



# UMMM

**The magazine of United Methodist Men**

**Meet the Millennials**

# A letter from the General Secretary

Typically when I do a presentation at a local church or district event, I will ask the audience, “Who is missing from your church?”

The answer is always the same, “Men, youth and young adults.”

So what are we doing to turn this around? Will some “old fashion” evangelism work? Research shows we currently are not doing much in the area of inviting people to church.

Studies indicate less than 25 percent of church members share their faith with someone and less than 10 percent invite folks to attend their church. Add to this, studies that found 82 percent of unchurched adults would be “somewhat likely” to attend church if they were invited and escorted. In other words- a huge majority of folks who don’t go to church would likely say “yes” to your invitation if you stopped by and picked them up.

They don’t “need” a ride; they want to go with you because they don’t want to be embarrassed. Many of the young men and women in your community may have only been to church for weddings and funerals in the last 15 years. They don’t know what to expect and so they don’t want to visit your church alone.



As we talked about last issue, and you will see in this issue, many younger folks will come in through backdoor ministries before they will ever come to worship. So as you read the articles that follow, continue to ask yourself, “Have I asked someone to attend church with me this week? Are their backdoor ministries that might interest young families who I know from work or who live down the street? Is there a place for new folks of any age at my church?”

Challenge yourself and your church to be intentional about inviting someone, particularly a youth or young adult, this week to attend some activity at your church. What would happen if you challenged your small group, your Sunday school class, or the whole congregation to do the same?

This is not a task for “someday;” today is the day. Someone invited you; someone made you welcome; someone cared enough, that in spite of all your flaws and imperfections saw you as a child of God who had a place in the community of faith.

Honor the gift you have been given, and seek out someone to invite and bring them to your church home. Welcome them into the family. As disciples, this is what we are expected to do.

*Gil Hanke*



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**UM Men**

**Fall 2014**

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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.*



**T**here are nearly 79 million millennials.

About 30 percent or 24 million say they are not affiliated with any religion.

That means that this generation is a mission field of 24 million men and women who have no doubt heard of Jesus, but are not affiliated with any Christian community.

The great thing about this mission field is no passport is required; we don't have to be authorized by the General Board of Global Ministries, and there is no expensive plane fare to be purchased.

The not-so-great thing about this mission field is we don't know their language.

We are enthused about our ministry and we assume millennials share the same attitude.

Most of them do not.

We love our UM Men organization. It's always a joy to be with these men, but millennials don't share that feeling.

Millennials are not going to respond to an invitation in a church bulletin or a mass e-mail.

If they come in any door, it is likely a back door.

Only when we engage in personal conversations and make in-

person invitations are they likely to even hear us.

They might respond to an invitation to help build a handicap ramp or work on a Habitat house.

Sports-minded millennials will likely play basketball or join a softball team.

Community-minded men may bag potatoes or glean fields with the Society of St. Andrew.

A few might want to help lead a Scout troop or a Cub Scout pack.

Only after they work and play with other men are millennials likely to accept an invitation to participate in a study group, a weekend retreat or a conference.

Only when we learn their language, address their interests and respond to their needs will they want to become a part of United Methodist Men.

This issue focuses on ways to reach millennials. The authors taught me a lot about this generation and I hope to enter the mission field.

I don't have any illusions about reaching 24 million, but I think Justin and Bob might want to help us put new shingles on Mrs. Thompson's decaying roof.

I know Austin will play second base on the church softball team.

Maybe Justin, Bob and Austin will later be interested in the Letters from Dad initiative to begin in November and the district rally in December.

*Rich Peck*

# Meet the Millennials

**S**eventy-five million Americans are in the Millennial Generation (born 1982 to 2000); that's about 25 percent of the total U.S. population.

The oldest members of the generation are age 32. The youngest are 14.

Millennials are relatively unattached to organized politics and religion. They are burdened by debt, linked by social media, and in no rush to marry.

## Lots of names

The "Millennial Generation" is also known as "Generation Y," because it comes after "Generation X" (people born from 1962 to 1981). It has also been called the "Peter Pan" or "Boomerang Generation" because many of these people have been forced to move back with their parents because they can't find work or they want to delay marriage and careers. It is sometimes called "Generation Me" because members appear to be more focused on self than previous generations were.

A study by the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* finds Millennials are more civically and politically disengaged, more focused on materialistic values, and less concerned about helping the larger community than were Generation X and Baby Boomers (born 1946 to 1961) at the same ages.

A survey of freshman college students by UCLA's Higher Education Research

Institute found the proportion of students who said being wealthy was very important to them increased from 45% for Baby Boomers (surveyed between 1966 and 1978) to 70% for Generation X and 75% for Millennials.

The percentage who said it was important to keep up to date with political affairs fell, from 50% for Boomers to 39% for Gen X and 35% for Millennials.

