

Leading congregations to lead people to actively follow Jesus Christ

Two Sections, Section A

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## Inside A



### Mission bikers

Arkansas State students do mission work on multi-state bike ride.

4A



### Patchy Past

Camp t-shirts pieced into quilt pay tribute to past years at camp.

4A



200

Cornerstone UMC commemorates two centuries of ministry.

6A

## Saturday night service paves way for growth

Ohio Street United Methodist Church was really doing pretty well. In 2005, it averaged 182 in its two worship services. That's not bad, considering it's located in Butler, a town of about 4,000, with no other population centers nearby. The challenge the church faced was, "How can we reach more people?"

"We had plateaued, and didn't know how to grow more," said the Rev. James Stanfield-Myers.

There were certainly plenty of people around who weren't going to church. But how could they reach out to them in a different way? The church began considering a launching a new worship service. One of the first questions was when to do it. The parsonage where Stanfield-Myers lives happens to be located next door to a Catholic church.

"I noticed every Saturday evening their parking lot was packed for 5:00 mass," he said.

So it looked like 5 p.m.

Saturday might work. The next question was, "Where?" The people in Butler who weren't already going to a church might be reluctant to go into a "church" building for the first time. So the core group that had formed at Ohio Street decided a storefront would be a good place to launch. A church member had an eye on one of the historic buildings on the courthouse square. It was purchased, and the church helped finance the building's rehab, with the owner providing the church with free rent in exchange.

The church launched "Uptown See Uptown, pg. 5A



The narthex of the Uptown has the comforts of home, and a view of the town square.



Don Ehlers signs CDs after singing his song "Will You Lead" at the "Celebrating Diakonia" event in Florida.

## New song speaks to those called to lead

When more than 300 deacons and diaconal ministers gathered in Orlando to for the "Celebrating Diakonia" event, they were treated to having their own song, commissioned especially for the event. The song was even written and sung by one of their own, the Rev. Don Ehlers, a deacon in full connection in the Missouri Conference.

Ehlers was part of a panel

for the "Celebrating Diakonia" event, and at a gathering for the order in Atlanta, he was asked to write a song for the event by Anita Wood, director of professional ministry development for the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

"I thought it would be significant to have a song written especially for this occasion," Wood said.

See Diakonia on page 5A

## Newspapers purchased to strengthen connection

Churches across the Missouri Conference are taking advantage of an opportunity to give more of their members more information about United Methodism.

"Certain people in our church already had access to this resource, and this expands that circle of knowledge," said the Rev. Shawn Franssens, pastor of St. Mark's UMC in the Heartland Central District.

The *Missouri Conference Review*, the statewide newspaper of the United Methodist Church, can now be purchased in bundles of 50 and delivered to one address, for \$175 per year. With 26 issues per year, that works out to be less than 14 cents per copy.

"It's at such a reasonable cost, it would be hard to pass up such

an opportunity," Franssens said. He hands papers out to his congregation as he greets them after worship.

Mt. Zion UMC in the Gateway Central District has just ordered a 50-paper bundle.

"Our stewardship committee felt this would be a good way to let people know what the church is doing," said the Rev. Brenda West. "When people know more about the church and all of the good things United Methodists are doing, it strengthens our connection, and may help people feel better about the importance of paying apportionments."

The church intends to have the ushers hand out the paper to anyone who wants them at the end of the service. The church

plans to provide people with the newspaper in this manner for a year so they can become familiar with it, and then encourage people to subscribe to it on their own and receive it in the mail at home.

West occasionally lifts up something from the newspaper during the worship service. She also takes stories from the paper and reproduces in the church newsletter.

"I think we will start using more (content from the *Missouri Conference Review*) on our Web site, as well," she said.

Over Lent, University UMC had small-group discussions during which they discussed stories from the newspaper, about topics like fasting, vital churches and columns from Bishop Robert Schnase.

"From those discussions, we decided we should make the paper

available to more people in our congregation," the Rev. Linda Harris said.

Bellefontaine UMC in the Gateway Central District was one of the first churches to purchase a 50-paper bundle to hand out on Sundays.

"It's very informational," said office manager Doris Bante. "It helps keep our connectional church connected."

At first, the church was putting the papers out on a table, and sometimes they weren't. Now the papers are being handed out.

"It's working better this way," Bante said.

To purchase a bundle of the newspaper for your church, send a check for \$175 to Becky Calcote, The Missouri Conference, 3601 Amron Court, Columbia, MO 65203.



**Robert Schnase**  
 Resident Bishop of the Missouri Area



## The Bishop's Journal

# Conferring Together

During this week to come, lay and clergy members of the Missouri Conference will gather in Springfield for the yearly time of worship, learning, fellowship, business, and visioning that we call Annual Conference. I always look forward to these times together. I pray this conference will bless us in our work together.

