

Leading congregations to lead people to actively follow Jesus Christ



Searching

Roderick encourages people to let others see you searching. 4A



Learning

Farr recounts year of learning opportunities in past year. 4A



Commission

A new group begins path to ordination. Page 5A

024000 | Volume 157
Number 10 | July 9, 2010
Two Sections, Section A

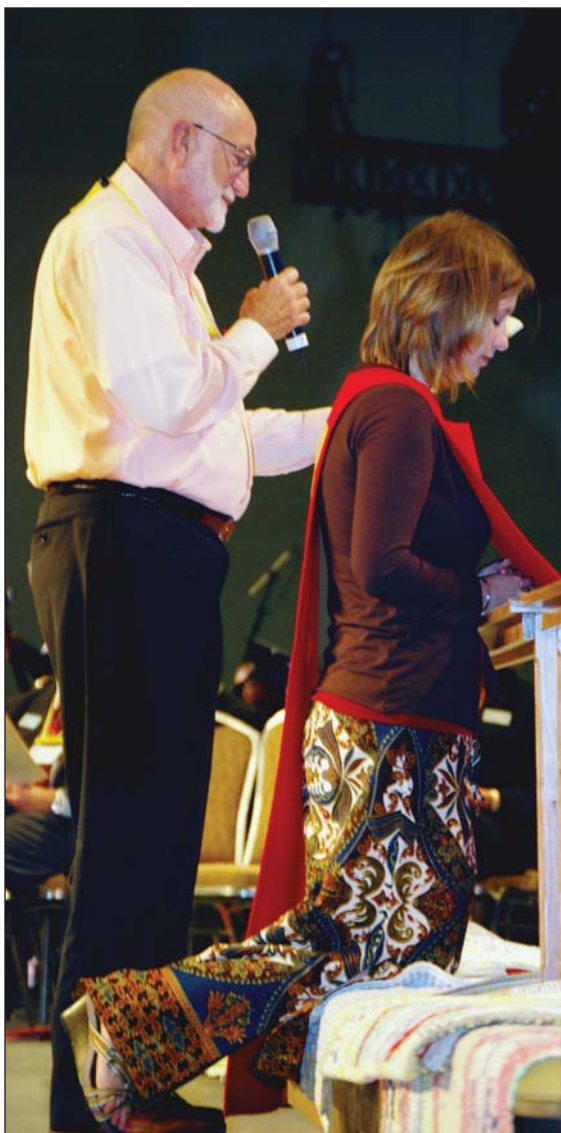
Retirees reflect on service, give thanks

As Missouri Conference clergy closed their careers at the Saturday morning retirement service during Annual Conference Session, many reflected back on how their service to the church began.

“Aren’t circles amazing things? This journey of faith has taken me full circle from Volunteer in Mission to becoming a missionary – from West Plains to Costa Rica and Kenya – as a Deaconess, and a Parish Nurse in Atlanta and New York – to Brazil and Nicaragua – from Harlem to Nashville and clear back to Missouri to be a part of the lives of eight local churches,” said Karen Coy.

“What a gift! What a trip for a nurse from Missouri. At the heart of a faith journey is the One who calls us and loves us – and brings us home.”

The service was for all Missouri Conference clergy under appointment. The mandatory retirement age for clergy is 72. Some of those retiring had spent nearly their entire lives in ministry. Others had started their work for the church late in life. The service had elements of a secular retirement send-off, but was grounded in service to God.



Rev. Jim Bryan passes the mantle to Rev. Yvi Martin during the retirement service.

“While I’m told the word retire is “not scriptural”, I do know that as the circle closes and the “seasons of ministry” change, the Center of the Circle holds true,” Coy said. “Thanks be to God for the journey, for a new loving travel companion, and for continuing opportunities to serve.”

Many retirees mentioned that although their careers in ministry are over, their service to God is not.

“Though I will retire officially, I will not retire from ministry or

See Retirement, pg. 3A



Bishop Robert Schnase demonstrates how boards help organize the appointment making.

Mission comes first in appointments

The mission of the church comes first.

“We say that to ourselves, and repeat it constantly,” Missouri Bishop Robert Schnase said of the appointive cabinet meetings. “We have tried in a very conscientious way to make the appointment system more consistent, to make it more outward focused and to make it mission driven.”

Bishop Schnase spent the first hour of the last day of Annual Conference Session teaching how the Missouri Conference cabinet goes about making appointments. During this time he brought out the boards, which are always

locked shut in the cabinet room, and opened them up to walk through the process that results in appointing pastors to local churches.

A friend of Bishop Schnase once shared with him that when she first started making appointments, she primarily considered how the pastor and District Superintendent would respond to the appointment. Later she put the priority on how the local church would respond. But now she primarily considers how the community around the church might respond to the appointment. It’s a process that is centered on the

mission field.

A pastor’s track-record of fruitfulness comes into play here. Bishop Schnase recalled a statement that he had heard made at one of Rev. John Heyward’s retirement services.

“Every time he turned his keys in, there was more church there than when he came,” he said.

