

A man wearing a bright yellow hoodie, blue jeans, and a grey cap is seen from behind, using a roller to paint a large, light-colored rectangular panel on a building's exterior wall. The wall is partially painted, with some areas still showing the original grey color. The man is standing on a grassy area with some small green bushes in front of him. The background shows the rest of the building's facade with windows and architectural details.

# UM MEN

**The magazine of United Methodist Men**

**Top  
UM Men Unit  
in the  
United States**

***Northside UMC in  
Jackson, Tennessee***

# A letter from the General Secretary

One of the many common concerns about our church is apathy.

I saw a t-shirt that (edited for this publication) read, "I used to be apathetic, but now I just don't give a ...."

I meet many men who refuse to volunteer within their church because they have "done that."

Others don't get involved because there is this notion that someone else (the pastor or staff member) will or should do that task.

I know men who have "arrested development" of their faith. They are those cultural Christians within our church who have the same relationship with Christ they had 15 years ago. These folks provide nothing for their church and in fact sap the energy out of ministry.

When we were a blatantly inviting church, and when we were a church that did not shy away from the concept of evangelism, we had growth; we had baptisms; and we had professions of faith. We were seen as churches of value to those who attended and to our communities. We were relevant and vital. We were



the church that people wanted to be part of.

Contained in this issue are examples of churches, districts, and conferences that are vital and in many unique ways minister within and beyond their buildings. These examples reflect that unique Wesleyan balance of providing multiple opportunities for their congregations to grow in Christ while meeting the pressing and diverse needs of

their communities.

These are stories of people and organizations within the UMC who seek ways, every day, to actually follow Jesus by putting their faith into action.

These stories, for me, are bright spots that we can copy, adjust and apply to our church, to our district, and to our conference.

Our mission is clear: we want each of you and each member of your church and community to have an on-growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

This issue provides multiple examples that I hope are helpful to you and your church.

—Gil Hanke

**United Methodist Men exists to declare the centrality of Christ in every man's life.**



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**UM Men**

**Summer 2017**

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*Editor's note: This magazine includes articles from individuals who hold diverse opinions. We hope all articles are thought provoking; they are not necessarily the opinions of the General Commission on UM Men.*



One of the joys I have as an editor with the General Commission on UM Men is I get to receive all the entries to the national contest for the best units of UM Men.

In the three years since we began the contests, I have been amazed by the creativity of local units who have found myriad ways to minister to their communities.

Some groups have discovered unique ways to raise funds to support local, national, and international mission projects. Others have used scouting and other youth-serving organizations to mentor and challenge young people. But, nearly all of them engage in activities designed to strengthen and enrich the spiritual lives of men so they can “make disciples for the transformation of the world.”

This issue will review the ministries of these “winning” churches.

Leaders of these churches will also be hosting a workshop at the July 7-8 National Gathering of UM Men in Indianapolis.

On another topic, Greg Arnold, a deployed staff member of the commission, was with us at a planning retreat in New Orleans. During our five-days of planning, Greg spoke about the need to focus on Generation X, the group of people nestled between the baby boomers and the millennials. This generation is sometimes referred to as the “forgotten generation.” Pew Research labeled them as “America’s neglected middle child.”

Greg is correct, we have focused our attention on millennials, and Baby Boomers, but we haven’t paid much attention to Gen Xers. I invited him to write an article for this issue.

Thanks, Greg.

In the meantime, Tom Tozer and Bill Black provide information on Generation Z in the “Dad’s Zone.”

—Rich Peck



### Spring issue error corrections

*Bishop Joe Pennel was not the first vice president of the commission. He was the chair of the Scouting Committee. Chuck Jones was the vice president for the first quadrennium.*

*The photo on page 30 is of Bishop Gregory Palmer; it should have been a photo of Bishop James Swanson*

# Tennessee Church wins top honors

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

**N**orthside UMC in Jackson, Tenn., was named the 2017 top UMM unit in the United States.

Judges of the third annual national competition selected this church for a myriad of ministries to the Jackson community.

The contest is sponsored by the National Association of Conference Presidents of UM Men and the General Commission on UM Men.



*Two children prepare to graduate from the "Hands Up" preschool.*



*Dr. Larson chats with a Room at the Inn guest.*

## Room in the Inn

Northside men participate in Room in the Inn, an outreach ministry to homeless men in the Jackson area.

Every Monday for the last 11 years, 12 to 22 guests have received meals and a safe place to clean up and sleep. During their overnight stay they received medical



*Northside UMC sponsors an evening of entertainment to raise funds for the preschool.*

attention from Dr. Dave Larsen, and they were given clean clothing.

## Hands Up preschool

For the last four years Northside men have sponsored Valentine Day meals and entertainment to support "Hands Up," a



*Men of Northside UMC paint the building housing "Hands Up," a program for at-risk children.*



preschool for at-risk children.

An annual gift of some \$2,700 provides a place for 96 children who are fed, loved, and taught “soft skills.”

### **Faith Health Center**

For the last four years, the men have sponsored a barbecue that annually raises \$4,500 for the Faith Health Center, a place where Dr. Larsen provides inexpensive medical care and health education.

### **Maintenance and repairs**

Northside men:

- restored a bathroom for a care center for women and children;
- installed security cameras and outside lights for the “Hub Club.” an after-school mentoring program for teens;
- tilled floors, installed sinks, and painted the building housing “Hands Up”;
- built handicap ramps for cabins, replaced a roof and renovated a kitchen for Reelfoot Rural Ministries;
- installed handrails for the Faith Health Center;
- renovated the sanctuary and painted the People of Hope Church;
- built stages for Northside youth;
- helped widows and elderly when they needed something moved, trimmed or fixed.



*Northside men honor veterans at a special service.*




*Dr. Dave Larson displays his culinary skills at an annual barbecue.*

### **Other ministries**

- Six men completed the 50-hour training course to become Stephen ministers. They provide one-on-one ministry to men having difficulties. Other men visited local prisons.
- A core group prepares food packs for elementary school children at the Regional Inter Faith Association.
- Men mentor boys in confirmation classes, after-school tutoring; and English-as-a-second-language classes.
- “Men of Valor” meet three days a week for physical workouts and devotionals led by the youth minister.
- Groups of 5 to 12 men meet weekly in accountability groups and Bible study.
- Fishing fellowships take 10 trips per year with fathers and sons.
- Northside men sponsor trips to

Jackson Generals AA baseball games and golfing events.

- Dads and other men lead Boy Scouts.
- Men sponsor golfing trips to local courses.
- Northside men coach basketball and baseball teams

The outreach ministries are supported by engagement in “The Walk to Emmaus,” small accountability groups, Disciple Bible study groups, Stephen Ministries, and conference-wide UMM gatherings. 



*Every second Friday evening for the last 27 years, six volunteers have spent two hours answering phone requests for prayer through the Upper Room Prayer Center.*

## HUMOR

1. The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye-doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian .
3. She was only a whisky-maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber-band pistol was confiscated from an algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
7. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
8. A hole has been found in the nudist-camp wall. The police are looking into it.
9. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
10. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
11. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'
12. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
13. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'
14. The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
15. The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
16. A backward poet writes inverse.
17. In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.
18. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
19. If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.
20. A vulture carrying two dead raccoons boards an airplane. The stewardess looks at him and says, 'I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger.'
21. Two fish swim into a concrete wall. one turns to the other and says, 'Dam!'
22. Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly, it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.
23. Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says "I've lost my electron." The other says, "Are you sure?" The first replies, "Yes, I'm positive."
24. Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novacain during a root canal? His goal: transcendental medication.
25. There was the person who sent ten puns to friends with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did.

# Other Winners

## Second Place

**Millbrook UMC, Raleigh, N.C.**

Iron Men of Millbrook UMC annually host a Brunswick stew dinner; a father-daughter Valentine's dance; a "Chicken Day" meal; a golfing event; and a fish fry and barbecue. The men also hold a retreat, ring bells for the Salvation Army and sell Christmas trees.



*Iron Men gather for a formal picture.*



*In 2016, the 35<sup>th</sup> year of Christmas tree sales, the men raised \$9,415 for various community agencies. Some 60 volunteers sell trees from late November to mid-December.*



*Eighty-four people participated in the 2016 golf competition which raised \$940 each for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and youth programs.*



*Chicken Day at Millbrook UMC provides \$1,000 each to the UM Home for Children, a county center that supports children and adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities; and Iron Men ministries.*

## Third Place

**St. Andrews UMC, Baton Rouge, La.**

Men of St. Andrews UMC host a 6:30 a.m. breakfast and study sessions every Tuesday and Thursday. This time of prayer and reflection serves as the basis for their service to the community, including mucking out flooded homes in Baton Rouge and Denham Springs, and preparing meals for leaders of the Walk to Emmaus. The men also make minor repairs to the homes of Baton Rouge residents.

They host a church-wide garage sale in May and the turkey fry at Thanksgiving. The two events provide \$12,000 for distribution to community and church organizations including missionaries in Cuba, Cambodia, China, Panama, and the Dominican Republic. They also support



*The Rev. Elmo Winters leads the January men's retreat at the Feliciana Retreat Center.*



the Upper Room Prayer Center, the Meals for Millions program of the Society of St. Andrew, and a ministry in Baton Rouge.