The practice of gathering to confer together about our common work for Christ dates back to John Wesley in the 1740s. Today's Book of Discipline (Para.601) says, "The purpose of the annual conference is to make disciples for Jesus Christ by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church, all to the glory of God." I hope this is the purpose we fulfill, and I pray that what we do together and the manner in which we do it is truly "all to the glory of God."

This year we welcome a few special guests to lead us at key points. Bishop Gregory Palmer of the Iowa Conference will preach

at our Ordination Service. Bishop Monk Bryan (retired) will also join us for the Ordination Service because of his special connection to one of our ordinands. One of the study times will be led by Adam Hamilton, pastor of Church of the Resurrection. Zefanias Chihulume, Council on Ministries director in Mozambique, will lead another.

Our own Conference pastors, laity and churches will serve as leaders to our other worship services, banquets, study times and workshops. I so deeply appreciate the many people who are making preparation to teach, lead, sing, preach and pray so that our time together glorifies God. Many of our Conference committees will share reports and make recommendations related to the directions we established at our Special Session of Conference held in March. Throughout our time together, our laity and clergy will work to elect delegates to Jurisdictional and General Conference.

If you are planning to attend Annual Conference, I hope you will come with the spirit of Christ Paul commends to us his letter to the Romans: "Love one another with a mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope..." And if you are not planning to attend, I hope you will lift up our Conference leaders and delegates in prayer, invoking God's spirit to guide us in our deliberations, discussions and decisions. May this be a time a blessing, refreshment, focus, connection and rededication to our ministry as United Methodist followers of Christ.

Yours in Christ,



Robert Schnase, Bishop  
 Mo. Conference of the UMC

## Appointment changes

Cesar Paniamogan, a retired member who was serving Cainsville UMC in the Pony Express District, is no longer serving that church. Denizela' Dorsey, a student local pastor at

Saint Paul School of Theology, is now appointed there.

Christine Jones, a full-time local pastor, is no longer serving Ozark Chapel in the Mid-State District.

## Correction

The Ellsinore/Grandin charge is not associated with Van Buren as stated in the May 18 issue of the Missouri Conference Review.

### THE MISSOURI CONFERENCE REVIEW

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## The Book!

### By Larry Fagan Conference Lay Leader

I have been anticipating the book. I was concerned when I first heard that he was going to write it. The potential distraction worried me. Progress on the "main thing" might slow. The new vision needed refinement ... deadlines were fast approaching. Besides, if the book was successful, he might be pulled away to a broader audience. Why did the book have to come at this particular time?

Well, the book has arrived. (The author hasn't announced any promotional tours.) The task of redefining our work hasn't appeared to miss a beat. The leader doesn't seem to be worn out ... to the contrary, he's more animated, more energized. Maybe my concerns were ill founded. Or, on the other hand, maybe the book isn't so good. I better read it. After doubting, I owe that to the author ...

The phrase, "one step further", caught my eye in the first chapter on Radical Hospitality. Everyone, no matter how successful you are, can go one step further. Does every element of the way we do church invite? Have we explored every pathway of inviting our neighbors? Once in the door, is a visitor invited to participate? Does our worship invite? Does our Sunday School invite? Are our facilities inviting? Does our group of favorite friends invite? Chapter one invited me further. I learned that Radical Hospitality is a culture.

"Passionate Worship means an extraordinary eagerness to offer the best in worship, honoring God with excellence and with an unusual clarity about the purpose of connecting people to God." "People so eagerly desire such worship that they will reorder their lives to attend." I've been blessed to experience this kind of worship. It's taken different form at different places. But one thing has been common. I've always walked away with a desire for more. And I've wanted to share it with others. Chapter two is as good as the first!

Chapter three was where my "hook was set." "The fundamental changes in faith and habit brought by Christ persist and become

fruitful only when sustained by continual learning in community." I reflected on all those "Ah ha"

moments that have come thru morning devotionals, group Bible studies, Sunday School, spiritual retreats, small group fellowship, the Walk to Emmaus

... I could go on and on. Radical Hospitality plus Passionate Worship plus Intentional Faith Development lead to a fruitful life in Christ ... oh, but there is more.

I'm not as familiar with Risk-Taking Mission and Service as I think I would like to be. However, it does seem to be a catalyst that turns any or all of the previous three core practices into intense Christ moments. That's both scary and exciting! I've been invited to participate in a couple of such missions. It's probably time to go one step further?

I'm very comfortable with Extravagant Generosity. I was raised to tithe. My mother taught me the practice as soon as I knew the value of money. By her and my father's example, they also taught me the value of giving my time. Since then God has called me to go beyond the tithe. I understand "... stewardship that rightly focuses on the Christian's need to give rather than the church's need to receive is not simply a money-raising strategy but a spiritually powerful truth."

Well, by now you know that I'm reviewing the Bishop's latest book, "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations." It's an excellent book that reminded me that our efforts to realign the work of the Annual Conference will make little difference if we don't have healthy churches. And healthy churches embrace and constantly refine all five core practices. I would encourage each church that desires excellence in ministry to identify a core group of leaders to study this book. It will challenge you to ask the right questions. It will stimulate new ministry ideas. It will encourage you to go "one step further." It could help us make a Kingdom difference.