In the United Methodist Church, the entire authority of making appointments rests solely with the Bishop. Cabinet members are advisors that provide information to help make decisions. Information about pastors

See Appointments, pg. 3A

Cleaver: By God, things can change

Rev. Emanuel Cleaver addressed the Missouri



Rev. Emanuel Cleaver

Conference just before the service of sending forth on Monday morning, and reviewed some of the impressions he got in the past year while working part-time as the Assistant to the Bishop in African American Leadership Development.

He began by reading from Psalm 73.

“The voice of the psalmist is revealing paralyzing pessimism that has taken control. His soul, body and heart has suffered immensely. But right in the middle of his declaration of woe the psalmist comes to himself, and realizes everything he feels is

real,” Cleaver said. “But while he was experiencing physical pain and psychological misery, he had neglected the supremacy and sovereignty of God.” *My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of heart, and my portion forever. Psalm 73: 26. KJV.*

Cleaver told how he was born in a two room shack, and later moved into public housing. There was no reason he or his siblings would become anything but statistics. But his family had firm faith in God, and adhered to practices that deepened that faith. All four children graduated from college,

See Cleaver, pg. 3A

It takes what it takes

I recently listened to a podcast interview with a Catholic priest whose ministry focuses on young people involved in urban gangs. Many of the tools he uses derive from the recovery movement, including wisdom gleaned from Alcoholics Anonymous. He used a maxim that I've heard before to describe what it takes to cause someone to want to change from one kind of life to another. He said, "It takes what it takes."

This intentionally redundant saying refers to the fact that every person's journey is unique and the experience that provokes transformation is unpredictable. A young person gets drawn deeper into the violent, chaotic, and self-destructive habits of gangs, or someone develops a pattern of drug or alcohol abuse that becomes absolutely ruinous to mind, body, soul, and relationship. Eventually, the person reaches a point when they seem beyond any capability of returning. And then something happens that causes them to want to change, to yearn for a different life more than anything in the world. That's the moment when the hard work of recovery begins.

What event sparks such a yearning, awareness, or awakening? "It takes what it takes." For one person it is reaching rock bottom, crashing and burning in a way that costs them their home or family. For another it is falling in love with someone, the birth of a child, becoming tired of being tired. For another it is a near-death experience, or the critical illness of a loved one.

A wrecked marriage, a lost job, an arrest—these events can stimulate a yearning for new life. But so can holding a newborn baby, discovering the spiritual life, a powerful and penetrating piece of music. In that moment, a person is struck by grace, and an opening occurs.

The priest went on to say that he does not try to persuade young people to leave gangs just as he has learned not to try to persuade an addict to put down a syringe or an alcoholic to set aside a bottle.

"I'm not the one who saves people;

THE BISHOP'S *Journal*

BY BISHOP ROBERT SCHNASE

God does that," he says. "I simply point to the door and say, 'I believe that if you go through that door you will live a happier life.'" The priest looks for people who are ready to change. When someone is ready to walk away from their old life and step into a new way, the priest and his team are ready to help.

I'm reminded of the prodigal son who insistently and violently rebels against his father. The scripture describes in simple and suggestive terms that, some months later while wallowing with the pigs, "he came to himself."

People come to themselves through varied experiences. Zacchaeus needed Jesus to dine at his house while everyone else rejected him; the woman at the well required a penetratingly true conversation with a stranger; the paralyzed man beside the pool needed confrontation about his true desires for healing; a rich man needed the nightmare reminder of life without God to notice his neglect of Lazarus at the doorstep; the bleeding woman needed a touch of grace from Jesus.

How do we come to ourselves? How does God's grace break through? It takes what it takes.

I've discovered that the same is true for congregations that have experienced years of uninterrupted decline. Some continue on the path of growing older and weaker with each decade. But others turn around. They wake up. They come to themselves. They discover and embrace new life. In each case, the primary vision, spiritual energy, leadership, and motivation come from the local congregation rather than from the conference or the denomination.

The conference or bishop or superintendent cannot talk a con-

gregation into new life. The congregation has to decide it wants a different future. The congregation willingly invests the time and hard work to make it happen. The conference staff and many other clergy and lay colleagues can provide consultation, help, support, and a wide range of tools once a congregation decides to change, but change cannot come from the outside.

Like the priest in the story above, the conference can only point to the door and say, "when you are ready to walk away from your old ways, I will help you. I think you will be happier going through that door rather than remaining where you are."

What's the turning-point event that causes a congregation to want to change? It takes what it takes. A tornado that destroys the old building, the arrival of a new pastor, the death of a long-time patriarch or matriarch of the congregation, a severe financial challenge, a financial windfall, the loss of jobs in a community, the arrival of new families, a significant shift in the demographics of the neighborhood, the presence of children, the success of a mission initiative—any and all of these have been the occasion and inspiration for renewal in churches. It takes what it takes. And it takes openness to God's spirit to help us change.

What has it taken for your congregation? What will it take to draw you toward a new and more hopeful future?

