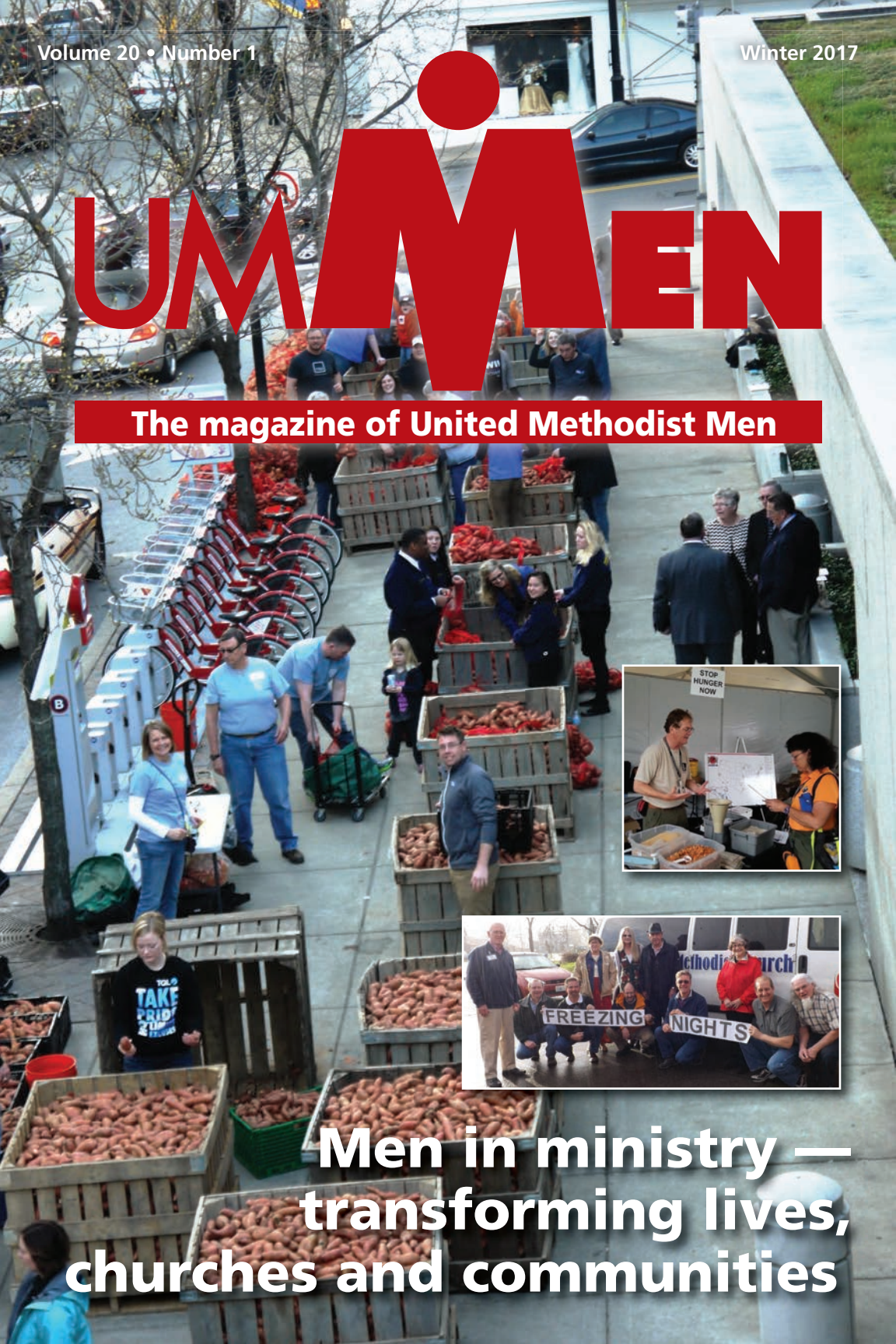


UMMEN

The magazine of United Methodist Men



Men in ministry —
transforming lives,
churches and communities

A letter from the General Secretary

Seeing clearly

Sometimes we don't see things because of all that is happening; we just can't process all the details. Sometimes we look with preconceived expectations. But when we look at something in a "different light" or "from a different perspective" we will realize the possibilities we never considered.

Those of you who have known me for a long time, may remember that my mustache used to be dark brown. That is no longer the case. But, when I trim my mustache and beard, what appears to fall in the bathroom sink is only dark brown. Why are there no grey trimmings? Does the trimmer only cut dark hair? It is not magic; it is because white hair does not show up in a white sink. My mirror reflects the truth- most of my facial hair is grey, but if I only look in the white sink I am not seeing the truth.

Three of the most common concerns that men relate to our offices are:

- "We don't have any young people or children in our church."
- "We don't have any younger men."
- "The men of our church don't come to our monthly meetings."

Are we really seeing the true possibilities?

The small church my wife and I attend has made all three of those statements.

But, our church has more than doubled the size of our Cub Scout pack this year.

We do have some young men and women in our church, but I don't know if we have asked what we might do to interest their non-church going friends in something here.



I don't know that we have offered to provide the mentoring needs they might have, or anyone besides our pastor has asked how they would like to live out their life in Christ within our church.

And why are guys not coming to our monthly meeting? Simple, they don't want to. It doesn't meet their needs.

So rather than being hurt or alarmed or judgmental, we need to ask them, what would they like to experience to strengthen their walk with Christ?

The General Commission on U.M. Men provides several options that other churches have found to be successful. One or more of them might be helpful to your church.

Expecting different, younger men to find Christ in the same manner you did is a step in the wrong direction.

Ask them.

Listen to them.

See them clearly in God's light.

Gil Hanke

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



contents

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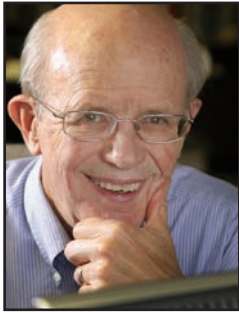
UM Men

Winter 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.



It's not often that I hope you already know everything that is contained in this issue.

I hope you already spend time walking the streets near

your church to discover the needs of your community. And I hope you have already employed many of the 105 suggestions to expand your ministry to men.

I hope your church is similar to the one described by Gil Hanke. Perhaps your organization has not adopted a school, but perhaps it sponsors a basketball tournament, a Boy Scout troop, or an outing for seniors. Maybe your members haven't packaged dry ingredients for Stop Hunger Now, but maybe you participate in Society of St. Andrew potato drops, build hand-crank carts for Mobility Worldwide (formerly PET International), or provide *Strength for Service* books to first responders and military troops.

I also hope you are like "Shirley" in the article by Bishop Woodie White, and your enthusiasm for what Christ has done for you will change the life of someone who

doubts the faith and is discouraged with the church.

As you scan the "16 marks of a vital congregation," I hope you will compare these with the features of your church. If there are some areas that need some attention, I hope you will work with pastors and other lay leaders to address these issues.

If I am correct that your church is already engaged in several efforts to expand your ministries to, with, and by men, I hope you will enter the national contest for the most outstanding church.

If your church is chartered, all you have to do is send an e-mail to RPeck@gcumm.org. Describe the ministries, including the activities of your men's organization, groups you sponsor and support, and ways in which your church ministers to your community. Please include action photos of your ministry.

The deadline for entries is February 1, but send your information today. I don't want you to be disappointed when a church that does less in men's ministry is honored at the March NACP meeting for being among the top five churches in the denomination. I don't want you to kick yourself for forgetting to send the information.

Write on.

Rich Peck

Where is the focus of your church?

By Gil Hanke

In my job I get to listen to folks from all kinds of churches—those with 20 people and those with more than 2,000 members.

Also in my job, I'm in a lot of meetings that talk about "vital congregations."

Combine those two conversations and a reality becomes clear. It is not the size that makes a church vital it is the church's focus.

I have met folks from small-membership churches who are truly vital, and I've met folks from large churches whose members say it lacks vitality.

How to measure vitality

Here are some simple measures:

In many congregations the community around the church has changed over the years. Church members may refer to nearby residents as "those people," "our family" or "our neighbors."

See difference in focus?

Another way to determine vitality is to ask how a church defines the term "mission".

Is doing mission for a majority of members writing a check or praying for others or does mission include personally connecting with people in need?

Is finding funds to stay open the main mission of congregation?

Is discovering ways to give to the neighborhood the main mission?

I'm proud to attend a church that includes those who have been marginalized and those who are well heeled.

I'm honored to be part of a church choir

who's Christmas party and bags of gifts are not for its members, but for the 14 homeless men who spend the night and get a great meal at our church.

I'm proud of those churches with a limited number of elementary school youth that intentionally begin scouting programs.

Don't get me wrong.

I give financially to the church, and I give to mission projects that are doing great work in the U.S. and around the world. But I

try to balance that with personal interaction that also makes a difference.

Some of my favorite mission stories come from church members who discover an outward focus in unusual ways.

A church with an outward focus

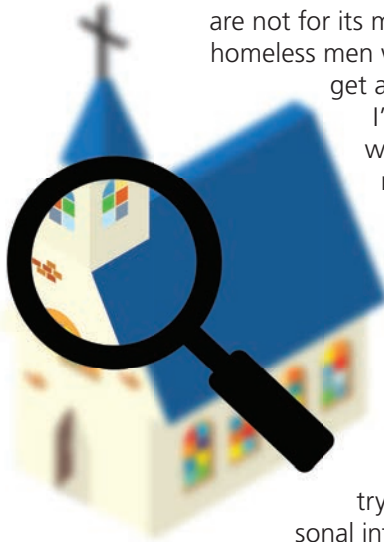
A rural congregation knew they were not going to increase the number of members.

"We are no one's bedroom community," said a church leader. "But we love our church, and we wanted to impact others. Then we made an observation that should have been obvious to all. Our church has a parking lot, and at the end of that parking lot is another parking lot. At the end of that parking lot is the elementary school where most of our members attended.

"We made an appointment with the principal.

"That conversation went more or less like this:

"'What do you want?' asked the principal. The spokesperson from the church, replied, 'I am glad you asked; we have a list. Your school—like it or not—has been adopted by our church. Here is a case



of Kleenex and 14 bottles of liquid hand cleaner; let us know when you need more.

“Now, here is what we need. For the last three weeks we have been praying for the teachers in your school. Since we don’t know their names we have been praying for them by room numbers. If we remember correctly, you have 14 classrooms so we have been praying for the teachers in rooms 101 to 114. We don’t want to break any rules, but could you give us the first name or the initials of your teachers—that would enable us to pray for them by name. We’d like to read to your classes if that would be all right, and, for the children who need practice reading, we would like to listen to their reading if that would be all right. We know that Mr. Smith still fixes everything in this school, and we have some retired men who would like to help him if he needs a hand, holding a ladder or anything else. When you have your PTA meetings, the staff and teachers bring snacks; please let us do that, they already work hard enough. And if you have some teacher-training meetings let us host those in our church, a change of scenery may make a difference. Oh, and by the way, your back fence has been broken for about four years, and, if it is all right, the men of our church will fix it this weekend.”