A Pew Research Center telephone survey of 8,821 adults in February, 2014, found Millennials are at the highest levels of political and religious disaffiliation recorded for any generation in the quarter century.

The survey found that Millennials vote heavily Democratic and hold liberal views on many political and social issues, ranging from a belief in an activist government to support for same-gender marriage and the legalization of marijuana.

There is a spirited debate about whether Millennials are self-entitled narcissists or open-minded do-gooders; perhaps the truth lies somewhere in-between.

Some scholars say it is futile to generalize about an entire generation, and discussions too frequently focus only on white people living in the suburbs.

While Whites still make up the majority of Millennials, the percentage of Hispanics/Latinos and Blacks has increased over previous generations.



## Percent Distribution of Millennial Population by Ethnicity

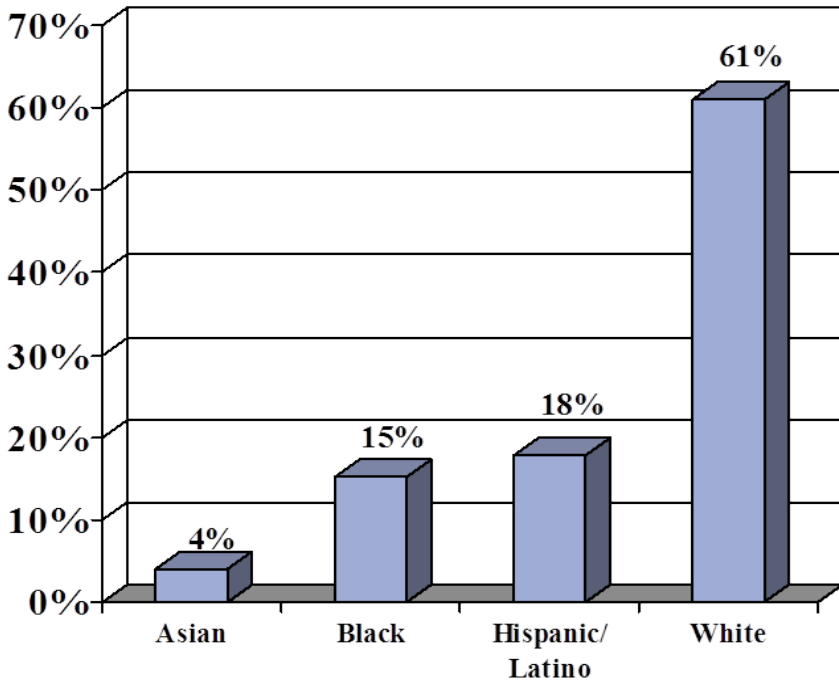


Chart from a presentation on millennials at First UMC of Toms River UMC.

Just 26% of this generation is married. When they were the age that Millennials are now, 36% of Generation X, 48% of Baby Boomers and 65% of the members of the Silent Generation (born between 1925 and 1945) were married.

Most unmarried Millennials (69%) say they would like to marry, but many lack a solid economic foundation.

They have also taken the lead in use of the Internet, mobile technology, and social media.


### Religious Views

About three in ten (29%) of Millennials say they are not affiliated with any religion.

Roughly a third (36%) of Millennials say the phrase “a religious person” describes them very well. By compari-

son, half of Gen Xers (52%) and 55% of Boomers say this description fits them very well. About six in-ten (61%) of the Silent Generation say this description fits them very well.

Not only are Millennials less likely than older generations to be affiliated with any religious institution, they are also less likely to say they believe in God. A solid majority still do—86%—but only 58% say they are “absolutely certain” that God exists, a lower share than among older adults, according to a 2012 survey by the Pew Research Center’s Religion & Public Life Project.

Perhaps these young adults may develop a stronger belief in God over the course of their lives; however, statistics do not confirm they will come back to church when they have children. 

Information compiled by Rich Peck.

# Ask the right questions

By Joe Strausbaugh

*"We need more young people."*

*"All the young people grew up, moved away or stopped coming to church."*

*"The people we have left are getting too old to do anything."*

It is rare that I attend a church where I don't hear some variation of these declaratory statements.

Youth are not participating in our men's organization and they are not attending our worship services, but we are slow to ask them about our role in addressing the situation.

We devote a lot of energy complaining about this issue, but we head for the exits when talk about solutions begins.

I have no doubt we want to engage young people, but I doubt if this is truly a priority.

I am 30 years old and a lifelong United Methodist. I was baptized at Otterbein UMC in York, Pa., and have been attending UM churches pretty steadily ever since.

I have served as pastor, Sunday school teacher, usher, acolyte, and choir member.

And yet I have become disillusioned with the church.

We need to get serious about engaging young people in the life of the church.

In order to do that, we must ask: Why do we want to engage young people? Who are the young people we want to engage? and How are we going to engage them?

## Why?

This appears to be self-explanatory. We believe our task is to bring people to Christ. That's why our mission statement as UM

Men is to "declare the centrality of Christ in every man's life."