Yours in Christ,



Robert Schnase, Bishop
Mo. Conference of the UMC



Denman Awards



Rev. Bob Farr, director of Congregational Excellence, and Missouri Bishop Robert Schnase presented the lay award to Margie Briggs, appointed to serve Drake UMC as a lay pastor. It is one of the fastest growing rural churches in the state through her leadership in outward focus and deeper personal spiritual development. She took her congregation from three to 50. "You can do mighty things," she said to the conference.



The Denman Award for the Clergy was awarded to Rev. Mike Schreiner of Morning Star Church. He was appointed to start this church in 2001 and it has grown rapidly since then. Average attendance is more than 1,900 people per week. He has been instrumental in the development of the Healthy Church Initiative and is now working to plant a new church in downtown St. Louis this year and another next year.

Clergy/Clergy Spouse Deaths

Rev. Bruce Rahtjen died on June 22, 2010. Rahtjen served as senior pastor at Melrose United Methodist Church (Heartland Central District) for six years. In addition to serving at Melrose UMC, Rev. Rahtjen taught at Saint Paul School of Theology. Rev. Rahtjen was also instrumental in starting Friends of Sacred Structures (F.O.S.S.).

Cindy Jones died June 20. She was the wife of Rev. Wally Jones, pastor at Pleasant Hill (Ozarks South District).

Rev. Dr. Jesse Roberts died on May 30 at the age of 91. Dr. Roberts served at Normandy UMC in St. Louis and retired in 1982 from Broadway UMC in Kansas City.

Pansy Buttram, surviving spouse of Wm Everett Deckard, died June 4. Rev. Deckard passed in 1976 and served the Missouri West Conference.

THE MISSOURI CONFERENCE REVIEW

Robert Schnase
Bishop, Missouri Area
Sherry Habben
Director of Connectional Ministries
Contact information
3601 Amron Court
Columbia, Missouri 65202
E-mail for news submission:
fkoenig@moumethodist.org

Toll Free: (877) 736-1806
Columbia: (573) 441-1770
Fax: (573) 441-1780
Subscription rate is \$15 per year. Make checks payable to the Missouri Conference.
Fred Koenig, Editor
Lorraine Sanders, Circulation
Circulation e-mail: lsanders@moumethodist.org
Next Deadline: July 9 Next Issue: July 23

Appointments continued from page 1A

and churches comes from district superintendent visits, the pastor-parish relations evaluation, the district superintendent evaluation, the consultation with the PPR committee and with the pastor, records and statistics regarding attendance, membership, giving, etc., The statistics are considered in light of the demographics of the surrounding community (is the population increasing or decreasing?, etc.)

In early February, the cabinet spends a week in assessment at a retreat center. Every district superintendent brings a three-ring binder with reports of every pastor in his or her district with a full-time appointment. They also bring information about every person who is known at that time to be entering, leaving or moving into full-time ministry. The cabinet works to develop a constant pattern to award excellence in the mission field, and all appointments are supported with data. Length of appointments are a factor, and the Missouri cabinet goes by the following guidelines:

- Appointments to churches of 200 in attendance or less should last at least four years.
- Appointments to churches with 200 – 500 in attendance should last at least six years.
- Appointments to churches with 500 or more in attendance should last at least eight years.
- Pastors will not be moved during their provisional period. If they request to be moved, their provisional time

will start over.

- Consultations occur before appointments are made
- Introductions are not interviews (Out of about 400 full-time appointments Bishop Schnase has made, they have only changed three times)
- If a second offer is made to a pastor, the first offer will always be the best one.
- If a pastor desires to stay at a church, the cabinet may honor that, more likely than if a pastor says he or she wants to move.

The cabinet begins looking at strategic appointments. Issues like cross-cultural appointments and women in leadership are considered. By the time the cabinet closes the week-long retreat, they have a good idea of how many openings they need to fill.

Then it starts getting complicated. The number of churches needing a pastor and the number of pastors needing a church (elders are guaranteed an appointment) is not necessarily the same. Some of the most strategic appointments may be to associate pastor positions. Some people who weren't planning on moving may be asked to do so. Whenever someone moves, it creates another opening. These are referred to as appointment chains.

Bishop Schnase started moving representative pastor cards and church cards around on the board to demonstrate the complexity of the process. Each pastor's name card has his or her current salary listed, and each church also has

their current salary listed.

"Something that may give you pause is that you'll notice half of the pastors in this appointment chain are stepping down in salary," Bishop Schnase said. "It's very challenging to deal with inequities in salary."

And it keeps getting harder. The Conference has calculated how the total amount that Missouri Conference churches put into salaries of full-time appointments, and that number goes down by about \$300,000 every year. In many appointment changes, pastors are either receiving the same salary or a reduction.

"It isn't punitive, it's just that is how many dollars there are," Bishop Schnase said.

Each Bishop has his or her own style when it comes to making appointments. Some conferences have different processes in making appointments. Unlike the Missouri Conference process, other Conferences may be relational, in which case being in a close relationship with the district superintendent or bishop is important. The process may be driven by salary progression, tenure, pastor preference, conflict, keeping all parties satisfied, or other factors.

Whenever an appointment is made, Bishop Schnase and the cabinet consider the following sentence: "I have appointed ___ to ___ so that ___."

