning of Annual Conference. It will be a great event with an open invitation to all who want to gather and pray for our State of Indiana.

### 6. Call to Action

While it is more difficult to anticipate, I believe that the General Conference of our UMC (which meets this spring in Tampa, Fla.) will approve most of the Call to Action Plan for streamlining structure and refocusing our UMC upon making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Perhaps some of the plans from the Call to Action will be amended or phased-in during the next quadrennium, but clearly there is a movement growing in our denomination to make some of the changes we have already begun making in the Indiana Conference.

### 7. General Church budget

The General Conference also will adopt a reduced budget for the next four years, not due to a decrease in giving (that giving remains strong), but to redirect our resources toward strengthening our congregations. The proposed budget is currently a six percent decrease, but there may be proposals to reduce and redirect those funds even more dramatically.



### 8. Controversial issue

The General Conference will likely retain our current stance on the controversial issue of homosexuality, but I anticipate that General Conference will add a statement acknowledging the truth we already know, that Christians of good conscience disagree about this issue. Such a statement would help to heal some of the pain in many parts of our church.

### 9. North Central Jurisdiction

Our North Central Jurisdiction will meet in July, and for the first time in many, many years, there will be no new bishops elected. Instead, the North Central Jurisdiction will reduce our Episcopal Areas from ten to nine, and the remaining nine of us active bishops will be assigned accordingly. As a part of that assignment process, I believe (or at least hope) that I will be reassigned to the Indiana Area for a third and final four-year term before I retire in 2016.

### 10. God's surprises

Despite our best efforts to anticipate, plan, and even predict, God will surprise us in 2012 in ways that will bless and challenge us, but through any and all changes, God will be with us and show us the way.

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

HOOSIER UNITED METHODISTS

together

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## Rethink *Together* and how news, information are delivered

Welcome to the January-February issue of the *Hoosier United Methodist Together* conference newspaper, supported by your church's conference title to the Indiana Conference. It's the first of three issue changes making *Together* a bi-monthly publication distributed six times a year rather than nine times a year, the frequency since January 2004. *Together* currently has 12,500 complimentary subscriptions and 1,000 paid subscriptions.

### Why the change?

The conference lacks the funds to support nine-issues. It's part of a larger cost cutting strategy the Conference Directors made to cut \$700,000 from the 2012 conference budget to align expenses with projected income. The *Together* budget was cut \$15,000, equivalent to three issues. We will maintain the minimum 12-page size with color on each page.

In order to preserve space, In Memoriam (death notices) will be limited to deceased clergy and clergy spouses. The conference's weekly electronic publication, e-News, will continue to list a more extended list of death notices. We will electronically deliver all death notices first as announcements issued as soon as we obtain needed informa-

tion and repeat them in e-News. To subscribe to the conference's electronic publications, which include announcements, visit [www.inumc.org/site/stayconnected](http://www.inumc.org/site/stayconnected).

### Second change

Another change will take place before the March-April issue. *Together* has maintained address changes since the uniting of the two former conferences, but has not been able to update its circulation list for the past couple of years. Up to this time, *Together* has maintained its own separate mailing list copied from local church charge conference reports.

To merge the current *Together* mailing list with the conference data base is too expensive. It's also too expensive to notify by mail each person who will no longer receive a complimentary copy due to changes in leadership. Therefore, beginning hopefully with the March-April issue, a complimentary subscription to *Together* will be mailed to a newly comprised list from the conference data base.

The complimentary subscription mailing list will include people currently holding the following positions: Clergy – active and retired, surviving clergy spouses, local church lay leader, a copy to each local

The conference lacks the funds to support nine-issues. It's part of a larger cost cutting strategy...

church, conference lay members, council chairperson, mission chairperson, staff-parish chairperson, UMM president and UMW president. More may be added.

If anyone holding one of these positions do not want a printed issue and plan to receive *Together* online, please let us know and we will remove your name from the print publication mailing list. This is another way the conference can save expenses.

### Subscriptions

Those members who no longer hold any of these local church positions will no longer

receive a complimentary subscription to *Together*. This may be your last complimentary issue. However, we invite those who previously received complimentary issues because of their positions as well as Hoosier United Methodists to subscribe to the *Hoosier United Methodists Together* newspaper at the annual rate of \$12 or two-year rate of \$20. Make a check payable to the Indiana Conference UMC and mail to *Together*, 301 Pennsylvania Parkway, Suite 300, Indianapolis, IN 46280, with *Together* subscription written on the memoline. Also include name, address, city, state and ZIP.

We also offer each issue of *Together* electronically – FREE. In fact the past seven years of *Together* are available online at [www.inumc.org](http://www.inumc.org), click on *Together* in the top navigation bar to open list.

Cutting *Together* print publication funds also will open up other parts of the conference budget to keep up with the increasing needs of electronic publication through e-mail, and on the web, LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter to keep up with a paradigm shift in the way we communicate.

The print publication of *Together* has not been discontinued because many people prefer to read newspapers in print and not online. We expect during the coming years, print publication will continue to decrease as electronic publications increase.

The Indiana Conference Communication staff will continue to keep Hoosier United Methodists informed regardless of the medium used.

Welcome,  
Daniel R. Gangler



Continued from Page 1

## Conference goes to experience community outreach, witness, fun before and after session

during the conference session will include writing notes of encouragement to volunteers, to children at Brightwood and to Roberts Park meal recipients.

Also during the session, **Spiritual Life** will be coordinated by Indiana Conference Prayer Coordinator Shirley Saddler of Van Buren UMC and Betty Brandt of St. Luke's UMC Indianapolis. One breakout room in the Convention Center will be set up with a labyrinth, prayer room and foot-washing station, and will be open to the public. The Spiritual Life team also plans to be part of the Circle Event.

### Circle Event

The Conference Circle Event will take place on Monument Circle a few blocks northeast of the convention center in the heart of Downtown Indy either Thursday or Friday, June 7 or 8. For all practical purposes, this event will be hosted by United Methodists (not just members of the conference) as a witness to the city during downtown's lunch hour. The Circle Event is being coordinated by the Conference Connection Ministries staffers, the Rev. Brian Durand and Helene Foust.

"The event will present a broad and positive view of the United Methodist Church. There will be many ministry opportunities," said Myrland.

The event also will include music, celebration and prayer. The purpose is to let the public



The Children's Museum of Indianapolis is the world's largest children's museum and just a few miles north of the convention center.

know who we are as United Methodists.

### Saturday before, after

Community Connection will culminate with two public events before and after the Service of Ministry, including ordination and the commissioning of clergy.

The Conference Connection task force is working with Bishop Mike Coyner to plan a United Methodist-sponsored Saturday morning Prayer Breakfast at the convention center with state and community leaders. Governor Mitch Daniels plans to speak. This will be a public event.

When it's all said and done at the Convention Center, Hoosier United Methodists will head for Victory Field and cheer Bishop Mike as he throws out the ceremonial first

pitch during the Indianapolis Indians game.

Plans call for a United Methodist choir to sing the National Anthem and UM Youth to sing during the seventh-inning stretch. The cost of the game will be \$7. Tickets may be ordered as part of the registration. Churches can bring a busload of people and join the crowd.

Myrland said the intent of Community Connection is "to come early, stay late, and have fun while sharing the love of God for all creation by reaching out and being of service to ALL people in the Greater Indianapolis area."

For more information, visit [www.inumc.org](http://www.inumc.org) and click on Annual Conference Session.

For more information about Indianapolis and attractions, visit <http://visitindy.com/inumc>.

## CONVERSATIONS

### OC says 'thanks'

Operation Classroom-Liberia program, the hundreds of students and staffs of our schools, members of the Liberia Conference of The United Methodist Church who have also continue to benefit from your generous gifts, and in my own name to register our sincere gratitude and appreciation for all that God is doing through you for our children in Liberia.

Your gifts and kind supports to OC ministry in Liberia have continued to have a significant impact on the lives of the children and people of Liberia as a whole, and the LAC/UMC family in particular. Indeed your commitment in supporting our ministry is a true manifestation of the love of God for his people. By this, we feel we are not alone.

Once again, on behalf of the kids of Liberia, our church and schools, and in my own name, we extend to you our profound appreciation for your kind support, love and care as we strive to

meet the overwhelming needs of our children, schools, the church and our once ravaged country.

– Alfred N. Zigbuo, coordinator, Operation Classroom-Liberia

### Marriage

We would pray that the UMC holds fast to the belief that marriage is between a man and a woman. And also not knowingly ordain homosexuals. We feel that Pastors who go against the Book of Discipline should be dismissed, including homosexual pastors who lied when they took their vows. We have nothing against homosexuals as they are no more a sinner than us and we would welcome them into fellowship. However Christians are sinners saved by Grace which includes repentance (sinning no more). We know that if the policy is changed that we and many of our fellow church members will have to leave the UMC.