In reality, we want our attendance to go up to levels achieved after World War II. We want more money in offering plates, and we want energetic people to do our church work.

In other words, the reason we really want young people is so that we have more people in the pews funding the church and taking on tasks older members no longer wish to do.

We have made it about us, about what we're going to get out of having young people.

Young people become a means to get what we think the church needs and not as ends in themselves.

I have visited many churches where I felt as if I were a commodity rather than a fellow disciple of Jesus Christ.

When we ask, "Why?" we need first to consider why we are engaged in the life of the church.

Do we go out of a sense of obligation or habit? If so, I suspect it will be difficult to attract younger people.

After all, if our religious experience hasn't been that great, why do we expect young people to join us?

It is hard to get people to enjoy doing something they feel they "have to" or "should" do.

Perhaps, we need to focus on our own experiences.

How have we experienced Christ? What is it about this experience that draws us to the church and calls us to support it by our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness?

To engage young people, perhaps we should tell about our own experiences of Christ and invite them to be fellow travelers on spiritual journeys.

If we recalibrate our views of why we want to engage young people, maybe the “why?” will become irrelevant because we have chosen just to be the people of God.

If we just want to share our experience of Christ, everything takes care of itself.

Attendance would go up because people would want to share and learn of other’s experiences of Christ. Offerings would go up because people, young and old, would be compelled to support the church. And the work of the church would continue to be done because old and young would work together.

### **Who?**

If we are honest, we want recruits who are younger versions of us—if possible, with children in tow. We also prefer that they are related to life-long members of the congregation.

As we are finding out, this is unrealistic because (surprise!) today’s young people are not like those with more life experience.

Young people are different; they had different experiences, grew up in different times, and face different challenges from those of older generations.

If we are going to engage young people, we are going to engage a relatively tech-savvy crowd who are more diverse, more transient, and better educated than previous generations.

I can remember my family getting our first desktop computer when I was in first grade. By that point, I had already had computer classes in school. People a few years younger than me cannot even remember a time when their families didn’t have computers. They are ubiquitous and now have morphed into phones, tablets, and eyeglasses.

As a young person, technology is enmeshed in my daily life. So when I hear—as I frequently do—“Oh, I don’t do computers” or “I don’t do the Internet,” I have to wonder if they realize how anachronistic

this sounds.

To the average young person this is like saying, “I don’t read or write”—small wonder those comments do not entice them to attend church.

Beyond that, Millennials are more worldly because of their diversity, transience, and education.

Millennials have had more interaction with people of different racial, socioeconomic, geographic, political and religious backgrounds than those from previous generations. It is anticipated that there will be a higher percentage of Millennials with bachelor’s degrees than any previous generation.

And Millennials tend to move from place to place for school and jobs. Case in point—my sister traveled from Pennsylvania, to Washington, D.C., to Afghanistan, and now to Alabama.

This nexus of experiences means that Millennials are more accepting and affirming of differences among peoples and are more inclined to embrace scientific research. This explains why 73 percent of Millennials support legalizing same-gender marriage, 65 percent feel there is sufficient evidence to support global warming as a human-caused phenomenon, and 68 percent subscribe to the theory of evolution.

Unfortunately, these views are frequently at odds with those of older church members.

This worldview can create a divide that could be bridged, except that we have turned these views into wedge issues that claim a lot of our energy and attention.

As a result, Millennials do not feel welcome in church; they do not feel that church matters to them or that they matter in any real way to the church.

Church to Millennials appears repressive and anti-science.

Who would want to be part of an institution if that’s how it’s perceived? And we aren’t just talking about our more fundamentalist or authoritarian brothers



and sisters in other denominations; that includes us—the open-hearts-open-minds-open-doors people.

Millennials see United Methodists as having mercenary-hearts and closed-minds; they're not even going to try to find out about the open-doors.

If we believe the church must hold its ground on these issues or die, then we need to acknowledge that when we declare we are seeking younger men, we mean we only want to engage about 30 to 40 percent of them.

If we believe these views are non-essentials of the faith, then we need to aggressively promote the essentials as we understand them, but in a way that is both logical and palatable to young people.

We need to be intentional about reaching out to young people in ways that recognize who they are and what they value with the understanding that their views have been shaped by a world very different from that experienced by senior members

When we have established why we want to engage young people and we have figured out who these young people are, we need to move from the theoretical to the practical.

## How?

How are we going to engage young people?

There is no single answer to this question.

If we have been intentional about answering why? and who?, we come to realize that taking our faith seriously and building a relationship with individual young people is going to be part of the how?

We need to show young people that what we are doing is important and something of which they want to be a part.

If our worship services are clunky, if

Scripture is read with as much enthusiasm as one would read the owner's manual to an Oldsmobile, and no one appears interested in being there, I doubt if young people will return.

Arguably the most important thing we can do to engage young people is to listen to them and try to understand their worldviews.