Larry Fagan

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

## Members perform parsonage makeover

This is the story of two very happy fellows and what a church can accomplish when its members work together. Pastor Bob Frey of Jefferson Avenue United Methodist Church in Moberly is happy because he recently received the key to the newly re-decorated parsonage from Trustee Chairman Steve Ingebritson.

Ingebritson is happy because the re-decorating is finally finished! He and some of the trustees, along with other members of the church, spent countless hours at the parsonage doing all the work themselves to save the cost of having it done by others.

Work started last summer when the former pastor and his family moved out. Foundation work and concrete work did have to be done by professionals, but as soon as they completed those jobs, the fellows went to work. The total spent, including the above, was just over \$43,000 for materials, but that amount would have been more than doubled if the men had not done the work themselves.

"We certainly owe them a debt of gratitude and we all feel blessed that they are part of our church family," said Shirley Roe, church secretary.

You might be wondering what all this money was spent for, so here is a list. Those who saw the house before the work was started know the deplorable condition it was in at that time.

- Foundation stabilized
- Replaced sidewalk on west side and patio
- Replaced garage door and floor
- Replaced entrance door and 6' patio door



Rev. Bob Frey receives a key to the rehabbed parsonage from Steve Ingebritson.

- Replaced 10 interior doors (some had holes in them)
- Painted throughout the house
- Replaced carpeting and vinyl flooring
- Repaired wall damage
- Replaced medicine cabinets
- Replaced broken closet organizers
- Replaced loose porch rail
- Replaced window blinds
- Replaced three bi-fold closet doors which had broken mirrors
- Replaced broken and added new ceiling fans and light fixtures
- Replaced bathroom vanities and fixtures (stools, tub and shower)
- Replaced missing and broken

electrical outlets and switches

- Replaced kitchen cabinets, dishwasher, garbage disposal
- Added a built-in microwave

Pastor Bob and his wife Sandy have moved into the parsonage and are ecstatic. It is beautiful and has so much more room than the temporary parsonage. The church thanks them for agreeing to be in the smaller quarters until the work was completed. "We are most grateful to the men and women in the church who were willing to give so much time and effort to bring the restoration about," Roe said.

## Blue toilet raises Relay for Life money

When someone in Thayer makes a stir about a neighbor having an old blue toilet sitting out on their lawn, they had better watch out. It will probably be their turn next.

Bob and Kathy Cicigoli, members of Thayer UMC Relay for Life Team, have been making the rounds with the toilet. It has a

note on it that says, "One of your friends has selected you to receive this beautiful commode! To have it removed, make out a check to the American Cancer Society for \$25. Than call Bob or Kathy at 264-2862 and tell them whose yard to put it in next!"

The traveling toilet's first stop was at the home of Mark Martin, a

local radio host.

"That really helped the idea catch on," said Bob Cicigoli. "All of the airtime he gave us really kept it going, because a lot of people listen to local radio."

The toilet traveled to about 125 locations, and raised a little more than \$4,000.

## Letters to the Editor

### A New Poem by Hubert Neth

pastoral excellence

he stays at old  
saint thomas hotel  
just off  
the county seat  
square  
his ringtone  
is whos  
we wont  
be fooled  
again  
i saw him  
at the cafe  
the other morning  
a guy  
no one else  
wants  
i could  
start my  
market savvy  
target prospect  
campaign  
with his name  
he may never

come to church  
but god  
still believes  
in him  
so please  
dont remain  
discouraged  
and let the light  
go out  
at the methodist church  
in your small  
missouri town  
where his kinfolks  
live  
because if  
it does  
the pathway  
they walk  
will be  
very dark

hubert neth

*Hubert Neth is a retired elder who lives in Lee's Summit and serves Oakland UMC in Buckner.*

## Mission questioned

I am troubled by the new narrow definition of our Conference mission. According to this definition, the Annual Conference mission is only to serve the local congregations. It omits the cooperative efforts in ministry beyond the local church, which historically have been a defining characteristic of the Annual Conference.

This new statement of mission sounds more like an association of churches of congregational polity rather than an integral part of a global, connectional church. Are not our responsibilities for the worldwide ministries and institutions of General Conference also a part of our Annual Conference mission?

If the Annual Conference mission is only to serve local churches, then on what basis do we participate in Conference ministries of mission, education, social justice beyond the local church?

I am also troubled by the

process which led to the special session, especially by the lack of adequate, timely information for members of the Annual Conference to vote in an accountable manner. During the two years leading up to the special session, we have heard much about accountability. This would have been an opportune time to model accountability for all to see and learn.

