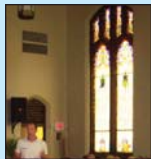


THE MISSOURI CONFERENCE REVIEW

an edition of the United Methodist Reporter

Leading congregations to lead people to actively follow Jesus Christ



Space

Expert discusses importance of worship space. 3A



Pray 40

Sign up to collectively pray for college students. 4A



Grilled

Community BBQ makes connections. 4A

024000 | Volume 157
Number 16 | August 20, 2010
Two Sections, Section A



Children enjoy the party at The Word at Shaw in St. Louis during the National Night Out.



Mystery visitors offer insight

Churches have a hard time knowing what visitors are actually experiencing when they attend their worship service for the first time. If they don't come back, they may always wonder if they were failing to make them feel welcome in some way. To

See **Mystery visitors**, pg. 5A

New churches reach out to communities

The Missouri Conference is deeply committed to starting new churches as one way of living out its vision to have growing, fruitful, vibrant congregations changing lives through Jesus Christ. But the old-school message of sending a young man fresh out of seminary to a growing suburb to start a new church and hoping for the best isn't the current approach. This year's launchers will be using different methods to start something new in diverse settings around the Conference.

One thing all of the new church starters have in common is that all participated in the new church leadership institute at Mt. Sequoyah in February. Bob Farr, director of the Missouri Conference Center

of Congregational Excellence, is being very intentional about having the right people launching churches, and providing them with some training and guidance to help them on their way.

The Renaissance will be a new church in the Raytown or Lee's Summit area.

"I'm just getting started on this journey," said pastor Lia McIntosh.

She was commissioned in July, and began her appointment as a new church start pastor then. She has administrative support from Grace UMC, but is otherwise working independently as a traditional Conference new church start plant. Traditional, in the sense that it's a new church being started by the Conference. Untraditional in the sense that

its founding pastor is a woman of color.

The name Renaissance is born out of the church's vision to help people transform their lives holistically, transforming their mind, body and spirit.

"We want to help people fully become the person God is calling them to be," McIntosh said.

McIntosh has about 10 people in her core group.

"The most important thing that I'm focused on now is building relationships," she said.

She is looking for support from



Lia McIntosh

Kansas City area churches in the forms of prayers, presence, gifts and service. As for the presence, she would like for neighboring churches to send missionaries who will be part of the Renaissance for six months to a year, while the church is building momentum.

"Having more people involved will attract more people," she said.

McIntosh is currently looking for somewhere for the church to worship. She plans to begin preview services this fall, and would like to start weekly worship sometime around Easter 2011.

Jared Wheeler is not launching a new church, but is working to add a third campus to the multi-campus ministry that exists at First UMC in Sedalia.

The new site will be in Warrensburg at the community center. Wheeler is being intention-

See **Starters**, pg. 6A



Leonard Sweet

Nudge Event offers time of renewal

A 24-hour event will often pack the schedule tightly with about a week's worth of workshops and seminars, beginning with breakfast and ending late in the evening. That is certainly not the case with Nudge, the event for pastors and staff at First UMC in Sedalia Sept. 13-14.

See **Nudge**, pg. 2A

Changing lives or changing affiliations?

Recently I heard Gil Rendle say, "I was not trained to change people's lives, but to change their membership affiliations." With these words, Gil, who serves as a church leadership consultant with Texas Methodist Foundation, captures how our understanding of the purpose of the church and the task of pastoral ministry has evolved over the last couple generations.

This insight brought forth a rush of memories about how I learned to invite and welcome people into the life of the church. While serving my seminary internship as an associate pastor, our congregation offered a ministry called EmVees, which stood for Monday Visitors. Lynn Day led the program. Lynn was a gracious and spiritually-grounded lay woman who loved her volunteer work with the church. Each Monday evening she would host four-to-six active laypersons in her home, all of whom had agreed to do this once-a-month for several months. She would welcome them early in the evening and then distribute cards with the names of visitors who had attended church for the first time the day before. The names were taken from the registrations pads used during worship. She'd tell everything she knew about each person on the cards, lead us in prayer, and then the Monday Visitors would leave in pairs to visit the visitors at their homes. We'd step into people's homes, sit down with them for

a few minutes, welcome them to our church, learn something about their faith background, tell them about our church, and invite them back. As a newbie pastor just learning the work of ministry, I attended the EmVees and served as a visitor nearly every Monday, teaming up with a different layperson each week. About ninety minutes after leaving with the cards, we'd reconvene back at Lynn's house and we'd all report on our visits. Lynn would record the information, make notes on the cards, and report this the next day to the pastor.