Most likely, the young people who walk through our doors are not our children or grandchildren, so we shouldn't treat them as such.

There is no bigger turn-off for young people (or anyone for that matter) than to feel like their views and their thoughts are not taken seriously.

Young people are not our protégés; they are our spiritual contemporaries, our equal partners in ministry.

Listen to them and respect them as you would other adult members. Learn from them just as they will undoubtedly learn from you.

There is no universal or surefire way to engage young people. However, when we ask the questions why? who? and how? we will find a starting place.

What are you going to do to engage young people in the life of the church? 



*Joe Strausbaugh serves as charter system administrator for the General Commission on UM Men. A magna cum laude graduate of Gettysburg College (B.A.) and Drew University Theological School (M.Div.), he has served as pastor of a local church*

*and a staff member of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the General Commission on Archives and History.*

# Reach Millennials with technology

By Reginald Grant

The number of unchurched young people has increased in the past two years. Yet, two-thirds of nonreligious affiliated adult Americans (68%) say they believe in God.

## This is good news.

We only need new innovative ways to invite them to become members of authentic and caring communities.

As an English teacher in public schools for 11 years, I have interacted with thousands of young people.

As a coach, football camp organizer, and mentor, I have the unique opportunity to interact with youth—often in non-religious and non-threatening environments.

This has given me a real-world perspective on American youth.

## Not homogeneous

Millennials are not members of a homogeneous group; they are as diverse as our entire population, but they are more social, more open, and not as self-centered as they are portrayed in the media and as some older adults assume.

The one thing they do share is a love of technology.

Millennials live and breathe technology. For me, it is like Dick Tracy has come alive. The things I saw as a youth in cartoons and in science fiction are now real.

Millennials are tied to social media. Even to begin to reach them we must embrace and incorporate the use of that

medium.

Mobile technology, phones, i-pads, and mini-pads are completely integrated into their lives. They wake to an alarm on their phones and go to bed with music or videos on i-pods.

Wherever they go they are never far from their access to helpful information, supportive friends, loving family members, bad information, corrupt influences and immoral people.

As a teacher of international university students, I embed technology into all my lessons.

I use a whiteboard, show videos, play music and give assignments that integrate the use of their phones and mobile devices into the learning process.

For example, I use the website "Socrative.com" and the students use their phones and mobile devices to answer questions, respond to prompts, and take quizzes.

While young people still love to do things, go places and be connected, they just research, give feedback and are more socially active via technology.

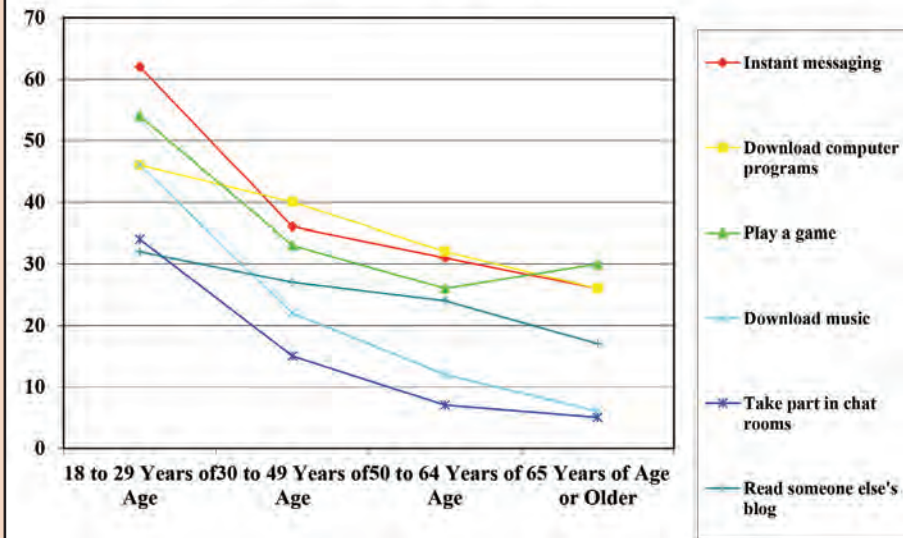
## Role models needed

Many young people do not have positive role models in their lives and it's easy for them to feel untouched by God's grace if no one is helping them develop sensitivity to the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Interactive outreach and fun activities that get young people on our campus are



## Online Activities by Age




- More than half of teens feel that social media aids relationships with friends
- One third say social media helps relations with parents and family members
- Less than 5 percent say social media hurts relationships.
- Their favorite medium of communication is in person (49%) and texting (33%)
- Girls are more apt to use digital communication and boys are more likely to use gaming systems.

great places to start.

Mentoring young people at schools and developing personal relationships fosters trust and opportunities for older adults to become positive influences.

There is no substitute for one-on-one relationships and interaction, but you must have follow-up mechanisms that utilize websites, emails, newsletters, mobile applications and social media.