I have a great affection for our Annual Conference. I hope and pray that the action taken at the special session will prove to be a blessing, and that we will grow in faithfulness as the Body of Christ. But I must confess, I am troubled by the narrow definition of our Conference mission and the lack of information for Conference members to vote in a responsible manner.

Grace and Peace,  
Cleo D. Kottwitz

*Due to limited space and the number of responses, unsolicited letters to the editor or opinion pieces may be limited in length. Suggested length is 200 words. Any piece may be edited at the editor's discretion.*

*Letters that attack individuals or that are anonymous will not be considered. Pieces that violate privacy or infringe on confidentiality will not be published.*

*Any letter to the editor or opinion piece that repeats the same content or voices the same view as an earlier writer may be rejected. A piece also may be shortened to remove repetitious material.*

*Letters to the editor relating to national issues in Section B should be sent to UMR Communications at 2400 Lone Star Drive, Dallas TX 75212. All materials submitted for publication will be published only as space allows and at the discretion of the editor. Letters should be submitted to the editorial office by e-mail at fkoenig@momethodist.org or mailed to Fred Koenig, 3601 Annon Court, Columbia, MO 65202.*

[www.moumethodist.org](http://www.moumethodist.org)



## Past camps pieced into quilts

Diane Coffey shows her camp quilt to Lee Walz, Missouri Conference director of camping and retreat ministries. Coffey used 33 Missouri Conference United Methodist camp shirts to make the quilt, and used the Smurf sheets that she used to take to camp for the back. Most of the shirts came from Coffey's

own experience as a camper, camp counselor and camp director.

There is still space available at some of Missouri's United Methodist camps this summer. For more information, visit the Web site [www.mocamps.org](http://www.mocamps.org), or call the camping and retreat office at (888) 271-1999.

## Creation Corner

Stop by the Global Connections Team booth at Annual Conference and pick up Eden Summit materials with practical ideas for making your church a greener church. There will also be information about what families can do. For instance, simply placing a couple of jars in your toilet's tank will greatly reduce your family's annual water consumption. If you will not be going to Conference, be sure and ask your lay member to Annual Conference or our pastor to pick up the materials for you.



## Road bike mission

The Arkansas State Wesley Foundation just completed a road bike mission trip from Jonesboro, Arkansas called **Tour DeFaith**. They arrived in Cape Girardeau May 15, where they lodged at the Southeast Missouri Wesley Foundation. They led a Tour DeFaith worship service at Grace United Methodist Church May 16, and departed for St. Louis on May 17. The Tour DeFaith involves university students in biking from location to location, serving locally in mission along the way. Shown here, the group is crossing the Missouri River into Illinois.



Your Missouri United Methodist Foundation

800-332-8238 [www.mumf.org](http://www.mumf.org) Columbia, Missouri

## Uptown from page 1A

Saturday Night" last Sept. 23 with 200 in attendance, many of whom were regulars from Sunday morning. Since then attendance has varied widely, getting down to 18 on a low night, or up as high as 75 on a high night.

The church didn't have a praise band ready to go, so once a month they host a visiting band. The bands have been from several different denominations.

"We have a list of bands lined up who want to play here," Stanfield-Myers said.

Also, once a month, a community leader is invited to the church to give a personal testimony.

"Both of those two events get up a pretty good crowd of people for us," Stanfield-Myers said.

Shandra Miller, outreach coordinator for Uptown Saturday Night, is pleased with how things have gone so far.

"This has been a wonderful experience to be involved in," she said. "It's been a way to reach people that had not been reached before by the traditional ways that churches usually try to reach out."

Miller said the location has worked well for the reluctant visitor.



**The Rev. James Stanfield-Myers stands out in front on the location of the "Uptown Saturday Night" worship service.**

"We have big plate glass windows, so people can check us out before they even come in the door," she said. "In nice weather, we have the door open and you can hear our music out on the street."

The church now has a flat-screen TV in the window that constantly provides passers-by with information about the church, and shows videos of worship.

Stanfield-Myers said some Uptown Saturday Night visitors

have elected to attend the Sunday morning service at Ohio Street UMC instead. Some Sunday morning regulars attend the Saturday night service when they can't make it on Sunday morning. The three worship services of Ohio Street UMC are now averaging more than 200 people week.

"The Saturday night service is serving its purpose well," Stanfield-Myers said. "It has helped up take the next step up in growth."

## Diakonia from page 1A

She was familiar with Ehlers's previous song writing, and thought he would be a good choice.

"I said, with some hesitation, that I would give it a try," Ehlers said.

A lot of introspection went into the song.

"I thought about my own journey, how this order was a new venture in 1996, and how I wasn't certain if that was where my call was," Ehlers said. "I had to get in touch with images of myself."

After he was asked, Ehlers had the words and music simultaneously starting to form in his mind, but it took a while to get to the point of putting it down on paper. When he was at a retreat, the Rev. Laura Taylor had participants spend 15 minutes of opening worship journaling. This is when he wrote the first version of the song, "Will you Lead?"