This was an excellent 1980's way of following-up with visitors. What was the goal? We were hoping that people who had moved to our area from another city, or who had become inactive in another church, or who had little church experience would change their membership affiliation, or reactivate, or initiate their membership by joining our church. Our focus was helping people decide to join us. At the point someone stood before the congregation and repeated the membership vows, we would celebrate, remove their cards from our files, and the work of the EmVees was completed. Deeper goals and hopes were implicit; our work was based on the assumption that joining a church was good for people's lives and would have a positive effect over time. I learned much from those visits, and if all United Methodist churches had been as

THE BISHOP'S *Journal*

BY BISHOP ROBERT SCHNASE



active in their follow-up of visitors in that era, our denomination would be immeasurably stronger today. As my ministry matured through the years, the congregations I served developed greater systems for visitor follow-up, many of them based on these early experiences.

But today expectations are different. The explicit mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Membership itself has limited inherent value, and the idea of membership seems to many to serve the purposes of the institution rather than the spiritual growth of the person. The most vital number for assessing a congregation is attendance rather than membership, and being "an active attendee" is more valued than being "an inactive member."

The goal of invitation, welcome, hospitality, and assimilation is not merely to change people's affiliations but to change their lives. The goal is to help people deepen their spirituality and further their relationship to Christ through the ministries of the church. Worship, Bible study,

Sunday School, mission projects, women's ministries, youth groups, teaching the personal practices of prayer—these are the means that help us cooperate with the Holy Spirit in our growth in Christ. Growing churches have learned that ministry is about a way of life, not merely a membership pledge.

How do we organize our ministries so they support that way of life? Personal transformation precedes the transformation of the world. People who capture a vision of life in Christ become motivated to serve, seek justice, love peace, forgive others, and take on the ministry of reconciliation. They become ambassadors for Christ.

How is your congregation reimagining and redesigning ministry to change people's lives, rather than merely their affiliations? How are you learning to do ministry differently?

Yours in Christ,

Robert Schnase, Bishop
Mo. Conference of the UMC

Nudge

continued from page 1A

"We want this to be a wonderful 24-hour period of renewal before pastors begin their busy schedules in the fall," said Rev. Jim Downing.

It's not that schedule for Nudge is lacking content. The keynote speaker is Leonard Sweet, an internationally known theologian who has authored dozens of books, including *Aquachurch*, *SoulTsunami*, *The Gospel According to Starbucks*, and most recently *Nudge*. Sweet will be speaking multiple times throughout the retreat. But the evening schedule is built for relaxation. At 5 p.m. it's dinner on your own. After that people can take off the rest of the evening, or come back to work out in the wellness center, watch a movie or have casual conversation with Sweet in the coffee house.

"We'll also have a TV available for watching Monday night football, and the Chiefs are playing that night," Downing said.

Sweet's latest book, *Nudge*, is about awakening to the God that is already there. Downing hopes this event, which is sponsored by the Order of Elders but is open to anyone, will be a time that people can recharge, renew, relax and deepen their personal spirituality.

The conference will begin at 12:00 p.m. with a lunch provided on the 13th and wraps up with a provided lunch on the 14. Participants will have access to movies, a massage therapist, a fitness center, and obviously great conversation. Visit www.firstsayyes.com for more details. Registration is \$39 before August 22 and \$59 after.

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

THE MISSOURI CONFERENCE REVIEW

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Subscription rate is \$15 per year. Make checks payable to the Missouri Conference.
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Circulation e-mail: lsanders@moumethodist.org
Next Deadline: August 20 Next Issue: September 3

Appointment changes

Gwyndelyn Roberts, a part-time local pastor, has been appointed to Wesley (Sweet Springs)/Concordia in the Heartland North District.

Don Gant a part-time local pastor, is no longer serving Trinity (Oran) in the Southeast District.

Andrew Blacksher, a part-time local pastor, is serving Northland UMC in the Heartland North District.

Benjamin Bainbridge, a part-time local pastor, is serving Saint Paul UMC in Joplin.

Diana Kim Shirar, a probationary member, has gone from half to three-quarter time at Maplewood UMC in the Gateway Central District.

Virginia Barnes, a part-time local pastor serving Woodlandville UMC in the Mid-State District, has discontinued for health reasons. Richard Gressman, a retired pastor serving Red Rock UMC, is now also serving as interim pastor at Woodlandville UMC.

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Rev. Matt Miosfky telling the story of The Gathering's worship space.

One pew at a time: rethinking worship space

By Susan Sneed

"I'm sorry and you're welcome," was the phrase most often heard from Kevin Callahan on Saturday, July 24. Callahan of Callahan Studios Soul Space, an architectural and liturgical design firm in Scottsdale, AZ was presenting a workshop encouraging pastors and worship leaders to rethink the spaces they utilize for worship. The workshop was held at The Gathering in the Gateway Central District and sponsored by the Gateway Board for Mission and Growth.

Space, pointed out Callahan, in the Christian faith has no theology. It may have a philosophy but not a theology. Using a power point illustrating worship space from the Chaco Canyon Anasazi peoples of New Mexico to Chartes Cathedral in France to Grace Community Church in Indianapolis, Callahan demonstrated that the message most often conveyed is psychological.