Revs. Ed and Jane Owens  
Retired Pastors of the North  
Indiana Conference

# Mega-church culture preaching reviewed in light of Wesley's sermons

FRANKLIN, Ind. – Rather than following the mega-church model of preaching, Dr. Michael Pasquarello III, Wesleyan scholar of Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Ky., says United Methodist preachers would be truer to their tradition if they preached in the style of John Wesley, 18th-century founder of Methodism.

In a three-hour series of two lectures during the Indiana Conference Wesleyan Connexion forum at Grace United Methodist Church in Franklin, Pasquarello reviewed the preaching practiced at mega-churches today like Willow Creek Church in suburban Chicago, juxtaposed against the Christ-centered preaching of John Wesley.

More than 30 preachers and laity attended the day-long Nov. 15 event hosted by Grace's Pastor Andy Kinsey, Indiana Conference Wesleyan Scholar.

## Mega-church

Pasquarello said studies reveal that mega-church culture feels it knows what people need and feels it can fulfill that need.

He said, "In mega-church culture, how much and how many does not show success of the church when it comes to the spirituality of (its) members."

He said their brand loyalty rests on a commitment model

**"In mega-church culture, how much and how many does not show success of the church when it comes to the spirituality of (its) members."**

– Michael Pasquarello III



Pasquarello

with people trying or not trying the "product." Popular mega-churches, such as Willow Creek, "craft their presentations to be simple, professionally produced often with a self-fulfillment goal... it attracts large numbers of people – self-seekers who come to a mall-like environment to get served – Christian consumers of Christianity and God."

He said with this model, what becomes secondary is "taking up the cross and following Jesus Christ."

What becomes popular in mega-church culture, according to Pasquarello, is a practical message following themes of raising children, marriage, employment – behavioral topics, using the Bible as a handbook of Christian living, science, economics, health, politics and romance. Also preached are topics relevant to religious consumers from prosperity to gardening, dieting to personal wealth. Such preaching is cultural rather than Christian.

This strategy claims to be the answer to so-called "dead,

boring tradition." Much of American Christian teaching (in the past century) has been done in a revivalist mode of Fenny and Norman Vincent Peal, said Pasquarello. "Its goal is a simple Gospel and moral code colored by a romanticism of inspirational preachers delivering ethical religion – topical, experiential and opinion." Such messages are filled with illustration, stories, antidotes and human personality. The narratives of the pastor replace the narratives in the Bible.

In this method of preaching, Pasquarello said what also is lost is the confidence of the vocation of preaching and the loss of biblical literacy among pastors.

Then he asked, "What about Wesley?"

Pasquarello said Wesley is one to study as a preacher. "He has much to say about faith and reason, truth and goodness – what we know and what we do." Wesley brought about social and political change. For Wesley, salvation is the restoration we seek.

He asked his audience, in today's mega-church culture, "Is God necessary for preaching? Do we miss out on speaking the truth in love – it's be-

lievable and it matters."

Pasquarello said, unfortunately, we can become experts in technology (in preaching): and lose the spoken Word. We need to cultivate good listeners of the Word. That is part of our calling as preachers.

He said, the role of preacher and pastor need to be close together. Preachers need to look at life through the lens of the Word with illustrations from real life rather than video clips, which put distance between the Word and the listeners.

"Wesley is a study of Scripture, preaching and hearing. Preaching is a spiritual discipline." He said preachers need to ask: "Is God involved in the preaching? How does the sermon become spiritual? Preaching is more than information download."

He said Wesley scholar Billy Abraham points out that Wesley's latter sermons were topical – going on to perfection, growing in grace – but Wesley is different than many of today's topical preachers because these topical sermons were connected to the whole order of salvation and sanctification.

## Wesley

In the mega-church culture, preachers extract from tradition to speak to society. "Wesley goes back to the future."

Pasquarello described preaching modeled after John Wesley as "Preaching Christ." More simply put, where is God, Christ and the Holy Spirit in preaching?

He said, "Our approach to Scripture and preaching should be measured by and congruent with the proper subject of Scripture – the Trine God who is with us through the presence of the risen Christ and the Spirit, who creates and renews the gift of faith that works through love by which we participate in God's own life."

In Wesley's words: "It is our part thus to 'preach Christ' by preaching all things whatsoever he hath revealed."

Pasquarello said, "We preach Christ as priest, prophet and king." He said Christ as priest continues to mediate. God addresses our ongoing need – to overcome self-will. Christ is prophet restoring knowledge and truth. That was

the wholeness of Christ's ministry. God's wisdom incarnate and law expressed through God's grace. Finally, Christ as King, renewed by our nature in Him. "Christ ruling in our lives is the central place of the Gospel," he said.

The central theme of John Wesley's standard 50 sermons is revealed in his 13 sermons about Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapters 5-7. "In his sermons, John Wesley shows how (God's) law brings us to Christ," he said. The ordering of his standard sermons is important to Wesley's understanding of theology.

Pasquarello said Wesleyan scholar Albert Outler said that Calvinism makes God's righteousness external, a covering. On the other hand, Wesley's professes that righteousness is internal, leading to a holy life, proclaiming the real person you are.

Pasquarello said Wesley aims a Gospel of obedience. We are called to holiness and good works based in love. He said, we not only preach Christ's words but also listen to His words. The role of the preacher is to impart the knowledge of God through the love of God.

For Wesley, said Pasquarello, "Christ himself takes us into God. The experience is deeply personal and social, doing all manner of good."

In response to Pasquarello, the Rev. Dr. Derek Weber of Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Indianapolis said, John Wesley lived by preaching. "I'm a preacher and always need to be about preaching. We live and die in our preaching... The ideal is the beauty of the Gospel and the beauty of faith – the aesthetics of our theology... It's not about a sermon but a ministry of preaching and preaching Christ is central to worship – true religion and a religion of love.

For more on this subject of Christ-centered preaching in the Wesleyan tradition, read *John Wesley: A Preaching Life* by Michael Pasquarello III (Abingdon).

For copies of John Wesley's Standard Sermons online, visit <http://wesley.nmu.edu/john-wesley/the-sermons-of-john-wesley-1872-edition/the-sermons-of-john-wesley-the-standard-sermons>.

## Reed named program manager at Camp Adventure

The Indiana Conference Impact 2818 Outdoor Ministries recently announced the hiring of Gabe Reed as the new Program Manager at Camp Adventure in Pierceton, Ind., effective Jan. 1.

Reed is a graduate of Anderson University where he earned a degree in Business Administration and Christian Ministries. Most recently, he was youth pastor at Bridge Community Church for the past six years, where he established a new youth program.

Reed is married to Libby Reed. The couple first met at Camp Adventure while working on



Reed

the summer staff together. He is a sports fan who loves University of Michigan football and the Chicago Cubs. He also loves the outdoors and going camping with his wife, Libby, and their dog, Sadie.

Reed says he is passionate about creating environments, opportunities and spaces that allow people to catch a glimpse of who God is and to help them come to a deeper understanding of their relationship with God.

The Impact 2818 team welcomes Reed to the outdoor ministries team and looks forward to the impact he will bring to Camp Adventure.

## Conference Center welcomes Helene Foust

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Conference Center welcomed Helene Foust on Dec. 1 as the new Associate Director of Student Ministry for the Indiana Conference.

She is an experienced youth worker and in her position, she will assume the responsibilities of resourcing and networking ministry with youth in congregations across the state and work with United Methodist-related campus ministry programs and Wes-



Foust

ley Foundation ministries in Indiana.

Previously, she was the Minister to Youth and Young Adults at Old Bethel United Methodist Church in Indianapolis. She also has developed youth ministry programs at Milltown United Methodist Church and has had extensive experience as the Director of Christian Education in Terryville, Conn.

Contact her at [helene.foust@inumc.org](mailto:helene.foust@inumc.org) or call the Conference Center at 317-924-1321.

## Next lecture to feature Perkins scholar

The next Wesleyan Connexion Project will be "The New Methodists" forum, featuring Elaine Heath, McCreless Associate Professor of Evangelism at Perkins School of Theology SMU in Dallas, Texas. The event will be Saturday, March 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Andrew UMC, 4703 North 50 West in West Lafayette, Ind. Cost is \$40. Watch for registration through [www.inumc.org](http://www.inumc.org).



## Four South Bend churches cluster to provide shelter for homeless

SOUTH BEND, Ind. – A year ago this February, Brent King's body was retrieved from an abandoned garage in South Bend. Unfortunately, King had frozen to death – alone. He was homeless and in and out of shelters in the South Bend region during the brutal cold of winter.

South Bend's city shelters are first-come, first-served, and there are not enough beds to serve everyone. Emergency shelters for the remainder left outside are not opened unless the wind chill temperature hits 20 degrees below zero.

During the 2011 winter, the South Bend homeless and warming shelters were approximately 35 beds short of need. With the closing of a local 15-bed shelter, South Bend looked forward to being short by more than 50 beds for this winter and was at risk of losing another one of God's children in the same manner as it lost Brent King.