*St. Andrews men provide meals to homeless people attending open-air worship services at a hamburger stand.*

## Fourth Place First UMC, Colleyville, Texas

The men's organization of First UMC is known as the "go-to" organization. Whenever First UMC needs a repair or refurbishing project, they call upon UM Men.

The men removed a drop-down ceiling, built a stage, painted and remodeled four rooms, and installed a multi-media center in the youth center.

They added a hand-bell choir practice room, two large classrooms, and two bathrooms to the Family Life Center, and they renovated the narthex of the sanctuary.

The men saved the church \$189,000 over contract estimates.

Putting their skills to work in the community, the men renovated a 3-bedroom "repossessed" house, and secured funding for the seven-member family of a Congolese minister seeking asylum in the United States.

Colleyville men annually provide six "Wesley Meals" for 80 or more members of the congregation and guests. They also host a breakfast for the confirmation class, cook breakfast for more than 250 participants in a 5K race, and grill hamburgers and hot dogs for a summer fellowship event.



*UM Men work on a classroom expansion at First UMC of Colleyville.*



*Colleyville men meet monthly for breakfast, devotion, and discussion of service projects.*



*UM Men collect and sort 1,000 coats and cold weather items for three mission agencies. They also provide take-home meals for 61 students at local schools.*

## Fifth Place Queen's Chapel UMC, Beltsville, Md.

Men of Queen's Chapel UMC finished first in the 2016 contest and it's no surprise to see the church among the top award winners in 2017.


In 2016, a whopping 66 men of Queen's Chapel UMC became EMS (every man shares in evangelism, mission and spiritual life) members. That's a remarkable record.



*Men of Queen's Chapel pray they will be "doers of the Word and not hearers only."*

Led by President Perry Collins, the men raised a total of \$39,782 for a variety of mission efforts, including the monthly purchase of 325 grocery bags for hungry families.

The men provided a dinner theater outing for senior adults, gave scholarships

for teens to attend a retreat in Ocean City, Md., purchased items for church visitors, purchased jackets and t-shirts to identify parking lot attendants, and they hosted a pastor appreciation reception, a Valentine's Day banquet and dance, and meals for homecoming, Easter, and Veterans Day. 



*Each Thanksgiving, Queen's Chapel and St. Mark's UMC in Laurel, Md., host a dinner for people living in motels and a wooded encampment. Every second Sunday, UMM of Queen's Chapel help serve meals at a parking lot near the encampment.*

## Best Annual Conference unit of UM Men

### Western North Carolina Annual Conference



Last year, Western North Carolina Conference tied for first place with the South Carolina Annual Conference. This year, the conference holds the title alone.

Neil Brown, the conference president, is a certified lay speaker and a men's ministry specialist. He recruited three new district presidents and the conference now has a full slate of officers. The officers were involved in two weekly video conferences using "The Class Meeting" model and book.

The executive team routinely communicates with some 1,200 members via email.

The UM Men unit is incorporated and has an endowment fund with the conference foundation.

Twenty four percent of the churches are now chartered and attendance at an annual rally increased by 60 percent.

The conference provides financial support for The Children's Home, Africa University, second-career clergy scholarships, scouting, and disaster-recovery teams.

The conference provides training in the "Understanding Men's Ministry" course, and gives scholarships for candidates for the post of men's ministry specialists.

The conference is developing The Leader Learning and Development Center based on a course developed by Belmont University in Nashville. Study guides and web-based studies will enable men to receive a certification in Christian Ministry Leadership and men's ministry. The



*Western North Carolina men haul away flood-damaged Lumberton, N.C., property following Hurricane Matthew in December, 2016.*

prototype university may be offered to the general church

The conference also developed and distributed "A Call to Action for All Men." They are also organizing a Pan-Methodist men's organization that will include AME, AME Zion and CME churches.


Goals for 2017 include a 5 percent increase in charters in order to have the



*Dan Ramsey, chairman of the Judges Panel (left), presents Neil Brown, president of Western North Carolina Conference UM Men, with the 2017 award for top annual conference unit of UM Men.*



*Men receive Communion elements during conference meeting.*

highest number of charters of any conference unit, a 35 percent increase in rally attendance, and 60 percent of the executive board participating in "Class Meeting" conferencing. 





# Across the Nation

ST. FRANCISVILLE, La.—  
**Aid for flood victims**

Men of St. Francisville UMC found many ways to aid victims of the “Great Louisiana Flood of 2016.”

They participated in recovery efforts, delivered meals across affected areas, washed clothes, and contributed \$1,600 to numerous charities.



*St. Francisville UM Men construct wheel chair ramps.*

AURORA, Ill.—  
**Retirement center provides winter garb**

Yarnies knitting club at Fox Knoll Retirement Center provided 180 winter caps, scarves and gloves for children in three Aurora schools.



*Joe Middleton, left, delivers winter garb for needy kids at Aurora schools. Sarah Swanson (center), interim principal of Dieterich Elementary School; and Armando D. Rodriguez, assistant principal, receive the gifts. Donations were also given to Bardwell, Rollins and Schneider schools. Al Benson photo.*



LINCOLN, N.C.—

### **Beds for a women's shelter**

Men of Lake Norman District UMC and Denver UMC replaced old wood beds in a domestic violence center with new metal beds.

Funds for the beds at Amy's House were provided by a grant to the Lincoln County Coalition against Domestic Violence.



*UM men of two North Carolina churches install new beds at Amy's House.*

PORTAGE, Ind.—

### **Evenings in prison**

Four members of First UMC spend every Wednesday evening at the Westville Correctional Facility.

"We are currently in our third year of prison ministry," says Steve Massow, a leader of the ministry. "We visit offenders every Wednesday evening to provide worship, praise, Holy Communion, testimonies and hope."

Steve says the team hopes their ministry will reduce the rate of recidivism.



*Westville Correctional Facility.*

SHERRILLS FORD, N.C.—

### **Firefighter gets a lift**

Rocky Hayes, a member of the Sherrills Ford Fire Department, was injured in a ladder accident. The department asked UM Men of Lake Norman UMC if they

could provide a temporary ramp for him.

"After a detailed assessment it was determined that a wooden ramp would be massive and very costly," said Darryl Wilburn. "We decided that a chair lift was more cost effective and could be easily removed when no longer needed."

Darryl sent out a request for funds and Will Anderson of Denver UMC solicited money from his church, his Sunday school class, and members of Hills Chapel UMC.

The chair lift was installed and later removed when Rocky recovered.



*Rocky Hayes rides the chairlift provided by UM Men. "I never knew that so many men would care," he said.*

GUYMON, Okla.—

### **Ground Hog Day meal supports missions**

Every year Guymon UM Men host a Ground Hog Lunch and dinner at Victory Memorial UMC.



*Guymon men prepare meals to celebrate Ground Hog Day.*

Hosted since the 1960s, the meal features liver and onions, sauerkraut, sausage, biscuits and gravy, green beans, bacon, and homemade pies.

Proceeds from the meal fund a college scholarship, a homeless shelter, a food cupboard, a Boy Scout troop, a senior center, and a cancer-support group.

ELKINS, W.Va.—

### **Culinary experts specialize in breakfasts**

For 71 years, men of First UMC have hosted a pancake and sausage breakfast. Last year, Boy Scouts joined the men in serving more than 1,200 people at the event. The 45 men and Scouts later delivered pancakes to shut-ins.

To maintain their specialty in the breakfast business, the men prepare Mother's Day and Easter breakfasts, and they serve breakfasts following an all-night high school prom party.

The skilled cooks also prepare the meal for the annual June church family picnic.

In addition, the men host a Boy Scout Awards Dinner and Pinewood Derby, provide a banquet for the high school football team; serve hot chocolate to marching bands; provide t-shirts for a mission team; and routinely pack 146 meals for students.



*UM Men are ready to serve a banquet for local football players.*

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.—

### **Men provide 21,575 meals in 2016**

Men of St Andrew's UMC want to reduce hunger in their area. Last year, men and church families donated 12,947 pounds of groceries, harvested 736 pounds of fresh produce from a church garden, donated 10,407 pounds of bread, and filled 750 bags of food for elementary school children to take home on week-ends. That's the equivalent of 21,575

meals. Also, the congregation provides Thanksgiving meals for 30 families related to the school.

Since 2009, they have joined Scouts and other church members to package 30,000 dry food meals through Stop Hunger Now.

The men also sponsor an Italian feast, a Christmas tree sale with an oyster roast, a fish fry and a barbecue, deep-sea fishing; and a day at the ball park.

Men who purchase Christmas trees receive free tickets to the January men's fellowship breakfast.



*Members of St. Andrews UMC prepare to package meals for Stop Hunger Now. Beginning in 2009, the congregation has provided 180,000 meals for people in Third World countries.*

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—

### **Men's Day and parking fees support several ministries**

The Men's Day celebration and other projects at St. Paul UMC raised more than \$17,000 for general church apportionments.

With 27 EMS members, the 42-member group raised additional funds by providing parking spaces in the church lot for events at the nearby Alamodome.

The men sponsor quarterly Sunday breakfasts to provide scholarships for high school graduates, and they provide career expo events and outings for church youth.