"It was the first time that I had 15-minutes of quiet time when I wasn't working on something else," Ehlers said. "When I got back to Maryville, I got out my guitar and started putting the tune to it."

Woods was pleased the song emphasized leading, equipping and serving, the theme of the event. But she said it also carries meaning for others.

"It's not just about deacons or diaconal ministers, but anyone in a leadership role," she said.

Although the song was written for the event, Ehlers has played it for other people, and had many people say they relate to message of the lyrics.

"When I write a song, it is my hope that when people listen to, it means something to them, in the context of their lives," he said. "I sang it for a couple of people of different generations, and got different reactions."

Ehlers got his daughter, Julia Ehlers, to sing back-up vocals; Andrew Allen to play bass and Emily Cloughly to play percussion. The four caught a flight out of Maryville at 3:45 a.m., spent from 1-5 that afternoon recording the song in the studio at United Methodist Communications, and flew back home that night.

The song can be played on the Conference Web site at [www.moumethodist.org](http://www.moumethodist.org).


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Cornerstone UMC

## Church celebrates 200 years of ministry

By Jackie Whitworth

In 1807, the Rev. Jesse Walker administered communion to Methodists gathered at Fort Zumwalt. To put 1807 into perspective, it was the year of the first steamboat voyage in the U.S., and was about 70 years before the telephone, record player and incandescent light bulb.

The Methodists were the first organized religious group in the vicinity of present-day O'Fallon. The congregation of Cornerstone UMC traces its origin all the way back to the log house of Jacob Zumwalt (better known as Ft. Zumwalt or Zumwalt's Ft. for its service as a homestead fort during the War of 1812).

Zumwalt had received his property as a Spanish land grant in the late 1790s. Sometime after his log home was completed, Methodist Circuit Riders came to Zumwalt's house to hold religious services with the Zumwalts and other families in the area.

These meetings offered an opportunity for fellowship, prayer and Bible study as well as providing those early settlers with a network for mutual assistance and support.

In 1807, the Rev. Walker held services within the walls of what has come to be known as Fort Zumwalt and administered the first Methodist communion to those early Methodist pioneers so Cornerstone UMC traces its beginning back to that time. The elements for communion were prepared by Mrs. Zumwalt and a Mrs. David Bailey. For bread, they used the crusts of cornbread, and for the wine, they used wild pokeberry juice sweetened with maple sugar.

In 1808, the first Methodist church was built near Peruque Creek, a small one-room log structure described as round in shape. It was not used for long because when the creek flooded

the members could not cross it to get to church.

In 1809, the congregation returned to the Zumwalt property and erected a log church with a strong stone foundation somewhere near Zumwalt's log home. This building served as the meeting place for those early Methodists for more than 40 years. It was known as the Zumwalt Church and it was frequently the setting for Sunday dinners picnic style as the worshippers would often spend all day Sunday at the church.

When Nathan and Rebecca Heald purchased the Zumwalt property in 1817, they carried on the Methodist roots set down by the Zumwalts as did their son, Darius, in later years.

It was at the Zumwalt Church that the Mt. Zion Methodist Society was organized by the Rev. John Travis.

As the congregation increased in number, it became necessary to build a new and larger church. In 1853, the Mt. Zion Methodist Society built a church on five acres of land on the east side of what is today Highway K just south of Mexico Road. The location was called Mt. Zion Hill and the church was known as the Mt. Zion Methodist Church. The land surrounding the church was to be used as a cemetery and the first burials there occurred in 1854. Though the church structure is gone, Mt. Zion Cemetery is still in use today.

By 1882, the Mt. Zion congregation had grown in numbers so that once again a larger church was needed. Some members felt they should build a new church on the same site while others believed it would best serve the needs of the people if the church were centrally located in the town of O'Fallon. After much discussion and many heated arguments, the decision was made to cease being

a rural church and to move within the city limits.

In 1883, the new Mt. Zion Methodist Episcopal Church (more often referred to as the O'Fallon Methodist Church and later officially known by that name) was built at the corner of Church and Wood Streets and the congregation worshipped there for 70 years.

The next move came in 1953, when the congregation purchased a former public school building on Pitman Street and subsequently built a new sanctuary at that location. Due to a generous gift by the Williams family, the church was renamed Williams Memorial Methodist Church.

By the end of the 20th century, there was once again the need for a larger church, so 10 acres of land was purchased at 1151 Tom Ginnever Avenue in O'Fallon. In 2001, the first phase of the new facility was completed. At that time, it was renamed Cornerstone UMC--same congregation, another new name!

Some reminders of the church's long history remain with the church even today. The bell in front of the church was installed in the steeple of the Mt. Zion Methodist Episcopal Church in 1885. It remained in that church building after its sale to the Christian Church. However, the bell was returned to the congregation in 1958 after the steeple of the old church was blown off by a tornado. The fireplace in the narthex is a replica of the fireplace that was in the home of Jacob Zumwalt, the first meeting place. The original fireplace is still standing in Ft. Zumwalt Park.