Hearing this story deeply

affected The Methodists in Ministry to South Bend cluster of churches that motivated a rapid effort to establish a weather amnesty program called Project WARM, for Weather Amnesty Relief Ministry. The cluster includes the Grace, Clay, First and Northwest United Methodist congregations.

First Church, in downtown South Bend, already served underprivileged individuals in its Upper Room program, located in the heart of the homeless neighborhood. The church building was an obvious choice for Project WARM to offer this limited service to the needs of homeless residents.

The Rev. Vickie Van Nevel, pastor of Northwest Church and North District Assistant Superintendent, says Project WARM offers weather amnesty service to the downtown homeless population. It started Dec. 1 with 20 beds. The doors open nightly around 8 p.m. with the help

**"One really does feel the love and grace of God in the midst of this ministry."**

– David Schrader

of two paid workers and volunteers from the participating congregations.

Guests check in and are quickly evaluated for weapons, alcohol or narcotic issues. Following a time of prayer, they settle into a sleeping area for the night. Volunteers wake guests at 7 a.m. and serve them a light snack and coffee, while guests clean their sleeping area and pack linens in a laundry bag. Guests return to the streets by 8 a.m. following a time of prayer and sharing of God's love.

The Rev. Herb Buwalda, senior pastor of Clay Church, made arrangements for the training of new staff volunteers for Project WARM. A task force led by Deborah Mayers of First UMC runs Project WARM with oversight from the Rev. Mary Hubbard, pastor of First Church. The Rev. Lauren Hall, associate pastor at Grace Church, works with other area United Methodist congrega-

tions to gain support for the project and serves on the task force responsible for guidance and communications related to the project.

The Rev. David Schrader, cluster leader and pastor of Grace UMC, told *Together* the need for adequate supervision, 12 hours a night, seven days a week from December 1 until March 15 makes the \$35,000 unplanned cost of this program burdensome to the four congregations involved. However, the people of the four churches feel strongly that Christ has called them to this ministry for God's homeless people.

One of the first signs of this came in the form of \$20,800 in pledges for this project from the congregations involved. The North District then provided a grant of \$14,486, allowing Project WARM to open its doors Dec. 1 as the largest weather amnesty shelter in South Bend.

In addition to funding, two volunteers from participating congregations are needed during check-in time each evening, to provide radical hospitality to guests, to offer prayer with them and to make sure that information related to food services, medical clinics and drug and alcohol treatment centers are available.

According to Schrader, "Project WARM is already operating at full capacity, and the volunteers are reporting back that they are being blessed in ways unexpected by working with our guests; that one really does feel the love and grace of God in the midst of this ministry, and the Matthew 25 face of Christ in those we help."

He also says there's a major need for socks. "We need 20 pairs a night, new or used, just so they are clean and dry. Foot infections and frostbite from wearing damp socks is a major cause of emergency room visits for the homeless."

For more information about this project or to volunteer, visit the Project WARM Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ProjectWARMSouthBend](http://www.facebook.com/ProjectWARMSouthBend).

### United Methodists distribute 41,000 pounds of potatoes to needy in Central Indiana



CARMEL, Ind. – More than 30 United Methodist volunteers filled the parking lot of Saint Mark's UMC in Carmel Saturday morning, Dec. 3, to distribute 41,000 pounds of potatoes to food pantries and individuals in need.

The potatoes were packed in ten pound bags. The potato drop was part of the Society of St. Andrew's food distribution program. The Society of St. Andrew, a national hunger organization that partners with United Methodist congregations, is noted for gleaning produce from harvested fields.

A farmer in Wisconsin donated the potatoes to the Society of St. Andrew, who transported them to Carmel. More than 38,000 pounds were picked up by 28 area service agencies, including seven United Methodist church pantries.

The remaining potatoes were shared among 126 families, who will be helped by this effort. Indiana United Methodist Men's conference president Dave Martin led the project.

For more information about the Society of St. Andrew, visit [www.endhunger.org](http://www.endhunger.org).

## Indy Metro Ministries honors Bright Kids Tutoring Team during celebration

INDIANAPOLIS – More than 100 people from throughout Central Indiana gathered Sunday, Nov. 20, for the United Methodist Metro Ministries Annual Celebration at Christ UMC on the south-side of Indianapolis.

The Missioner of the Year, a tradition to honor a person or group making a difference within a community, honored the Bright Kids Literacy Center Team. The team of individuals from many churches was recognized for mentoring and tutoring youth and children at Brightwood Community Center. Mollette Hall, a member of Barnes UMC, accepted the award on behalf of the team.

The "rest of the story" was shared by Lisa Morris and Jean Casmir-Hill on how Metro Ministries summer youth grant offered East Tenth UM Children and Youth the opportunity to give scholarships to youth that may not have had the opportunity to attend their summer youth program.

A highlight of the event was the presentation of Metro Ministries' 2011 Summer Youth Program video celebrating 18 summer youth programs. It can be viewed on YouTube.com.

More than 40 Honor, Service and Memorial Awards were



Metro Ministries Executive Director Lisa Morris expresses appreciation to (from left), retiring Metro Ministries board president Mark Eutsler, the Rev. David V.W. Owen, executive assistant to Bishop Coyner and the Rev. Bert Kite, superintendent of the Central District.

Photo courtesy Metro Ministries.

presented. Outgoing Metro Board members Amy Zent and Jim Petrow received plaques in appreciation for their service on the Metro Board of Directors. A special citation was given to Mark Eutsler, the outgoing Metro Ministries Board of Director's President in deep appreciation for his service.

Bob Kizer, senior vice-president of Walker Info and member of Emmanuel UMC, received a Metro Board President Citation award for serving as a catalyst to the board of directors in guiding the organization to reach a fuller potential.

The award for Kitty Radcliff, vice-president of Walker Info, was accepted on her behalf.

Displays from 25 United Methodist churches, community ministries and United Methodist-related agencies offered participants to collect stamps for their passport to ministries. Youth Gabe McDonald of East Tenth UMC and Benjamin Doliverira of Wesley UMC led the celebration in a devotional litany. Music was provided by Mina Keohane, children's music director of Carmel UMC.

For more information, visit [www.indymetroumc.org](http://www.indymetroumc.org)



## Celebrating our newest campus ministry at Bloomington

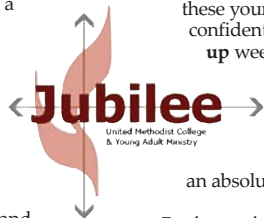
*Note: This Fall a new United Methodist ministry with college students and young adults in the Bloomington area (Indiana University and Ivy Tech in Bloomington) was started. Jubilee Ministries, under the leadership of Darren Wright and Travis Jeffords and with the support of the reorganized Bloomington Wesley Foundation and area churches, is celebrating God at work in the new ministry. Enjoy this update from Darren and Travis on the exciting ministry happening in Bloomington.*

By DARREN WRIGHT  
& TRAVIS JEFFORDS

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. – Walking with young adults as they transform their lives and mature is a slow, beautiful process. From our early planning stages, we knew that we didn't want to judge the success of our ministry by the number who showed up every week, but wanted to work towards helping students and young adults form authentic, deep relationships with Christ and community.

We want to help students discern what it might mean for them to live life with God at the center of who they are as they discover what they are doing here. We're moving quickly – creating Vision Teams, small groups, mission events, curriculum, but also trying to move carefully enough to take time to build real relationships, and to listen to what students are saying and what their needs may be.

The truth is we have one thing and one thing only to offer – a loving and



We want to help students discern what it might mean for them to live life with God at the center...

accepting Christ-centered community. That's it! That's the truth. And it's a radical, life-changing and life-giving truth. It is a truth and a community we're always in the process of building and creating.

After three months of getting to know these young adults, we can tell you confidently they're not just **showing up** week-after-week out of habit.

They're building, investing and creating the present and the future of the church right now, right here, in the midst of us. It's an absolute joy to witness.

### Each week

Thirty or so of us meet each week over dinner at the Bloomington Sandwich Company – a local place in town that stays open late every Wednesday night, so we can have a place to come together and share a meal. After eating, we head to the chapel at First United Methodist Church and spend another hour in conversation together. It's a time when we can come together and talk about how God is moving in our lives and in our world. Students help lead us in worship, plan our discussion topics, put together the newsletter, share their stories in church services, meet in weekly small



IU Campus in Bloomington

groups and with mentors, plan service projects, organize events, gather for potluck dinner, and the list goes on and on.

This fall, a student volunteered to head up an effort to put together a team to participate in the Jill Behrman 5K – a walk that helps to raise awareness of sexual assaults and helps fund a house where cancer patients can stay during treatments. Jubilee, in our first few months of existence, was the largest community organization to participate in the event.

### First semester

Jubilee finished its first semester as a college and young-adult ministry for the Bloomington area. Inspired by the Wesley Foundation, the First United Methodist Church of Bloomington has partnered with other area United Meth-

odist churches to create an exciting new ministry that focuses on connecting Indiana University students, Ivy Tech students and area young adults to each other.