Clearly this congregation was not focused on itself. What a blessing they became to their community. I know other churches who invest in their youth by covering most of their cost to join adults on mission trips wherever there is need. That is life changing.

I know of extremely large churches that see their building as a gift of God to do ministry and welcome the chance to host

national and international events.

St. Luke’s UMC in Indianapolis made it clear they wanted to host our National Gathering in July.


The Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kans., conducts two Christmas Eve services. Members are encouraged to celebrate their Christmas Eve on December 23 to make room for a community-wide service on December 24 so those who don’t have a church home will be welcomed at their church.

So where is the focus of your church? Are you playing church with friends or being the church to the world?

Churches that are outwardly focused grow and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

I get a clear message from the Bible. What is the location of the best stories in the New Testament? My favorites do not take place in the Temple but in the community, at the shore, at the dinner table with friends, on a walk, in a boat, on a hill overlooking a lake, in a place with people that are different.

Yes, we need to minister to the members of our church, but to focus only inwardly denies us the opportunity for outreach. The community around your church does not know about your church because of what it says; the community knows your church by what it does.

If our churches are stuck in “survival mode,” perhaps we should take direction from Christ, “Seek ye first, the Kingdom of God . . .” 



Gil Hanke is general secretary of the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

16 marks of a vital congregation

The Council of Bishops and the Connec-tional Table commissioned a study to identify the marks of a vital congregation. Following a study of 33,000 churches, the committee found the following 16 characteristics of vital congregations.

Engagement of all ages

1. Vital churches have more small groups for all ages.
2. Vital churches have more programs for children.
3. Vital churches have more programs for youth.

Lay leadership


4. Vital churches focus on increasing the effectiveness of lay leaders by helping them understand their roles and carry these roles out effectively.
5. Vital churches have lay leaders who demonstrate a vital personal faith by regular worship attendance, engaging in spiritual-growth opportunities, having a devotional life, and giving of their financial resources.
6. Vital churches place an emphasis on rotating lay leadership in order to involve more people over time.
7. Vital churches call, equip, use and support more lay leaders than non-vital

churches. Twenty percent or more of their worship attendees describe themselves as current or past leaders in their church.

Pastor

8. Vital pastors give attention to developing, coaching, and mentoring lay leaders.
9. Vital pastors use their influence to increase the participation of others.
10. Vital pastors motivate the congregation to set and achieve significant goals.
11. Vital pastors inspire the congregation through preaching.
12. Vital pastors stay for a longer periods of time. Short-term appointments decrease the vitality of congregations.

Worship

13. Vital churches offer a mix of contemporary and traditional services.
14. Vital churches have preachers who tend to use more topical sermons in traditional services.
15. Vital churches use contemporary music.
16. Vital churches use multi-media in contemporary services. 



105 ways to expand your ministry to men

1. Charter your church with the General Commission on UM Men to receive a boatload of helpful information.
2. Encourage men to become an EMS (Every man shares in evangelism, missions and spiritual life).
3. Become a Legacy Builder.
4. Obtain a copy of *Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation in Men's Ministry*.
5. Invite a small group of men to participate in a computer-based weekly gathering based on *Wesley's Class Meetings*.
6. Use an interest finder to determine what kinds of groups your men might find inviting.
7. Encourage men to oppose domestic violence by watching the "We are the Lions" video and using a discussion guide on the website.
8. Honor a leader by making him a life member of UMM or inducting him or her into the John Wesley Society.
9. Host a UM Men's Day.
10. Host an "unconference" event with topics selected and addressed by participants.
11. Sign up for a free bi-monthly newsletter produced by GCUMM agency staff and officers.
12. Host an Upper Room Prayer Line.
13. Honor a woman with a Susanna Wesley Award of Excellence.
14. Provide an endowment for the UM Men Foundation.
15. Participate in Wesley Building Brothers.
16. Contact GCUMM staff about engaging in a "Lead Like Jesus" training event.
17. Invite a men's ministry specialist to help you discover new ways to reach men; contact GCUMM staff for lists of specialists near you. Consider the possibility of becoming a specialist. Take the first step by attending a course in "Understanding Men's Ministry."
18. Purchase an "I am a United Methodist Man" parchment.
19. Order UM Men shirts, hats, pens and other merchandise.
20. Participate in a "Walk to Emmaus".

Mission Projects

1. Develop your personal mission statement.
2. Support The Hope for Hearing.
3. Raise funds for Meals for Millions.
4. Sponsor a potato drop with the Society of St. Andrew.
5. Serve at a soup kitchen.
6. Perform home maintenance for elderly church members.
7. Make repairs to church building and provide maintenance work on church grounds.
8. Visit homebound church members.
9. Give copies of *Strength for Service to God and Country* to troops at nearby military posts or give copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community* to local first responders.
10. Support *Strength for Service* with Home Depot purchases.
11. Join the *Strength for Service Society*.
12. Read to children at school.
13. Participate in a gleaning project through the Society of St. Andrew.
14. Participate in an "Adopt-a-Highway" program or clean up a city park.



Men of Wylie (Texas) UMC build a handicap ramp.

15. Lead Disciple Bible Study classes at a state prison.
16. Prepare cleaning buckets or health kits for the UM Committee on Relief.
17. Offer financial education classes to your community.
18. Offer a nutritional education class
19. Collect supplies for a food pantry.
20. Sponsor an outing for seniors.
21. Volunteer at a hospital or VA clinic.
22. Build mobility carts for Mobility Worldwide (formerly PET International).
23. Volunteer to serve at a clothing or food bank.
24. Entertain patients at a children's hospital.
25. Manage the church website or blog and link the site to a listing of activities sponsored by your UM Men organization.
26. Adopt a local elementary school, provide lunches, and volunteer to serve as tutors.
27. Be a big brother for an at-risk child through Big Brothers Big Sisters.
28. Plant and tend a community garden.
29. Provide transportation for elderly church members and people with handicapping conditions.
30. Prepare care packets for deployed troops; include *Strength for Service to*

God and Country.

31. Participate in a Stop Hunger Now packaging event.
32. Sponsor a camping trip or canoe trip for children and their fathers and grandfathers.
33. Hold a "movie night" at the church.
34. Sponsor a motorcycle or bike ride.
35. Recycle Bibles, Sunday school literature and other Christian material to Love Packages.
36. Help feed hungry people by fasting one meal in one year (FAMILY).
37. Engage in a Bible study on hunger.
38. Become involved in a short-term VIM mission trip.
39. Build a handicap ramp.

Youth ministries

1. Invite a scouting ministry specialist to help you evaluate your youth ministries. Get names of specialists near you from GCUMM staff.
2. Volunteer to be a leader for a Cub Scout pack, a Boy Scout troop or a Venturing crew.
3. Lead a PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth) class (formerly God and Country Awards).
4. Honor leaders of youth with a Cross and Flame Award or a Torch Award.
5. Give a Silver Torch award to a regional or national BSA leader.
6. Honor your BSA troop with a Bishop's Award of Excellence.
7. Host a Bishop's Dinner for Scouting.
8. Honor a youth with a Good Samaritan Award.
9. Link to a Scouting Ministries Webinar.
10. Give youth camp scholarships or help them fund mission trips.

11. Take a Cub Scout pack to a museum, the zoo, or a ball game.
12. Sponsor a youth sports team.
13. Provide New Testaments for regional-high adventure BSA camps.
14. Help your church receive a Shepherd Church Charter Recognition.
15. Offer to serve as confirmation mentors.
16. Attend a national scouting training workshop.
10. Congregational dinner.
11. Fish fry.
12. Pancake breakfast.
13. Wild game dinner.
14. Arts and crafts fair.
15. Antique auto show.
16. Provide parking on church lot for modest fee on game day.

Money Raising Projects

1. Sponsor a day at a local amusement park, professional ball park, museum, or zoo. Arrange for reduced prices with proceeds benefiting mission projects.
2. Sports night banquet (invite members of a youth sports team).
3. Bake Sale.
4. Mother/daughter banquet.
5. Peanut sales.
6. Father/son dinner.
7. Sweetheart dinner and dance.
8. Barbecue.
9. Chili cook off.
17. Recital program.
18. Bazaar.
19. Fruit sale.
20. Sell apparel, cups and pens with UM Men logo.
21. Sell Christmas trees with Boy Scouts.
22. Sponsor a church-wide yard sale.
23. Silent auction.
24. Operate booth at county fair.
25. Host a Bowl-A-Thon.
26. Join youth in sponsoring a car wash.
27. Fishing competition.
28. Golf tournament.
29. Mothers' Day dinner.
30. Sponsor a 5K or Bike-A-Thon. 

Recipe for an failing church in a changing neighborhood

Take one neighborhood church.

Add generous amounts of commerce and industry.

Sift through two generations.

Remove former members to the suburbs.

Lock all doors.

Sprinkle in a few locks and bars.

Add generous amounts of "ours" and "those people."

Remove Scout troop because they didn't take out the trash.

Stir without stopping for conversation, study or prayer.

Warm slowly over low heat or burn quickly over open flame.

Refrigerate and serve only on Sunday mornings.

A milk shake and a transforming conversation

By Bishop Woodie White

It was a few weeks following my 18th birthday when I experienced a conversation that changed my life.

I was seated at the counter of our neighborhood pharmacy drinking a milk shake when a woman, who appeared to be about the age 30, sat beside me.

We began a conversation that quickly turned to the subject of religion.

At the time, I was disappointed with the church, and I had discontinued attending.

My church had changed

I told the stranger that a local organization, which addressed racial injustice, had become, “my church.”

I gave her the typical litany of why the church seemed out of touch; “irrelevant” is the term I would use today.

The young woman, allowed me to complete my initial “arguments,” and then she began to talk about Jesus—His power, purpose, and meaning for all of life.

I countered with an argument that included the word “hypocrites.”

She responded with greater passion about what Jesus could do for a life.

The more I railed about the inadequacies of the church, the more she talked about the transforming power of Jesus.

She never used the word, “discipleship,” but, she did indicate what a changed life—one with Jesus at the center—looked like. She spoke of a life of service and witness and a life that confronts the societal ills I had described earlier.

Her passion grabbed me.

She invited me to attend the church where she was a member.

I was reluctant, but she persisted.

I did attend, and my life was changed forever.