We must develop our ability to educate and enlighten people about the good news God has for us.

Using technology can aid our quest to develop disciples of Jesus Christ. 



*Reginald Grant teaches at Kaplan International University in Westwood, Calif. A former member of the NFL New York Jets, he is a coordinator of football camps, and past president*

*of a national association presenting the Watkins Award to African-American male high school scholar athletes. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the General Commission on UM Men.*

# Best practices for reaching young adults

By Perry Chang

**T**he emerging consensus of research regarding young adults shows a growing percentage of this age group is not connected with any religion, although many younger Americans express an interest in spirituality. This reality raises concerns about young-adult participation in religious communities.

How are faith communities with a significant proportion of young adults distinctive?

The Faith Communities Today research project studied congregations of all faiths across America that are doing an exceptional job of engaging young adults. A congregation is considered to have significant young adult participation if 21 percent or more of its participants are 18 to 34 years of age. A total of only 16 percent of congregations of all faiths have such young adult involvement.


The findings identify some best practices for congregations that wish to attract and engage young adults. These can be summarized in a dozen “do’s” and four “don’ts.”

## What congregations should do:

- ✓ Offer a high-quality worship experience that is contemporary in style or refashion traditional worship in new ways.
- ✓ Start a new congregation or young-adult-only worship group within an existing congregation, or move an existing congregation to a new location.
- ✓ Prioritize metropolitan areas and communities near university campuses.
- ✓ Allow people to bring coffee to worship.
- ✓ Provide food.

- ✓ Be intentional about reaching out to young adults.
- ✓ Form friendships with young adults.
- ✓ Involve young adults in leadership.
- ✓ Sponsor activities that mix socializing with theological reflection.
- ✓ Apply theological principles to everyday-life issues that young adults face.
- ✓ Figure out how to connect with the different types of young adults — whether they are still in school or starting careers, single or married, with or without children. These groups cannot just be lumped together without some facilitating rationale.
- ✓ Figure out how to connect with young adults who are aging out of the category in their mid- to late-30s.

## What congregations should not do:

- ✗ Be theologically doctrinaire.
- ✗ Insist that people wear dresses or suits and ties to worship.
- ✗ Expect growth in the number of members or total giving.
- ✗ Expect young adults to sign up for long-term committee work. 

*This article is reprinted by permission from Leading Ideas, a free e-newsletter from the Lewis Center for Church Leadership of Wesley Theological Seminary and available at [www.churchleadership.com](http://www.churchleadership.com). The research for this project was done by Faith Communities Today and more information is available at their website, [www.faithcommunitiestoday.org](http://www.faithcommunitiestoday.org).*

# Pastor suggests ways to create boy-friendly churches

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

**R**esearch suggests that boys have a 70 to 90 percent chance of leaving the church and not coming back.

The Rev. Tim Wright, a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, suggests ways churches can create boy-friendly environments.

Speaking to a March gathering of 25 leaders of men's ministry from seven denominations, Wright, cited reasons for the mass exodus of testosterone-driven boys.

"A boy brain is different from a girl brain," said Wright. "It processes information and emotions differently. It learns differently. Therefore, it follows that it will 'disciple' differently as well.

"Typical religious education is based on sitting still, listening to someone talk, and focusing or reading a sacred text," said Wright. "This favors a girl's brain.

"Add into that mix pictures, videos, hands-on metaphors, and then you begin to capture the boy as well.

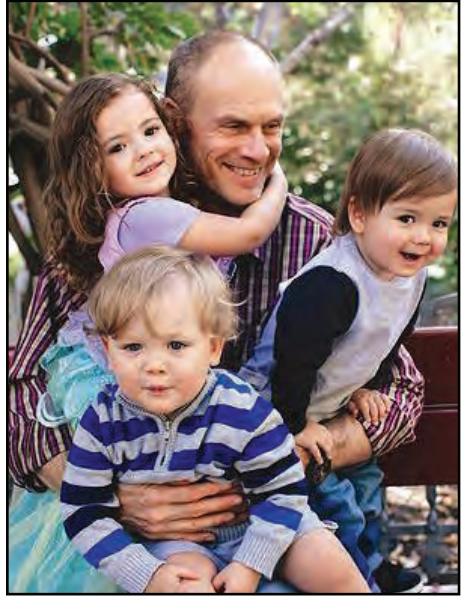
"Athletic or not, boys want to move as they learn. They learn best when learning comes visually and metaphorically."

## Competition

Wright is the author of *Searching for Tom Sawyer—How parents and congregations can stop the exodus of boys from church*. He teaches boys and girls in different classes using different teaching methods to express the same biblical truths.

The pastor of the Community of Grace in Peoria, Ariz., Wright says he uses competition in his classes with boys.

"Sometimes before starting a session, I'll take them out for some



*Tim Wright plays with his grandchildren*

friendly competition. It might be a free-throw shoot-out, a tug-of-war, or a football toss."