"Most of our seating is one of two designs," he said. "It's either lecture style or concert hall style. The first says 'sit back, shut up, we've thought it all through for you.' The second style says 'sit back and enjoy the show.' Neither style honors the original participatory style of Christ."

To the surprise of many, the additions of pews came about after 1100 and only so those with means wouldn't have to stand in the drafty cathedrals. They could bundle up on a bench, often with a portable fire-source close to them. Other elements common in our sanctuar-

ies were developed as the Church moved farther and farther away from full participation of believers to a liturgy that conveyed a distrust and unworthiness of the believer. Items like raised and distant altars, partial walls that separated the choir and the preacher from the people, and rails that kept people away from the altar were added along the way.

"The space of the great cathedrals actually mimics the earliest Christian house churches," pointed out Callahan. "One large space that could be rearranged to fit the number of people in attendance and, more important to fit the worship experience for that day." No church should sacrifice meaningful worship because of spatial arrangements; especially if those arrangements can be changed.

"I'm not saying run home and rip out the pews," laughed Callahan. "I am saying you need to think harder about whether or not they really serve your mission of providing passionate worship to everyone. You need to think about worship for people for the next 50 years; not about being comfortable yourself for your last five years. I'm sorry. And you're welcome."

Callahan spent time examining worship space through photos and personal visits of several churches, both United Methodist and other denominations in the St. Louis area. One problem in common with them all was acoustics.

"It is so easy to correct sound issues and the primary way is NOT having parallel walls," he explained. Walls should have angled shapes incorporated in

their design and those angles can be added later without sacrificing the ascetics of the room. No sanctuary should be fully carpeted but should only incorporate softer surfaces closer to the sound source and harder surfaces farther out from the source. Creating natural acoustics in the beginning saves in electronic enhancement costs down the road. Audio systems, Callahan pointed out, should reinforce sounds created through natural acoustics and not recreate sounds. The worse the natural acoustics are, the more money will have to be spent to recreate what people need to hear.

Kevin Callahan AIA, NCARB is an architect, liturgical design consultant and cultural anthropologist. He is CEO and Design Director for Callahan Studios Soul Space based in Scottsdale, Arizona which includes integrated Architecture, Liturgical Design and Audio/Visual Technical Systems, integration professional services in worship environments. He may be contacted through his web site: www.callahnstudios.com He is also the author of *Soul Space: Ancient Realities in Post-Modern Worship Spaces* available through www.iUniverse.com

The Gateway Board for Mission and Growth was organized in 1903 to assist existing congregations in new mission and building programs and to establish new communities of faith. It operates exclusively for the congregations of the Gateway Central and Gateway Regional Districts. Learn more at www.umgatewayboard.org



HIGH-TECH *Chat*

What's security worth?

"If your data were money, would you protect it the way you do now?"

That's the question that Jamie Cote of Personalized Computers in Columbia used to begin his workshop session for customers on virus safety. He followed it up with a lot of disturbing numbers. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor, 93 percent of all companies that experience "significant data loss" are out of business within five years. The Treasury Department Office of Technical Assistance reported that in 2004, cyber crime proceeds were \$105 billion, greater than illegal drug sales. According to the 2005 FBI computer crime survey, 87 percent of computer users had experienced a computer security incident, and more the 64 percent had incurred a loss.

"I'm sure those numbers are even worse today," Cote said.

A virus is a small software program designed to spread from one computer to another and interfere with normal computer operation. Some steal, corrupt or delete data. Others embed advertising, collect personal information or change the configuration of a computer.

Viruses are traditionally spread by downloading and installing an executable file from a Web site, or from an e-mail attachment. They can also be contracted from scripting on Web sites (so you get it as soon as you go to the Web site), embedded files and from games on social network sites.

Many people may not be concerned with virus safety, because they don't have financial accounts online, or use their computer for any sensitive data. They assume that no one would have anything to gain by accessing their computer. But programs can be installed via a virus that can make a computer start sending out e-mails, unknown to the user, and make any computer valuable.

Once a virus is contracted, removal can be difficult. There are online sites, like Malewarebytes and Combofix, which are free and can be effective at removing viruses. But it may take several fixes working together.

But there are also many sites

disguised to look like these sites or others, which will just install additional viruses, so the sites must be navigated with care.

Taking the computer into a shop is a safer alternative, but much more expensive. Personalized Computers charges \$129 to remove viruses and spyware, and many shops charge more.

"When a computer comes in, we'll use 12 or 13 tools to remove viruses, and may use specific tools made for specific viruses," Cote said.

Often operating systems need to be reinstalled, which is an additional \$99. Add another \$85 for data transfer or backup, and you've spent more than \$300 to recover your computer, and have experienced the inconvenience of being without it while it's in the shop.

Cote has seen a recent rash of people coming in because they responded to a message on their computer that told them they needed to update their virus protection, but this was a false message that initiated a virus, and then tries to sell them anti-virus software, at which point a credit card number is obtained.

"We might get 20 or 30 people coming to us in a week with that problem," he said.