A 50-year-old lesson

As our denomination seeks ways to

address membership decline and our inability to keep and reach youth and young adults, I think about that long-ago conversation.

The stranger who confronted me was passionate about Jesus and the church.

How much we need people who are willing to leave the comfort of the familiar to make a difference in the world.

We need the passion of the woman who interrupted my milk shake to invite me to know and accept Jesus Christ as Lord.

This is the passion that should serve as the foundation for our outreach (evangelism), witness, and service (discipleship).

Of course, this is no new revelation; it is as old as Christianity itself. If one believes it makes a difference if one knows and follows Jesus Christ, then there is an unmistakable passion to engage with people in our communities.


We will become focused outward.

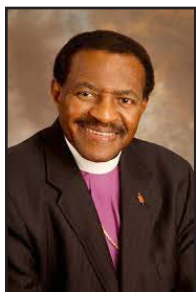
We will no



longer be content with powerful and inspiring worship services and programs within the walls of our churches. We will seek meaningful and relevant ways to engage our communities.

Transformed lives transform communities with love, justice, peace, and reconciliation.

I continue to thank that young woman (actually her name was Shirley) for taking the time to share her passion about Jesus, and his love for the world, with an 18-year old, who just had not put it all together. 



Bishop Woodie White served as the first general secretary of the General Commission on Religion and Race prior to his election to the episcopacy in 1984. He served

the Illinois Area (1984-1992) and the Indiana Area (1992-2004) when he retired to serve as bishop-in-residence at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta.

Give him the money

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"



Discover your life mission

By **Jim Boesch**


We cannot effectively determine what role God wants us to play in serving and building His kingdom unless we know who He birthed us to be.

Here is a four-step process to help you answer the questions: "Who-am-I?" and "What-is-my-mission?"

1. List some of your personal characteristics. These will be nouns such as enthusiasm, people skills, sense of humor, artistic ability, empathy, etc.
2. List ways you interact with people. These will be verbs such as teach, encourage, mentor, administer, counsel, etc.
3. Write a description of your concept of a perfect world. For example, "A perfect world is a place where young people know their future is secure."
4. Combine two of your nouns from No.1; two of your verbs from No. 2; and combine these with your definition of your perfect world from No. 3 to form a complete mission statement. Begin the statement with "My life mission is to . . ."

Example: "My life mission is to use my enthusiasm and people skills to teach and encourage young people to develop life goals and enjoy their journeys."

Combine your mission statement with the mission statement of your UM Men organization.

For example, if one of the missions of your UM Men unit is to develop a closer relationship with an elementary school and a Cub Scout pack. Perhaps your role is to teach a PRAY class and to help Cub Scouts advance through the ranks. 



Jim Boesch is a deployed staff member of the General Commission on UM Men.

We are stories—Not symptoms

By Bishop Kenneth Carder

The physician's assistant (PA) was sharing the results of an evaluation of Linda. We were seated at a table, with Linda beside me and the PA across the table.

Looking at me, the PA said coldly, "Mr. Carder, your wife is no longer the person she used to be."

She went on to describe the symptoms of Linda's dementia—lost memory, disorientation, confusion, agitation, inability to focus and solve problems, loss of language skills, etc. All the while, the PA's eyes were on me, as though Linda didn't exist.

Meet Linda

I noticed Linda's growing agitation and restlessness—the glare in her eyes, the rigidity of her body, and the scowl on her face. I knew that look. The PA was about to learn something she missed in medical training.

Linda straightened in her chair, looked squarely at the PA. Slowly, firmly and deliberately, she said, "**Talk to ME!**"

Taking Linda by the hand and smiling proudly, I said to the stunned expert, "You just met Linda."

I added, "She isn't a disease or cluster of symptoms. She's a person you don't know. You only see her symptoms. I know her story."

Regrettably, the PA reflects a prevalent lens through which people with dementia are viewed. They are seen as a medical diagnosis, a disease that robs them of identity. They've "lost their mind!" They aren't fully human. They have impaired memories, so they have no identity. They can't produce, so they have no value. They can't reason and relate, so they don't belong.

Here's the point: **We are stories, not symptoms or categories or labels!** People never fit neatly into the margins



After worship services in the Bethany memory care unit, Bishop Kenneth Carder goes around the room, greeting each resident by name. Carder is serving as interim chaplain at Bethany, part of the Heritage at Lowman senior community near Columbia, S.C. UMNS photo by Matt Brodie.



Bishop Carder and wife, Linda, at Bethany memory care unit. UMNS photo by Matt Brodie.

of any lens or label or category. Stories are always complex, multilayered, intertwined, and unfinished. And, we don't really know another until we know his/her story.

We try to force others within our narrow margins of perception, especially those not like us. Those outside the margins of our theology, politics, class, race, ethnicity, culture, or sexual orientation are treated as objects of our margin-justification efforts. We speak past them, about them, against them, around them, and down to them. We seldom speak *to* them and almost never *listen to* them, learn their stories.

I'm learning anew that every behavior has a story behind it. When Linda was first admitted to Bethany, she was awakened every night by another resident who kept coming into her room, turning on the light, adjusting her pillow, and speaking garbled words to her. It was frightening to Linda and disruptive to staff. The intruder's behavior didn't make sense. Or did it?


Mary (not her name) was a retired nurse! Her behavior now made perfectly good sense; she was working the night shift and Linda was one of her patients.

Change in attitude

Shortly after Linda entered the memory-care facility, I wrote a letter to the staff. In that letter, I shared some of her story and why she is important to me. I wanted them to see her as a person with a story worth knowing. Treatment of her changed. They came to see her as more than a category called "dementia." They see beyond the symptoms; they see her as a person.

Here is the larger point: We don't know another until we see him/her as part of God's Story. God's Story simply will not fit neatly into any of our categories—medical, religious, doctrinal, cultural, political, or otherwise!

Until we see others as part of God's Story of Creation and Redemption, they will be but identified symptoms and labeled categories. As symptoms and categories, they can be pushed aside, devalued, scorned, defeated, and feared.

But they/we are participants in God's unfolding Story of creation, liberation, reconciliation, restoration, and transformation. That's our identity, our worth, our dignity, and our destiny. 



Retired Bishop Kenneth L. Carder was elected to the episcopacy in 1992 while serving as pastor of Church Street UMC in Knoxville, Tenn. He retired in 2004 after serving the Nashville and Mississippi Areas. In 2009, Ken's wife, Linda, was diagnosed with frontotemporal dementia. In 2011, the couple moved from Durham, N.C., where Ken served on the faculty of Duke Divinity School, to the Columbia area to be close to their daughters, Sheri Carder Hood and Sandra Carder Nash.

Toastmasters change lives of inmates

HOUSTON, Texas—

Jim Arnold, a member of First UMC, was very shy as a youth and young adult. Even in 1987, at age 45, he says he was frightened to even open his mouth in a Bible study group.

He then learned about Toastmasters International, a world leader in communication and leadership development. More than 4 million people world-wide have participated in the program designed to improve speaking and leadership skills.

Arnold joined one of the 15,400 clubs, where he gained self-confidence by giving speeches, gaining feedback, and guiding others.

Launches prison ministry

Toastmasters so dramatically changed his life, Arnold knew it would do the same for the inmates he was mentoring in prison.

In August, 2000, he began a Toastmasters “Good Shepherd’s Gavel Club” at The Central Unit Prison in Sugar Land, Texas.

Since he wanted to give each inmate an opportunity to speak at least once a month, he limited the size of the group to 24 participants. When other inmates in the 90-year-old prison asked to join, he began a second class in the fall of 2001.

With growing interest in the program, in March, 2002, Arnold established “Skills for Life,” a nonprofit organization based on the Toastmasters program. He established three goals for the 501(c)3 organization: 1) reduce the rate of recidivism; 2) provide the inmates with one of the necessary tools so they could change the prison culture; and 3) get the outside world involved.

Rapid Expansion

In 2011, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice closed The Central Unit. Today the program is in 11 other Texas prisons.

In 2014, Arnold learned that he had achieved his goal of reducing recidivism. In a study of 672 inmates who had completed the Toastmaster course and been released, only 16 percent became repeat offenders. This compares with a Bureau of Justice study that found 67.5% of prisoners released were rearrested within three years.

Thanks to the encouragement of several dozen chaplains (he spoke to 34 prison chaplains and was told that at some point this program would be in every state prison in Texas) and the support of eight other mentors, Arnold’s organization has now helped more than 1,000 inmates learn the



Jim Arnold (center blue shirt) joins with inmates of the Central Unit prison for a celebration of the 10th anniversary of Good Shepherd Gavel Clubs. The woman on Arnold’s right is Chaplain Knapp and the man next to her is Carl B. Farris, the banquet speaker. The other woman in the photo, Della Mullan, was a member of Arnold’s Sunday school class. The man on Arnold’s left is Darrell Oakland, an assistant mentor.



Jim Arnold

values of good communication skills and being servant leaders.

"These classes foster an environment of dignity, courtesy, professionalism, and having fun," says Arnold. "Over the years, I have heard only six swear-words in class—and

four of the inmates stood up in class and apologized."

The story of Michael

To illustrate the life-changing nature of the program, Arnold tells the story of Michael who entered prison a dozen years ago unable to read or write.

"Michael prayed to get into the program for a year because there was a long waiting list and, at age 47, he said he was unable to carry on a conversation with his own mother," says Arnold. "Michael gave his 32nd speech in January, 2010. That will carry him the rest of his life."

Program expands to female prisons

In March, 2015, Arnold invited Jessica Sarpu, also a member of First UMC Houston, to consider leading the Toastmasters

program in a women's prisons in Dayton, Texas.

"I felt led to do that to get a new perspective on related ministries I had been pursuing," says Sarpu. "I started by accompanying Jim to the men's prison and I was so impressed to see the professional environment of the group and see them running it themselves, almost like a board meeting."


Sarpu led the Dayton program until June, 2016, when she was unable to continue.

Next steps

Arnold is now trying to get this program into schools to teach students how to better communicate and thus boost their confidence and opportunity for personal success.

"It would be much better to inspire character and good communication skills early in life rather than in prison," he observes.

"Texas prisons seem eager to have Toastmaster classes," says Arnold, "but they don't offer any assistance to make it happen or devote any funds to implement the communications training."

Arnold is willing to help other units of UM Men engage in similar ministries. Contact him at arnojl@msn.com or visit his website www.skillsforlifepm.com. 

A Chihuahua

Two buddies were out for a Saturday stroll. One had a Doberman and the other had a Chihuahua. As they sauntered down the street, the guy with the Doberman said to his friend, "Let's go over to that restaurant and get something to drink."

The guy with the Chihuahua said, "We can't go in there. We've got dogs with us."