In addition, the men provide large-print copies of the *Upper Room* to shut-ins, a fish fry, Thanksgiving meals for the homeless, and Veteran's Day observances. They gave *Strength for Service* books to first responders, supported the Society of St.



Andrew, and provided transportation to and from a food bank.



**MARSHALLTON, Pa.—  
Spring flower sale nets \$32,000**

For the last 20 years, men of Marshallton UMC have sponsored a spring flower show. In 2016, the sale provided \$32,000 for a preschool program, free community lunches, a discretionary fund for the pastors, a “Kid-to-College” fund, the Society of St. Andrew, and a district mission in the Congo. The group also resurfaced the church parking lot, provided lawn maintenance and remodeled the parsonage.

The men also sponsor a fall festival where craft sales, flea-market items and fall flowers generate an additional \$3,000.

With the funds, UM Men purchased a storage shed for a Boy Scout troop that helps with the set-up and clean-up of the flower sale and fall festival.

“We are small but mighty,” says Doug Gindin, president of 15-member Marshallton UM Men.



**VICTORIA, Texas—  
Men build handicap ramps**

Men of First UMC have found scores of ways to serve the city, including building 12 handicap ramps in the last three years.

Last year, the 40-member group raised \$3,000 through a spring “Pork Steak to Go

Lunch” and a fall fish fry. They gave \$500 for a Boy Scout college scholarship, \$1,000 to local charities; \$500 to an agency that helps the poor, and \$500 to mentor young men in the juvenile-justice system.

Each spring, the men sponsor a steak night at a ranch near the Guadalupe River and a bonfire breakfast at a ranch near the San Antonio River. They also hold an annual golf tournament and take two annual trips to see minor league baseball games in Corpus Christi.

“Our men strive to be servant leaders,” says Milton Chapman, president of UM Men.



*Men of First UMC build components for four handicap ramps completed in 2016.*

**GREENVILLE, N.C.—  
Men give 792 SFS books**

Men of Jarvis UMC presented 792 copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community* to fire fighters, police officers, EMT personnel, and sheriff deputies. The presentations were made during an appreciation luncheon.



*The “Jarvis Kitchen Crew” serves a luncheon to Greenville first responders.*

The men also provide backpacks of food for elementary school children, and an African Dinner for the Wesley Foundation. They host an annual chicken barbecue to support Boy Scout Troop 30, and they provide funds for a homeless shelter. The men also support Stop Malaria Now and they gave \$6,500 to support UMCOR flood relief efforts following Hurricane Matthew.

DENHAM SPRINGS, La.—

### **Church aids flood victims**

Last August, UM Men of Denham Springs UMC joined with other UM churches to help victims of a 1,000-year flood.

Just days after the flood, they staffed a distribution center and a Red Cross shelter that assisted more than 2,000 people.

Thirty-eight men helped provide housing for 12 people and provided transportation for an additional 12 people who lost cars in the flood.

They also provided \$2,000 to help relocate and pay fees for water, electric, and gas turn-on, and they gave out furniture and accessory items.

The men also mucked out the homes, provided flood buckets, helped tarp three houses, and presented copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community* to first responders.



*Residents of a Denham Spring subdivision place their flood-damaged belongings on the curb waiting for trash pickup. Trash removal continued from mid-September to mid-December. Photo by Barney Babin, a resident of the subdivision.*

FAIRFIELD, Calif.—

### **First responders join kids at barbecue**

Men of Joel Brown Community UMC sponsor “Kids Rock,” an annual barbecue.

Firefighters and police officers added new adventures to the most recent event.



*A Fairfield firefighter helps a youngster handle a fire hose at the “Kids Rock” barbecue.*

Funds from the barbecue and four other events support “Kid’s Day of Fishing,” and projects to help special-needs and disadvantaged children.

WAYNESBORO, Pa.—

### **Police officers receive doughnuts and books**

UM Men of Christ UMC delivered six dozen doughnuts to a police station on Jan. 6; The following Sunday they honored the officers with a special dinner and gave them copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community*.



*From left: the Rev. Dr. Robert Cook, pastor of Christ UMC; Waynesboro Police Chief Jim Sourbier IV, a member of Charlestown UMC; Mayor Dick Starliper, a member of Faith UMC; and Christ UM Men President John Eier.*



NATCHITOCHEs, La.—

### **Big boost for scouting and first responders**

First UMC hosted a “Friends for Scouting” event that helped send several Scouts to camps and provided t-shirts for Troop 60.

The men also raised \$6,000 from a clay shoot on Father’s Day. The event provided scholarships for Napoli girls.

The men served lunches at a homeless shelter in Shreveport and they purchased 6,000 pounds of ham for a food pantry.



*Men of First UMC Natchitoches present Strength for Service books and honor certificates to first responders during an event marking the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 9-11 attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.*

ROCKFORD, Ill.—

### **District raises \$76,000 to feed the hungry**

In 2016, the Rockford District raised \$9,000 for the Society of St. Andrew.

Beginning with the 2005 inception of the Meals for Millions program with the Big Island, Va.-based agency, the district has raised a total of \$76,000.

Dave Holland, secretary of the Northern Illinois Conference UMC Men, says the 11 year total provided 3.6 million servings of food. “In addition,” says Dave, “we distributed two semi-truck loads



*The Rockford District sponsors two potato drops.*

of potatoes (80,000 pounds) to area food pantries and raised \$90,000 at our annual “Harmony for Hunger” concert.”

ATHENS, Texas—

### **Chili cooks vie for top honors**

Men of First UMC sponsor a “Chili Cook-Off” each February.

They present trophies and ribbons for “Best Chili,” “Best Presentation and Theme,” and “Best Name and Description.”

The “People’s Choice Champion” is determined by which cook receives the most money in his or her collection pot.

In addition to the cook-off, area merchants donate items for a silent auction.

The event enables the men to support a variety of local charities.



*Clarene Lindley is the top award winner in the 2016 competition. Photo by Richard David*

MOSS POINT, Miss.—

### **Clean up in Hattiesburg**

Men of St Paul UMC provided \$200 to assist victims of a tornado that hit Hattiesburg. They then traveled to the city to assist with cleaning up the damaged property.

The church also adopted a Hattiesburg family whose home was damaged.



*A team from St. Paul UMC takes a break from cleaning up tornado-damaged property.*

OLNEY, Md.—

### **UM Men provide \$20,000 to aid recovery**

On April 19, 2015, Tom and Suzanne Gallup, members of Oakdale Olney UMC, received the devastating news that their 25-year-old son, Andrew, suffered traumatic brain injury when a car turned into the lane where Andrew and his girlfriend were riding a motor scooter. Andrew served as an airbag for his girlfriend.

After several surgeries and a long hospitalization, Andrew was brought home where UM Men raised \$20,000



*Andrew Gallup*

to help pay for Andrew's surgeries and long-term care. They also built a ramp and helped convert a family room into a rehab area.

"Words cannot express how appreciative we are of the new friendships and re-kindled friendships," said Tom.

CHICO, Calif.—

### **Men give 25 devotional books to first responders**

*Eldon Schottman, a member of Aldersgate UMC Men (right), presents one of the 25 copies of Strength for Service to God and*



*Community books to Robert (Bud) Chauvin, senior chaplain of the Chico Police Department. Bud also serves as assistant pastor of Calvary Chapel in Chico.*

TAMPA, Fla.—

### **Chaplain distributes SFS books**



*Lt Col Linda J. Pugsley, chaplain of the 89<sup>th</sup> Aviation Cadet Squadron at MacDill Air Force Base, distributes copies of Strength for Service to God and Country to Civil Air Patrol cadets.*

EAST POINT, Ga.—

### **Church hosts Scout Sunday**

First Mallalieu UMC hosted Boy Scouts Troop 54 on Scout Sunday



*Scouts of Troop 54 stand behind James L. Jackson, a fellow in the John Wesley Society and the oldest Scout supporter in the church.*

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

### **Nashville police officers thank SFS team for devotional books**

Two years ago the Strength for Service team distributed copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community* to the 1,434 police officers in Nashville.

On March 3, Police Chaplain James Duke and Deputy Chief Todd Henry visited the NACP meeting to thank the conference presidents for the devotional books.

One month prior to the visit, the Nashville Police Department lost 44-year-old



Officer Eric Mumaw. The 18-year veteran officer drowned while trying to save a driver whose car was sinking beneath the surface of frigid water.

Both officers told the assembly how much the death affected the officers

L.W. Smith, president of the Strength for Service Corporation, presented additional copies of the books to the officers and asked that they be given to the family of Officer Mumaw.



*L.W. Smith (right) presents additional copies of Strength for Service books to Chaplain James Duke (left) and Deputy Chief Todd Henry.*

WINDER, Ga.—

**Men provide catered meal**

UM Men of First UMC honor their wives with an annual catered meal with entertainment.

“This is to show our appreciation for their support of our missions and ministries throughout the year and we try to coordinate it with Valentine’s Day,” said Tom Morton.



SCREVEN, Ga.—

**Cancelled sales contract provides food for hungry families**

Based on a promised contract, a Georgia farmer switched crops from watermelons to cabbages.

When the contract was later cancelled, the farmer was about to plow the crop under.