"We finish that sentence in such a way that it is a mission driven appointment," Bishop Schnase said.

Retirement continued from page 1A

from my Christian calling to help others along in their faith journey and to help in bringing others to Christ. One lady that I had the opportunity to know was a shining example of Christian discipleship. Part of her heart had been removed with which she lived most of her life. Her heart though was as big as a mountain when it came to others. Bringing others to Christ was her foremost reason for living. With a whole heart, can I do any less?" said Rev. Michael Davis. "Thus, like her, I hope to do the same: to love faithfully, to live passionately, and to give generously, all for Christ. That is what I hope my life's legacy will be in God's created order."

Most of all, the retirees gave



Retirees were invited to share a few pictures from their past ministries during the retirement service, like this one of Vacation Bible School at Milan UMC.

thanks to those that have given them support and encouragement through the years.

"Let this be my heart felt

"Thank you" for all who have ever helped me in my faith journey as well," Davis said. "God bless you all!"



HIGH-TECH *Chat*

Dad joins confirmation from Iraq



By Rev. Robert Howard
Platte City UMC

One of my joys is seeing the way technology is changing worship.

We confirmed 19 young adults Sunday, May 16. Gavin Schmidt's father Lt. Colonel Paul Schmidt is serving in the US Army and currently is stationed in Basra, Iraq. I had e-mailed asking him to write a prayer and send pictures for us to use on the overhead. My goal was to have him participate somehow in our service.

We had updated our media and technology four years ago as we funded new and emerging ministries. Our media folks

got involved and here is what happened. We used our Internet connection in the sanctuary to connect to Skype. This is a free service which allows you to share voice and video by the web.

So Sunday morning our 11:00 worship service opened with us welcoming Lt. Colonel Paul Schmidt to our service from Basra. He was able to see his son confirmed and we were able to see and hear him as he joined us in worshipping God. It was one of the most powerful services I have ever participated in. It was alive with God's Spirit!

It could work for you!

Cleaver continued from page 1A

one earned her PhD.

"I understand I could have been a statistic, **but God.** Things may have not turned out well, **but God.** I've sinned assiduously, I deserve damnation. I've failed enough to go to Hell. **But God,**" he said.

Cleaver said in his travels he hears about things that inhibit church and ministry growth, but the negativity doesn't lead to progress.

"We have no right to call ourselves Christians, and to discourage at the same time. It's either one or the other," Cleaver said. "What would you do in church if you really believed God was on your side? The world is watching."

Cleaver encouraged people to open to new forms of worship, noting that he brought rap music into his worship service, even though he hates it. He believes worship should be exciting.

"We're talking about Jesus Christ, son of God, the man who made heaven and earth. If we can't get excited about Jesus Christ, we can't get excited about anything," he said.

Church turnarounds are possible with faith, and no one is required to continue to move forward in decline, Cleaver said.

"When someone is talking about problems, you need to stop and say, 'But God,'" he said.



Roderick: Let others see you searching

By Franci Schwartz

“Wake Up, Church, Wake Up!” sung beautifully by the Asbury (Springfield) UMC Choir, prepared the members of Annual Conference for the Sunday morning message delivered by Rev. Robin Roderick, senior pastor of First UMC, St. Charles. The choir selection followed a moving dramatization of Simeon meeting Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus in the temple.

Using a recording of the U2 song “I Still Haven’t Found What I’m Looking For,” Rev. Roderick pointed out the deep longing many people have for Jesus. As church members, it’s easy to say,

“*They* haven’t found Jesus,” but does the church offer the depth necessary to find Him within its walls? There *is* hope, however, because that’s where Simeon found Him...in church. We must have the sensitivity and sureness of Simeon to keep looking for Jesus, day in and day out, and be centered and equipped well enough to know it when we see Him.

Rev. Roderick asked if the laity and clergy have forgotten about looking for Jesus, and if so, how can they be expected to help others find Him? “Sometimes God’s fingerprints are all over something we are right in the middle of, and we don’t see it,” stated Rev. Roderick.

Relating one of her own “close encounters with God,” Rev. Roderick told of meeting a woman in the midst of a bad day in the restroom at her church, and the woman eventually told her she had a message for her from God. Sometimes Christians don’t tell stories like that for fear others will think we are crazy. “Someday you’re gonna meet someone who says, ‘I don’t want to talk about church,’ and you can say, ‘I don’t either, but let me tell you about this one crazy day when there was this woman in the restroom!’” said Rev. Roderick. People will never find what they are looking for unless Christ is visible in us or we are willing to tell those close encounter stories.



Top: Bishop Robert Schnase breaks bread for communion. Left: A dramatization of Simeon meeting the baby Jesus in the temple. Above: Rev. Robin Roderick prepares to preach.

Farr charts progress in Congregational Excellence

Bob Farr, Director of Congregational Excellence, celebrated new initiatives to strengthen congregations in the Missouri Annual Conference while, at the same time, he warned that there is much work to be done to turn around 50 years of decline.

Strengthening the church involves revitalization of existing congregations as well as new church starts. Three revitalization programs that did not exist at annual conference last year have been successfully launched.