Internet service providers are doing what they can to help. Although many viruses get through, they are a tiny fraction of what are actually being sent out.

"We block one to four million instances (of viruses) a day," said Travis Schumacher, general manager of Tranquility Internet, a service provider based out of Columbia.

Cote recommends using a paid version of anti-virus software, like AVG. He also recommends using one or two free anti-virus software tools to do manual scans on a weekly basis, or even daily for high risk users. People often tell him they just want to be sure their computer never gets a virus.

"I tell them to just never use the Internet. It's that simple," Cote said. "That's the only way to avoid them completely."



Interactive prayers to focus on college students

By Karen Hayden
Dir. of Pastoral Excellence

It is encouraging to be in and out of churches to see and hear how the Church responds to the needs of young students. We know if we want a child to succeed in education, they need some basic supplies. Whether we are talking paper and pencil for children in Darfur or backpacks for children in our church's neighborhood, churches are making conscious efforts to provide for the material needs of children in education.

At the other end of the educational spectrum are a group of students in need of our support as well—our prayerful support. This fall, we invite you to join the **Pray40** initiative as we pray for the next generation of Christian leaders as they head to college and university campuses.

Over 17 million American students populate college and university campuses. These students are making decisions, learning lessons, and being shaped into the next generation of disciples—teachers, accountants, mothers,

fathers, doctors, CEO's, journalists, and ministers, among others. What is it they need most for their life/spiritual backpacks? Shouldn't it be our prayer that as they make these decisions, learn these lessons and become these people, they do so while being shaped by Christ and sustained by the Body of Christ?

Starting August 23, the Church is invited to pray for our college campuses and students for 40 days. You may participate in several ways: receiving an e-mail morning, noon, and evening; downloading and sharing a prayer guide; following the effort on Twitter or by text; signing up for a 24-hour period of continuous prayer. The prayers are by various students, campus ministers, pastors and conference leaders.

Join us as we pray for the next generation of Christian leaders! Start by spreading the word about www.Pray40.com and encouraging your church, small groups, Sunday School classes, individuals, campus ministries, agencies, and circles of influence to register there.

Over 400 attend simulcast

The Global Leadership Summit (via satellite) was held at Living Word August 5 and 6 with 405 people attending representing over 50 churches, businesses and organizations. Living Word had 50 volunteers on hand offering hospitality to the group. Although a large group, it was a small sampling of the whole. According to Willow Creek, 55,000 people were participating in 140 locations in the U.S. and more will be participating worldwide in the weeks to come.

Many churches sent large teams to learn as much as they could

from the Summit. St. John Church in Ellisville, Missouri sent 70 people and Rev. Dion Garrett really enjoyed being challenged by the variety of speakers and the ability to bring so many leaders from the church for this opportunity. Other churches sending large teams included: Salem in Ladue UMC, Kirkwood UMC, and Morning Star UMC. Ken Willard, church consultant attends almost every year. "There's no question, this is the best church based leadership event out there," he said.

Next year's Summit is August 11 - 12.

BBQ helps connect to community

By Rev. Nate Wolff
Pastor, Bellefontaine UMC

The Bellefontaine Neighbors and Spanish Lake community found a great way to beat the heat on Saturday, July 17, 2010 and it was all for a good cause. On one of the hottest days of the year, about 200 people lined up in the shade of old oak trees at the corner of Bellefontaine Road and Belgrove Drive to sample the fare at the Bellefontaine United Methodist Church's Community BBQ in St. Louis.

The smoke from the locomotive shaped grill on loan from our sister church Unity UMC in Webster Groves, MO filled the air with the wonderful, mouth watering smell of hickory and slow cooked meat. Delicious side dishes like baked beans and potato salad are ready. And there's a special treat today: we have Judy Bond and Thelma Wayne making fried donuts!

It was a wonderful sight to see. People from all walks of life met and greeted old and new friends, shared a cold drink and contrib-



Photos by Bill Klein

uted to the mission of the church. And it was a pretty good contribution too. Over \$1700 worth of ribs, brats, pork steaks and sides were sold in a seven hour period. Over 60 church members and friends took part in making the event a success including our local Boy Scout Troop number 271 as they provided some much needed energy and enthusiasm.



A big BUMC thanks to everyone who helped and participated in the Community BBQ and thanks to everyone who stopped by to fellowship and sample some great cooking.



Course of Study Grads

On Thursday, July 29, seven members of the Missouri UMC Conference graduated from the Saint Paul School of Theology Course of Study program. Local pastor graduates include: Front Row: Marilyn O'Brien, Richard Parker, Marsha Vincent, Patricia Smith. Back Row: Fred Stevens, Darren Rew, Paul Pribil.

Ehlers recognized for 30 years on campus

A lot of things have changed in how churches reach out to college students in the last three decades. Two things haven't changed, though: Marjean and Don.