Sandi Newman, a Georgia staff member of the Society of St. Andrew, learned of the plan and asked the farmer if volunteers could harvest the crop.

Senior volunteers from three communities gleaned more than 6,000 pounds of cabbage for low-income families.



*One of the senior gleaners helped the farmer claim a tax deduction of half the retail price for the cabbage that was gleaned. Opening his field for gleaning provided benefits for the farmer and low-income seniors.*

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.—

**The UMC could ‘blow the planet away’**

One thousand men spent three days at a retreat at Christ UMC discussing ways to mobilize church members to become better disciples.

“I have a fervent belief if we get men back in church doing what God intended, then the UMC is going to blow this planet away,” said Herman Lightsey, president of South Carolina Conference UM Men. “The reason ladies have to do so much is because men don’t.”

“You have a mandate to go and be God’s people and be the witnesses God has called you to be,” said South Carolina Bishop Jonathan Holston.



*South Carolina men gather in Myrtle Beach for a retreat under the theme “Rooted in Christ.”*

# The missing man

## Reaching men of Generation X

By Greg Arnold

There's no denying the frenetic pace of technology and the ease of communication we enjoy. The very devices in our pocket contain more computing power than the building-sized computers used to help land men on the moon.

Now, 48 years later, with so much connectivity, communication, and access to one another, why are younger men opting out of the organized church?

As you look about your church, I suspect you will find many of the missing men are between the ages of 37 to 52.

These are men of Generation X, which Pew Research calls "the forgotten generation."

While the boomers are characterized as the "me" generation and millennials the "selfie" generation, the lost middle child of Generation X has accepted its invisible role and quietly walked away from view.

In my travels across the nation, I find very few Gen X men lingering around the church. I am acutely aware of this missing

man, because I am one of them.

So why has the church lost its ability to attract this man? Surely there must be some underlying common denominators which could point us in the right direction. To our relief, Pew research, Gallup, and dozens of independent organizations have come to similar conclusions about the nature of the Gen X.

### Generation X

- Commonly referred to as "latch-key kids". These children of divorced or career-driven baby boomer parents wore house keys around their necks, because they would go home from school to an empty house.
- Peer oriented.
- Spike of foster care.
- Rise of abortion by the baby boomers, resulting in fewer members of Generation X.





- The first generation to have access to computers in the home or - at all.
- Very individualistic.
- Government and big business mean little to them.
- Want to save the neighborhood, not the world.
- Feel misunderstood by other generations.
- Cynical of many major institutions, which failed their parents, or them, during their formative years and are therefore eager to make marriage work and “be there” for their children.
- Raised in the transition from written-based knowledge to digital-based knowledge archives
- Tend to commit to self rather than an organization or specific career.
- This generation averages seven career changes in their lifetimes, unlike previous generations who might spend a lifetime with one employer.
- Society (and thus individuals) are envisioned as disposable.
- Raised by the career- and money-conscious boomers amidst the societal disappointment over governmental authority and the Vietnam War.
- School problems were about drugs.
- Late to marry (after cohabitation) and quick to divorce Many single parents. Many Gen X men grew up with weak father figures and uninvolved men.
- They want what they want and want it now, but most are in credit card debt.
- Short on loyalty and wary of commitment; all values are relative.Suspicious of all organizations.
- Survivors as individuals.
- Cautious, skeptical, unimpressed with authority, self-reliant.

### Personal experience

I am a 46 year old Generation X man born and raised in the deep south to a generationally devout Christian family. Both of my grandfathers were strong believers and one was a pastor for 50 years. My father was/is the “poster-child” for church involvement, rarely missing a Sunday, an event, or opportunity to ensure his family was on site. In fact, our family was one of the founding members of a new church start in the early 1970s, a church they still support.

I serve my local church as well as the global UMC, yet my greatest fulfillment is doing ministry outside of both of these fine organizations with my ministry at livebold.org.

We struck “gold” in our local church when we discovered a way to reach younger men. It came at the cost of trying dozens of different ways to do men’s ministry. We read books, bought material, and organized events and festivals. Nothing truly worked to reach this missing man until we took the “organization” out of the organization.

### Practical tips

A few practical tips when working with the man of Generation X:

- Be careful not to assume the missing man is spiritually shallow or uninterested. He hasn’t walked away from God, but he is likely walking out his life of faith in solidarity.
- Be prepared to offer spiritually challenging disciplines of discipleship
- Be authentic and transparent.Focus on small-group formation and encourage him to link in non-traditional places.

When it comes to leading the Gen X man, keep these basic ideas in mind:

- Focus on providing tools, resources, and training geared toward equipping him to continue the process on his own.
- Build a disciple-first culture.
- Spend time mentoring and try to understand the pressures he faces
- Invest in a culture of prayer, and studying the Word.
- Have a plan and set clear short- and long-term objectives.
- Focus on the freedom and contentment found in Christian living.
- Help him find ways to deal with fear, worry, and anxiety through your own personal experiences.

### **The secret: Leave the building**


I discovered that if my small group could stick together for a couple of years, perhaps we could replicate the process. Over the course of the last decade, I've been able to find this man, speak his language, and keep him engaged. Maybe it's because I am "him." Perhaps it was the willingness to try just about anything to reach these men.

In the past year, I built a free mobile phone app called "Live Bold for Christian Men," using the same basic principles of seeking out these missing men. As of this

article, the app has over 10,000 registered users and growing every day. These men are praying, connecting, and walking in daily devotion. They are "lone wolves" in search of a pack!

So what is the secret to reaching these men? I learned a very simple approach by observing how Jesus Christ approached ministry. He left the building. He went to where the people were doing life. He never asked them to come back to the temple to do it with Him.

As a result, an effective men's ministry can be built, simply by doing what Jesus did. Feel free to pull a leadership team together to cover logistics and to meet. But the men's ministry is happening all around your community. Perhaps it's time to take it to the streets. It works.

As a final note of caution. Be careful not to use this research and assume every Gen X man fits neatly into a box. We are far better served by asking the bigger question about how we do church and how we do men's ministry. If you find your current effort in opposition to the character of the men you wish to reach, perhaps a change is in order. 

*Greg Arnold is a deployed staff member of the General Commission on UM Men. He lives in Vanleave, Miss., where he operates Live Bold Ministries.*



## --HUMOR--

### **Probably Dad**

Two boys were walking home from Sunday school after hearing strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?"

The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your Dad."

### **Muddy - not deep**

A flat-lander was invited to preach in a mountain congregation that was known for their simple approach to the gospel. His sermon was full of allegory and simile. At the close of his message he gave the expected invitation and just one old gentleman in starched overalls responded. He came forward and whispered in the minister's ear, "Young feller, I want you to know that I know that just because the water's muddy, doesn't mean it's deep."

# Gen Z

By Tom Tozer and Bill Black

Kids born after 1996 are part of what is commonly referred to as Generation Z, the group following the millennials. It's the iMac, iPod, iPhone, iGeneration. These are children who are connected through social media, send texts constantly, possess an attention span of about eight seconds, often focus on a number of things at once and still want to make a difference.

## The Z Group

Your child may be a member of this group. While it is important to recognize your child's special capacities, talents, and preferences, it can be meaningful to recognize the generational group into which your child falls. This can help you understand what motivates her, how he sees authority, how she responds to expectations. It can shed light on what is "normal" and what lies outside the bounds of common behavior and could be a sign of trouble.

## Understanding the Zs

A 2014 study, *Generation Z Goes to College*, reports that Generation Z students identify as being loyal, compassionate, thoughtful, open-minded, responsible, and determined. They view their peers as competitive, spontaneous, adventuresome, and curious; all characteristics they don't see readily in themselves.


Gen Zers expect quick communication and are heavy users of mobile technology. They use social media to develop relationships and often have friends they have never met. They like to work independently, prefer hands-on learning, and, interestingly, want person-to-person contact despite their comfort with technology. They choose their shopping preferences based on the purpose of the company and product quality rather than the public relations image. They want to be fulfilled

and find meaning in a job rather than just working for pay.

## Fostering the Zs

Parents are often afraid that their Gen Z children are overusing the Internet and social media and that they can be exposed to harm from some of the information and connections they find in the Internet world. They are concerned for their kids' futures, their ability to find a good fit in the work world, and to grow up successfully and safely. Gen Z kids complain that their parents are being overly controlling, misunderstand the value that the Internet and social media provide, and worry needlessly.

We parents grew up with a different set of assurances and obstacles. Today, we live in what seems to be a more dangerous world, we face many new challenges in raising our kids, we are sometimes puzzled by this different generation, and we cope with rapid change and sometimes a lack of control.

While each child is unique, generational factors do come into play. The important thing in dealing with Gen Z kids is to understand what motivates them, provide explanation and some control for what enters their world, educate them on the realities and contradictions we all face, give them opportunities to share their perspectives and concerns, and provide the loving support so necessary for their success. In this way, we can help them to make a better world. 



Tom Tozer (left) and Bill Black write a syndicated column on fatherhood and are authors of *Dads2Dads*:

*Tools for Raising Teenagers.*

# Changing lives through clean water

By Jennifer Zehnder

**H**ow often do you think about whether the water you drink will make you sick? Or whether your children's intestinal parasites will prevent them from going to school this week?