The pastor sometimes breaks boys into basketball teams. When a team scores a basket, it gets extra points by answering review questions correctly.

He also teaches about winning and losing. Winning teams get candy treats, and losing teams do not. "Not everyone is a winner every time," he says.

## Masculine spirituality

Wright notes that many congregations speak, teach and worship with female-oriented language. "For example, churches talk about 'having a personal relationship with Jesus.'

"Bill never says to Chavez, 'I want to have a personal relationship with you.' Bill might say, 'Do you want to hang out?'

“Jesus always used action language: ‘Follow me!’

“What boys need is an action-driven spirituality.”

### Men need to lead

Wright told the denominational leaders that men will have to take the lead in helping boys connect their manhood to Jesus. “Boys long for connections with men they respect,” he said.

“Many churches have men’s ministries but very little strategic training takes place in leading men into manhood. Most men’s ministries study a topic, a book, or a book of the Bible but take little time to intentionally connect it to a vision of manhood.

“The church not only can forge a vision of manhood, it can also point boys to the One who can lead them into that vision, empower them for that vision and transform them into good honorable men.”

### Sharing experiences

During the two-day meeting at the office of the General Commission on UM Men, denominational men’s ministry leaders shared what was happening in each of their denominations.

“Sharing in this group means presenting their best practices for others to steal with full permission,” said Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men and host of the group. “When someone uses your program or project in another denomination, it is a high compliment.”



*Participants included leaders in men’s, youth and scouting ministry from the Episcopal Church, the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church, the Evangelical Church in America, the American Baptist Church, the Southern Baptist Church, Pentecostal Holiness Church, and the UMC.*

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## Eight reasons young people are leaving the church

1. **Demonizing**—One-fourth of 18- to 29-year-olds say their church demonizes their music, movies, culture, and technology.
2. **Boring**— One-third say their church services are boring.
3. **Unclear and irrelevant**—About one-fourth say biblical teachings are unclear and irrelevant.
4. **God is absent**—One-fifth say God seems to be absent from their experiences in churches.
5. **Anti-science**—Up to one-third say the church is out of step with scientific developments.
6. **Sex**—One fifth say the “just-say-no” philosophy is insufficient. Young Christian singles are as sexually active as their non-churched friends.
7. **Exclusivity**—Three in 10 young adults feel the church is too exclusive in a pluralistic and multicultural age. The same number feel forced to choose between their faith and their friends.
8. **Doubt is not welcome**—One third of young adults assume the church is not a safe place to express doubt. One-fourth have serious doubts they’d like to discuss.

*Adapted from a survey in You Lost Me: Why Young Christians are Leaving Church—Rethinking Faith by David Kinnaman, president of the Barna Group.*

# Five South Carolina pastors suggest ways to reach younger men

By Jessica Connor

## Dr. George Ashford Jr., pastor of Journey UMC, Columbia

"It's all about taking the ordinary and making it extraordinary—repackaging.

"I was dragged to church as a kid, but over the years things change.

"The church I'm pastoring now is not the church of my grandmother.

"If you don't go out and reach people, they have no impetus or desire to come to you. There are other things they can do on Sunday mornings.

"Men enjoy fixing things, being task-oriented. They embrace learning how to be better fathers, husbands, and sons.

"Many young men have broken their mother's hearts in some way, and we celebrate when they return home and repair that relationship. Every young man enjoys it when his mother pats him on the head and says, 'Good job.' They embrace being affirmed. We bring them in and celebrate their presence, just for being there. If we don't give it to them, they'll get it elsewhere."



## The Rev. Darren Hook, pastor of Covenant UMC, Greer

"When men step up to the plate and fulfill God's command to God-given leadership, our churches are strong.

"The most 'a-mens' I receive come from women when I preach about the need for men to be Godly leaders: Women want men to step up in the church.

"I think men want to be challenged and they want to be asked to be leaders. They want to serve, but in many churches, they don't hear that challenge so they don't step up."



## The Rev. Bob Howell Jr., pastor of Bethany UMC, Summerville

"Methodists as a group like their religion palatable—not uncomfortable. But we are living in a different world and a different time.

"God didn't create a service organization when he created the church; he created a servant organization.

"Until the church harnesses the sort of excitement you find at a football game, we're going to erode. And that's everyone's responsibility—clergy and laity.

"We're not in the business of making Methodists. We're in the business of



making disciples for Christ.

"I see the vacuum (of men) in the church.

"Men are not more or less important than women in the church; it's just a need—a gaping, crying need.

"I don't go to men's club meetings, that's not because I don't care it's because they don't change.

"I'm about men being in ministry; I'm not about men going to eat a steak on Friday night.

"Men need to have something to do. Help your men have something to do, and we'll grow men as disciples of Jesus. Men need a task so they can go out and win the battle. That's what they do."