The Ehlers have been in ministry at Northwest Missouri State University for 30 years. Marjean is an ordained elder. Don is an ordained deacon. While working at Northwest, the couple also previously served as area coordinators of the Missouri Conference campus ministries, which were located at 13 college campuses around the state.

The Ehlers three decades of campus ministry were celebrated on July 28 at a community dinner at First UMC in Maryville. Rev. Scott Moon, the pastor of First UMC, noted that eight pastors had come and gone there while the Ehlers were there working in campus ministry.

Bishop Ann Sherer-Simpson of Nebraska, formerly of the Missouri Area, was the guest speaker.

"The Ehlers have developed a community that struggles with important questions of life," she said.

The role of the Ehlers was recognized outside the church as well. Dr. John Jasinki, president of Northwest University, was traveling and unable to attend, but sent a letter with his regards.

"Your impact at Northwest is legendary, and I do not use the term lightly," the letter stated.

Growing up with parents



Don and Marjean Ehlers

as campus ministers may have helped the Ehlers children embrace higher education. One son is an ophthalmologist, one is in residency, specializing in emergency medicine, and one is in the process of becoming a physician's assistant. Their daughter is a nursing student at Central Methodist University in Fayette.

"Over these 30 years, you have touched countless lives, inspired so many around you, and given endless gifts of love and care to the students and people of Northwest Missouri," the children read in a letter at the celebration. "Always know that in that same way you have inspired each of us to reach to new heights and to bring love and care in the way that you do in your lives to the people around us."

A memory book was given to the Ehlers. If you have a memory you would like to share, mail it to the Ehlers at 8 Golf Tree Lane, Maryville, MO 64468. Financial gifts can be given to the Wesley Student Center at 549 W. 4th St., Maryville, MO 64468.

Mystery visitors continued from page 1A

give churches some insight into visitor's perspectives, Hendrickson Business Advisors has been working with church pastors and leaders throughout Missouri since 2008. Now the firm is unveiling the Faith Perceptions Church Index for benchmarking results.

Hendrickson Business Advisors designed the Faith Perceptions program for churches based on the consulting firm's mystery shopping program for businesses. It sends in "undercover" mystery guests each Sunday. Jennifer Hendrickson, president of Hendrickson Business Advisors said: "When a business is losing market share, we use mystery shoppers to better understand the customer experience. When a church or denomination is struggling to grow its congregation, we send in mystery guests to better understand the Sunday morning experience."

More than 40 churches in the Missouri Conference in the United Methodist Church have used Faith Perceptions to better understand what a first time visitor thinks and feels when they attend a church service. There are fifteen measurement criteria that are evaluated on each visit and over 400 visits have been made. Now that a sufficient number of churches have participated, Faith Perceptions is debuting its Consolidated Index that aggregates all the data that have been compiled to date. This Index has also been segmented by congregation size so that each church

can compare itself against a peer group of like size.

Faith Perceptions is administered through the Faith Perceptions website (<http://www.faithperceptions.com>). Nearly 1,000 individuals have registered to make undercover visits.

Melanie Smollen, project manager, noted that most churches were rated highly for being friendly, but friendliness is not enough.

"Even if the visitors thought everyone was friendly, if they didn't hear a strong message and have a good worship experience, they didn't have enough reason to be inclined to go back," Smollen said.

In addition to the ratings, much insight was gained by the narratives written by the visitors.

"Visitors give a numeric rating, but the common threads in the commentaries have really been what we've found to be most helpful," Smollen said.

A very common comment from visitors is that they are only being greeted by pastors, staff and designated greeters.

"Many of the congregations feel hospitality can be left up to designated people, but greeting guests is everyone's responsibility," Smollen said.

An area that received a lower rating was children's ministry. Smollen said this isn't because the programs were inadequate, but more of a case that information about them wasn't being communicated to visitors.

"In many cases, the children are invited up front during worship

for a children's time, then they are taking as a group to a children's church in another part of the building," Smollen said. "Visiting parents don't know where the children are going, or how to get them back after the service."

There is also a problem with "insider language." Children and youth ministries may have a creative name that has meaning to the people there, but gives no indication to the visitor as to what the group is about.

About 98 percent of the mystery visitors are unchurched. Several have commented to Smollen that they hadn't been to church in years, and church now is very different than they remembered it. Many said they look forward to going back.

One Kansas City couple had been very active mystery visitors, but recently told Smollen that they wouldn't be taking part in the program anymore. They had decided to make one of the churches their church home, and now attend there regularly. The husband has experienced a call to ministry, and is currently a seminary student.

"That certainly wasn't one of our anticipated outcomes of this program, but it's a win for the Kingdom," Smollen said.

This year 30 Missouri Conference churches will be taking part in the mystery visitor program. Hendrickson Business Advisors (<http://www.hendrickson-businessadvisors.com>) is a management and marketing consulting firm based in Cape Girardeau.