For millions of people around the world these are daily realities. In fact, according to international agencies, 663 million people do not have access to safe water.

That doesn't have to be.

Living Waters for the World (LWW) is a Spring Hill, Tenn.-based ministry that trains, supports, and empowers mission teams to change lives through clean water.

The LWW ministry is built on the beliefs that all God's children deserve clean water and that God empowers people of faith to be agents of change. Therefore, they prepare mission teams to install simple, effective water purification systems along with a health-education curriculum.

The starting point for involvement with

the ministry is Clean Water U, LWWs' hallmark training program that equips volunteers to build and lead a water mission team.

## Kentucky church provides water for Haitian communities

Seven years ago Bob Wade of Memorial UMC in Elizabethtown, Ky., learned about the ministry at a local fundraiser. His Sunday school class sent five members to attend Clean Water U for training.

"We were green when we started this," said Bob. "None of us had been in the mission field, so it was new and exciting for us. At the end of the five days we felt like we had the resources and expertise we could lean on."

Today, Memorial UMC and the Hardin County AM Rotary Club have partnered with nine communities in Haiti to install water-purification systems and health-education programs. Those communities have



*David Martin, a member of Memorial UMC in Elizabethtown, Ky., sets up a hand washing station to teach Haitian students about the importance of hand washing.*





*Jill Wade, a member of Memorial UMC, teaches Haitian children about proper ways to use clean water.*

been transformed by clean water, but so too have Bob and his fellow mission team members,

“As Americans, we are of the mindset that we are going to go there and help people,” said Bob. “And, we are helping. But, we also have a lot to learn, especially spiritually, from the people living in Haiti. They don’t have 401K plans or health insurance, so they really live their faith. That has a lot of instructive value for me personally.”

At the end of 2016, Bob and Memorial UMC celebrated 1 million gallons of clean water produced by the systems they helped install. “The further we go along, the more blessings we receive,” he said.

### **Tennessee physician reduces illness in Honduras**

Bill Johnson, a retired surgeon and a member of Broad Street UMC in Cleveland, Tenn., also partnered with LWW.

During the 25 years he engaged in medical mission work in Honduras, Bill encountered many cases of illness caused by contaminated water from rivers,

capped-off springs, and shallow wells. So, Bill started investigating ways to provide access to clean water. Well-drilling companies told him they could access water, but depending on the depth, it could cost between \$5,000 and \$12,000. Bill didn’t feel comfortable asking his church to fund a project with that potential cost variance, so he kept searching for a solution.

Bill learned about LWW from a Rotary Club friend, and he knew he had found his answer. The cost of system components



*The 2016 Memorial UMC team celebrates a successful installation with their partners at the Nazarene Church in Port-de-Paix, Haiti.*



*System operator Wilmer Torres Guerra checks the gauge on the LWW system installed by his community of La Pita, Honduras, and Broad Street UMC. The system uses filtration and ozone disinfection to make the water safe for consumption.*

was reasonable, predictable and equally effective at serving the community with clean water. Today, teams from the Cleveland church have partnered with six Honduran communities, and they plan to continue partnering with a new community each year.

Reflecting on the impact of clean water on their first partner community Bill says, "Is the overall health better with fewer parasites? Absolutely, yes."

Since then the key to their water partnerships and improved community health has been, as Bill calls it, "Christians united." With funding from the Sunrise Rotary Club of Cleveland, mission volunteers from Broad Street UMC, training and support from LWW, and the hard work and dedication of their partner communities, their

water mission reaches across denominations and unites people in a common call to share clean water.

Whether you and your church are new to global missions or if you have established mission partnership, Living Waters for the World can empower you to share clean water with God's children in need. For more information about how you can start a water mission and have a long-term, global impact visit [www.living-watersfortheworld.org/ummen](http://www.living-watersfortheworld.org/ummen).



*Jennifer Zehnder is director of development for Living Waters for the World.*

## National Association of Conference Presidents holds spring training event



*Some 100 conference presidents and conference prayer advocates take a break from their March meeting for a photo before the entrance to the world-famous Upper Room chapel in Nashville.*

**T**he chapel is housed in the Denman Building, a structure named for Harry Denman, a staff member of the former Methodist Board of Evangelism. The building houses the staff of the Upper Room devotional magazine and the Upper Room Living Prayer Center, which is served and financially supported by conference and local church prayer advocates.

### Men pack rice and beans

**C**onference presidents of UM Men took time out from their training event to package 800 pounds of rice and 500 pounds of beans for children of Tuscalum Elementary School. Seven hundred and thirty eight students from 30 nations gather in temporary buildings and a structure built to house 300 students. They speak a variety of languages but they all come from families who find it difficult to put food on the table during spring break, a week when



*Men place scoops of rice and beans into plastic envelopes for 700 children to take to their families during spring break.*

children will not receive free lunches at the school.



Becky Hulse, a family engagement specialist, says the packaging effort provided meals for 193 families.



*Tusculum students enjoy an outing at a farm.*

### **NACP presidents gather for group photo**



*Past presidents and the current president of the National Association of Conference Presidents gather in the Upper Room court yard. From left: Glenn Wintenberg (2005-2008), Gil Hanke (2001-2004), Robert Powell (1997-2000), Dan Ramsey (2013-2016), and Steve Nailor (2016 to present).*



*Conference presidents and conference prayer advocates encircle one of their own in prayer.*

### **Two men certified as men's ministry specialists**

**C**lyde teaches a high school class at First UMC in Denham Spring, La., and has served as president of the local church UMM unit and president of two UMM district organizations.

Herb leads a Bible study at his church in Aurora, Ill., and serves as president of the Aurora District UMM. He is a participant in Wesley Building Brothers.



*Clyde Ellis (maroon shirt seated) and Herb John (blue shirt seated) receive their certification as men's ministry specialists from Rick Vance, director of men's ministry for the General Commission on UM Men (right). Gil Hanke lays his hands on their shoulders while other leaders of UM Men pray for the newly installed leaders.*

### **Northern Illinois top contributor to hunger relief**

**E**ach year, the Society of St. Andrew honors the annual conference which gave the most money to the Meals for Millions program. The top award for 2016 gifts was presented to Northern Illinois Conference for contributions totaling \$21,255.

Each year, Wade Mays, a staff member of the hunger relief ministry based in Big Island, Va., also presents the conference with the largest increase in one-year giving with a "Bud the Spud Award." Missouri Conference won the award when they gave \$8,745 in 2016, a whopping 94 percent increase over their contribution in 2015.



1. Northern Illinois \$21,255
2. Virginia \$18,464
3. Baltimore Washington \$12,475
4. Detroit \$11,880
5. Missouri \$8,745
6. Indiana \$8,745
7. Upper New York \$7,971
8. Susquehanna \$5,419
9. North Carolina \$4,670
10. Illinois Great River \$3,895



Wade Mays (center) presents the Meals for Millions top award to George Groves, president of Northern Illinois Annual Conference UM Men (left), and Steve Nailor, a leader of the Rockford District and president of the National Association of Conference Presidents. The Rockford District led all districts in giving to the Society of St. Andrew with \$13,785.

## South Carolina Conference top giver to prayer ministry

Last year, the prayer advocates from across the nation contributed \$24,935 to the Upper Room Living Prayer Center. South Carolina Conference led all conferences with a gift of \$2,600 to the Nashville-based ministry.

Many South Carolina churches (as churches in other annual conferences) also host remote prayer lines to answer prayer requests from people all around the world.

The Upper Room also had 224,224 visitors to a website in 2016, where 72,588 people posted prayer requests.



Joe Kelley, national prayer advocate (left), and Migdiel Perez, manager of the Upper Room Living Prayer Center (right), congratulate Herman Lightsey, president of South Carolina UM Men, for being the top contributor to the prayer ministry.

## Marriage Advice

humor



- Whether a man winds up with a nest egg or a goose egg depends on the kind of chick he marries.
- Too many couple marry for better or for worse, but not for good.
- The bonds of matrimony are a good investment only when the interest is kept up.
- Trouble in marriage starts when a man get so busy earning his salt that he forgets his sugar.
- If a man has enough horse sense to treat his wife like a thoroughbred, she will never turn into an old nag.

## Conference presidents of UM Men receive advice about the ministry of younger men

**T**he *National Association of Conference Presidents of UM Men* received early advice from four younger men who are part of a 16-member “Think Tank” formed by the Southeastern Jurisdiction of UM Men.

“We thought the question was ‘How can we attract younger men?’” said Hank Dozier, Southeastern Jurisdiction president of UM Men. “We now think the right question is: ‘How can we support younger men in their ministry?’”

### Time for change

Our churches have become very comfortable for middle-aged women,” said Odell Horne, a member of the Think Tank. “Young men look at the church and say, ‘There is nothing there for me.’ If we are going to reach young men, sermons must be different and they must see other younger men walk the walk.” Odell serves

as director of Family and Children Services at Fulton County, Ga

Charlie P. Lyons, coordinator of the Think Tank from Western North Carolina, has simple advice: “Love ‘em up.” He suggests lots of young men simply need a personal invitation to participate.

“Men in this age group want to know how they can serve, not how they can join,” said Drew Oakley, the representative of the Kentucky Conference. He notes Jesus provided answers to questions the men were asking and he did so with grace and love and without judgment.