**The Rev. Jeff Kersey, pastor of Mount Horeb UMC, Lexington**

"Men are not looking to be religious. They're looking for relationships. Sometimes we overthink and make

it complicated. Jesus just walked and talked with them and related to them.

"Prayer is one of the greatest things we can be doing. There's something powerful about the church seeing men on their knees praying.

"It's not about us. It's about those who don't know Christ.

"My job is not done unless I'm looking for the one who is lost.

"To a lost and hurting world, God seems unreachable. But God is the answer we all need.

"The great shepherd didn't hesitate to seek the lost.



"If there's more praising in heaven over the one lost, then why is so much of the energy in our local church going to the security of the 99?

"The lost matter to God; but, do the lost matter to the people of God?

"One simple way to reach the lost is simply through prayer."

**The Rev. Mack McClam, pastor of the Canaan-Sand Hill Charge, Ridgeville.**

"How do we expect our church to remain the same while everything around us changes? It's impossible. Everything stagnant dies, or it is dead already.

"We don't need someone telling





us how we're wrong. We need somebody to help us get it right. "The Word of God teaches us we can have a cleansing from our past. Life can deal some harsh and crushing blows.


"We need to have confi-

dence in the present.

"Connectionalism is the key. In order to be connected to the community beyond me, I must be connected to the community within. Sometimes we're quick to fish in someone else's pond without bothering to check what's

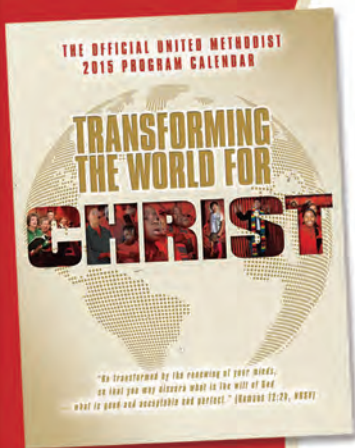
stocked in our own.

"One Sunday I was nudged by the Spirit to call a spontaneous gathering of men right after church. Hundreds of men showed up. This revitalized the men's ministry at both the churches on my charge. The men ended up taking on a church-wide education project that has been making huge strides in the community.

"Christ has to be the center. If He's not, it's not the church." 



*Jessica Connor is editor of the South Carolina United Methodist Advocate; she selected these quotations from sermons delivered by five pastors during a UMM spring retreat in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Photos by Matt Brodie.*



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# UM men serve as big brothers to children of prisoners

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Several hundred UM men are serving as big brothers to children of prison inmates through the Amachi program of Big Brothers Big Sisters

“Amachi” is a Nigerian Ibo word that means “Who knows but what God has brought us through this child.”

Amachi mentors meet weekly with children who have been carefully matched with them; they often live and worship in the same neighborhoods as the children. Amachi’s hope is that one-to-one mentoring by caring adults will significantly improve the life opportunities of the children.

There are 7.3 million children who have one or both parents under some form of state or federal supervision. Without effective intervention, 70 percent of these children will likely follow their parents to jail or prison. The Amachi mentoring program was developed to provide them with a different path by establishing the consistent presence of loving, caring people of faith.


## A history

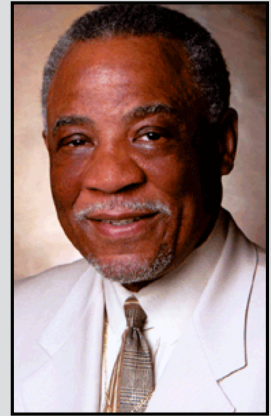
The Rev. Wilson Goode, former mayor of Philadelphia and founder of Amachi in

2000, says the program now covers 49 states.

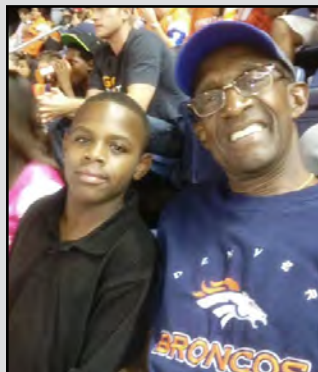
“One adult giving one hour each week to one child for one year will break the cycle of jail,” said Goode. “This commitment has resulted in two-thirds of the children improving both

their grades and school attendance. More than 80 percent of mentored children now say they trust other people more.”

Goode says he began the program because of his own experience as the son of an incarcerated man. A school counselor told him he was a “farm boy and should never plan on going to college.” However, Goode’s pastor and his wife became his big brother and sister and helped send him to college and on to become a two-term mayor of Philadelphia. 



*The Rev. Wilson Goode*



## Experience in Denver

Bill West, president of Rocky Mountain Conference UM Men, has been a big brother to A.J. since January 2012.

“Our relationship is strong,” says West. “AJ looks forward to our outings each week.”

Last fall, AJ was one of the winners of an essay contest on bullying. AJ subsequently took Bill to a Denver Bronco football game after his winning entry resulted in two free tickets to the Broncos-Ravens football game.