The one with the Doberman said, "Just follow my lead." They walked over to the restaurant and the guy with the Doberman put on a pair of dark glasses and started to walk into the restaurant.

The waiter at the door said, "Sorry, Mac, no pets allowed."

The man with the Doberman said, "You don't understand. This

is my seeing-eye dog."

The waiter said, "A Doberman Pinscher?"

The man said, "Yes, they're using them now. They're very good."

The waiter said, "OK then; come on in."

The buddy with the Chihuahua figured he'd try it too so he put on a pair of dark glasses and started to walk into the restaurant. He knew his story would be a bit more unbelievable. Once again the waiter said, "Sorry, pal, no pets allowed."

The man with the Chihuahua said, "You don't understand. This is my seeing-eye dog."

The waiter said, "A Chihuahua?"

The man with the Chihuahua said, "A Chihuahua?!? A Chihuahua?!? They gave me a Chihuahua??" 



HUMOR

135 churches participate in 9-11 devotional book presentations

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

One hundred and thirty-five churches responded to an offer to purchase cases of *Strength for Service* books for presentations on the 15th anniversary of the September 11 attack on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center.

Cases included 52 copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community*, a book of daily devotions for fire fighters, police officers and other first responders, or 48 copies of *Strength for Service to God and Country*, a historic book for military troops.

Hopewell UMC in Lancaster, S.C., purchased 784 books and First UMC in Tucker, Ga., ordered 280 books for first responders.

St. Andrew UMC in Plano, Texas, ordered 432 books for troops stationed at Fort Hood. In his September 11 sermon, the Rev. Arthur Jones, said the attack gave him a confidence “not built on the power and might of our country, not built on anything but Jesus Christ himself.”

GREER, S.C.

Men of Zoar UMC and the Middle Tyger Ruritan Club gave 52 SFS books to the South Carolina Tyger River Fire District.



Edward Hyatt, UM Men's president (right) stands with Jim Redd, chief of the Tyger River Fire District.

DENVER, N.C.

On September 11, men of Lake Norman UMC and Webb Chapel UMC in Denver, N.C., gave 75 SFS books to first responders.

Rose Hemmeric, a survivor of the attack on the World Trade Center, was the guest speaker. Fifteen years ago, she was trapped on the 63rd floor of Tower 1. She was lead to safety by a team of firefighters who went back up the stairs. She never saw them again.



Rose Hemmeric tells of her experiences in Tower 1 of the World Trade Center.

THOMASVILLE, S.C.

Members of Mount Pleasant UMC presented 52 devotional books to first responders during three church services on Sept. 11.



Firefighter Robert Harden (far left) serves as president of Mount Pleasant UM Men.

GRANVILLE, Pa.

Men of Granville UMC provided 52 SFS books to fire fighters, police officers, and members of the National Guard.

On Sept. 11, Pastor G. Edward Corcelius led the congregation in a litany based on Psalm 13.

All: How long, O Lord? Will you forget us forever?

L: Lord, today we remember a day when everything changed. We remember a beautiful autumn day forever marred by smoke, chaos, death, and confusion.

All: How long will you hide your face from us?

L: We wondered where you were. We wondered how this could happen. So many innocent people gone. So many more left quaking with fear.



First responders gather at the front of Granville UMC

ALBION, Ill.

First UMC held a Sept. 10 banquet to honor first responders. Some 65 people attended, including 22 fire fighters, police officers, and EMS personnel and their families.



The Albion congregation gives SFS books and pocket-size New Testaments to the first responders, and \$300 to the SFS national organization.

NATCHITOCHES, La.

David Poston, Kenny Kaufman and Johnny Broussard presented honor certificates and SFS books to members of the Sherriff's Office, the Police Department, and the Fire Department.

"They were all grateful and thanked the UM Men for thinking of them on the 15th anniversary of 9/11," said Poston, a retired lieutenant colonel in the Louisiana Army National Guard.



UM Men present SFS books to members of the Natchitoches Fire Department.

VIAN, Okla.

Men of Vian UMC held a "Strength for Service" breakfast to honor 65 police officers, firefighters and EMS personnel.

It's nice to know that they recognize and support the work we are doing," said Police Chief Ted W. Johnson.



Parke Largent presents copies of SFS books to first responders. Photo courtesy of Vian Tenkiller News.

PORTAGE, Ind.

On the 15th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on 9-11, First UMC in Portage, Ind., presented books to members of the Portage Police and Fire Departments.



Pastor Mark Dicken presents books to first responders.

LANCASTER, S.C.

Men of Hopewell UMC participated in a 9-11 commemorative event for first 600 Strength for Service books. Special speakers were U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney and N.Y. Fire Chief (retired) Richard Hulse and Col. Robert Steer (retired).



First responders attend a gathering at American Legion Post 31 where they received Strength for Service books. Photo by Donna Eubanks.

CHARLOTTE, N.C.

Blair Road UMC honored members of the Mint Hill Fire Department on Sept. 11. "That was a very traumatic day in all our lives, whether we were there or not because we lost a lot of our brothers in the services, said Mint Hill Fire Chief David Leath.



Firefighters receive Strength for Service books. Photo by Sarah Price.

An unexpected trip to church

David Jeremiah tells about an experience with a bus ministry of Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va.




The congregation sent buses all over the city to bring youth to their Sunday night service. Over time they discovered that not all the kids went inside the church. They got off the bus, headed downtown to the arcades, then returned in time to ride home. In other words, the bus ministry became free transportation to get to downtown entertainment. Therefore the church started posting ushers on the street to direct kids into the building.

One evening an usher spotted two boys heading downtown. He quickly took them by the arm and escorted them into the sanctuary, taking them all the way to the front pew. That night the service was especially powerful. When an invitation to accept Christ was given, the boys went forward. After the service, church leaders took the boys into a prayer room to explain what their decision meant and what next steps are needed to take to grow in their new faith.

One of the leaders then said, "Well, the bus has left, but we will make sure you get a ride home."

"What bus?" the boys asked.

"The bus you rode to get here tonight."

"We didn't ride a bus here. We were just walking down the street when these two men brought us inside this church." 

Former deputy chief of chaplains elected to SFS Board


NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

The Strength for Service Board of Directors invited the Rev. Charles R. Bailey, former brigadier general and deputy chief of U.S. Army chaplains, to become the 11th member of the board.

The board met Sept. 30 to Oct. 1 at the office of the General Commission on UM Men.

A graduate of Texas Wesleyan University and the Brite Divinity School of Texas Christian University, Bailey was ordained an elder in the UMC in 1981, and became a chaplain in the U.S. Army. During his 34 years as a military chaplain, Bailey served in Grenada; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Iraq; Alaska; Germany; Bosnia-Herzegovina; Fort Jackson, S.C.; Italy; Liberia; and Afghanistan.

In 2011, he was promoted to the rank of brigadier general and named deputy chief of chaplains based in Washington, D.C.

Bailey retired from the Army in 2015 and was named associate general secretary for administration and operations for the UM Board of Higher Education and Ministry. 



Chaplain Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Charles R. Bailey




Members of the board attending the 2016 meeting in Nashville from left: Sonya Haiston; Gil Hanke, top staff executive of Commission on UM Men; L.W. Smith, president of the board; Karin Paparelli; Bob Hurst; Ingram Howard, treasurer; Douglas Wright; Richard Pusateri; Larry Coppock, acting executive director; and Bobby Wharton.

PET International changes name

UM Men organizations will continue to provide financial support and parts for hand-driven carts for people with handicapping conditions, but they will now be doing so for “Mobility Worldwide” instead of PET International.

A tag line will read: “Providing Personal Energy Transportation (PET) Carts to the World’s Most Vulnerable People Since 1994.”

“We are at a crossroads in terms of our long-term growth strategy,” said Board Chair Jim Conn. “It is absolutely critical that we attract more supporters whether they are volunteers, donors or both—and the new name will help potential allies learn of us easier online and also make that instant rapport.”

Part of the change in name comes from people who use web browsers. A search for “pet” takes them to animal websites, and not to “personal energy transportation.” 



Dan Ramsey, former president of the National Association of Conference Presidents of UM Men (seated in cart), said it is a great “fit” for UM Men to be in an affiliate relationship with the volunteer-driven organization that provides \$300 hand-crank mobility carts for people without the use of their legs. There are 24 shops across the U.S. and in Zambia. Pictured behind Ramsey and the 50,000th PET mobility cart are (from left) Von Driggs, director of operations for Mobility Worldwide; Scott Walters, executive director; and Jim Conn, board chair.

Forget selfie, try selfless

By Tom Tozer and Bill Black

Perhaps it's in a teenager's genetic makeup to be self-centered. Most teenagers live in a world that seemingly revolves around them. Most of them haven't experienced much of life beyond home and community. Their circle of influence is primarily limited to family, church and school.

Many teenagers don't crack a newspaper, unless it's a current-events assignment in school. They view much of life through a small rectangular window, which gives them the weather, ball scores and how to get from here to there. With it, they send photos of themselves, and sometimes their dogs. Teenagers communicate in truncated words and numeric equations. Their e-devices do the talking for them. With a few keystrokes, they flirt, bully, insult and laugh out loud. They experience the universe without really going there. Instead, it is delivered to them—on the bus or on the couch.

We catch on fast

We adults have caught on fast. Look around in any airport or intersection and note how many people are texting or changing pages with a swipe of a finger. We are engrossed, absorbed, swallowed up. We are aware of one another through beeps, tones, vibrations, pulsations, chimes and musical ditties. We respond to them with the same sensory clatter.

We're just as guilty as our kids and grandkids. We're mesmerized by these gadgets, what they can do and where they can take us. But for our teenagers' sake, let's apply the brakes and get a grip on what's really important.

Lost within ourselves

The problem with these devices is they

allow us to get lost within ourselves. We think we're communicating more freely with others, but too often our messages focus only on what we're doing, where we're going, what we're purchasing. And they can limit our perspective by connecting us only to those opinions and views that fit squarely within the realm of our own.

Living for others


Encourage your teenager to put the device away for just a day and focus on doing for others. We warn you, it will be a painful withdrawal.

Small service is true service, and the real value of life is measured by our service to others. We may feel good when we participate in a global humanitarian effort, but we can serve others in ordinary ways that may draw more smiles than publicity. Serving others doesn't require a lot of time.

Set the example

Greet a neighbor. Visit a retirement home. Help in a food pantry. Take someone's trash out to the curb. Rescue someone's newspaper from the street and toss it on the porch. Wash a car, rake leaves, or whack weeds. Grocery shop for a shut-in. Take an elderly person to the park—to a concert—to church.

Teach your children that being involved in real life doesn't require getting a signal or creating a password.