Members of the Think Tank from annual conferences in the jurisdiction meet together weekly electronically. The 16-member group is concentrating attention on five areas: small groups, strong missions, re-branding, recreational/social ministries, and leadership



*Love ‘em up,” says Charlie Lyons (left). He is joined by (from left) Drew Oakley, Odell Horne, and Justin Crice.*

## Small groups

The young men said small groups are essential to effective ministry. They come in three forms: affinity, curriculum driven and transformational. They suggest using transformational groups similar to Wesleyan class meetings that ask: “How is your soul today?” “What is God doing in your life?” and “How is your heart?”

## Strong missions

“Men like to use their heart and hands, and not just their heads,” they said. The group calls for men to address social injustice, domestic violence, poverty and hunger.

## Rebranding

The team suggests UM Men is on the

decline due to its reputation (its brand). There is a need to rebrand, not just establish additional programs.

## Recreational/social ministries

Jesus provided conditions where people could feel safe, powerful and valuable. He helped them have fun and feel loved. Recreational ministry is a great place to create similar conditions.

## Leadership

The goal of any ministry should be to create healthy and strong leaders who are deployed to serve the church. Strong spiritual formation leads to strong expression of the commandment to love God and neighbor and the commission to make disciples.

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## *In Memoriam*

### John Thomas Reeves

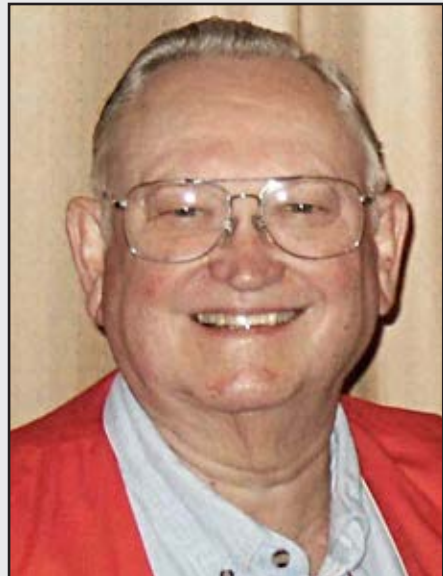
ANNANDALE, Va.—

**J**ohn Reeves, 85, former president of Virginia Conference UM Men, died Feb. 25.

Prior to his death, John was a double cancer survivor, having successfully fought malignant melanoma in 1984 and acute promyelocytic leukemia in 2004.

After serving in the U.S. Army, John began his career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture; he worked his way up to the position of deputy administrator for management of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

Having been a member of Annandale UMC since 1964, John became heavily involved in the ministry of the church, which led to his 2000 election as president of the Virginia Conference UM Men. Following a 4-year term, he remained active on the conference cabinet of UM Men until 2008.



John is survived by Betty, his wife of 63 years; two daughters, Sheri and Michele; and two granddaughters, Erin and Brenna.



## Men's ministry is hard and messy: Vance

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

**A**s the former clergy contact with UM Men of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference, the Rev. Dr. Rick Vance already knew men are “resistant” and “carry around lots of junk.”

After serving for six months as the director of men's ministry for the General Commission on UM Men and experience with men's organizations across the United States, he is even more convinced of the importance of reaching men.

### Why the ministry is important

“There are 119 million men in America over the age of 15,” said Vance. “Ninety-two million of these men do not attend church. And only one out of every 18 men is involved in some kind of discipleship.”

Vance said, for each ten men in your church:

- Nine will have kids who leave the church.
- Eight will not find their jobs satisfying.
- Six will pay monthly minimum on credit cards.
- Five will have problems with pornography.
- Four will get divorced.
- Only one will have a biblical worldview.
- All ten will be struggling with some life issue.

### Why the ministry is difficult

Vance is acutely aware that men's ministry is “hard and messy.”

Growing up in a home with a Jewish mother and a Pentecostal father, Vance attended synagogue on Friday evenings and church on Sunday mornings. “I am religiously bipolar,” he said, “with a rich understanding of the Hebrew scripture and the Holy Spirit.”

Vance understands why men leave the church because he left it as a young man. “I left the church and I left God, but God never walked away from me.” He returned to the church when his aunt took him to church.

There's a lesson in that, said Vance. “We invite, but we don't pick up. Eighty-two percent of unchurched people are at least ‘somewhat likely’ to

attend church if invited and escorted.”

### Personal and social holiness

“Ministry is a verb, not a noun,” said Vance. The words Christ used are “come,” “follow,” “bless,” and “rejoice.”

“If you aim low you're going to hit it. If you aim high you're going to have to work for it,” he said.

In offering advice to local units of UM Men, Vance reminds them that Wesley believed in both “personal” and “social” holiness. “UM Men need to meet for business and Bible study and accountability.”

Vance invited the annual conference presidents to “take things off the desks of their pastors.”

Noting that few people ask their pastors about their dreams and visions, Vance suggests that UM Men find out what their pastors are passionate about and help them realize their dreams.

He also encouraged them to work with others. “I hate lone rangers,” he said. “When they leave or die there is no one to take their place.”

He also told the conference presidents they should not confine their leadership group to those who agree with them. “You need some sandpaper or you won't get smooth,” he said.

### Time to get serious

“We need to get serious about this ministry,” he said. “‘We need to ask, ‘What and who is God calling us to be?’ and ‘What is God calling us to do?’”

He says his personal challenges relate to the national effort to combat domestic violence in partnership with the YWCA, and men's ministry specialists. “We have a bunch of good guys doing good work.”

“We are creating material in order to create disciples for the transformation of the world,” he concluded. “If we don't have it, we will find it; and if we can't find it, we will make it.

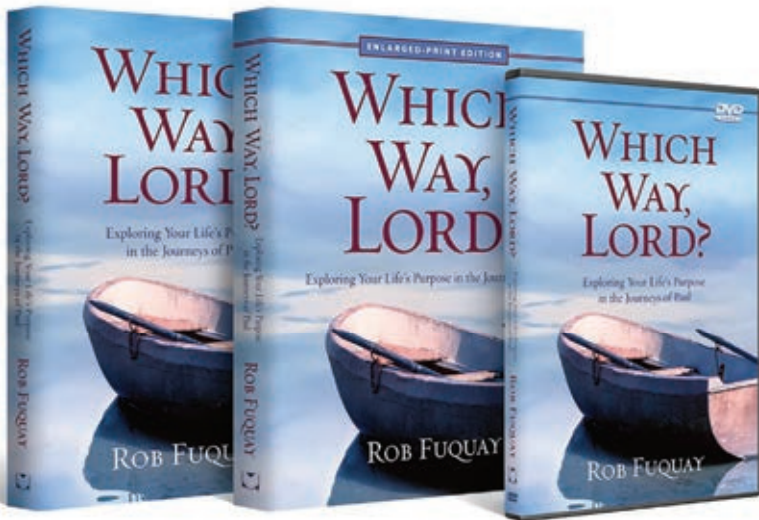
“God is bigger than any fear we have.”



*“Ministry is a verb, not a noun,” the Rev. Rick Vance tells conference presidents of UM Men during their March meeting in Nashville.*

# How do we live the life God intends for each of us?

The Damascus road experience was not the only event that sent the apostle Paul on his quest. His entire life—his traditions, education, travels, and challenges—shaped him for ministry. Rediscover the truths that you are wonderfully made, created for purpose, and equipped to live a life of significance. Join us as we travel together to find our purpose through this 6-week series.



Available in paperback, enlarged print, eBook, Kindle.  
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## UM Men Awards

### **Dr. David L. Briscoe** *Professor inducted into the John Wesley Society*

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—

**D**r. David Briscoe, a college professor and a Scout leader, was inducted into the Society of John Wesley.

For the past 22 years, he has served on the board of the BSA Quapaw Area Council. Last year, he was elected council president. He now leads a board of 60 community leaders in 39 of the 75 counties in Arkansas.



*Dr. David Briscoe*

Dr. Briscoe serves as a professor of sociology at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock. He earned a B.A. in sociology and a M.A. in criminal justice at the University of Arkansas, and a Ph.D. in sociology from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

He serves on the BSA National Executive Board, and he is the recipient of the 2013 BSA National Alumnus Award. He also received a Silver Buffalo Award for distinguished national service to youth.

### **The Rev. Tom Kirby** *Retired pastor plans to wear out rather than rust out*

STILLWATER, Okla.—

**U**M Men of First UMC inducted the Rev Tom Kirby into the John Wesley Society.

Saying he would rather “wear out” than “rust out,” the retired pastor continues to organize work trips to three UM camps and retreat centers.

“Tom is one of my faith heroes,” said the

Rev. Mike Chaffin, pastor of Stillwater First UMC. “Too often I see ministers absent themselves from the life of the church after retirement and wander away once they are no longer paid to be involved. But, Tom continues to invest his heart and his hands in Christ’s Kingdom work on a daily basis.”

Tom is the ninth member of the Stillwater church to be named a fellow in the John Wesley Society



*Tom Kirby*

### **Mary Kay O’Connor** *Church member receives Susanna Wesley Award of Excellence*

ALBANY, Texas—

**M**en of Albany UMC presented Mary Kay O’Connor with a Susanna Wesley Award of Excellence.

Mary Kay was baptized in the Albany UMC at the age of 4 months.