We believe it is important to have a space for young adults to process their changing ideas about faith, life and God in community. We also believe that it's important to use the strengths of The United Methodist Church – our members and our history –

as part of that process.

We do this by creating opportunities for relationships between adults and young adults in our mentorship programs, and by stressing the value of participating in the life of a local congregation, because we know that the body of Christ is made up of all of us, together, living out the church and teaching each other what it means to be people seeking to follow Christ.

That's what God is up to at Jubilee. We neither have all the answers nor have it all figured out, but we know when we gather together, God shows up, lives are changed, community begins to blossom, love flourishes, and we begin to grow into the people we have been made to be. It's beautiful, and it's a lot of fun to be a part of.

Thank you so much for support and your prayers. God is moving.

### You and your church can support Jubilee in three ways:

1. To send financial gifts to the Bloomington Wesley Foundation, which supports Jubilee, send a check made payable to The Indiana Conference UMC, 301 Pennsylvania Parkway, Suite 300, Indianapolis, IN 46280, and designate the gift to the Bloomington Wesley Foundation.
2. To send financial gifts directly to the ministry, send a check made

payable to First United Methodist Church Bloomington with Jubilee Ministries in the memo line, 219 E Fourth Street, Bloomington, IN 47408.

3. If you have a student or young adult in the area you would like to recommend to connect with the ministry, visit [www.inumc.org/campusministries](http://www.inumc.org/campusministries).

## Indiana Conference Camping Numbers for 2011

Impact 2818 Outdoor Ministries had a very successful camping season this past year. Here are the numbers:



- 511 First time decisions of students who made a commitment to follow Jesus Christ
- 146 Students answered a call to full-time vocational ministry
- 3,293 Number of children and youth attending one of the conference's six camps
- 384,035 Number of dollars given in the form of camp scholarships

For more information about Impact 2818 Outdoor Ministries, visit [www.beacamper.com](http://www.beacamper.com).

## Granger Community celebrates first service at new Elkhart location

ELKHART – The zing of excitement coupled with a gracious humbleness made for an emotional gathering at Granger Community (United Methodist) Church's first service at its permanent Elkhart location Sunday morning Dec. 11.

Prior to the service, members and guests gathered to get a thorough look at the new GCC satellite campus, formerly St. John's United Church of Christ, at 2701 E. Bristol St. The church's main campus is in Granger. Aside from the main worship area, the Elkhart church now features a social room and a café and utilizes additional rooms for a nursery and children's ministry rooms.

"The sense of permanence feels really good," said Nate Stemm, who joined GCC with his wife, Jessica, five years ago. "We hope more in the community will come experience this as well, especially if it's in their backyard."

The Stemms, coming from Middlebury, had attended the Granger campus initially, but then began meeting with the Elkhart congregation at the much closer Carmike Encore Cinema over the past three years. More recently, the Elkhart congregation met at the RV Hall of Fame.

It was around that time that St. John's decided to close in the midst of decreasing mem-

"The sense of permanence feels really good"

– Nate Stemm

bership and a shrinking budget. St. John's UCC built the church on Bristol Street in 1961 and held its last service there in July. Some members of St. John's UCC now meet at Atria Eastlake Terrace at 3109 E. Bristol Street.

Hoping the building would remain a church, St. John's gave the building to GCC and the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church, just as GCC had begun its search for

yet another Elkhart location.

"As grand a space as the RV Hall of Fame was, we weren't uniquely nestled in a community," said GCC Pastor Mark Waltz.

Nov. 27 was Granger's last service at the RV Hall of Fame. Renovations on the Bristol Street church began in August and finished in December. Julie Smies, administrative assistant to the pastor, said the church has been modernized since the

original building is 50 years old.

Some of the renovations involved taking out the pews, which GCC donated to a fledgling Latino church, and donating the electric organ to Trinity Lutheran Church, replacing it with its own band.

The gift from St. John's UCC did not go unmentioned nor unthanked.

Christmas Eve was the official grand opening of the new church.

GCC celebrated its 25th anniversary Dec. 3 and Dec. 4. It has about 5,000 members on the main Granger campus and 300 people in the Elkhart area.

*This story was taken in part from The Truth of Elkhart, Ind.*



## A new kind of United Methodist?

By ANDY KINSEY

Amidst the ruins of World War II, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the anti-Nazi theologian, wrote about the need to practice "a new kind of monasticism" in the church. There was a need, he wrote, to find creative ways of practicing "life together" as disciples of Jesus.

Two professors of evangelism in The United Methodist Church, Elaine Heath (at Perkins School of Theology) and Scott Kisker (at Wesley Theological Seminary), also write about the need to practice a new kind of monasticism. In their book *Longing for Spring*, they share how The United Methodist Church needs to explore new avenues of living out the call to discipleship.

Heath and Kisker want to engage United Methodists in how a new monastic movement among laity and clergy may contribute to renewal. There is a desire, they insist, to address the longings of those who want to practice the "rule

of life" taught by John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. Their work grows out of the conviction that the Wesleyan revival was a form of monasticism that brought people from all walks of life into a deeper relationship with Christ.

To persons who may have thought that monasticism was for those who secluded themselves from the world, it may be good to remember within Protestantism there have

always been intentional communities that practiced what we might call a monastic rule of life – Brethren, Puritan and German Pietist groups come to mind. Of course, the early Methodists were very intentional about practicing the General Rules in highly disciplined bands, classes and societies. The Rule of "doing no harm, doing all the good you can, and practicing the ordinances of God" only makes sense in a visible community of accountability. Holiness in Wesleyan terms is always social holiness.



Kinsey

### New monasticism

What might a new monasticism mean for United Methodists today? According to the 2004 *United Methodist Book of Discipline* (Para.161.b), we discover support for forms of monasticism, such as Koinonia Farms and "other religious orders and corporate church life." United Methodists are encouraged to find "ways of understanding the needs and concerns of such groups and find ways of ministering to them and through them."

Interestingly, this paragraph was removed from the 2008 *Book of Discipline*. However, as an example of a monastic community, Koinonia Farms is an example of the kind of disciplined church life supported by United Methodists. We also may recall how Koinonia Farms was the birthplace of Habitat for Humanity and other ministries of racial reconciliation.

What about a monastic movement in the church? Might the General Conference in Tampa this spring encourage

and engage such a movement? What might it mean for a bishop to appoint a person to a monastic community created by United Methodists? How might students and faculties on college campuses practice the Wesleyan "rule of life"? In addition, how might local churches act as "anchor churches" to support those who want to minister in a Methodist Order along the lines of say Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity?

Sound improbable? The late Albert Outler suggested years ago that Methodism at its best was an "evangelical order" within the wider church, providing the means whereby persons could grow in holiness. Having participated in the Walk to Emmaus, the Academy of Spiritual Formation or Covenant Discipleship Groups, United Methodists may have some notion of what a new monasticism might look like, as these opportunities provide occasions to learn the way of discipleship. Such avenues also offer

the kind of support that can order the Christian life toward mission and service.

### Learn more

Those who want to learn more about the new monasticism will want to attend one or more of the following sessions in 2012: Shane Claiborne will be at St. Luke's UMC in Indy on Feb. 16-17, and Elaine Heath will be coming to St. Andrew UMC in West Lafayette on March 18; Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove of Rutba House in Durham, N.C. will be at the United Methodist-related University of Indianapolis on March 22. All of these individuals are involved in practicing the kind of wisdom Methodists have cultivated from the beginning. More importantly, they all address the deep longings of the heart that make discipleship the journey it is.

Andy Kinsey is pastor of Grace United Methodist Church in Franklin, Ind. and Indiana Conference's Wesleyan Scholar.

## Marion churches join hands, hammers to restore fire-damaged home before Christmas

MARION, Ind. – Mount Olive United Methodist Church of Muncie through it's Faith-N-Action ministry teamed up with The River and the Downtown Tabernacle churches to provide a Christmas gift to a Marion resident.

On Oct. 4, 2011, Mary Ware's Marion house was severely damaged by a kitchen fire. The kitchen and dining area were destroyed and the entire house sustained smoke, soot and water damage.

Ware and her son, Toby, were not injured but they were left with no place to live. She contacted the United Way, where Jane Barnes contacted Bob Riggs, of the Red Cross, and Rusty Jack of Mt. Olive United Methodist Church.

Jack is the president of Mount Olive's Faith-N-Action (FNA) ministry, a group that has been serving the community for 16 years by providing construction help to people who do not have the resources to hire a contractor. He called his builder friends and the effort to help the Ware family was under way.

People of the Mt. Olive UMC, The River and The Downtown Tabernacle helped move Mary's furniture into storage. FNA decided to spear-

head the effort to restore the home. The kitchen and dining room were gutted down to the frame, the floor coverings were removed, and all of the walls and ceilings were scrubbed with various chemicals to remove the soot and smoke smell from the house.

The damage included all appliances, heating and air conditioning system, hot water heater and much of the electrical system.