The church has great and wonderful heritage of seeing the Lord work in this community. This is because of the work and prayers of many people over the 200 years. At Cornerstone, their belief is that their best years are yet to come.



A team from Cornerstone UMC works to build a new house in Caruthersville to replace one destroyed by a tornado.

## Cornerstone mission projects

- The food pantry served 364 families during the first three months of this year.
- A pre-school program meets in the church.
- A children's ministry aimed at school-age children and their families called F.A.I.T.H. Wired meets on Wednesday evenings during the school year.
- Each summer, there is Vacation Bible School.
- A **Week of Hope** in Beaufort, SC, is the youth mission trip for 2007, during which youth from the church will be helping those less fortunate in that area.
- Last fall, the church raised money to help sponsor a Habitat for Humanity House to be built in

Wentzville this year.

- A group (this year more than 20 people) has traveled to Pharr, Texas, for the last three years to help do repair and construction work on homes of needy families in that border town and to share God's love with them.
- A team went to Caruthersville to help build a home destroyed by a tornado.
- A group led by Rev. Brad Reed visits Twin Oaks Assisted Living Center monthly to hold worship services with the residents. In December, a Cornerstone quilting group, the Cover Girls Circle, presented residents of Twin Oaks with handmade lap quilts during the monthly visit.

## History celebrations planned

On June 24, the annual Cornerstone UMC picnic will be held in Ft. Zumwalt Park in O'Fallon, the actual site of the beginning of the church congregation. There will be one church service at 10 a.m., combining both the traditional and contemporary worship, followed by a caravan of cars decorated in streamers and balloons to form a parade going from the church to the park. People are encouraged to dress in period attire. Following the noon meal, old-time games are being planned for the children.

In the afternoon, there will be a brief service and observance of communion on the site where the church had its beginning 200 years ago. Tours of a historic home in the park, the Darius Heald House, will also be available. Heald was an influential church member in the 1800s and at one time served on the Board of Trustees when a new church building was being erected.

In addition to the upcoming picnic event, there will be a



drama depicting the church history on August 19. An anniversary cookbook, titled Feeding the Flock, has been compiled and is available for purchase as are several other commemorative items. Also, an original quilted banner has been created that depicts the seven structures the church has occupied during the 200 years. It was displayed in the sanctuary for the first time Sunday, May 6.

# Conference Calendar

Start date	Event	Location	Phone #	Coordinator
5/29/2007	Youth Ministry U	Central Methodist University	(573) 291-9122	Beverly Boehmer
5/31/2007	Cabinet	Springfield		
5/31/2007	BOM Executive Committee meeting	University Plaza		Sandy Ward
5/31/2007	Board of Ordained Ministry meeting and dinner	University Plaza		Sandy Ward
6/1/2007	Annual Conference Session	Springfield Convention Center		Steve Cox
6/9/2007	UMM Night at the new Busch Stadium	Busch Stadium	(314) 631-3994	Tom Correnti
6/10/2007	Moss Point, Mississippi, Youth Mission Workcamp	St. Paul UMC	(573) 291-9122	Beverly Boehmer
6/10/2007	The "Testament of Praise" Sunday, June 10	Wesley UMC	(417) 883-1021	Ed Smith
6/17/2007	Southeast Youth Mission Workcamp - Option 1	First UMC	(573) 291-9122	Beverly Boehmer
6/18/2007	Kingdom House Golf Tournament	St. Louis	(314) 421-0400	Jennifer March
6/20/2007	Southeast Youth Mission Workcamp - Option 2	First UMC	(573) 291-9122	Beverly Boehmer
6/20/2007	Bishops' Week 2007	Mount Sequoyah Conference Center	(800) 760-8126	Marilyn Braswell
6/21/2007	MO East Walk to Emmaus (Women)	Todd Hall		
6/24/2007	Southeast Youth Mission Workcamp - Option 3	First UMC	(573) 291-9122	Beverly Boehmer
7/1/2007	Youth Mystery Mission Workcamp	Mystery	(573) 291-9122	Beverly Boehmer
7/9/2007	Camping & Retreat Ministries Executive Committee	Conference Center	(573) 441-1770	Tammy Calcote
7/11/2007	Youth 07	Greensboro	(573) 291-9122	Beverly Boehmer
7/12/2007	MO East Chrysalis Flight (Girls)	Revive Us Again Center		
7/12/2007	Midland UMC Cursillo 45	North Cross UMC	(660) 827-0815	Don Plowman
7/13/2007	North Central/South Central UMMen Gathering	University of Missouri St. Louis	(314) 604-2789	Glenn Wintemberg
7/20/2007	School of Lay Ministry 2007	Central Methodist University	(573) 480-1605	Jan Copeland
7/26/2007	Cooperative School of Christian Mission	Central Methodist University	(660) 593-3661	Linda Leabo, Dean
7/27/2007	MO East Chrysalis Flight (Boys)	Revive Us Again Center		
7/29/2007	Youth Texas Mission Workcamp	Texas	(573) 291-9122	Beverly Boehmer
8/9/2007	CCYM retreat	Springfield, MO	(573) 291-9122	Beverly Boehmer
8/11/2007	Spiritual Formation & Social Justice Team	Conference Center		Cathleen Burnett
8/11/2007	Gateway Central Hands-On Mission Workday	Kingdom House	(314) 895-3143	Mary Ann Cieslak