Faith Perceptions Church Index

Size	Consolidated	Small	Medium	Large
Number of Churches	39	14	12	6
Directions	6.35	6.02	6.31	7.45
Exterior Signage	7.14	7.07	7.14	7.93
Pre-Service Greeting	7.78	8.34	7.23	8.34
Pre-Service Atmosphere	7.33	7.84	6.93	7.84
Seating	7.98	7.80	7.79	8.59
Music	6.98	6.50	7.02	7.46
In-Service Greeting	7.64	7.88	7.43	8.34
Sermon	7.40	7.04	7.51	7.73
Speaker	7.56	7.30	7.69	7.86
Post-Service Atmosphere	7.22	8.06	7.33	7.13
Connect-Resources	7.71	7.40	7.59	8.26
Friendliness	7.74	8.40	7.41	8.30
Children's Ministries	6.23	5.48	6.69	5.87
Return	6.85	6.66	6.84	7.48
Overall Experience	7.18	7.07	7.17	7.66
AVERAGES	7.27	7.26	7.21	7.75

All numbers are on a 10-point scale, so a 7.25 should be read as 7.25/10.00 or 72.5%.



The Ehlers' children read a letter of thanks to their parents.

Starters continued from page 1A

al about making the worship service available to college students, and there are college students on the launch team. But he certainly isn't considering the new site to be a campus ministry only.



Jared Wheeler

"There will be things that we do that might resonate well with retirees," Wheeler said. "We don't want to be exclusionary. Our target audience is anyone who isn't connected to a church."

Small group meetings and some preview worship services will begin this September. Wheeler plans to launch regular worship services in March so they are underway prior to Easter.

Wheeler has been an associate pastor at First UMC since last December. He was previously lead pastor at the First Christian Church in Cassville. He is married and has two children, ages 2 and three months.

Morning Star UMC in O'Fallon is one of the fastest growing churches in the Conference, and was started by Sunrise UMC about 13 years ago. So it's only natural that it would now be launching a new church as well.

Keith Scarborough, who has been an associate pastor at Morning Star UMC for four years, is working to launch the new church. The Word at Shaw will meet in the former Shaw Ave. UMC, which is located at the corner of Shaw Avenue and Tower Grove near the Missouri Botanical Garden. The former congregation at Shaw Ave. was down to five ladies.

"When Kurt (Gateway Central District Superintendent Kurt Schuerman) and I met with them the first time to discuss the idea for a new church there, they cried tears of joy," Scarborough said. "They said they were afraid the meeting was to hear about the death of the church, but instead it was about the resurrection power of Christ. One of them had been a member there since 1946. It was a

great moment in which they were encouraged about their church becoming an active part of the community again. It couldn't have gone better."

The core group for the launch formed about a year ago at Morning Star. The launch team formed last January. There are about 50 people from Morning Star on the launch team, some of whom are new to the church. Another 100 people from Morning Star are helping get things going. They feel called to start a multi-cultural congregation, and the former Shaw Ave. UMC building seems like the perfect place for it.

"The surrounding community is about 41 percent African American and 45 percent white," Scarborough said.

The new church is beginning to reach out through neighborhood events. On August 3 the church hosted the National Night Out in its parking lot. They gave away bikes and an i-Pod, 1,000 servings of ice cream, and collected 300 cans of food for the local food bank. They also recruited 10 volunteers from the neighborhood to help them stock the food bank.

"Every event we do will have a service element to it," Scarborough said. "We plan to bring new people into the church by their involvement in our service projects."

The building is closed while it is being rehabilitated. The first worship service in the building is going to be a candlelight service on Christmas Eve.

"We are hoping to build some excitement in the community, with people wanting to see what things look like inside after we've been working on it all of this time," Scarborough said.

Jimmy Cooper has moved into the roles that Scarborough left at Morning Star. He's getting to know the culture of Morning Star, but there's also something else on the horizon for him long term. Cooper will be launching another new church for Morning Star in late 2011 or 2012.

"We are planning on replicating the great things we are doing

at Morning Star 15-20 minutes west of here," Cooper said.

Cooper was previously an associate pastor at First UMC in St. Charles. He attended the new church leadership institute, sponsored by the center of Congregational Excellence. He then knew he needed a mentor, so he contacted Mike Schreiner, lead pastor of Morning Star UMC. He let Schreiner know that he was interested in church planting, and Morning Star was in the process of considering strategic ways to bring more people to Christ.

Cooper is currently focused on his role as associate pastor at Morning Star, working with evangelism, mission, outreach and events. He's immersing himself in the culture of Morning Star Church, and is discussing with Schreiner ways in which the new church will be similar to, and different from, Morning Star.

On an even longer-term plan is Kurt Boemler. He feels called to be a church planter, but where that church may be, or what form it may take,



Kurt Boemler

are questions for the future. For now Boemler is doing a one-year internship at the Gathering in St. Louis, a growing church in St. Louis that was started a few years ago.

"I'm going to be learning from Matt (Miofsky, pastor) what it takes to start a new church," Boemler said.

He won't just be observing and learning, though. While at The Gathering, Boemler is expected to start something from scratch.