Erin Rhodes of Service Master volunteered to help and contacted suppliers, provided special chemicals for cleaning, and directed the effort to eliminate the smoke damage.

Don and Joy Wickline of Mt. Olive's FNA acted as project managers. More than 100 people volunteered time and many more donated money or materials to this mission.

**Ware did not know any of the people who worked on this project prior to the fire but now considers the many volunteers as family. She moved back into her restored home Dec. 18, within ten weeks of the fire.**

While some work remains and Mt. Olive's FNA team will continue until the project is complete, the Ware family spent Christmas at home.

## Application deadline for US-2s nears

NEW YORK (GBGM) – For 60 years, Global Ministries has been sending young people into service. Through the US-2 and mission intern programs, we have enriched the lives of thousands of young men and women, and through their witness touched uncountable youth, adults and communities.

US-2s serve two years living out faith through social justice in the United States. They live, work, and make a positive impact working with a United

Methodist partner organization, boldly reexamining their role and participation in society to address systemic injustice. Mission interns integrate the global and local by serving for three years, half of the time in an international community and half in their home country.

**The deadline for the 2012 class of mission interns and US-2s is Feb. 5.** Please share the application with those in your networks and communities between the ages of 20 and 30 who are committed to ad-

ressing the root causes of injustice. The application is available at <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/connections/youth/applications/>.

Mission interns and US-2s are encouraged to engage in disciplined theological reflection and are equipped to discern God's calling for their lives. Thank you for partnering with us in shaping ethical, prophetic Christian leaders who are engaged firsthand in God's mission in a world of injustice and need.

## Rawski named UE's Exemplary Teacher

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (UE) – The University of Evansville announced that Greg Rawski, associate professor of management in the Schroeder Family School of Business Administration, has received the 2011 Exemplary Teacher Award.

Each year, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church presents the Exemplary Teacher Award to recognize excellence in teaching at United Methodist-related institutions of higher education.

UE President Thomas A. Kazee announced Dec. 14 Rawski as the 2011 recipient during UE's Winter Commencement ceremony.

"The first time I met Greg Rawski, I was blown away by his enthusiasm for the Schroeder Family School of Business Administration and what it could become," said Stephen Standifird, dean of



Rawski

**"The first time I met Greg Rawski, I was blown away by his enthusiasm..."**

– Stephen Standifird

the Schroeder Family School of Business Administration. "Quite honestly, Dr. Rawski is one of the reasons I came to the University of Evansville. He has a constant stream of ideas for improving the educational experience of our students, and most notably, he's willing to volunteer his own time and energy to put these ideas into action."

Rawski came to UE in 2005 after earning a PhD in manufacturing management and engineering from the University of Toledo. Each year, he has received an outstanding teaching evaluation for his work in the classroom, teaching courses such as The American Corporation, Production/Operations Management and Global Supply Chain Issues in Manufacturing.

## Fishers church blessed by giving cook stoves to Guatemalans

Even though wood-burning cook stoves may seem primitive to us living in 21st century America, such stoves create a major change to Guatemalans living in small tin-roofed shacks cooking on an open fire.

That was the experience of the Rev. Rusty Allanson, lead pastor of The Promise Church in Fishers, Ind., and Volunteers In Mission from the suburban Indianapolis church. Mission Guatemala has been high on the church's mission giving list. This past year, The Promise bought and installed 63 wood-burning cook stoves in Guatemalan houses.

The concrete stoves cost \$120 each but come as kits needing to be assembled on the spot. According to the Rev. Tom Heaton, executive director of Mission Guatemala, the company that manufactures the stoves in Guatemala will deliver the stoves by the roadside, but many times volunteers need to lug the heavy



Two Guatemalan women take a first look at a new wood burning cook stove that will transform the way they prepare food for their family. The stoves were given by Hoosier United Methodists through Mission Guatemala.

Photo courtesy of Mission Guatemala

kitchen appliances through narrow paths to reach their destination.

The stoves create a major transformation to Guatemalan

women who up to this time have prepared all the family's cooked food on a campfire inside a very small house, filled with smoke leaving a

"...we had what we thought of as the finest Holy Communion ever."

— Rusty Allanson

heavy deposit of soot on the ceiling. The stove also uses less wood to cook than an inefficient open fire.

In a letter to his congregation, Allanson described one experience saying, "When the assembly and installation were finally complete, the grandmother begins to cry and blessing us all saying how she could not believe what we had done for them—changing their lives forever. The mother insists we stay and disappears only to appear a few minutes later with small glasses of orange drink and a plate of pieces of sweet bread. Through her tears, she 'required' us to partake. I sat stunned because she offered us what would likely

be all they had to eat for that day. Fighting back MY tears with the rest of my team, we had what we thought of as the finest Holy Communion ever."

According to Heaton, the Zionsville United Methodist Church also shares in this cook-stove mission and has donated \$12,000 to buy 100 such stoves, of those which will transform the lives living in 100 homes.

For more information about Mission Guatemala, an Advance Special of both the Indiana Conference and the General Board of Global Ministries, visit [www.missionguatemala.com](http://www.missionguatemala.com).

This past year, Mission Guatemala hosted 14 teams from the United States comprised of 193 volunteers.

## Celebrating 20 years

# Africa University depends on Hoosiers, other UMs to sustain strength of school in Zimbabwe

United Methodist-related Africa University located in Mutare, Zimbabwe, ([www.africau.edu](http://www.africau.edu)) opened for classes this past August with its largest enrollment to date, 1,634 students coming from 23 African countries.

"These students enjoy excellent facilities and a learning experience that is world-class. More importantly, they are being equipped to respond to the challenges of poverty, disease and conflict across Africa," according to recently retired Bishop Ernest Lyght, chairperson of the Africa University Board Development Committee and Advisory Development Committee.

He said they in turn, will follow Africa University graduates like the Rev. Julio Vilanculos, the dean of the Cambine School of Theology. He is nurturing a new generation of leaders to make disciples and grow congregations in Mozambique and beyond.

Claude Masuka of the Democratic Republic of Congo is using skills gained in the Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance at Africa University as he equips community leaders for building a sustainable peace in his conflict-scarred country.

In South Africa, Celeste Sauls, one of few professionals in health economics, is doing research to improve the delivery of vital services to people living with HIV/AIDS and other diseases.



United Methodist-related Africa University is located in Mutare, Zimbabwe, a country suffering from an inflation rate of 7,500 percent. During the Sept. 23 Africa University Development Committee meeting in Nashville, Tenn., a Zimbabwean shared the struggles of living in a country with scarce food, water shortages and drought, a lack of foreign currency, electrical outages, political repression, economic hardships and poverty.

A UMNS file photo by Mike DuBose.

"These students enjoy excellent facilities and a learning experience that is world-class."

— Bishop Ernest Lyght

### Center visit

To talk face-to-face about AU, Dr. Albert Zvenhamo Chiteka, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and retired United Methodist Bishop Lawrence McCleskey of Lake Junaluska, N.C., executive vice president for development of Africa University, visited the Indiana Conference Center Dec. 13 to explore with Bishop Mike Coyner, conference leaders and staff members, ways to help build enthusiasm for more support of Africa University in Indiana.

Chiteka's research interests at AU are in plant breeding and focus primarily on groundnuts. Since joining Africa University in 2004, Chiteka has been a Senior Lecturer at AU in agriculture and natural resources.



Chiteka



McCleskey

### 20 years

Africa University is doing what it was founded to do. Since opening Africa University in March 1992, The United Methodist Church has built one of the most important and vibrant ministries in its history. It is a ministry whose lifeblood flows from local church giving.

Prayers and faithful giving of Hoosier United Methodists through the Indiana Conference tithe connect members to the life-changing work of young men and women and a foundation for positive change, thanks to their support of the Africa University Fund.



Students from Africa University carry trees they will plant along the roadway entrance to Africa University. It was a dream for the students to do this project as part of Change the World.

A UMNS photo courtesy of Africa University.

The Africa University Fund relies on the 43 cents per member it gets annually from Hoosier United Methodists. The Indiana Conference plans to give \$85,787 to Africa University this year through the Indiana Conference tithe. Combined with other conferences across the United States, AU will be provided \$2.5 million for university operations.

Economic difficulties abound globally, and Africa is not immune to the current challenges. Now more than ever, with its growing enrollment, Africa University needs support. Each conference's share is critical to the university and to Africa's future.

Lyght thanks Hoosier United Methodists for their commitment to Africa University.





## Commentary

## Can Facebook be good news?

By Verity A. Jones  
New Media Project at  
Union Theological Seminary

I recently wrote the following in an article for *Reflections*, the journal of Yale Divinity School (Fall 2011): Facebook's success is tied to how it originally differentiated itself from online tools that encouraged false identities such as video gaming. Instead, Facebook encouraged people to dig deep into their actual, real relationships.