## Job Postings

### Youth pastor

Branson United Methodist Church is looking for a full-time youth pastor with possibilities of some assistant pastor responsibilities. The church has a membership of 498. Call (417) 334 3423 or contact us through our website at bransonumc.org.

### Children's coordinator

Missouri UMC in Columbia is seeking a person who is passionate about coordinating ongoing and short-term activities that tell children about the unconditional love of Jesus Christ. Working as a team with staff and volunteers requires a person of patience, positive communication skills and computer competency. Experience required. For more information about the 25 hour per week position, contact or send resume to [diana.mooney@moumc.org](mailto:diana.mooney@moumc.org).

## Disciple training in St. Louis in July

Cokesbury and Disciple Seminars are pleased to announce Disciple training to be held July 20-21 at Salem-in-Ladue United Methodist Church located at 1200 S Lindbergh Blvd, St. Louis. This training event will be comprised of four offerings. The training for *Christian Believer* and *Disciple: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study* will be held on July 20, followed by training for *Jesus in the Gospels* and *Beyond DISCIPLE I* on July 21.

*Disciple* is a program of disciplined Bible study aimed at developing strong Christian leaders. It focuses on the disciple as learner, believer, follower, proclaimer and servant while providing the fellowship of a small group for study, prayer, preparation, support and servanthood.

*Disciple: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study* gives equal time to the Old and New Testaments, emphasizing the wholeness of the Bible as the revelation of God. *Disciple* aims at transformation, not just information, and calls on persons to

submit themselves to examination by Scripture, to put themselves under the power of God's Word, and to be changed by God's Word. *DISCIPLE* invites persons to bring their experiences and struggles to the Scripture over this 34-week study period together.

*Beyond Disciple I* is a one-day offering that will allow participants to become confident leaders in all three of the subsequent studies. *Disciple: Into The World Into The World* concentrates on Genesis, Exodus, Luke, and Acts. *Disciple: Remember Who You Are* focuses on the Prophets and the letters of Paul, and *Disciple: Under The Tree Of Life* covers the Writings, John and Revelation.

*Jesus In The Gospels* invites believers to look at Jesus in each of the four Gospels and ask the question, "Who is the Jesus that you see?" This study will deepen discipleship through better understanding of the biblical texts and their message during this 30-week study.

The goal of *Christian Believer* is to make available to people the

substance of the Christian faith that the church has confessed as a way of connecting to God and living faithfully. This thirty-week study of the classical doctrines of the Christian faith aims at presenting, explaining, and interpreting Christian doctrine as the basic teaching of the church - to the end that informed believing leads to committed discipleship.

Carla Beach, of Nashville, TN has this to share:

"I completed that first year feeling like a child who had just gotten off the best ride at the fair; I couldn't wait to do it all over again! I took another *DISCIPLE* class and then became a leader not because I am such a great disciple -but because I cannot bear not to be there."

For more information or to register, visit [www.Disciple.Cokesbury.com/training](http://www.Disciple.Cokesbury.com/training) or call 1-800-251-8591.

All *Disciple, Jesus In The Gospels* and *Christian Believer* resources purchased at the training events will receive a 10% discount.

**Igniting Ministry will be at your Annual Conference. Visit us to learn about Igniting Youth and other new program resources!**

**Tell us how you use "Open hearts." and get a free t-shirt.**

**See you there!**

**igniting  
MINISTRY**

## OCM hires mission intern

The Office of Creative Ministries is delighted to welcome Alexis Miller to its staff for the summer. Miller is a senior public relations major at The University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. She has been very active in the Warrensburg Wesley Foundation for the past three years. St. Louis is her home, where she is a die-hard Cardinals fan.

Miller will spend the summer serving in a variety of ways through the Office of Creative Ministries. She will be learning about the many outreach ministries of our congregations and helping us share information about them with other congregations. We encourage you to write to her, or call her to share some of the outreach ministry ideas that are really working for your congregation. You may contact here at (573) 474-7155 or write to her at miller@umocm.com.

She will be available to serve local congregations in two other ways on a first come, first served basis. First, she will be able to help a local congregations put together a brochure about their ministries for distribution to raise awareness in their community.



She will also be available to visit a Vacation Bible School that is raising money for PET, Heifer International, the Potato Project, the Festival of Sharing or the Rainbow Network; to present short 10 to 15 minute presentation in each classroom during the day to let the children know where their money is going.