“When I stood here last year, there was no PLD 2 (Pastoral Leadership Development 2). When I stood here last year there was no Small Church Initiative. When I stood here last year, there was no Lay Leadership Development program,” he declared.

Curriculum was developed for each of the three initiatives and all were successfully launched. There were 90 pastors who participated in PLD 2 and 29 churches took part in the first year of the Small Church Initiative. Some 170 persons participated in the Lay Leadership Development program.

After two years of the Healthy Church Initiative, 90% of all full-time pastors have participated in either PLD 1 or PLD 2. And 45 congregations have gone through the consultation process. All of these efforts are realigning churches in the Missouri Conference. “We are getting missionally aligned,” Farr said, “It is doing a great thing.”

Most of this progress involves collaboration. The greatest resources are pastors and lay leaders sharing their experience with others. “Our answers come from our colleagues on the left and the right of us. Our answers come from each other and not from the conference office,” he said.

The Healthy Church Initiative has attracted attention from other conferences. Six other conferences have begun adapting curricula developed in the Missouri Conference in order to implement the Healthy Church Initiative in their conferences. “We are working to develop a network of



Bob Farr

conferences that are focused on strengthening existing churches,” he said.

New church starts are also on pace toward a goal of establishing 30 new churches in ten years, with three new starts and a re-start planned for this year. In addition, an effort is underway to start a network of small house churches in the Ozarks North District.

In the past year, Farr:

- Drove 37,329 miles.
- Spent over 150 nights motels.
- Preached in 29 churches
- Presented 57 workshops.

He said that, in his travel across the conference, he has consistently heard requests for help in how to do more creative worship,

how to preach better and how to create worship teams.

To address these requests, the conference is collaborating with Midnight Oil to present

workshops at three sites this year. He encouraged pastors and worship leaders to attend one of the

workshops, which will offer practical ways to grow and deepen the worship experience.

“This is a great state and we are doing great things, and we are making progress,” Farr said. But the challenge remains. While some congregations recorded growth, others were stagnant or had fewer in worship. It will take sustained effort to continue the progress of the past two years. “We’re going to turn the corner,” he said, “We cannot give up. We need to keep going. We’re turning around 50 years of decline. I refuse to let this church die on my watch.”

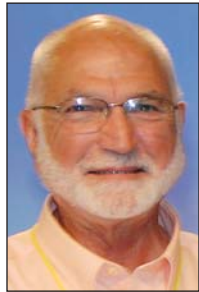
Pastor Development

- PLD 1: 250 participants
- PLD 2: 90 participants
- Peer Mentoring Group: 45 participants
- 45 Teachers and coaches in the Conference
- 210 people currently being coached.

Retirees share parting words with Conference

The Woods Chapel Church Jazz Band provided a smooth beginning to the Service of Retirement, Commissioning and Recognition. Of the 26 retirees, 14 were present to share reflections on their ministry. Here are some brief highlights:

Amy (Gearhart), you will now be known as the pastor of the church across from Shakespeare's Pizza. The first slice is on me.



Jim Bryan

I started out by filling in for a pastor who was recovering from a surgery, and then that pastor decided to retire.



Steve Campbell

At the heart of a faith journey is the One who calls us and loves us - and brings us home.



Karen Coy

I plan to enjoy the trees outside my very own front door.



Jim Dace

I will not retire from ministry or from my Christian calling to help others along in their faith journey and to help in bringing others to Christ



J. Michael Davis

I was ordained a deacon in the first class in 1997 and plan to continue working in hospice ministry.



Paige Detlefson

This is my second retirement, but after I rest a little, I'll be back to serve wherever God calls me.



Sandra Feeler

I have had 15 D.S.'s... some more than once!



Jerry Geisert

I have loved serving God and the church.



Sharon Howard

My life has been enriched by the people in the congregations I have served.



Donal Keithly

Use each minute that you have to be the living water of Jesus Christ so that all will know his love.



Bill Koch

I am looking forward to my semi-retirement so we can travel, visit children and grandchildren, and see more of God's country.



Sue Lambert

We will not retire, but reload.



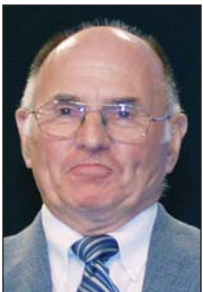
Michael Lockhart

A church member said, "We can see that you love all of us; now you need to teach us to love each other."



Robert Maffitt

My beliefs are tempered with the thought that they do not impose any limitations on the will of God.



Jackson Short

It has been a great ride. To those just beginning, preach the Gospel in a way that people can understand and apply it to their everyday lives.



Tom Shouse

It took me 13 years to finally say, 'Yes, Lord.' Now I look forward to the next chapter of my life.



Dorothy Smith

We look forward to continued ministry as God moves us in a new direction.



Donna Trollinger

After an offering for the Central Conference Pension Fund, retiree Jim Bryan passed the mantle to Yvi Martin, who was then commissioned along with 16 others. In addition, one associate member for service was recognized.