She married her high school sweetheart, David O’Connor and after David served 20 years in the U.S. Army, the couple returned to Albany in 1979.

Mary Kay served the church by teaching Sunday school, making costumes for Christmas pageants, decorating church floats, playing the piano, serving as church secretary, chair of the Finance Committee and secretary of the Church Council.



*UM Men of Albany UMC gather at the front of the sanctuary with Mary Kay O’Connor (center)*



She served as DAR chair for the Memorial Day Service and she routinely sorts clothes and helps families shop at a clothes closet.

## **Bob Wenger**

### ***Cornfield nets \$30,000 for church***

MIDDLEVILLE, Mich.—

**M**en of Middleville UMC presented Bob Wenger, 85, with a Life Membership Award for 55 years of service to the church and community.

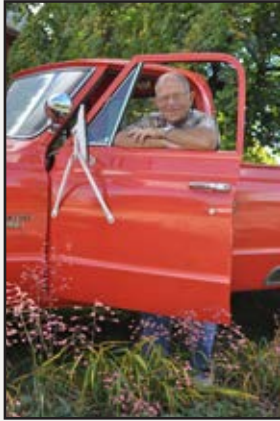
Bob is best known for chairing the church building renovation committee. The retired farmer contributed \$30,000 to the church from selling corn on his 1,000-acre farm.

When his barn burned in the 1980s, people came from across the region to rebuild the structure. As a fellow farmer said, “People wanted to help because it was for Bob!”

Today the barn serves as the storage area of the church’s Nativity scene and his tractors and wagons are featured in local parades.

He serves the community as a county commissioner and a member of the school board. He is the former president of the Caledonia Farmers Elevator and was a board member of a national farm-food cooperative. He was named “Hometown Hero” in 2010,

Bob and his late wife, Helen, raised six children. When asked how many grandchildren he has, Bob said, “I have a football team, a water boy, a manager and four cheerleaders.”



*Bob Wenger*

## **OLIVER INFINGER**

### ***Still active at 97 years young***

CHARLESTON, S.C.—

**M**en of Grace UMC presented William Infinger with a Life Membership Award for decades of service to the church and community.

At age 97, the former leader of UM Volunteers in Mission trips and local repair projects is still active. He is especially remembered for providing do-it-yourself kits to construct “Elderly Transportation” houses.

He also extended the concrete pad from the church kitchen and added a roof so the men would have a porch to barbecue pork and chicken.

## **ROBERT POWELL**

### ***Former president of UMM Foundation honored***

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

**D**uring the 2016 meeting of the UM Men Foundation, President Ed Shytle announced he planned to give the fifth Dale Waymire Award of Excellence to Robert Powell, president of the foundation from 2000 to 2009. Robert was absent at the 2016 meeting, so Ed had to wait until the 2017 meeting of the foundation to present the award.



*Ed Shytle (left), former president of the UM Men Foundation, presents the Dale Waymire Award to Robert Powell during the March meeting of the foundation.*

While serving as foundation president, Robert conceived the award in order to honor Dale Waymire, founder and first president of the foundation. He gave the first award to Dale and the second to Gil Hanke. John Burlew and Jim Monroe later received the same awards.

While serving as president and general manager of the foundation, Robert was instrumental in securing a grant from Ed and Gwen Cole that enabled the commission to eliminate the mortgage on their headquarters building on Music Row in Nashville.

In 2009, Robert was named development associate for the UM Children's Home in Montgomery, Ala.

### **Johnny Shaffer**

#### ***Church bus driver serves as cook*** PENSACOLA, Fla.—

**U**M Men of Cokesbury UMC presented Johnny Shaffer with a Life Membership Award for his service as the driver of the church bus and cook for fund-raising projects and monthly breakfasts.

He also goes on mission trips, teaches Sunday school, works with the prison ministry, provides meals for officers at the county jail, and he is a participant in the Walk to Emmaus.



*Johnny Shaffer (right) receives a Life Membership Award*

### **Cliff Kelley and Fred Carter**

#### ***Presidents receive surprise***

PINEVILLE, La.—

**C**liff Kelley, past president of UM Men, and Fred Carter, current president, were surprised with Life Membership Awards.



*From left: David Tassin, past president and current secretary treasurer (back); Cliff Kelley; Debbie Kelley; Fred Carter; Karen Carter and Bob Nash, past president.*

### **The Rev. Dixon Adams and M.G. Doub**

#### ***Church presents two life memberships***

CONOVER, N.C.—

**F**irst UMC presented Life Membership Awards to the Rev. Dixon Adams, former pastor, and M.G. Doub.

When Dixon was appointed to First UMC in 1984, he organized a men's fishing trip, an annual adventure that continues today. The 90-year-old retired as pastor in 1992, but he continues as an active member of UMM and bakes bread for a variety of occasions.

M.G. served many roles at First UMC and always helps UM Men prepare the 3,500 meals that provide funds for the organization.

## Commission recognizes churches with outstanding scouting ministries

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

In order to encourage churches to expand their ministries to youth, the Scouting Office of the General Commission on UMM Men honors congregations that develop creative relationships with youth-serving organizations.

To recognize annually churches that provide outstanding mentoring ministries for youth of their communities, the commission presents certificates of “Shepherd Church Charter Recognition.”

Churches may apply for this recognition if they sponsor Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire, 4-H, or Big Brother Big Sister organizations. They must encourage participation in PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth), and observe Scouting Ministries Sunday. All their youth organizations are required to participate in at least one community-service project.

Stout Memorial UMC in Parkersburg, W.Va., and First UMC in Santa Barbara received 2017 charter recognition from the Nashville-based commission.

### Parkersburg

The West Virginia congregation was honored for the activities of Cub Pack 12, Boy Scout Troop 12 and Girl Scout Troop 1063.

Members of all three organizations participated in PRAY and Scout Sunday activities.

The pack joined the troop to gather toys for children in a foster-care program and the troop helped with the pack’s Pinewood Derby.



*Scouts gather outside First UMC for a Scout Sunday photo. Nine Scouts received PRAY awards. Eleven of the leaders have received Cross and Flame awards.*

The troop assisted Eagle candidates in updating the church’s digital connection, completing improvements at a high school gym, and cleaning and painting rooms in an elementary school.

Girl Scouts held a reception for three women who worked in factories during World War II and planted dogwood trees in their honor.

### Santa Barbara

The California church received recognition for outstanding ministry to the community through Boy Scout Troop 1 and Cub Scout Pack 21.

Established in 1910, Troop 1 is the oldest troop west of the Mississippi River. During its 107-year history, the troop has produced 86 Eagle Scouts, including four in 2016.



## Two churches present PRAY awards

A California church and a Virginia church presented a total of 40 PRAY awards.

Memorial UMC in Clovis, Calif., presented 17 PRAY awards and St. Mark's UMC in Midlothian, Va., present 23 awards.



*Members of the God & Me class in Midlothian receive PRAY awards on Scout Sunday. Classes were organized by Laura Russell, coordinator of religious emblems, and Ron Flournoy, cubmaster of Pack 1879.*



*The Rev. Janette Saavedra, pastor of Memorial UMC in Clovis, presented 17 PRAY awards on Scout Sunday. Her stole shows support for scouting with Scout Sunday patches, a scouting ministry specialist patch, PRAY counselor patches, and Sequoia BSA patches.*

## Scouting workshop provides wealth of new ideas

ISLAMORADA, Fla.—

Twenty-five Scout leaders from 12 states gathered for a Scouting Ministry Workshop, Feb. 17-20, at the BSA Florida Sea Base.

“The course is different from year to year because it draws a variety of new participants and staff who bring to the table their ministry and scouting experiences,” said Susan Lawyer, the course director. “I know the charters and scouting units will be blessed by the knowledge and new contacts that each participant is taking home.

“I know I’m going home with a wealth of new ideas and information myself,” said Lawyer, a scouting ministry specialist from Cypress, Texas.

“It was great to have a wealth of knowledge and experience in a single setting focused on furthering the scouting ministry of the church,” said the Rev. Doug Stewart, chief chaplain at Memorial Health System in Belleville, Ill. “I learned a lot, had some great fellowship with an amazing group of UM scouts, and came away with many ideas about how I can improve ministry in my church, conference, and scouting council.”



The four-day exhaustive study covered topics such as the awards program of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY), UMC awards and recognitions, and other civic youth-serving agencies such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Cliff Coan of DeLeon, Texas, served as assistant course director.

The Rev. Scott Pickering, Newnan, Ga., and Yolanda Wareham, Jonesboro, Ga., served as “shepherds” (group leaders). And Mark Wappel, a BSA professional staff member, also served on the leadership team.

It wasn’t all work for the participants. They also enjoyed a sunset cruise, deep-sea fishing, and sightseeing in Key West.

Six UM clergy participants assisted with the outside worship service at the Sea Base chapel.

## Scout leader provides training in youth protection

**T**he number of online predators and cyberbullying occurrences are increasing, and instances of identifiable adverse childhood experiences continue in schools, homes, athletic organizations, faith communities and youth service organizations.