In a 2010 *TIME Magazine* profile of him last year, Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg says, "At its core, what we're trying to do is map out all of those trust relationships." Profile writer Lev Grossman explains, "The fact that people yearned not to be liberated from their daily lives but to be more deeply embedded in them is an extraordinary insight."

Granted, Facebook is confronting ethical and legal questions about privacy and other issues these days (see interview with Jeffery Rosen on NPR's *Fresh Air*, "Interpreting the Constitution in the Digital Age" for recent scary comments about Facebook and



Perhaps the church is onto something when it truly values the community of God's people gathered to hear and share the Gospel, and to serve others.



Jones

privacy).

But I'm curious about what you think of these basic claims made by Zuckerberg and Grossman – Facebook's goal is to map out our real "trust relationships" and it has tapped into our "yearning ... to be more deeply em-

bedded in them."

Zuckerberg's statement strikes me as true but ironic. Facebook has connected scores of people to long lost friends and family ... for better and for worse. You can't hide much of anything on Facebook, unless you are lying. And the idea on Facebook is not to lie but rather to find old and new friends and then share your lives. The irony is that critics claim Facebook and other social media deprive us of relationships with people IRL (in real life). Do they, really? What is real life?

Grossman's statement

strikes me as somehow hopeful about human nature. Perhaps we actually do like our lives and the people in our lives enough to want to share them with others. Perhaps we don't yearn for an escape into entertainment's dungeons, as much as we want to bask in the light of our relationships with the other people around us. Perhaps the church is onto something when it truly values the community of God's people gathered to hear and share the Gospel, and to serve others.

Okay, so being too imbedded in the lives of others can be problematic. Setting appropriate boundaries around social media has been a recurring theme in the interviews we've conducted at the New Media Project. Some younger clergy tell us that they like how refreshingly honest teens can be on Facebook, but they also worry about how all that sharing makes some teens more vulnerable.

But perhaps it's good news that a retreat into isolation may not be the most potent challenge occasioned by the rise of Facebook and other social media. Not to under appreciate the work of developing appropriate boundaries, but I'll take the challenge of coping with an expanding number of relationships over loneliness any day.

Verity Jones is the project direc-

tor of the New Media Project, and a Research Fellow at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. Jones lives in Indianapolis. The New Media Project is a research project helping religious leaders become theologically savvy about technology. Contact Jones at [newmedia@uts.columbia.edu](mailto:newmedia@uts.columbia.edu). This commentary was reprinted with permission. New Media Project. © 2011.

## BODY, MIND &amp; SPIRIT

## Horsepower

By TODD OUTCALT

In John Wigger's astounding biography of Francis Asbury, *American Saint*, we learn that no individual in the colonies, not even George Washington, was more famous than the Methodist bishop prior to the Revolutionary War. Asbury, the first bishop of American Methodism, met people face-to-face and he did so by riding an estimated 300,000 miles on horseback during his ministry, all the while preaching thousands of sermons and meeting tens-of-thousands of people.

Mobility has always been a part of the Methodist ministry equation. In the early days, horses were provided to the pastors. A congregation or circuit that did not provide a horse (along with feed and water) did not receive a pastor. Today, clergy have travel allowances and usually drive cars. And when clergy are ordained, they are asked many questions, one of which is: "Will you visit from house to house?" This question harkens back to the frontier days and has been a part of Methodism from its beginning.

During the week I wrote this column, I also submitted my monthly mileage reimbursement. I see that I travelled 535 miles – an average month for me – as I've not only gone from "house-to-house" but "hospital-to-hospital" and "lunch-to-lunch." And, if I parlay that number into nearly 30 years of ministry, that means I've travelled more than 190,000 miles so far or more than 7½ times around the earth. This doesn't even include air travel to various conferenc-

es, or the times I've paddled my kayak to church. Other clergy I know have traveled much further and more often than I.

We don't use horses anymore, but our automobiles reflect our history with equine travel – as we still refer to a car's "horsepower." We also like to think that Methodists have "horse-sense." And John Wesley, founder of Methodism, reminded his preachers they should not waste time or "horse around."

We are still living our history.

But perhaps the largest questions in this New Year will involve our mobility and our willingness to travel, whether lay or clergy. Where are we willing to go? What needs are we willing to meet for the sake of Christ? How far are we willing to travel, and how quickly can we get there? How many people can we touch with the Gospel – and meet face-to-face – especially in our own towns and communities? To what disasters will our church respond? Will we visit from house to house? And if God calls us to go – when can we begin?

In this age of instant access and extreme mobility, we may also hear echoed the words of Jesus, "Come, let us be on our way."

Todd Outcalt travels around Brownsburg and environs and frequently composes essays and poems sitting behind the wheel of his car, but he doesn't text. His most recent book is *He Said, She Said: Biblical Stories from a Male and Female Perspective* (with Michelle Knight). He also contributes frequently to Rev!, The Christian Century, and Youth Worker magazines, and writes a daily humor blog.



Outcalt

## Rejuvenate now part of foundation

## Conference Rejuvenate office moves to Fishers

The new year brought a new beginning for the Indiana Conference Rejuvenate project. On Jan. 2, Rejuvenate became a program of the United Methodist Foundation of Indiana.

Rejuvenate's director Rev. Michelle Cobb and Jody Patty, Rejuvenate assistant, moved from the Indiana Conference Center in Indianapolis to the United Methodist Foundation of Indiana in Fishers.

According to the Rev. David V.W. Owen, executive assistant to Bishop Mike Coyner, "With the action of the Rejuvenate Oversight Committee, the foundation board and the (Indiana Conference) Leadership Table the Rejuvenate project was moved to become an established program ministry partnership in collaboration with the United Methodist Foundation of Indiana and the Indiana Conference."

The program is now under the supervision of Manet Shettle, president of the foundation and the Rejuvenate Oversight Committee.

Cobb and Patty vacated the Indiana Conference Center the end of the December and moved their files and supplies to their new location – 8401 Fishers Center Drive in Fishers, just east of the 116th Street exit off I-69.

Just a year ago, the foundation moved into its new offices at the same address.

Information about the both the United Methodist Foundation of Indiana and Rejuvenate can be found online at [www.umfindiana.org](http://www.umfindiana.org). The phone number for both is 317-788-7879. E-mail addresses for both Cobb and Patty are [mcobb@UMFIndiana.org](mailto:mcobb@UMFIndiana.org) and [jpatty@UMFIndiana.org](mailto:jpatty@UMFIndiana.org).



At the end of December, Rejuvenate Assistant Jody Patty and the Rev. Michelle Cobb, Director of Rejuvenate, pack their files and supplies at the Indiana Conference Center in Indianapolis to move to their new offices at the United Methodist Foundation of Indiana in Fishers.

For those readers who may not know, Rejuvenate is made possible by a generous matching grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. and contributions from generous United Methodist benefactors. Its purpose is to strengthen clergy excellence and enhance the viability of congregations through an educational program for clergy and laity and an economic initiative for clergy and/or clergy spouses. This educational ministry focuses on financial management, planning and personal stewardship education.

For more information, visit [www.inumc.org/rejuvenate](http://www.inumc.org/rejuvenate).

## Beck's book on practice of pastoral ministry well worth reading

Books on the theory of pastoral ministry are good to guide especially those new to pastoral ministry. Books on the practice of pastoral ministry are great.

The Rev. Mike Beck's book, *No Longer Silent: Doing Pastoral Ministry With Excellence and Grace*, is well worth the read and fits into one of those great

practical books category. Throughout the book, Beck, a Hoosier United Methodist pastor now on disability leave, focuses on the essentials of pastoral ministry and how to do these essentials well. If excellent ministry is in the details, Beck gives detailed practical explanations of why he did what he did.



Beck

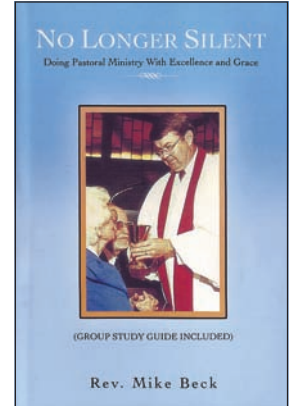
His love of ministry becomes apparent as he speaks to ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of people.

Those practical essentials of ministry must have worked for Beck. In his 22 years of active pastoral ministry he served churches at Greensburg, Corydon and Franklin. Both of his past two appointments experienced a 50 percent growth rate.

He also speaks to overcoming disabilities, like the disabilities of his rare neurological disorder that eventually forced him into a disability status.

Bishop Mike Coyner said this about Beck's book: "*No Longer Silent* is a wonderful story of one pastor's journey of faith while being on incapacity leave, along with a great list of 'gems of wisdom' from his years of pastoral experience... Any pastor of any denomination or age can gain insights, encouragement, advice and inspiration from this book, and I recommend it heartily."

The best price for this book can be obtained by ordering directly from the publisher at [www.Authorhouse.com](http://www.Authorhouse.com), enter "*No Longer Silent*" in the title search box on top of the page



and hit the SEARCH button. Hardcover copies sell for \$16.95 plus handling. Softcover copies sell for \$10.95 plus handling. Copies of the book are also available from other mainline publishers such as Amazon, Barnes and Noble and other book companies.