Provisional elders and deacons were commissioned at the retirement service. From left: Antonio Settles, Amanda Ross, Debra Pebbles, Donna Nichols, Lia McIntosh, Yvi Martin, Steve Majdecki, Suzanne Lyons, Andy Lambel, Jeff Jaekley, Meg Hegemann, Charity Goodwin-Rosario, Greg Finfrock, Melissa Dodd, Jan Dillard, Jill Daniel, Kurt Boemler and Bishop Robert Schnase.

Biggerstaff inducted into Athletic Trainers Hall of Fame

The National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA), a non-profit organization representing and supporting members of the athletic training profession, will induct four athletic trainers into its prestigious Hall of Fame during its 61st annual meeting in Philadelphia, Pa. The Hall of Fame is the highest honor an athletic trainer can receive. The national award is given for exceptional contributions and service to the association and the profession. The honorees will be recognized at a ceremony on June 24, from 2-3 p.m., at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Nominees were selected and reviewed by their athletic training peers, based on their time and effort in advancing the athletic training profession. Their professional excellence, volunteer service and community outreach have distinguished them among many candidates for this honor. "These Hall of Fame inductees have gone above and beyond the call of duty in every way. They have lobbied for legislative change, created new athletic training programs and done all they can to promote the profession," said Eve Becker-Doyle, CAE, executive director of NATA.

The 2010 NATA Hall of Fame includes Randy Biggerstaff, MS, ATC, LAT (St. Charles, Mo.); Lynn Bott, MS, ATC, LAT (Lawrence, Kan.); Frank Walters, PhD, ATC (Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.); and Keith Webster, MA, ATC (Lexington, Ky.).

Randy Biggerstaff is the husband of Rev. Sue Biggerstaff, an elder in the Gateway Regional District. He has been a very active lay member, and has served as a delegate to General Conference.

Biggerstaff oversees the health and fitness science department and serves as head athletic trainer and athletic training education program director at Lindenwood University, in St. Charles, Mo. He

and his athletic training staff are responsible for 48 sports. Prior to Lindenwood, Biggerstaff was the owner, founder and president of sports medicine clinics across the Midwest, including St. Louis Sports Medicine Clinic. His leadership and ongoing work with NATA's Clinical and Emerging Practices Athletic Trainers' Committee to advance athletic trainers in the clinical setting is a primary reason he has landed on the 2010 list of NATA Hall of Fame inductees.

"We are proud to honor these individuals for their outstanding accomplishments and commitment to the profession," said Becker-Doyle. "With these new inductees, the NATA Hall of Fame now numbers 251 remarkable men and women. These athletic trainers are inspiring role models for all of us."

"On behalf of the entire NATA, we salute the Class of 2010," says Rochel Rittgers, ATC, NATA Honors & Awards Committee chair. "We applaud their contributions, passion for the profession, and the work that they continue to do."

National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) – Health Care for Life & Sport: Athletic trainers are health care professionals who specialize in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries and sport-related illnesses. They prevent and treat chronic musculoskeletal injuries from sports, physical and occupational activity, and provide immediate care for acute injuries. Athletic trainers offer a continuum of care that is unparalleled in health care. The National Athletic Trainers' Association represents and supports 32,000 members of the athletic training profession. NATA supports the Athletic Trainers' Equal Access to Medicare Act (H.R. 1137). Visit www.nata.org.

Five Practices taken to personal level

When people gathered at the Jaunita K. Hammons performing arts center on Sunday morning at 9 a.m., Bishop Robert Schnase explained that the location was chosen to give the Sunday morning worship service a more focused, spiritual atmosphere than they were able to achieve in the Expo center. He noted that the worship service would start at 10:30.

"So you might be asking yourself, what am I doing here now at 9:00?" Bishop Schnase said. "This is Sunday school. Welcome to the largest Sunday School class I've ever taught."

Bishop Schnase based his morning teaching around the Five Practices of Fruitful Living, his new book that all members of Annual Conference received at registration. Bishop Schnase noted that Jesus uses images of fruitfulness to draw impact.

"Fruit refers to what Christ accomplishes in us," he said. "Jesus cursed the fruit tree that bears no fruit."

What's unique about fruit? Fruit contains seeds that multiply. It is life apart from the original plant. Multiple generations continue with fruit. Bishop Schnase was inspired by considering how the powerful metaphor of fruit can go beyond the fruitful congregations he addressed in the first Five Practices book, and apply to individual Christian life.

Bishop Schnase asked people to consider their spiritual mentors; spiritual giants who have had a major influence on their lives. They may be pastors, teachers, relatives or friends.

"How did they become those people, those we say we want to grow into?" Bishop Schnase asked. "They did that through a series of



Bishop Robert Schnase teaches during the Sunday morning learning time.

patterns that put them in a place to receive God's grace. Grace is gift from God. But fruitful living is also a method putting in place methods of receiving grace."

Bishop Schnase noted that Jesus didn't write a book, he encountered people and talked. His life on earth was permeated with practices - engaging people and reaching out to outcasts.

"We're a people who's church life is based on practices. That's why we're called Methodists," Bishop Schnase said. "Because of the amount of attention to methods of growing in grace, early followers of Wesley's teaching were chided in as Methodists, and it stuck."