Dad, you can help your kids form giving habits that will last a lifetime. 



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

UM team provides gift of hearing to 99 Haitians

CAP HAITIAN, Haiti—

A five-member Hope of Hearing team, led by Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men, tested 170 children and adults, and they fit 99 with hearing aids at a Roman Catholic school on the northern coast of this island nation.

The Sept. 13-18 visit was Hanke's 26th annual trip to Haiti.

Hanke, a certified speech/language pathologist, was accompanied by Sally Muhlbach, Angela White, and Ricardo Gauthier, each holding a doctorate in audiology. Kathryn Rawls, a doctoral student in audiology attending the University of Texas at Austin, joined with the team.

"Haiti impacted me in the most profound way, said Rawls. "My heart is hooked on doing more."

The team worked in Institut Marie Louise de Jesus, a school related to Institut Montfort in the suburbs of Port au Prince where the team had worked many times.

It had been 15 years since the team last visited the Cap Haitian school, so none of the children had been previously tested.

"In both schools, the nuns and teachers work closely together and appreciate the team's careful testing of all the children and some adults," said Hanke.

Adults also receives gift of hearing

A Kenyan missionary and his wife traveled several hours to bring a friend to see the team. The friend had lost his hearing when he was 12 years old. "He left with a powerful hearing aid that matched his significant hearing loss," said Hanke. "He left with a smile that lit up the room. The three left praising God for what they had received."

Most of the hearing aids were donated by hearing-aid companies, but some were donated by individuals.

The team will accept any hearing aid sent to them, but the ones that are of the



Gil Hanke tests a Haitian child.

greatest benefit are behind-the-ear.

The team also brought \$1,000 worth of hearing aid batteries which should last about a year.

They raise funds from individuals, churches and civic organizations. "Our largest donor is the Nashville Rotary Club, whose gifts have really helped to move the mission forward," said Hanke.

Team members also said they were delighted to have Kathryn on the team. "We knew this would be a life changing experience for her in so many ways," said Hanke.

Female members of the team stayed in guest quarters in the convent, the men stayed in a small dorm in the monastery next door. The singing of the grace before



All the children at Institut Marie Louise de Jesus are deaf or nearly deaf.


meals, and the bells calling for a time of prayer gave the team a peek at the peace-filled pattern of life within these sacred places of education of children with special needs.

A side trip

The team wanted to experience the history of Haiti, so they joined several nuns on a half-day visit to The Citadel, a massive fort and palace built atop a mountain in the early 1800s. On a clear day you can

see the coast of Cuba from the fortress. "We hiked until we were worn out, and then rode horses the rest of the climb," said Hanke. Some 20,000 Haitians died in constructing the fort, but it was never finished and never used.

The team is planning another trip to Haiti in 2017.

The Hope of Hearing is an endorsed ministry of the General Commission on UM Men. 

It's in the box

HUMOR

There once was a man and a woman who had been married for more than 60 years. They talked about everything. They kept no secrets from each other... except that the old woman had a shoe box in the top of her closet that she cautioned her husband never to open it or ask her about it.

For all these years he had never thought about the box, but one day the little old woman got very sick and the doctor said she would never recover.

In trying to sort out their affairs the little old man took down the shoe box and took it to his wife's bedside. She agreed it was time that he should know what was in the box.


When he opened it he found two beautifully crocheted doilies and a stack of money totaling over \$25,000. He asked her about

the unusual contents.

"When we were married," she said, "my grandmother told me the secret of a happy marriage was never to argue. She told me that if I ever got angry with you, I should just keep quiet and crochet a doily."

The little old man was so moved, he had to fight back tears. Only two precious doilies were in the box. She had only been angry with him two times in all those years of living and loving. He almost burst with joy and happiness.

"Sweetheart," he said, "that explains the doilies, but what about all this money? Where did it all come from?"

"Oh," she said, "that's the money I made from selling the doilies." 



Across the Nation

AURORA, Ill. —
Children meet Santa

Paul Eggert, a UM Men leader at Fourth Street UMC, portrayed Santa Claus in the fourth annual “Christmas in July” toy collection and “Red Kettle Fundraiser” for the Salvation Army.



Children can tug on Santa’s beard because it’s real. Photo by Al Benson.

FAYETTE, Mo. —
Missouri hosts youth institute

Twenty-seven young people from three historically black churches and five col-

leges attended a three-day summer camp at Central Methodist University. The theme of the camp was “Team work makes the dream work.”

“The camp was designed to teach biblical principles, African/African American history, and Wesleyan heritage, in addition to exposing them to college and community-service opportunities,” said the Rev. Kevin Kosh, chaplain of Rust College in Holly Springs, Miss. He will serve as a chaplain at the 2017 BSA National Jamboree in West Virginia.



The Rev. Kevin Kosh (in St. Louis baseball cap) joins with participants in a three-day camp at Central Methodist University.

TULSA, Okla. —

Troop receives Bishop's Award of Excellence

Boy Scout Troop 20, chartered by Boston Ave. UMC, received the Bishop's Award of Excellence for providing more than 1,000 hours of service to the church and community.

Last year, the 48-member troop participated in 30 nights of camping. They also participated in a "Merit Badge Fair" in Bartlesville, camped at "Devil's Den" in Arkansas, rode bicycles across Oklahoma, and backpacked New Mexico mountains of the Philmont Scout Ranch,

Fourteen Scouts completed the "God and Church" study of PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth).



Boy Scouts welcome worshippers attending Boston Ave. UMC.

WOODWORTH, La. —

Sharp shooters in Louisiana

Fifty Louisiana Conference UM Men met at the conference center to hear speeches by Mark Lubbock, a staff member of the General Commission on UM Men, and L.W. Smith, president of the Strength for Service Corporation.

The day included golf and skeet-shooting tournaments.



From left—Natchitoches President Robert DuPree, Coach Mike McConathy, Terry Travis, and Hunger Relief Advocate Sonny Evans participate in skeet shooting.

SAN ANTONIO —

Soldiers receive Strength for Service books

Adam Bloomfield, a chaplain candidate with the Army Reserve, requested copies of *Strength for Service to God and Country* for members of the 4th Brigade, 100th Training Division.

The non-denominational ministry shipped him a carton of 52 books.



Members of the 4th Brigade show their copies of the historic book of daily devotions.

VANCLEAVE, Miss. —

Men give SFS books to Scout leaders

Tommy Williams, president of UM Men of Vanclave UMC, arranged for a presentation of the Scout edition of *Strength for Service to God and Country*.



Gary Bryant, a member of Vanclave UM Men, holds a box of Strength for Service books prior to presentation to Scout leaders Willie Stone (striped shirt) and Sean Murphy (black shirt). UM Men member Marvin Motes (left) and Don Mullikin (right) participate in the presentation.

FOLEY, Ala.—

Venture crew honored by bishop

Venture Crew 99, chartered by Foley UMC, received the Bishop's Award of Excellence at the 2016 session of the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference.

All 14 members of the crew completed the "God and Life" study of PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth).

They also cleaned up a play area for Sunday school children, held an Easter egg hunt, helped with a church health fair, and donated funds to the UM Committee on Relief. Crew members led the worship service on Scout Sunday.



Bishop Paul Leeland presents the Bishop's Award of Excellence to Pamela Baker, adviser to Venture Crew 99.

NEW CUMBERLAND, Pa. —

Former quarterback speaks to men's gathering

Eighty-five men enjoyed a pot roast dinner and a speech by Jimmy Jones, former quarterback of the University of Southern California Trojans.



Pastor Win Green speaks to men attending an August 30 gathering at Baughman Memorial UMC.

As a sophomore, Jones was the first African-American quarterback to appear on a 1969 cover of *Sports Illustrated* following an undefeated season. In their final game, USC beat the University of Michigan in the Rose Bowl.

The following year, Jones was part of the first all-African-American back field that beat an all-white University of Alabama football team. Following the 42 to 21 loss in Birmingham, Alabama integrated its football team.



Jimmy Jones compiled a 22-8-3 record and established USC records for 42 career touchdowns and 1,877 passing yards in a season. Jones is now a consultant for the Harrisburg (Pa.) Police Athletic League.

SAN DIEGO, Calif. Chaplains give 3,300 devotional books to deploying troops

Strength for Service sent 3,300 copies of *Strength for Service to God and Country* to Sailors and Marines stationed in California. The books were presented prior to their October deployment in the Pacific.

The historic books, provided by St. Louis-based World Wide Technology, were requested by Chaplain Todd Delaney, command chaplain of the 1st Battalion



Marines and Sailors "man the rails" of the amphibious transport dock ship USS Somerset. The Marines are with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit and the Sailors are with Amphibious Squadron Five. U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Vladimir Ramos.

of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Group, based at Camp Pendleton. The books were distributed by 54 chaplains under his command. Those chaplains serve 88 ships.

“Thank you and all the folks at Strength for Service for all that you do for our troops,” says DeLaney. “We appreciate it more than you know.”

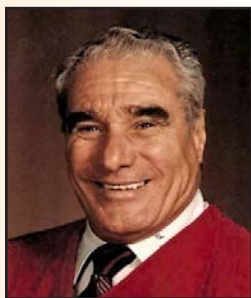
HOT SPRINGS, Ark. —

Church honors deceased veteran

On the Sunday nearest the 4th of July, Grand Ave. UMC annually hosts a Strength for Service Day. A retired member of the military frequently speaks at the service and tells how much the historic book

meant to him.

Five days prior to the July 3, 2016, service, Sammy Furo, a World War II veteran, died, and church members contributed \$367 to *Strength for Service* in memory of the 89-year-old veteran.



Samuel Furo Sr.

During World War II Sammy served on the battleship USS Monterey and was engaged in the attack on the Philippines.

As a high school football star Sammy led the nation in rushing with 3,633 yards. In 1948, he set a school record for Magnolia A&M (now Southern Arkansas University) when he returned a punt for 80 yards.

Sammy’s funeral was held at Grand Avenue UMC the Saturday before the Strength for Service Sunday. The Rev. David Fleming, pastor, officiated.

HIGHTSTOWN, N.J. —

‘Methodist Madness’ scores points

In 1995, Jim Chamberlain and Paul Follansbee led an effort to transform the church parking lot into a basketball court for children in public housing across the street. Basketball goals were donated by UM Men and UM Women.

By the summer of 2016, that early effort had resulted in “Methodist Madness” basketball tournaments led by 14 adult volunteers. A total of 171 young people participated in at least one evening tournament during the five-week summer program.



A new basketball tournament is held each Monday and Wednesday summer evening at the parking lot of Hightstown UMC. Winners receive trophies and mini basketballs. Last summer, 100 children received “Methodist Madness” t-shirts and sneakers.