Beck says he also is available for preaching or leadership workshops at the following address: 8545 Belle Union Court, Camby, IN 46113 or e-mail [revmikebeck@comcast.net](mailto:revmikebeck@comcast.net).



CARMEL, Ind. – Dave McDaniel (left), Carmel UMC Council Chair, holds the burning mortgage papers as Finance Chairman Gary Noonan and Senior Pastor Greg McGarvey watch with concern.

Photo by Gary Bollier of Carmel UMC

### Carmel church burns mortgage in celebration of being debt-free

CARMEL, Ind. – The Carmel United Methodist Church celebrated being debt-free with a mortgage burning on Sunday, Nov. 27.

Pastor Greg McGarvey said, "After 53 years in this wonderful facility, we are debt-free! I cannot imagine the joy of hundreds and hundreds of members of this church, who through the years have faithfully shared their financial resources so we could experience this day."

Bishop Mike Coyner was present for the celebration and preached during the worship service.

The church had building projects in the 1980s and 1990s of about \$950,000, which were added to an additional \$3.5 million following the building of a 2001 addition.

"To be free of those burdens feels great," said McGarvey.

### Indy's Movie Theater Church has a new home in shopping mall

INDIANAPOLIS – The Movie Theater Church has recently finished renovating its new 7,700-square-foot leased worship space in the Washington Square Mall on East Washington Street.

According to Pastor Ethan Maple, "This is a great new venture for the church, because members are finally able to have a space to call home. After nearly four years for setting up and breaking down each Sunday, MTC is in a wonderful space in a location that really fulfills its mission."

On its first Sunday in December, the new church had a packed house with more than 165 members and guests in attendance, 27 of whom were children.

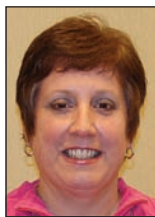
"This is an exciting new venture for MTC," said Maple.

### Indiana Conference Center welcomes Walker to staff

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Conference Center in Indianapolis has hired Jennifer (Jenni) Walker as a part-time financial clerk. Her primary duties are support for accounting and camp finance and registration.

Walker is a native of Terre Haute, Ind., and now lives in Marion, where her husband, the Rev. Steven E. Walker, serves as pastor of Mt. Olive United Methodist Church at Marion.

She was the district assistant of the former Indianapolis East District Office for six years and was the resource administrator/Volunteers In Mission coordinator for the former South Indiana Conference. She also attends Indiana Wesleyan University.



Walker

wherever one is called and appointed to serve. He acknowledges that excellence just doesn't come on its own, one needs to focus and work toward excellence. He also gives some solid advice when it comes to leading not by self-will but by consensus, as well as welcoming and assimilating new members into a congregation.

According to Beck, church growth comes from understanding and reaching out to the people who are not in the pew, those whom many call "unchurched." He writes: "If the church is truly to experience a revival, we must seek to understand the needs and thinking of 'unchurched Harry and Mary.' Then he explains how he reaches out to these

## APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Michael J. Coyner has announced the following changes within the Indiana Conference.

These appointments are based on Cabinet reports received by Indiana Conference Communication during the months of November and December 2011.

Adamsson, Cindy F., from South Bend First, North District to No Appointment, 12/1/2011

Alte, Cynthia Dell, from Balance Matters to VITAS Hospice, 10/18/2011

Bone, Wilma M., Sawyer from Henryville, South District to Retirement, 7/1/2012

Coffman, Daniel, from Redkey Sugar Grove/Dunkirk Bethel, East District to Redkey Sugar Grove, East District, 10/16/2011

Daeschner, J. Ross, from Greencastle Beech Grove/Rockville Otterbein, West District to Retirement, 7/1/2012

Denyer, Taylor Walters, from Friendly Planet Missiology, Africa to Discontinued, 12/5/2011

Domingo, Roger, New Appointment to Dunkirk Bethel/Dunkirk Calvary, East District, 11/13/2011

Freemyer, Daniel, from Sharpsville/Howard County New Church Start, North Central District to Shapsville, North Central District, 12/1/2011

Harshman, Seth Robert, from Oak Chapel, North Central District to No Appointment, 11/14/2011

Hill, Ralph Edwin, from Leave of Absence to Honorable Location, Southeast District, 7/1/2010

Howard, William Lester, from Blacks Chapel, Southwest District to No Appointment, 1/1/2012

Jackson, Patrick Michael, from Fairlawn/Associate District Superintendent, Southwest District to Fairlawn, Southwest District, 12/30/2011

Jones, Brian Felker, from Extension Ministry: Faith UMC, Illinois to Family Leave of Absence, 7/1/2010

Kaiser, Joann S., from Honorable Location to Surrendered Credentials, 10/1/2011

Kelley, Janet L. Louise, from Old North, Southwest District to Hillsdale/Kokomo Faith, North Central District, 1/1/2012

Klinker, Harold L., New Appointment to Decatur First, Northeast District, 1/1/2012

Knox, Carol A., from Richville, North District to Retirement, 1/9/2012

Lang, Marie E., from Fletcher Place to Transitional Leave, 10/21/2011

Maxson, John, from Alvarado, Northeast District to No Appointment, 1/1/2012

McGraw, Bonnie, from Fountain City, East District to No Appointment, 9/11/2011

Moyer, Jan, from Grass Creek, Northwest District to No Appointment, 11/6/2011

Nisley, Omer L., from Brimfield, Northeast District to Retirement, 1/1/2012

Nunemaker, Donald, from Burton/Richland Center, Northwest District to Retirement, 12/31/2011

Purvis, Judith E. B., from District Superintendent, West District to

Retirement, 7/1/2012

Rodgers, David R., from Transitional Leave to Central Presbyterian Church, Waco, Texas, 8/1/2011

Sanders, Douglas Lee, from Kokomo Faith/Hilldale, North Central District to Incapacity Leave, 12/1/2011

Selvidge, Edwin D., from Radnor, Northwest District to Camden/Radnor, Northwest District, 6/13/2011

Shepherd, Leslie Thomas III, New Appointment to Blacks Chapel/Howell, Southwest District, 1/1/2012

Soultz, Alexander P., New Appointment to Oak Chapel, North Central District, 11/14/2011

Swan, Richard, from Terre Haute Mt. Pleasant, West District to Terre Haute Mt. Pleasant/Northside Community, West District, 10/15/2011

Walton, Jason Lee, from Crawford Consolidated/Pilot Knob, South District to No Appointment, 11/15/2011

Wheaton, Aaron E., from Terre Haute Mt. Pleasant, West District to Terre Haute Mt. Pleasant/Northside Community, West District, 10/15/2011

Wilson, Todd A., New Appointment to Kewanna, Northwest District, 10/1/2011

Wolf, John, from Shipshewana/Topeka, Northeast District to Shipshewana, Northeast District, 1/1/2012

Woosley, Kenneth O., from Canton/Salem West Point/Highland/Plattsburg, South District to No Appointment, 1/1/2012



## Conference Campus Ministry Offering to be received in February

The Indiana Conference encourages congregations to receive a Campus Ministry Special Offering to assist in the support of our United Methodist-related ministries on state university campuses.

Please mark your calendars and plan to promote the Indiana Conference United Methodist Campus Ministry offering during the month of February in your congregation. Pick a particular Sunday to emphasize campus ministry or lift up campus ministry more than one Sunday. (See page 12.)

The Campus Ministry Offering helps fund valuable ministry to young adults at Indiana college and university campuses. Our conference-related campus ministries are effectively reaching out to college and university students in their geographic areas during the most transitional times of students' lives.

The relationships made with Jesus and each other are chang-

ing lives and the world around them. Visit [www.inumc.org/campusministries](http://www.inumc.org/campusministries) for more information and downloadable resources for your congregation's Campus Ministry Offering. Resources include: A letter from Bishop Mike Coyner, a worship announcement, offering instructions, PowerPoint offering announcement slide and testimonials to share on a downloadable PDF document.

Read the story on page 6 in this issue of *Together* about the new Jubilee Campus Ministry in Bloomington serving stu-

dents of Indiana University and Ivy Tech.

Contact Helene Foust, Associate Director of Student Ministries, at [helene.foust@inumc.org](mailto:helene.foust@inumc.org) or call her at 317-924-1321 at your earliest convenience to order offering envelopes, a promo packet with DVD video or to schedule a campus ministry speaker to help promote the Campus Ministry Offering in your congregation.

We are working together on campuses to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

## UMCOR Disaster Preparedness Academy planned for March 14-17 in Minnesota

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Disaster Preparedness Academy for the North Central Jurisdiction will be held March 14-17, 2012, at the Minnesota Conference Koinonia Retreat Center in North Haven, Minn. The event invitation and registration information is posted on the UMCOR website at [www.gbmg-umc.org/northcentralvnm/NCVIM/Disaster\\_Response.html](http://www.gbmg-umc.org/northcentralvnm/NCVIM/Disaster_Response.html).