Gymnast, ballerinas and figure skaters make their performance look very easy by practicing very hard. They perfect graceful moves through many ungraceful falls. They achieve excellence by adhering to practices.

The Five Practices of Fruitful Living is aimed at helping laity deepen their faith. Bishop Schnase said some laity feel called, and are advised to work toward ordained ministry, when their actual calling may have nothing to do with ordained ministry. They can

have a rich lay ministry without becoming clergy.

Sometimes saying yes to receiving God's grace is blocked by all of the thousands of competing voices from the culture in which we live.

"We may be experiencing a fast-forward living of a high-tech, highly mobile lifestyle, with every moment filled with activity and sound, from the awaking of the alarm to when we click off the browser at the end of the day," Bishop Schnase said. "We risk living a shallow and purposeless existence, wasting a huge amount of time in things that don't matter. Where does that lifestyle take us? What do these behaviors help us become? Everything we do is a spiritual practice, it either builds us up or tears us down. When we look back at the patterns, is that what we aspire to? Where is God in this? What are the patterns that open myself to God, and what is shutting him off?"

It is easy to get stuck in patterns that shut off God's grace, and leave us saying no more than we say yes, Bishop Schnase said. By practicing radical hospitality to God's grace, we open ourselves to receiving grace and being transformed.

**VISION: GROWING, FRUITFUL,
VIBRANT CONGREGATIONS
CHANGING LIVES THROUGH
JESUS CHRIST.**



**CLERGY BENEFITS
ACADEMY**

West Des Moines, Iowa

- Workshops
- One-on-one Consultations
- Continuing Education Credit

Registration and event details at www.gbophb.org. Click on "Events & Education"

Early Registration by August 27:
\$99 (\$169 with spouse)

After August 27:
\$129 (\$199 with spouse)

For Clergy of All Ages!

Conference Calendar

| Date | Event | Location | Phone # | Contact |
|------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 6/28/2010 | Youth Workcamp-New Orleans | New Orleans | (573) 291-9122 | Bev Boehmer |
| 7/1/2010 | PAUMCS Lunch Discussion Series | Conference Center | (573) 441-1770 | Ken Willard |
| 7/5/2010 | Youth Workcamp-Jefferson City/Columbia | Jefferson City | (573) 291-9122 | Bev Boehmer |
| 7/8/2010 | SC Convocation of Archivists | Central Methodist University | (660) 248-6240 /6602486279 | John Finley/Joy Flanders |
| 7/10/2010 | BOM Psych Testing | Conference Center | (573) 777-1213 | Jenny Gragg |
| 7/10/2010 | VIM Team Leader Training | Conference Center | (573) 474-7155 | Audrey Phelps |
| 7/11/2010 | Youth Workcamp-Cherokee Nation, OK Week 1 | Oklahoma | (573) 291-9122 | Bev Boehmer |
| 7/18/2010 | Youth Workcamp-Cherokee Nation, OK Week 2 | Oklahoma | (573) 291-9122 | Bev Boehmer |
| 7/23/2010 | Missouri Conference School of Lay Ministries | Central Methodist University | (573) 441-1770 | Mike Harrison |
| 7/25/2010 | Youth Workcamp-Colorado Week 1 | Colorado | (573) 291-9122 | Bev Boehmer |
| 7/29/2010 | Cooperative School of Christian Mission | Central Methodist University | (660) 647-2354 | Nancy Mountain |
| 8/1/2010 | Youth Workcamp-Colorado Week 2 | Colorado | (573) 291-9122 | Bev Boehmer |
| 8/5/2010 | Willow Creek Leadership Summit, Aug. 5-6 | Living Word UMC | (636) 821-2800 | Kelly Vincent |
| 8/14/2010 | Certified Lay Ministry- United Methodism Polity and Doctrine | Conference Center | (877) 736-1806 | Mike Harrison |
| 8/14/2010 | UMW Conference Mission Team & Finance | Conference Center | (816) 628-5520 | Carol Renfro |
| 8/20/2010 | PAUMC Annual Conference | Wesley UMC | (417) 866-5361 | Susie Mason |
| 8/25/2010 | Midnight Oil | Christ Community UMC-Joplin | (573) 441-1770 | Tammy Calcote |
| 9/11/2010 | Mission, Service & Justice Ministry Teams | Conference Center | (573) 474-7155 | Max Marble |
| 9/17/2010 | Inside the World of Teenagers with Chap Clark | Manchester UMC | (573) 441-1770 | Mike Harrison |
| 9/22/2010 | Midnight Oil | Community UMC | (573) 441-1770 | Tammy Calcote |
| 9/25/2010 | United Methodist Women Annual Meeting | Jefferson City First UMC | (816) 628-5520 | Carol Renfro |
| 9/27/2010 | Midnight Oil | Church of the Shepherd | (573) 441-1770 | Tammy Calcote |
| 10/1/2010 | BOM Psych Testing | Conference Center | (573) 777-1213 | Jenny Gragg |
| 10/7/2010 | Fall Walk to Emmaus | Baptist Hill Camp | (417) 739-5008 | |
| 10/16/2010 | Festival of Sharing | Missouri State Fairgrounds | (573) 474-3332 | Terri Williams |
| 10/23/2010 | Certified Lay Ministry-Five Practices of Vital Congregations | Conference Center | (573) 777-1217 | Mike Harrison |
| 2/5/2011 | Mission, Service & Justice Ministry Teams | Conference Center | (573) 474-7155 | Max Marble |
| 5/13/2011 | United Methodist Women Spiritual Growth Retreat | Rickman Center | 573-636-8149 | Shari Scott |
| 6/3/2011 | Annual Conference | Springfield Expo Center | (573) 441-1770 | Mike Harrison |
| 9/10/2011 | Mission, Service & Justice Ministry Teams | Conference Center | (573) 474-7155 | Max Marble |
| 10/15/2011 | Festival of Sharing | Missouri State Fairgrounds | (573) 474-3332 | Terri Williams |
| 2/4/2012 | Mission, Service & Justice Ministry Teams | Conference Center | (573) 474-7155 | Max Marble |
| 9/8/2012 | Mission, Service & Justice Ministry Teams | Conference Center | (573) 474-7155 | Max Marble |