NEW ORLEANS, La. —

District president honors local church



Randall Schexnayder, president of New Orleans District UM Men (center right), presents UM Men of Cornerstone UMC with a plaque for placing second in membership in the Louisiana Conference UM Men. Charles Beckwith (center) and Marion Spencer (center left) accept the award. They are joined by the Rev. Andy Goff, superintendent of the New Orleans District (left), and Joe Kelley, national prayer advocate for UM Men (right).

ANNAPOLIS, Md. —

Men gather material for flood relief

Calvary UMC collected materials for West Virginia flood relief. The materials

were then delivered to the Baltimore Washington Conference Center, where they were combined with donations from other churches and delivered to the flood damaged areas in West Virginia.



Bill Lovelace, left, and Warren Cook prepare to deliver materials for West Virginia.

DENVER, Colo.—
Bill West welcomes bishop to area

Bill West, president of the Rocky Mountain Conference UM Men, welcomes Bishop Karen Oliveto to the Mountain Sky Episcopal Area prior to her installation service at Park Hill UMC.



GREENWOOD, S.C. —
President cites three elements needed for successful men’s ministry

Addressing an Aug. 27 meeting of UM Men at St. Mark UMC, UM Men President Wilson Bruce cited three essential elements for a successful men’s ministry: 1) the support of the senior pastor; 2) a primary leader; and 3) a team of leaders to support him.

The day-long “teaching church” event



Forty-five men attend a district event at St. Mark UMC. Photo by Wilson Bruce.

included a report on a community-wide prayer breakfast and a weekly disciple group. Forty-five men from eight churches also discussed entry points for men on the fringe and a ramp-building ministry.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. —
World War II veteran provides storage space

Morris Dennis, founder of the Dennis Paper Company, provides storage space for *Strength for Service* books. The SFS Board honored the World War II veteran with framed copies of the books during their Sept.30-Oct. 1 meeting.

Dennis piloted troops and supplies in a LCV landing craft from England to the beaches of France. He completed 45 missions in 16 months before being transferred to a destroyer.



Gil Hanke (left) presents framed copies of SFS books to Ron Dennis, president of the Dennis Paper Company. Morris Dennis, founder of the company (right), and L.W. Smith, president of the SFS Corporation (back row) look on.

CLARKSTON, Mich. —
Church gives funds for first responders

Men of Clarkston UMC raised \$500 to provide *Strength for Service* books to first responders in Louisiana, Texas, Florida, and West Virginia.

12th National Gathering of United Methodist Men

July 7-8, 2017

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
Indianapolis, Indiana
(26 miles north of the Indianapolis International Airport)

Featured Speakers:



**Bishop Jonathan Holston- Resident
Bishop of South Carolina**



**Bishop James Swanson- Resident Bishop
of Mississippi, and President of the
General Commission on United
Methodist Men**

**Dr. Kevin Watson, Assistant Professor of
Wesleyan and Methodist Studies,
Candler School of Theology**

**Mr. Shan Foster, Director of MEND
(Ending Violence- Mending
Communities), Middle Tennessee YWCA**

Workshops and Ministry Opportunities will be Available

Check www.gcumm.org for more information later this year

Don't go near Indianapolis in July

If you want to stay in your comfort zone, don't plan to be in Indianapolis July 7 or 8.

If you are in that city, don't go near St. Luke's UMC.

In that Indianapolis church, UM men will be challenged to leave their comfort zones to combat domestic violence, engage in accountability groups, and learn that "discipleship" is a "contact sport."

Featured speakers for the July meeting include: Mississippi Area Bishop James Swanson Sr., president of the General Commission on UM Men; South Carolina Area Bishop Jonathan Holston; Shan Foster, national director of MEND, a YWCA program combatting domestic violence; and Dr. Kevin Watson, assistant professor of Methodist and Wesleyan Studies at Candler School of Theology and author of *The Class Meeting: Reclaiming a Forgotten (and Essential) Small Group Experience*.

You are warned to avoid attending this event as you will have to make difficult choices.

On Saturday, you will have to choose among a host of practical workshops and several mission projects. To make that decision-making process even more difficult, you could also elect to participate in a fun event that will force you to make friends with strangers.

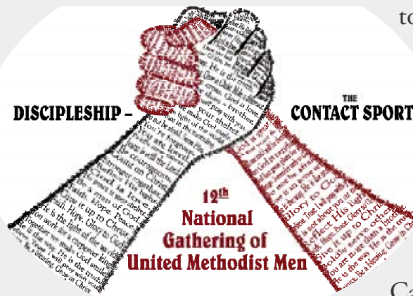
Also, don't plan to bring your wife to Indianapolis. You'll be forced to choose between one of 30 carefully selected motels and dine in some of the fine restaurants. You will have

to choose among side trips to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, the Indianapolis Zoo, the Museum of Art, the Central Canal, the Indiana War Memorial, the Eiteljor Museum, the Indiana Repertory Theatre, the State Capitol, and the Civil War

Monument.

As you can see, travel to Indianapolis this July could reduce your time watching television reruns and you could miss the day you would normally mow your lawn.

You have been warned.



The 12th National Gathering

This is the 12th quadrennial national gathering since the first UM Men Congress in 1969. Ten of the previous meetings were held on the campus of Purdue University in Lafayette, Ind., and the 2008 and 2012 meetings were held at Belmont University in Nashville.

This will be the first time United Methodist Men have met in Indianapolis, but it is the same city in which men of the Methodist Episcopal Church met in 1913.

What legacy will you leave?

By David Battles

We all desire significance.

Many of us want to leave a lasting impact on the people most dear to us and the world in which we live. The search for significance and desire to plan for the future, may lead you to ponder “What kind of legacy will I leave?”

A bequest is the easiest and most tangible way to have a lasting impact on the people and organizations that mean the most to you. A bequest may also be an effective way to remember your church and other charitable organizations, such as the UM Men Foundation.

An endowment gift to the UM Men Foundation may be designated for a specific purpose. You may want to establish an endowment to provide for scouting, the Upper Room Prayer Ministry, prison ministries, or men’s ministry. The list goes on.

Why make an endowment gift? An endowment is permanently invested. The endowment creates a steady stream of annual distributions to support the ministry designated by the endowment. Your gift will be maintained in perpetuity and make a lasting meaningful difference.

You can establish your endowment now and fund it later. The advantage of

establishing the endowment now is that you make certain that your wishes are carried out. It is very simple to do. Contact the foundation to establish the endowment and define the purpose of the fund, then include bequest language in your will or trust. For example, “I hereby, give, devise and bequeath ten percent of my estate to The United Methodist Men Foundation, a non-profit organization located in Nashville, Tenn., for the benefit of the *Your Name* Endowment Fund.”



Glenn Wintemberg, president of the foundation has created two endowments: The Glenn and Brenda Wintemberg Endowment and the Glenn Wintemberg Men’s

Ministry Endowment. Both endowments were started with \$1,000.

The foundation can help you create an endowment that meets your philanthropic and legacy goals. For more information, contact Wintemberg (unitvent@yahoo.com) (314/604-2789).



David Battles is the executive director of the Oklahoma Foundation and a member of the UM Men Foundation.

— In memoriam —

Jim Green

WINCHESTER, Va.—

Jim Green, 78, former president of UM Men of the Virginia Annual Conference, died Sept. 2, 2016.

Born in Mt. Storm, W.Va., Jim was a graduate of West Virginia University. His studies in agriculture led him to serve in Third World countries as a volunteer with International Voluntary Services and then as an officer with the U.S. Agency for International Development.

After returning to the United States, he operated the family farm, and later moved his family to Winchester where he worked as a carpenter building custom homes. He spent the last 20 years working at the Sunnyside Food Lion.

A devoted member of Braddock Street UMC, he served many years as president of the UM Men and was a legacy builder with the General Commission on UM Men. He also volunteered with Heart Havens, Kairos Prison Ministry, and Wycliffe Bible Translators.



Jim Green

Stan England

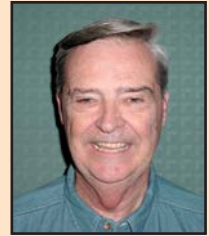
Stan England, 83, the 1991-96 president of the National Association of Conference Presidents of UM Men, died October 18 in Kennesaw, Ga.

“Stan England was a great national president,” said Robert Powell who succeeded Stan as NACP president. “Stan was the last national president under the General Board of Discipleship. He helped our relationship with the board when General Conference let us become the Commission on UM Men.

Stan graduated from Memphis State College in 1951 where he was an excellent basketball player, and he spent 28 years as a general manager for sports arenas.

Stan was president for the Lion’s Club for many years and chairman for the Children and Youth Organization of Cobb County. He was an active member of the First UMC of Marietta.

He is preceded in death by JoAnn Harrison England, his loving wife of 63 years. He is survived by one son: Stanley David England of Kennesaw; two daughters: MyLinda (Tom) Milley of Kennesaw, and Brenda (Michael) Brent of Woodstock, Ga., four grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.



Stan England

The end of violence against women begins with men— ‘We are the Lions’ video

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

The General Commission on UM Men acknowledges most men are kind, caring and respectful, but occasionally their words and actions objectify women as sex objects,” says Gil Hanke, top staff executive.

A new video, “We are the Lions,” links this thinking and behaving with domestic abuse.

“Most men are not the perpetrators of domestic violence,” says Hanke, “but their occasional lapses provide the basis for domestic abuse.”

He says the video produced by MEND (combining words “men” and “end”), a Nashville YWCA organization, “bluntly and directly challenges male attitudes and inaction that demean women and attempt to make criminal behavior seem somehow

acceptable.

“Men play a critical role in preventing domestic abuse because men are the perpetrators,” says Hanke.

Hanke serves on the MEND steering committee and a sub-group of faith leaders who want to impact pastors, men’s ministry leaders, and Scout leaders. Their goal is to challenge men to change the ways in which they view women, and to help them understand how their words and behavior makes violence against women and girls seem acceptable.

MEND wants to make Nashville the safest city for women and girls in the U.S.

The organization has given Hanke the permission to make the “We are the Lions” video available to groups of UM Men across the nation. Visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PscD6h1iNiI>.

MEND is an innovative, primary prevention initiative dedicated to ending violence against women and girls by engaging and educating men and boys.

MEND seeks to:

- Elevate the conversation about violence against women and girls
- Engage men to be part of the solution

Enter the national contest

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Now is the time to enter the third annual national contest for the most outstanding local church, district and conference ministries to men.

Wall plaques will be presented to the top five chartered local-church ministries, the top district and the top annual conference. The top local church will receive a trophy and a wall plaque.

The deadline for entries is Feb. 1, 2017.