For more information, contact Lorna Jost at [umvnm-cj@brookings.net](mailto:umvnm-cj@brookings.net) or call her at 605-692-3390.

## Muncie High Street Church celebrates 175th anniversary



Matthews

MUNCIE, Ind. – Indiana Bishop Mike Coyner preached, Sunday, Dec. 18, at High Street United Methodist Church for its 175th anniversary celebration. He preached at the combined morning service, dedicated 36 portraits of former senior pastors and with the congregation, listened to a new anthem titled, "Psalm 71: The Generations," commissioned by the church and composed by Robinson McClellan. Also present at the service was Linda Matthews of Indianapolis. She is the granddaughter of Methodist Bishop Raymond J. Wade, a Muncie native, and great-granddaughter of the Rev. Cyrus U. Wade, a former pastor of the High Street Church.

Photos courtesy of the church.

## IN MEMORIAM

*Editor's note: Due to bi-monthly issues of Together, only the death notices of clergy and clergy spouses will be included in the printed list. A more complete list of Death Notices can be found on the Indiana Conference website ([www.inumc.org](http://www.inumc.org)) under "Obituaries" found in the left column of the homepage.*

**SYBIL A. ATKINS** of Franklin, Ind., 96, retired local pastor, died Dec. 26, 2011. A memorial service was held Dec. 30 in Franklin, Ind. Survivors include: three children, Joyce Utterback of Franklin, Sally Maudlin of Campbellsburg, and Jack Atkins of Plainfield; 13 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a daughter Judith Atkins and a son Jimmie Atkins of Mitchell, Ind. Memorial contributions can be made to Franklin United Methodist Community, 1070 W. Jefferson Street, Franklin, IN 46131.

**JULIE ELLEN BEACH**, wife of retired Associate Member, the Rev. Stephen Beach, died Nov. 29, 2011. A memorial service was held Dec. 2 in Cedar Springs, Mich. Survivors include: husband, Stephen; daughters Sandy, Martha, Lori; son Paul; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Condolences can be sent to Rev. Stephen Beach, 11102 Sapling Court, Miamisburg, OH 46342.

**JOHN ALAN COAHKAN** of Crossville, Tenn., 74, retired Elder, died Dec. 12, 2011. A memorial service was held Dec. 17 in Crossville. Survivors include: wife, Beverly; two sons, Brian of New Albany, Ind.; David of Spicer, Minn.; and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first son, John David. Memorial contributions can be made to the

Crossville UMC Building Fund, 100 Braun Street, Crossville, TN 38555. Condolences can be sent to Beverly Coahran, 74 Santee Court, Crossville, TN 38572.

**OLIVIA (LIVY) ANNE DOWNEY** of Greentown, Ind., 55, who formerly served as an associate pastor at St. Luke's UMC in Kokomo, died Nov. 6, 2011. A celebration of life service was held Nov. 11 in Kokomo. Survivors include: her husband, Dane A. Downey of Greentown; one daughter, Annie (Tyler) Eichelbarger of Greentown. Condolences can be sent to Dane Downey, 692 Buck Run Lane, Greentown, IN 46936-9624.

**MARY F. HIATT** of Peoria, Ill., 100, widow of the late Rev. Russell Hiatt, died Dec. 22, 2011. A memorial service was held Dec. 30 in Muncie. Survivors include: daughters, Ruth Mayfield (Frank) of Peoria, Ill. and Julia Hiatt of Concord, N.C.; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions can be made to Rev. Russell and Mary Hiatt Scholarship Fund, c/o The University of Indianapolis, 400 East Hanna Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46227 or Gethsemane United Methodist Church, 1201 West McGalliard Road, Muncie, IN 47302.

**JAMES S. HOOK** of Indianapolis, 82, retired Elder of the Indiana Conference, died Dec. 19, 2011. A memorial service was held Dec. 23 in Indianapolis. Another memorial service will be held in the spring in the Bluffton area. Survivors include: wife, Mary Helen Hook; children: James (Pattie), John (Nancy) Matthew (Jody) and Mary (DuBoris) Dickerson; and 11 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by

daughter, Elizabeth Ann and two grandchildren. Memorial contributions can be made to Heartland Hospice, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, The Reuben P. Job Endowed Chair in Spiritual Formation at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill. Condolences can be sent to his wife, Mary Helen Hook, 5481 Happy Hollow, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

**JEROLD J. JENSEN** of West Harrison, Ind., a retired Associate Pastor, died Dec. 10, 2011. A memorial service was held Dec. 15 in Hamilton, Ohio. Survivors include: wife, Wilma Jensen; sons Steven (Tamie) Jensen of Detroit Lake, Minn., Paul (Dori) Jensen of Rhinelander, Wisc. and David (Susan) Jensen of Huntsville, Ala.; 14 grandchildren; and five great grandchildren. Memorials contributions can be made to Macedonia Christian Church, P.O. Box 174, Okeana, OH 45053 or Rockdale United Methodist Church, 1195 Johnson Fork Road, West Harrison, IN 47060 to a fund that will be named later. Condolences can be sent to his widow, Wilma Jensen, 2007 Drewersburg Road, West Harrison, IN 47060.

**BRUCE WAYNE KENLINE** of Bluffton, Ind., 89, a retired Elder, died Nov. 18, 2011. A memorial service was held Nov. 21 in Bluffton with burial in Markle Cemetery. Survivors include: sons, Greg Kenline (wife Rhonda) of Albion, Kim Kenline (wife Janice) of Ossian, Scott Kenline (wife Phyllis) of Fort Wayne; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**VIOLET RUTH (SMITH) MCMAHAN** of Bloomington, Ind., 90, wife of the Rev. Donald F. McMahan, retired Elder, died Nov.

20, 2011. A memorial service was held Nov. 23 in Bloomington. Survivors include: husband, the Rev. Donald F. McMahan; son, the Rev. Larry W. McMahan of Bloomington; daughter, Susan E. Stein; and granddaughter, Jessica Anne Stein. Memorial contributions can be made to Hospice of Bloomington or the First United Methodist Church, 219 East 4th Street, Bloomington, IN 47408. Condolences can be sent to the Rev. Donald F. McMahan, 3902 S. Jamie Lane, Bloomington, IN 47401.

**MARY MARGUERITE RICHEY** of Goshen, Ind., 93, surviving spouse of the late Rev. J. Ross Richey, died Dec. 5, 2011. A memorial service was held Dec. 8, 2011 in Goshen. Survivors include: daughter, Marcia Ann (Charlie) Russell of Indianapolis; son, Ronald W. (Julia) Richey of North Webster; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and three step-grandchildren. Memorial contributions can be given to the Greencroft Foundation, The American Heart Association or the Faith Mission.

**GLADYS M. SUMNER**, widow of the late Rev. Richard Sumner, died Dec. 24, 2011. A memorial service was held Dec. 29 in Gas City, Ind. Survivors include: children, Richard D. (Judith) Sumner of Haines City, Fla., and Irene (Robert) Boohar of Gas City; and 11 grandchildren. Memorial contributions can be sent to Heritage Pointe, P.O. Box 326, Warren, IN 46792.

**JON BELTON WALTERS**, 72, a retired Elder, died unexpectedly Monday, Dec. 26, 2011 in Indianapolis. A memorial service was held Jan. 14 in Indianapolis. Survivors include: wife, Mary Glynn (Lott) Walters; three


children, Allyson, Summer and Jon; and seven grandchildren. Walters, a native of Forest Hill, Miss., served the Bloomington (Ind.) Church of the Cross, campus ministry at Indiana University, former South Indiana Conference Council on Ministries as a staff member, Oakland City Good Shepherd UMC, Indianapolis North UMC, Church of the New Covenant in Kenai, Alaska, executive director of the Mississippi United Methodist Choctaw Mission in Choctaw, Miss., and pastor of the Green Hill and John Memorial UMCs in Mississippi. Condolences can be sent to Mary Glynn Walters, 10971 County Road 2606, Choctaw, MS 39350.

**J.C. WILLIAMS** of Muncie, Ind., 93, retired clergy member and noted African-American civil rights leader, died Nov. 21, 2011. A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 31, 2012 at Muncie High Street, 219 S. High Street, Muncie. Survivors include: sons, Charles (Chicago), James (Fort Wayne), the Rev. Dr. Jacob Jr. (Valparaiso); daughters, Anna Hayden (Gary), Alice (Muncie) and many grandchildren. Memorial contributions can be sent to St. Jude Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, The J.C. Williams Scholarship Education Fund, Africa University or Operation Classroom. Please send to Indiana Conference United Methodist Church, 301 Pennsylvania Parkway, Suite 300, Indianapolis, IN 46280. Attn: Jennifer Gallagher. Please identify the fund in the memo field. Condolences can be sent to the Rev. Jacob Williams, 1105 Bartlett Drive, Valparaiso, IN 46383.




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