"This will be a proving ground for me," he said.

Boemler will be working to establish a college ministry at the church. The Gathering has been successful at reaching young adults and graduate students, but has not been as strong in reaching undergraduate students. Boemler will be working with other staff members on outreach to college students, keeping in mind that his internship at the Gathering will only last a year.

"Whatever I do has to be sustainable, and easily handed off to someone else," he said.



Ministry assisted with gift of motorcycle

When the people of Red Bridge UMC learned that their partner church, Milange UMC in Mozambique, had no transportation to cover the huge area of the congregation, an individual responded with a specially designated gift. Pastor Jardim Carimo Suluge poses on his new \$800 motorbike. Upon arrival at the North Annual Conference session, the first thing pastor Suluge said when he saw MI representative Ezequiel Nhantumbo was, "Thank you very much for the gift to the people of Milange! Let our partners know, the gift is

helping us transform people into Christ's spiritual life." He could not hide his smile, and like other churches in northern conference, asked the same question "*why Milange?*" and truly the secret is on the engagement in strong covenant that all these fruits are harvested. Thanks to you all the people of Missouri!

You can help provide transportation for a pastor in Mozambique too. Contact Mozambique Initiative coordinator, Carol Kreamer 636-271-4455 cpkreamer@hughes.net.



Worship resources available for Children's Sabbath

This year, the United Methodist Church will observe Children's Sabbath October 8-10. Children's Sabbath is an ecumenically celebrated weekend committed to educating the congregation about the state of today's children and families in America. Children provide leadership through music, sharing of

gifts, and reading of scripture.

Downloadable resources for this event are available through the Children's Defense Fund, and there is an interactive map to find ideas that worked in congregations and communities in 2009. Go the website at www.childrens-defense.org.

Conference Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Phone #	Contact
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
8/14/2010	Basic & Advanced Lay Speaking Course	Kingsway UMC-Springfield		Dorothy Brucks
8/14/2010	Creating Cultures of Discipleship with Young Adults	Schweitzer UMC	(785) 218-7502	Creighton Alexander
8/18/2010	PAUMC Meeting	Conference Center	(573) 441-8878	Dala Dunn
8/19/2010	Site Directors Meeting	Camp Jo-Ota	(573) 441-1770	Brenda Howell
8/20/2010	PAUMC Annual Conference	Wesley UMC	(417) 866-5361	Susie Mason
8/27/2010	MUMCRM Commission Meeting	Camp Jo-Ota	(573) 441-1770	Brenda Howell
8/27/2010	Disaster Early Response Training Team	Camp Galilee		Jeff Baker
9/9/2010	Diana Revelle Book Signing	Conference Center	(573) 441-1770	Mike Harrison
9/11/2010	Boundaries Training - Clergy Ethics & Professional Boundaries in Human Relationships	Wilkes Boulevard UMC	(573) 441-1770	Mike Harrison
9/11/2010	Mission, Service & Justice Ministry Teams	Conference Center	(573) 474-7155	Max Marble
9/11/2010	Camp Jo-Ota Youth Rally 2010	Camp Jo-Ota	(660) 346-8834	Mike Leonard
9/13/2010	Renew. Recharge. Retreat	FUMC-Sedalia		Jim Downing
9/16/2010	MO East Walk to Emmaus Men's Walk #127	Camp Mo-Val		Bob Northrup
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	Clergy Spouse Retreat	Conference Center	(573) 875-5581	Diana Revelle
10/1/2010	BOM Psych Testing	Conference Center	(573) 777-1213	Jenny Gragg
10/7/2010	Show Me the Way Emmaus	Baptist Hill Camp	(417) 739-5008	Dave Williams
10/14/2010	Show Me the Way Emmaus	Baptist Hill Camp	(417) 739-5008	Dave Williams
10/16/2010	Festival of Sharing	Missouri State Fairgrounds	(573) 474-3332	Terri Williams
10/22/2010	MO Wesley Foundation Alumni Reunion	Columbia, MO	(302) 234-7803	Tom Fort
10/23/2010	Certified Lay Ministry-Five Practices of Vital Congregations	Conference Center	(573) 777-1217	Mike Harrison
10/25/2010	BOM Meeting	Conference Center	(573) 441-1770	Trudy McManus
11/4/2010	MO East Walk to Emmaus Women's Walk #128	Camp Mo-Val		Sally Gragg
2/5/2011	Mission, Service & Justice Ministry Teams	Conference Center	(573) 474-7155	Max Marble
3/24/2011	2011 Spring MO East Walk to Emmaus Men's Walk #129	Pinecrest Camp		TBD
4/14/2011	2011 Spring MO East Walk to Emmaus Women's Walk #130	Pinecrest Camp		TBD
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

Job Postings

All positions are at Central UMC in Kansas City. Please send a cover letter, resume, and links to worship and performance materials if applicable. Further information will be requested if necessary. Applications are due Sept. 1st. Send materials to office@centralcares.com.