There is no form to fill out. If your church is chartered, simply describe the ministries, the number of people involved, the amount of money raised and to whom it was contributed, along with ways in which the ministries have made a difference in the church and community. Do not confine your report to the activities of the small group of men who engage in Bible study. Describe all the activities of men in your church, district or annual conference. Photos will help judges evaluate the ministries and can be used in subsequent magazine articles.



E-mail information and photos to RPeck@gcumm.org or mail entries to Rich Peck, 1000 17th Ave. S., Nashville, TN 37212.

Entries will be judged by a panel composed of conference and jurisdictional presidents of UM Men selected by Dan Ramsey, former president of the National Association of Conference Presidents (NACP).

Winning entries will be announced at the March, 2017, NACP meeting in Nashville. Winning ministries will be advised in advance of the meeting so representatives may plan to personally receive the awards. Plaques and trophy may also be presented during annual conference sessions. Local church, district and conference winners will be featured in the summer 2017 issue of this magazine.

UM Men Awards

Sam Carder

Men meet in home of founder

JONESBOROUGH, Tenn.—

Men of Sulphur Springs UMC presented Sam Carder with a Life Membership Award. He was one of six men who established the organization in 1997. He held several offices and participated in a host of UM Men activities including leading a men's retreat in Virginia.

The men's group now meets in Sam's home since Parkinson's disease makes it difficult for him to get to other locations.

Judith Kenaston

Secretary receives Susanna Wesley Award

BUCKHANNON, W.Va.—

Don Davis, president of West Virginia UM Men, presented a Susanna Wesley Award to Judith Kenaston during the 2016 session of West Virginia Annual Conference.

Judith serves as conference secretary, editor of the conference yearbook, and a member of the Conference Clergy Committee, the Rules

Committee, the Nomination Committee, and the Covenant Council. She also served as a secretary at the 2016 General Conference in Portland, Ore.

Married to Joseph Kenaston, superintendent of the Southern District, the couple attends Concord UMC in Beckley.



From left: West Virginia Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, West Virginia UM Men President Don Davis, Judith Kenaston, and the Rev Gregory Godwin.

Montee Sneed

Scout leader inducted into Society of John Wesley

COLUMBIA, Tenn.—

Montee Sneed, chartered organization representative of First UMC, has served as a cubmaster, unit commissioner, and a member of the Middle Tennessee Council BSA Board. He is a recipient of the Cross and Flame Award, The Torch Award, the Daniel Beard Masonic Scouter Award and the Long Rifle Award.



A life member of UM Men of First UMC, Montee's resume now includes membership in the John Wesley Society.

George Webb

Former conference president coaches basketball

SISSONVILLE, W.Va.—

Men of Humphreys Memorial UMC presented their pastor, George Webb, with a Life Membership Award.

A former president of West Virginia Conference UM Men, George also served as president of the Laymen's Foundation and the Board of Pensions. He also coached basketball and established the "Coach of the Month" program.

A certified life underwriter and financial consultant, George also serves as an adviser with Woodbury Financial Services in Sissonville, and he served as president of the National Association of Insurance Financial Advisers.



George Webb

Bill Brown

Church honors former New Jersey church leader

MOUNT HOLLY, N.C.—

The UM Men organization of First UMC presented Bill Brown with a Life Membership Award for his service as treasurer,

He came to Mt. Holly in 2008 after serving as chair of the Church Council and the Missions Committee in Leonia (N.J.) UMC. He also led a mission trip to Frakes, Ky., and taught a Sunday school class in the New Jersey church he joined in 1970.

In Mount Holly, he continues his interest in missions, cooks for UM Men meals, ushers, and serves on the Church Council. He is also president of the Mt. Holly Lions Club.

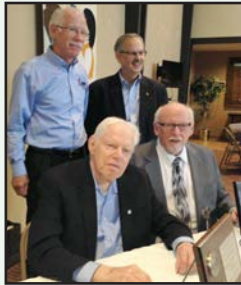
John Schevenius and George Foster Church inducts two into John Wesley Society

BLOOMINGTON, Minn.—

The Men's Fellowship of Normandie Hylands UMC honored John Schevenius and George Foster for their service to Jesus Christ. Both men were inducted into the Society of John Wesley by Bishop Bruce Ough.

At the same breakfast meeting, Bishop Ough and local President Karl Schwichtenberg received Life Membership Awards. The bishop is also a fellow in the John Wesley Society.

A civil engineer, John spent 1955 to 1975 in Zimbabwe building homes, churches, schools and hospitals through the UM Board of Global Ministries. John later became headmaster at a school he built. His wife, Ruth, a



Seated from left: John Schevenius and George Foster. Standing from left: Karl Schwichtenberg and Bishop Bruce Ough.

bacteriologist, trained nurses in the southern Africa nation.

George and his wife, Dolly, served as missionaries in Brazil for 25 years. He was a director of missions for Bethany International, and is currently a pastor to missionaries. He is the author of *Help me! God! Help me!*, a book published last fall in English and Portuguese.

Both men participate in the Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study.

The men raised funds for the awards by operating the church's sound booth at weddings and funerals; they also received additional donations from individuals.

Steve McGahee

Women honor leader of UM Men

TAYLORS, S.C.—

Steve McGahee received the 2016 UM Women Missions Award from Lee Road UMC.

A church member since 1972, Steve has chaired the Staff Parish Relations Committee, the Board of Trustees, the Stewardship Committee, and he co-chaired the Missions Committee. He also served as president of Lee Road UM Men and the Greenville District UM Men.

He served as director of "Upstate Salkehatchie," a 100-member integrated group of volunteers who repair homes, and he coordinated "Bike and Build."

A member of the South Carolina Annual Conference and the Greenville District Council on Ministries, Steve coordinated the Men's Morning Prayer Group and taught Disciple Bible studies.

He is also a member of the Finance, Nominations, Evangelism, Landscape and Church Council committees. He has served as an acolyte, crucifer, greeter, usher, liturgist, choir member, Sunday school teacher, Relay for Life volunteer, Stop Hunger Now volunteer, camper, and volunteer for Habitat builds.



Steve McGahee

Dr. W. Charles Akins

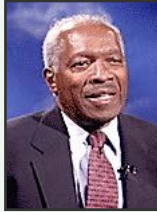
High school named after educator

AUSTIN, Texas—

Men of Wesley UMC presented Dr. W. Charles Akins with a Life Membership Award. A 60-year member of the church, he has served as president of UM Men, but he is best known to the city as an educator and school administrator during turbulent times of racial integration.

Following a 14-year teaching career, the graduate of Huston-Tillotson University was named principal of L.C. Anderson High School in 1973, and he led federally mandated efforts to integrate the school.

In 1982, he became associate superintendent of Austin schools, and, in 2000, the W. Charles Akins High School opened with 2,700 students.



Dr. W. Charles Akins

Ken Summers

Former president inducted into John Wesley Society

BINGHAMTON, N.Y.—

Ken Summers was in for a surprise when he attended the annual men's retreat at the Sky Lake camp.

The former conference president and the conference prayer advocate assumed this was just another opportunity to greet old friends, but those same friends inducted him into the Society of John Wesley.



Ken Summers and wife Marjorie attend a 2015 game at the NYSEG stadium. Marjorie died in October, 2015.

Ken may best be known for organizing UM Nights at NYSEG stadium, home of the Binghamton Mets. Funds raised at this event support the Upper Room Prayer Line

and the Society of St. Andrew. In 2015, the night raised \$2,329. Ken threw out the first ceremonial pitch.

Win Applegate

Men honor church founder

HAMILTON SQUARE, N.J.—

Ronald C. Wright, president of Saint Mark UM Men, presented Win Applegate with a Life Membership Award.



From left: Win Applegate, Ronald C. Wright, and Pastor Bob Marks

Forty-five years ago, Union Methodist Church was destroyed in a gas explosion and Hamilton Square Methodist Church needed a place to call home. The two churches combined to form Saint Mark Methodist Church.

Win helped acquire the land and developed the site. Since that time he served as finance director and leader of the building expansion committee. Also, he was a member of the Administrative Council and the UM Men's group.

Bob Nash

Men honor founder

PINEVILLE, La.—

Men of First UMC honored Bob Nash, former president of UM Men, for his 52 years of service as one of the founders of the church.



From left front: Karen and Fred Carter, current president; Bob and Linda Nash. From left back: Cliff Kelley, former president; Wayne Martin; David Tassin, former president; and Archie Stewart, former president.

TAKE THE FLAG >>>

Following God's Signals in the Race of Your Life



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Every day God sends signals. Do you see them?

The spiritual life is often compared to a race. Pastor Rob Fuquay uses auto racing flags as a metaphor for Christian discipleship. There are parallels between the flags used in auto racing and the signals God sends us in our fast-paced lives.

The purpose of Take the Flag is not to turn readers into race fans but to help them become stronger disciples of Jesus Christ. The study book includes questions at the end of each chapter, and the DVD has stories and interviews from drivers and, other auto racing professionals.

Personal Stories

Michael McDowell
Chocolate & Caron Myers
James Hinchcliffe
Sam Hornish Jr.
Ann Schrader
Cliff Champion
Nick Terry

Quick Flag Stories

Ed Carpenter
Jerry Cook
Conor Daly
Austin Dillon
Scott Dixon
Larry McReynolds
Danica Patrick
Ricky Stenhouse Jr.

For more details, visit RobFuquay.com

Karabinos expands scouting ministry in church and conference

JOHNS CREEK, Ga.—

After achieving the rank of Eagle in 1978, Chris Karabinos Sr. helped Johns Creek UMC expand its scouting ministry to now include 425 young people in four Cub Scout packs, three Boy Scout troops, and one Venture Club.

The church now has one of the largest Scout programs in the nation.

One might trace the beginning of Chris' career as an adult leader to his 1987 marriage to Karen Kirkpatrick and the birth of their two sons.

When their first son, Chris, became old enough for Cub Scouts, the couple helped form Pack 3143 at the Johns Creek church. From 1996 to 2000 the pack grew from 0 to 110 Scouts, and earned the National Quality Unit award for the first time in 1998, and has earned it annually since.

In 2001 as the chartered organization representative for the church, Chris formed Troop 3143; in 2007 he helped form Troop 2143, and in 2010, he helped form Venture Crew 43. Sons Chris, Jr., 27, and John, 23, grew up in Pack 3143 and earned their Eagle in Troop 143.

In the eight years he served as the chartered organization representative, Chris helped double the size of the program from four to eight units by identifying and developing leaders for the growing number of units.