At the conclusion of her summer of service at the Office of Creative Ministries and before returning to college, Miller will join Tom Mitchell's VIM team to serve in Mozambique. Also, Miller is very happy to share her Mozambique experience with any congregation; as her college schedule permits. "I went on my first mission trip two years ago with the Wesley Foundation" Miller says, "and fell in love with missions. It truly opened my eyes to the love of God and doing his work."



Houses in the town of Big Lake were flooded in mid-May. Below: The OCM truck crosses flood waters to get to town.

## Flood waters inundate town

There will be a great need for disaster response teams to clean out muck from homes, clean up debris or respond to other projects around homes in northwest Missouri. If you are a VIM team leader and have a desire to help, our brothers and sisters are in need. We will need disaster response teams all summer and into the fall. If

you're interested, please call or e-mail Joe Bartelsmeyer, MO VIM coordinator, at (573) 474-7155 or e-mail bartelsmeyer@umocm.com.



## Blessings found in Belize

By Rev. John Howard Kearney UMC

As the 10 of us gathered on the last day of our mission trip for an early morning devotional, we paused for a moment of reflection. As a guide for our discussion, we focused on the reason for international missions. Reflecting on our nine-day mission to Corozal and Libertad, Belize, Kevin said, "We can be isolated or build bridges." Robert added, "The world is a smaller place than we think." James reflected, "The people of the world need help more than ever." And 20-year-old Ben observed, "I have a hole in my roof; some people don't even have roofs." Together, our team of five women and five men with at least one person in their 20s, 30s, 40s 50s, 60s and 70s, reasoned that because Christ's love has no limits and no boundaries, the love of Christ that is within us also has no limits and no boundaries. (Ephesians 3:16-19)

Our society generally thinks of poverty as the lack of material items. However, an infinitely more significant form of poverty is the lack of meaningful personal relationships. Even though the team brought needed school supplies, books, toys and money for a computer and construction materials, we focused on initiating and developing supportive relationships. We renewed friendships initiated the previous year and made new friends. We also shared in worship, played with the children, and spent meaningful time with students and teachers in the classrooms. And, we worked side-by-side remodeling classrooms with Manuel, the construction coordinator at the Libertad Methodist School. We cherish the mutual, loving Christian relationships that we share with our friends in Belize. (John 13:35) Surely, the Holy Spirit blessed each of us by developing and nurturing lasting relationships.

Effective missionaries share the renewing, saving grace of Jesus Christ. At Corozal and Libertad Methodist churches, the Rev. Roosvelt Papouloute graciously opened the sanctuaries



and pulpits to us. We shared our common faith focusing on how to study and apply God's Word. We also reflected on how we all are missionaries witnessing for Jesus Christ by our words and our actions. In addition, we shared the universal love that music offers as Carolyn and Lisa S. led the congregations in spiritual song. At Corozal and Libertad, congregations and mission team members freely joined hands in an international circle of faith thanking God for unity in Christ. Spiritual sharing continued as 320 students at the Corozal Methodist School and 160 students at the Libertad Methodist School gathered to participate in weekly worship services. (Matthew 19:14) Using colorful balloons, Shelly outfitted willing student volunteers with the armor of God. (Ephesians 6:10-17) At Libertad, as each student was given a balloon sword of the Spirit, controlled enthusiasm erupted and the sanctuary was rapidly filled with joyous laughter and the sound of squeaking balloons. Joyful smiles radiated from the faces of Principal Lucy and teachers as they also shared in the delight of their students. Surely, the Holy Spirit blessed each of us through the sharing of spiritually rich moments.

In coordinating domestic and international missions, the Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church has recognized that continual long-term support is essential for effective missions. This long-term support results in mutual benefit and spiritual growth for recipients,

mission team members and supporting congregations. In Belize, we experienced that genuine sense of connection—that sense of finding friends in unfamiliar places. Lisa W. emphasized the mutual benefit of embracing our differences. (1 Corinthians 12:4-6) And Mary Jane highlighted the personal growth that came from sharing experiences with the people of Belize. Surely, the Holy Spirit again blessed all involved.

Mission work is not a choice between caring for those nearby or caring for those further away. It is a matter of discerning God's direction both as individuals and collectively as congregations of believers and then acting on those discernments. (Ephesians 2:10) Obviously, we cannot do everything. But we do what we can. Our work for God is only limited by the size of our hearts.

The blessings of a successful mission may also be revealed by some final impressions from team members. *The people are genuinely grateful we came to help. The kids felt our love and enjoyed our company. The bonding with my teammates was more than I expected. I didn't think coming home would be so hard. You can't out give God. I feel sweet; I feel complete! A total renewing of body and soul. And I have the impression that we have done what God wanted us to do.*

In an unselfish way, we were all seeking to give and, in a way, seeking to receive nothing in return except the joy of giving. Maybe this is the greatest blessing of all, and perhaps is the meaning of sharing the love of Christ.