Young Adult/ Campus Ministry Coordinator

Position to lead a team to develop young adult ministries among the student populations of area universities in conjunction with Central UMC. Half-time position.

Asst. Campus Ministry Coordinator

Position for a UMKC resident student to assist with young adult ministries among student populations (especially among students living in campus housing). Quarter-time position.

Central Connections Coordinator

Position working with an engaged and experienced Senior Pastor focusing on the areas of hospitality, faith formation and community outreach. Half-time position.

Children/ Family Ministry Coordinator

Position working with an experienced senior pastor in the areas of hospitality, faith formation and community outreach. Quarter-time position.

New City Worship- Music Leader

Position to develop and lead a band for emergent worship experiences for young adults and students in conjunction with Central UMC. Quarter-time position.

Aid worker connected with GBGM killed in Afghanistan

By Max Marble
Dir. of OCM

Daniel Terry, 64, was part of a 10-member aid team killed in Afghanistan on August 5. Max Marble shares his personal experience with Terry.

Dan Terry was always larger than life, even as I knew him as a child at Woodstock School, a boarding school for children of American missionaries in India. He and I attended Woodstock School from kindergarten through high school. Dan was two years ahead of me and graduated in the class of '65. I remember him as always having a smile on his face and a twinkle in his eye.

His home was on the campus of the Ludhiana Christian Medical College and Hospital where his parents served with support from the General Board of Global Ministries. Later his parents transferred to Afghanistan where they helped to found the International Assistance Mission. When he was shot Dan was with an IAM team of medical people providing eye care in one of the remotest parts of the country. Some villagers had walked or had

been carried for days to receive care from that team. Dan's happy good nature, his knowledge of the culture and ways of the people, and his fluency in Dari, the local language, endeared him to Afghans everywhere.

Dan married Seija, a nurse from Finland, and served in Afghanistan for 40 years, more than 30 of those under the auspices of the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries. They served under the rule of the king, later the Russians, at various times under local warlords, and finally the Taliban. The last time I spoke with Dan by phone I asked him what it was like to serve under the Taliban. He told me that for the most part they were able to gain the respect of the local Taliban leaders, who in the remote areas where they served, were young and inexperienced.

Dan Terry stories abound. Once he was arrested by the Taliban for mistakenly overstaying a visa. He went off to jail in good natured fashion, seeing it as a time to learn Pashto. Reminiscent of times when Paul was impris-

oned, his fellow prisoners become admirers and friends. He was released and then later put back in jail. Upon his return cheers went up through the prison.

The Terry family impacted the Marble family in a personal way. We lived in one of the remotest villages in central India; it took my brother and me 4 days by jeep and train to get to school each year. No one ever ventured that far back into the jungles to visit us, except for the Terrys, so it was a delightful surprise to see them pull up to our home. They had their little dog with them and we had great fun. Two weeks later they sent us a wire telling us their dog had rabies. Fourteen shots later, the Terrys' trip to our village of Baihar was sealed for all times in our memory.

It is with deep sadness that we now try to adjust to this senseless act of violence against such good hearted, committed, loving people. Dan Terry was among the best of our Christian servants and gave his all in service to Christ.

Daniel Terry worked providing aid in Afghanistan for 40 years.



School focuses on sharing joy through Christian mission

By Franklin C. Walker,
Creative Ministries Team Chair

I attended the Cooperative School of Christian Mission

(CSOCM) July 29 through August 1. There were just less than 300 United Methodist women, men and children attending.

I had a great time. We were

given in depth knowledge about mission in Sudan, we discovered mission in the Biblical book of John, and learned more about how to bring joy to the world through mission.

We were led by study leaders who had been previously trained on how to lead us on a spiritual journey and how to better involve ourselves in mission. We studied, sang songs, performed skits, planned for mission, made book bags for Haiti and Liberia, walked, participated in devotions, danced, the children swam, and we were royally entertained by the culturally diverse Children's Choir of Della Lamb (located in Kansas City).

One session was on "Joy to

the World: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity." The one lasting image that affected me most from our class was that there is great joy when we are about mission. And that joy is contagious. It was visible in the faces of the children's choir from Della C. Lamb that sang Saturday afternoon. It was evident in the program the children and youth presented on Saturday night.

We have changed our view of mission in the past hundred years from mission focused on colonizing to mission focused on bringing joy to the lives of others. The group of men, women and young persons I met this weekend had great stories to share of the joy they have experienced by serving

others. I look forward to attending next year.

Were you there? If not, why? As chair of the Creative Ministries Team, cosponsor of this event with the Missouri United Methodist Women, I feel it is my responsibility to unveil this "Hidden Gem" so that every Church in Missouri may be represented next year. The dates for next year's CSOCM are July 28 thru July 31, 2011. The school is held at Central Methodist University (CMU) located in Fayette.

If you weren't there because you didn't know, now you know. For more information please contact the Missouri UMW, the Office of Creative Ministries or myself at: wfcwalker@aol.com.



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