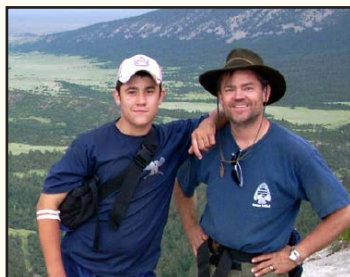


Starts PRAY programs

In 1997, Chris began teaching and recruiting teachers for PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth) classes first at St. David's Episcopal Church, then at John's Creek UMC. Over the past 10 years, 390 youth have completed at least one "God and

Country"

course at the UMC. UM Men of the church support PRAY classes with proceeds from the annual UM Men's golf tournament.



Chris Karabinos and son John at Cathedral Rock at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

Chris also helped establish the "John Dorman Duty-to-God Eagle Scout Award" and breakfast, an award and event sponsored by the UM Men at the church. This award honors Eagle Scouts who go above and beyond exhibiting "Duty to God" daily in their lives and by serving others.

Ministry in the conference

Now serving as Scout coordinator for the North Georgia Conference, the Auburn University graduate and 25-year veteran of technology sales and marketing is helping the conference expand its scouting ministry in the same way he helped Johns Creek.

"I believe that one of my primary roles in the position of Scout coordinator in North Georgia is to recruit enough Scout leaders, at the conference level and the congregation level, to start new units and to start new PRAY programs around the conference" says Chris. "One of the most effective ways the Conference Scout Committee does this is by recruiting people to serve as chartered organization representatives, training them, and providing resources to help them do their jobs." Chris has led COR training for the BSA Atlanta Area Council for the past five years.

A recipient of the Silver Beaver Award (2005), the Distinguished Commissioner

Award (2007), the God and Country Mentor Award (2008), the UM Cross & Flame Award (2009), and the UM Torch Award (2014), Chris believes that Duty-to-God is one of the "core principles of scouting," and that scouting is "a great youth development program for the church."

A member of the BSA Atlanta Area Council's Religious Relations Committee since 2012, Chris chaired the council's 2013 Duty-to-God Encampment for some 500 youth and leaders, one of the largest religious-themed Scout events in the South.

Chris is now lending his leadership skills to Peachtree Road UMC.

Crossing enemy lines

PEARISBURG, Va.—

Darrell Adams, a 20-year military veteran, serves as an assistant district commissioner for the Blue Ridge Mountains BSA Council and unit commissioner for two Cub Scout packs in that council. The former Army sergeant, also serves as charter organization representative for a Cub Scout pack and a Boy Scout troop in the Buckskin BSA Council.

Darrell now serves as a scouting ministry specialist in the Roanoke District of the Virginia Annual Conference. "The challenge is that the church that I attend, First UMC in Pembroke, Va., charts Scout units in a different BSA council," says Darrell. "So I feel like a double spy, having to cross enemy lines at times."

The double agent serves as charter organization representative for a Cub Scout pack and a Boy Scout troop chartered by the Pembroke church. He is also a member of the church's Council and Evangelical Committee.

Darrell achieved the rank of Eagle in



Darrell Adams helps Daniel Stevers (left) and Jordan Israel earn the God and Family PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth) award.

1979, and he has since served as an assistant scoutmaster, chair of a Troop Committee, and webmaster for a district. A member of the Order of the Arrow, he is a 2004 graduate of Wood Badge training and received a doctorate of commissioner science. He also attended the

June, 2016, UM Scouters Workshop at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia.

Darrell holds an Associate Degree in Applied Science from North Dakota State School of Science and a Bachelor of Science degree in management studies from the University of Maryland. A recipient of a Project Management Professional certificate, Darrell is currently working towards certification as a Risk Management Professional.

Following four years in the U.S. Marine Corps and 16 years in the U.S. Army, Darrell retired in December 2005 with the rank of Sergeant First Class. Since his retirement, he has served as a technical writer, and a quality and safety manager. He currently serves as an I.T. project manager for the Veterans Administration.

What does a Philmont chaplain do?

By Peter Vaught

CIMARRON, N.M.—

I had only been at the Philmont Scout Ranch a couple of days when one of the rangers asked me, “What do chaplains do?” It was a simple question. My answer was equally simple, “We listen to people.” Sometimes we listen to a person’s joy. There are times when we listen to a person’s pain.

Of course, there are others things that are done by chaplains. But everything we do comes out of our interactions with people and that which our spirits sense as “holy”. When we counsel a person, it is essentially an occasion to listen to the individual’s life story of defeats and victories. When we preach, we attempt to put into words the concerns and aspirations of people to whom we have listened. When we pray, our intention is to bring the fears and hopes we have heard into the presence of the Divine.

When we live disciplined lives, we strive to embody the best character we can manage as humans in the face of tempting choices. We celebrate the mysteries of our faith such

as Christian holy days, Jewish festivals and Islam rituals with voices we listen to from the past.

When we solemnize life’s transitions such as funerals and weddings, we are leading people by recognizing the tragic in life while offering courage through the paths of faith that have been trail blazed for thousands of years.

For me, it relates to something Pierre Teilhard de Chardin wrote, “We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience.” Chaplains attempt to humanize the “spiritual being” in each of us by the most humble human activity: Listening.



The Rev Peter Vaught is a graduate of Northern Arizona University and the Claremont School of Theology. Now retired, he is the former pastor of Sierra Vista (Ariz.) UMC (2004-2013)

Chaplain distributes New Testaments

CIMARRON, N.M.—

Peter Vaught served as a chaplain at the Philmont Scout Ranch from mid-May to Mid-August.

Each day, Vaught and two other chaplains distributed New Testaments to Scouts attending a worship service at the base camp.

The Scouting Office of UM Men cooperated with Roman Catholics and three other Protestant denominations to produce and

distribute 20,000 copies of the New Testaments for Scouts at four high-adventure sites.

Philmont chaplains distributed 11,000 copies; The Northern Tier High Adventure Centers in Minnesota, 2,000 copies; the BSA Florida Sea Base, 5,000, and the Summit Bechtel Reserve in Tennessee distributed 3,000 copies of the New Revised Standard Version.



Chaplain Peter Vaught hands a New Testament to a Scout attending a Protestant worship service at the Philmont Scout Ranch.

Scouting awards

Melissa Rayla

Good Samaritan leads fund-raising efforts

WORCESTER, Mass.—

After teaching Sunday school at Epworth UMC for 12 years, Melissa Rayla was named Sunday school superintendent.

In that position she led efforts to raise funds for Heifer Farm International, the UM Committee on Relief, “Nothing but Nets,” a homeless shelter, and a food pantry at Wesley UMC in Worcester.

It’s no surprise that Epworth UMC presented Melissa with a Good Samaritan Award.

Mark Anderson

Philmont chaplains honor program director

CIMARRON, N.M.—

Clergy serving as chaplains for the Philmont Scout Ranch presented their program director with a Silver Torch Award for coordinating religious service at the high adventure center.

“Over many years, Mark has worked to ensure that we have a strong chaplain staff, that we have the resources to have strong base-camp and back-country religious services, and that we have a devoted hour each evening dedicated to ‘duty to God’ without interference or competition from other activities,” said the chaplains.

The Silver Torch is presented to adults who have given exemplary service at the regional, national or international level.



Mark Anderson (left) receives the Silver Torch Award.

Jonas Cramer

Stage manager will start Venture Club

BELLE VERNON, Pa.—

Jonas Cramer has been a stage manager for musicals and plays since 6th grade. Having designed and built sets, he now plans to design and build a Venture Club.



Jonas Cramer.

Concord UMC presented the former Cub Scout den chief with a Good Samaritan Award for packing Christmas boxes for children, serving as an acolyte, participating in a 5K walk to battle pancreatic cancer, ringing the bell for the Salvation Army, and working at a food pantry.

Bill Ettinger

Lifetime scouter receives Torch Award

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—

In 1975, Bill Ettinger became the scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 36 at Laurel UMC, and continues in that capacity today.

The Eagle Scout also serves as co-chair of the Abraham Lincoln Council BSA Silver Beaver Committee, and he has been an organizer for the council’s first-aid meetings for more than 20 years.

Laurel UMC presented Bill with a Torch Award.



Bill Ettinger (right)

Renee Pullin, Chad Eilers, Isaiah Chauhan, Ashlynn Keyser and Kas Settle

Virginia church honors five young people

CULPEPER, Va.—

Culpeper UMC presented Good Samaritan Awards to five young people during July services.

Those honored include: Renee Pullin, Chad Eilers, Isaiah Chauhan, Ashlynn Keyser and Kas Settle.



Renee Pullin and Chad Eilers

Hugh Killblane Scoutmaster helps 19 attain rank of Eagle

DAVIS, Okla.—

The Rev. Steve Harshaw, pastor of First UMC, asked the Oklahoma Conference Board of Laity to present a Torch Award to Hugh Killblane for 17 years of service as a scoutmaster.

“During his tenure,” said Harshaw, “19 Scouts have earned their Eagle, two more are very close and many more have learned skills that will help them in the future.” He noted a Scout recently constructed a sidewalk at the church for his Eagle project. “Hugh supported the young man every step of the way,” said Harshaw. “Hugh also took members of the troop to Philmont and the National Jamboree.

Hugh also serves the church as chair of the Board of Trustees, a leader of senior high youth, teacher of an adult Sunday school class, and chair of the Strategic Planning Committee.

Bill Phillips Former university band member starts Scout band

RICHARDSON, Texas—

A former member of the University of Texas marching band, Bill recruited a

conductor and rented space in order to start the Circle Ten Council Silver Eagle Band.

Bill’s dream is to one day have the band march in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day parade.

First UMC presented him with a Cross and Flame Award.



The Silver Eagle Band plays for a Friends of Scouting Dinner

Sam Belew Scoutmaster receives award

BRISTO, Tenn.—

State Street UMC presented a Cross and Flame Award to Sam Belew for his service as scoutmaster of Troop 8.

Sam achieved the rank of Eagle in 1964 and the Wood Badge Award in 1992.



Sam Belew

Dylan Robert Dropp American Legion selects Boy Scout of the Year

SUMMERVILLE, S.C.—

The American Legion selected Dylan Dropp, 15, as the “Boy Scout of the Year.”

For his Eagle Scout project, the senior patrol leader of Troop 759 built a flag-burning pit outside the legion facility and remodeled a bathroom to make it accessible to people with handicapped conditions.

Dylan said he’s learned the importance of camaraderie and other life lessons he would never have encountered outside Boy Scouts. The troop meets at Boone Hill UMC.



Dylan Dropp

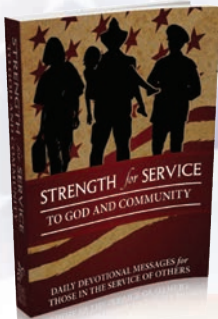


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May 4, 2017



National Police Week
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For further information contact

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Please share with all of the men of the church.



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