Job Postings

Children's and Youth Ministry - Boonville

Nelson Memorial UMC in Boonville seeks two vital, creative people who are called to lead and minister to children or youth. Each of these part-time positions has typically been staffed by laity. Both the Children's Ministry Coordinator and the Youth Ministry Coordinator will participate in choosing and developing Sunday school curriculum, planning extracurricular activities and interacting regularly with parents and families to help grow young disciples. For information about salary and job description, contact the church office at nelsonumc@classicnet.net or 660-882-6223.

Director of Children's Ministries - Centralia UMC

Centralia United Methodist Church is seeking a Director of Children's Ministries. This part-time position will begin September 1, 2010. Complete job description posted at www.centraliaumc.org/jobs Send resume to P.O. Box 108, Centralia, MO 65240

Full-time Associate Pastor- Warsaw UMC

Warsaw UMC is seeking a full-time associate pastor. Duties will include select pastoral responsibilities. Other gifts and graces of applicants will be embraced and utilized. Salary commensurate with education and experience. For more information e-mail umc@firstchurch-warsaw.org

Worship Leader Position - Red Bridge UMC

Red Bridge UMC in Kansas City is seeking a gifted leader who is passionate about worship that draws people into the presence of God. The Worship Leader should possess a solid background in music, as he or she will be responsible for leading worship, singing, planning worship services and directing the chancel choir and other ensembles. This position is a part-time (15-20 hours per week) position that provides leadership for two Sunday morning services, one traditional and one contemporary. Inquiries and resumes if interested, to worshipleader@swbell.net



Camping trailer donated to Office of Creative Ministries

By Jeff Baker
Disaster Response Coord.

Creative Ministries has a new addition. No, it's not a bouncing baby boy. No, we don't have any new staff. Barbara Burner donated a 38' recreational RV camping trailer to the Office of Creative Ministries. Barbara, a long time United Methodist and Missouri native, had spoken with a friend in Virginia about the RV she owned for the last ten years. Due to health concerns, her doctor told Barbara she could no longer travel with the RV. So Barbara began to look for an organization that might have a use it. During a conversation with her friend in Virginia, she was told there was an office in Missouri

with the United Methodist Conference that did disaster response all around the U.S. and maybe they would have a use for it. Barbara contacted Creative Ministries and asked if we would be interested in her RV. She explained she wanted it to be used for disaster response and other ministries of the Missouri United Methodist Conference. During our conversations, I began to think of the ways we could use something like this. How about a mobile command center for Americorps during a large scale disaster? Or sleeping quarters for Early Response Teams responding to floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, and ice storms? My mind began to race with all of the ideas and ways

we could use something like this. It sounded like a perfect match.

On Friday June 18th, we met with Barbara at the underground storage cave where she had the RV in storage. We spent about an hour preparing the trailer for its new journey. After getting some pictures and saying good-bye, we took our new addition to Camp Wilderness near Lawson, Missouri. Dennis Hisek, the camp director, needed some additional housing for families during the summer camping session. This seemed to be a perfect way to begin using the new addition.

The Missouri United Methodist Annual Conference would like to thank Barbara for her wonderful donation.



VIM coordinator Audrey Phelps is shown here with Barbara Burner in front of the trailer that Burner donated to the Office of Creative Ministries.

VIM team leader training to be July 10 at Conference Center

Join the Office of Creative Ministries Staff on July 10 at the Missouri United Methodist Conference Center in Columbia for Team Leader Training. This training, led by conference Volunteers in Mission staff Jeffrey Baker and Audrey Phelps, will cover the pre, during, and post mission responsibilities. We will also discuss team dynamics and cultural sensitivity. The cost is \$36 per person or \$50 per couple (one manual). For more information and to register visit the Office of Creative Ministries website at www.umocm.com or call Dora Thackery at 573-474-7155.

Visit the Office of Creative Ministries Web site at www.umocm.com.