Caroline Rudisill, the scouting coordinator for the Texas Annual Conference, provides Scout leaders with ways to ensure the safety of all participants in scouting organizations. She will serve as the facilitator for a workshop on cyberbullying at the July National Gathering of UM Men in Indianapolis.

Caroline is especially well qualified to address the topic of youth protection. She completed advanced courses in “Psychology of

Children and Young People” (University of Edinburgh, Scotland), “Forensic Science” (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore), and “Understanding Violence” (Emory University, Atlanta, Ga).

A participant in BSA national symposiums and executive leadership meetings on youth protection, the scouting ministry specialist led discussions related to safe-sanctuary and youth protection training at the 2014 and 2015 national UM Training Sessions at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico and the 2016 session at the Summit Bechtel Reserve Center in West Virginia.

She provides information about federal resources, personal safety awareness, internet safety, traits of predators and pedophiles,

threat identification techniques, and the spiritual impact of child abuse. “We strive to provide the best possible training and communication techniques in our service to youth and their families. No child or adult who has been abused should feel they are alone and abandoned. They have voices

which deserve to be heard,” says Caroline.

A recipient of the Silver Torch Award, Caroline is a member of First UMC, Houston. She has served as the UM representative to meetings of the Anti-Defamation League Coalition for Peace/Women’s Initiative.

An active member of the Sam Houston Area Council, the Wood Badge-trained leader has chaired the

council “Fun with the Son” campout for families new to Scouting, and was a captain of the 2013-2015 Council Endowment Committee. She is a trained National Day Camp School director, and was a director for district day camps. The indefatigable leader serves the council as a member of the STEM Committee, Council Activities Committee, Religious Emblems Committee, and Conservation Committee. She is an Eagle Board of Review representative, and is the Methodist representative on the Council Religious Relations Committee.



*Caroline Rudisill*

## The Rev. Doug Stewart wears numerous hats

BELLEVILLE, Ill.—

**I**t seems unlikely that a UM clergyman who serves as chaplain and chair of the Ethics Committee for two hospitals would have time to serve on a county health-care commission and Native-American Committee of the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference.

It seems even more unlikely that the busy father of two high school students would have time to serve as a scoutmaster, a member of the BSA District Committee, a climbing instructor for a Cope challenge course, a merit badge counsellor, and a teacher of a PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth) class.

Doug Stewart balances all of these responsibilities along with serving as a scouting ministry specialist, a first-aid instructor, a member of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Committee and the Religious Relations Committee. He also helped rehab six cabooses used for housing at a Girl Scout camp.

### Doug's back story

A graduate of Missouri University Science and Technology (B.S. in mechanical engineering), Doug served an internship at a church in the Red Bird Missionary Conference while working on his M.Div. degree at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas. During that internship at Mary Helen UMC in Coalgood, Ky., he helped establish Cranks Creek Outreach Center in Harlan, Ky.

In the past, Doug pastored several UM churches and he served as a supply pastor for several churches in the St. Louis Area. He also served as an adjunct professor of ethics and bioethics at Southwestern Illinois College where he founded the bioethics program. He is an Eagle Scout.

### Doug's family

Doug is married to Christine, a math and science teacher at Governor French Academy (GFA) in Belleville.

Christine has been active in Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, and began a girl scouting program at GFA when their daughter, Caroline, became

Brownie age some 12 years ago. She has also served as a committee member for three Scout units and teaches several STEM-related merit badges. She has served as a representative to the Girl Scout National Convention, and she has taken Girl Scouts to two centers in Europe and to Juliette Gordon Low's house in Savannah, Ga.

A Gold Award Girl Scout, Caroline is a senior at GFA. She accompanied her mother on

the European excursions and the trip to Savannah. She will soon complete her fourth PRAY award. She has a bronze award in venturing and has served as crew president. In additions, she serves as the youth representative on the Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois Board, and the board awarded her one of two scholarships.

Son John, a freshman at GFA, is a Life Scout and currently serves at quartermaster of Troop 9. He has earned two PRAY awards and is currently working on this third. John will be serving on NYLT staff this summer and attending the national jamboree.

### Doug's future

Doug is currently working with UM Men to help Illinois Great Rivers Conference churches develop new scouting units in underserved areas. He wants to recruit additional scouting ministry specialists who will help him develop a network of UM churches that offer religious awards. He also hopes those churches will offer religious awards to secular-sponsored packs and troops.

This summer Doug will be working at the National Jamboree as a chaplain.



*Doug Stewart teaches climbing to both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.*

## Scouting Awards

### Joel Penfield

*Scout removes 110-year old retaining wall*  
SKANEATELES, N.Y.—

**T**rustees of Skaneateles UMC wanted to remove a deteriorating retaining wall on a steep slope in order to provide ADA-approved access to a side yard. However, cost estimates presented by landscaping and masonry companies made the project prohibitive.

When Joel Penfield suggested he could remove the wall and grade the slope for his Eagle project, the trustees quickly agreed.

On two October weekends, Joel's team cut down shrubbery, dug out tree stumps and knocked down the stone wall with a bobcat. Stones were delivered to the dump or to people who wanted them and the addition and grading of two truckloads of dirt reduced the severity of the slope. Ten shrubs were added and grass seed was spread.

"Joel's gift to our congregation solved a huge dilemma," said the Rev. Dr. Joellyn Tuttle, pastor. The church presented Joel with a Good Samaritan Award.



*Joel Penfield*

### Ethan Tanguay

#### **Scout repairs vandalized cabin**

SKANEATELES, N.Y.—

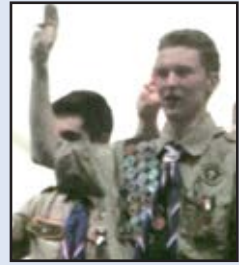
**A**dilapidated and vandalized cabin in the Baltimore Woods summer camp was unusable until Ethan Tanguay said he would like to repair the structure for his Eagle project.

Ethan recruited a team to provide a new roof, install new windows and add shutters.

They also cleaned up accumulated garbage.

The cabin again serves as a home base for summer day camps.

Skaneateles UMC presented Ethan with a Good Samaritan Award.



*Ethan Tanguay.*

### Kyle M Sinding

#### **Assistant scoutmaster receives Good Samaritan Award**

STATE COLLEGE, Pa.—

**S**t. Paul's UMC presented Kyle Sinding with a Good Samaritan Award for his service as an assistant scoutmaster, an adviser for the Order of the Arrow, a counselor for Scouts working for STEM awards, and a guide for Scouts working for the rank of Eagle.

Kyle is a doctoral student and graduate research assistant at Penn State University.

"Whether on a campout or during meetings, Kyle will seek out Scouts who need advice; he exemplifies the scouting spirit and he walked in their tracks just a short time ago," said Joe Davidson, a scouting ministry specialist who serves as chartered organization representative to St. Paul's UMC.



*Kyle Sinding (in back with blue plaid shirt) guides Scouts on a river outing at the Northern Tier base in Canada.*



## Gola Burton

### Son achieves rank of Eagle

CAVE SPRING, Ga.—

Cave Spring UM Men presented Gola Burton with a Cross and Flame Award for leading Scout organizations since her now Eagle Scout son first became a Cub Scout.

“The Cub Scout program grew in all areas under her leadership,” said Alan Reeves, chartered organization representative to Pack 20 and Troop 20. “Despite being a small community the church parking lot has been filled with cars on scouting nights.”

A Wood Badge trained leader, Gola also teaches a youth Sunday school class and the state of Georgia selected her as “employee of the year.”



*Gola Burton congratulates her son, Joseph Smyth, for achieving the rank of Eagle.*

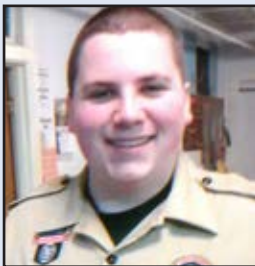
## Chris Ryan

### Patrol leader scouts for food

MCGRAW, N.Y.—

McGraw UMC presented Chris Ryan with a Good Samaritan Award for helping coordinate the annual “Scouting for Food” effort to fill food pantries.

The senior patrol leader also helps the Cub Scout pack and leads the annual effort to place fire hydrant markers during winter months.



*Chris Ryan*

## Kenneth T. Settlemyer Jr.

### Eagle Scout become scoutmaster

BRADENTON, Fla.—

Kenneth T. Settlemyer Jr. received the Cross and Flame Award from First UMC for 11 years of service to the Manatee District of the Southwest Florida Council and ten years as scoutmaster of Troop 8.



*Scoutmaster Settlemyer (center, in beige shirt and white helmet) leads Troop 8 on a bicycle excursion at Robinson Preserve in Bradenton, Fla.*

After achieving the rank of Eagle in 1983, Kenneth went on to receive Wood Badge and Live Oak Awards.

He served as scoutmaster of Southwest Florida’s contingent troop to the National Scout Jamboree in 2010 and 2013. He is an active Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow, Osceola Lodge, and serves as an associate adviser for administration for the lodge.

In 2003, helped build a church in Cochabamba, Bolivia, and he and his wife, Heather, founded a home-based wildlife sanctuary where they host live musical concerts. He is a member of the Amateur Radio Emergency Services and a spotter for the National Weather Service.



Society of St. Andrew  
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Please share with all of the men of the church.



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