# Across the Nation

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky.—

## **Kentucky church presents 250 books to first responders**

Hopkinsville UMC gave copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community* to 250 first responders in their community.

The church placed American flag envelopes in every bulletin. The congregation was invited to contribute to the distribution effort.

“What a great day we had delivering the books,” said Leah Malloy, mission ministry coordinator.



*Police Chief Guy Howie and members of the Hopkinsville Police Department receive copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community*.*

CINNAMINSON, N.J.—

## **Men display cooking prowess**

Eighty church members attended the fifth annual “Men’s Cooking Demonstration” at Asbury UMC.

While most of the chefs offered imaginative mixtures of their favorite food groups, they invited a real chef to join Pastor John Doll and amateur chefs of all ages.

The men raised \$300 for local food kitchens.



*Colton Minnix shows how to mix M&Ms with pretzels and raisins to make a “non-lethal treat.”*

CHARLESTON, Ill.—

## Church receives Shepherd Church Charter

Wesley UMC received Shepherd Church Charter Recognition for its support of Scout Troop 141. Scouts visit with residents of an assisted-living facility and each month they prepare and serve evening meals at a homeless shelter.

Scouts collected 2,294 pounds of food during a Scouting for Food drive, including 180 pounds collected by a single Scout at a local Wal-Mart.

Two Eagle Scout service projects resulted in a successful blood drive and the rebuilding of a gazebo at a shelter for abused women.

BATON ROUGE, La.—

## Chaplain of Dallas Cowboys speaks to gathering

Jonathan Evans, former NFL fullback and chaplain of the Dallas Cowboys, spoke at an April meeting of Iron Sharpens Iron. One hundred and thirty men of several denominations participated in the event that included several workshops.



Joe Kelley (right), national prayer advocate, chats with Ray Terral, president of the men's organization of Five Oaks UMC in Watson, La. Kelley, a men's ministry specialist, serves as a mentor for Terral, who is in the process of becoming a men's ministry specialist.

PARKERSBURG, W.Va.—

## Church receives Shepherd Church Recognition

Led by UM Men, Stout Memorial UMC has supported Boy Scout Troop 12 for more than 58 years. The church also sponsors Cub Scout Pack 12, and a Venturing Crew. The church received a Shepherd Church Charter Recognition from the General Commission on UM Men.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—

## Troop receives Bishop's Award

Boy Scout Troop 276, chartered by Castleton UMC, received a Bishop's Award of Excellence. The 115-member troop hosts a "Trash Can Turkey" campout during Thanksgiving and they provide 100 service hours for an annual fish fry. The three-day event provides 10,000 dinners for drive-in and sit-down guests.

Some Scouts serve as actors in a Nativity scene while others provide hot drinks to cast members and visitors.



Mary and Joseph visit with an alternative means of travel.

ARLINGTON, Wash.—

## Men give devotional books for first responders following mudslide

Arlington United Church's Men's group distributed *Strength for Service to God and Community* daily devotional

books to 200 first responders involved with the Oso, Wash., mudslide.

The men were involved in the tedious process of identifying remains more than a week after a March 22 landslide roared across the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River and buried a community at Oso, about 55 miles north of Seattle.

Books were delivered to first responders in Oso, Darrington, and Arlington. More than 800 first responders and National Guard units were involved in the operation.

Following the retrieval of bodies, a team of medical examiners, detectives, and dentists identified 41 victims.



*From Left: Larry Dozier, Ruth Conley, Western Jurisdiction chairperson; , the Rev. Cedrick D. Bridgeforth, BMCR national president, and the Rev. Gary Bernard Williams president of BMCR Western Jurisdiction, and his wife.*



*From left: Alan Lish of Arlington United Church presents Strength for Service books to Kevin Griffiee of the Vancouver Fire Dept.; Steve Westlake, Eastside Fire and Rescue in Issaquah, and Brian Hyatt of the Monroe Fire Dept. Capt. Ron Adams, Monroe Fire Dept.; and Steve Mason, Snohomish County Fire District kneel in front.*

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—

### **BMCR declares, 'it's a new day'**

"It's a New Day," was the theme of the 47th Black Methodist for Church Renewal (BMCR) March meeting.

Western Jurisdiction UM Men President Larry Dozier represented the General Commission on UM Men at the two-day annual gathering. Some 150 participants prepared for General Conference 2016, received training in ways to address issues of racial inequality, and approved changes in the bylaws and constitution.

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. —

### **Tennessee churches agree to expand scouting ministries**

Fifty people from 18 UM churches in the Tennessee Annual Conference gathered for an April 29 Bishop's Dinner for Scouting at Brentwood UMC.

Representatives agreed to continue supporting their scouting ministries, and will encourage young people to participate in four UM God and Country studies sponsored by St. Louis-based Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY).

Four churches said they will begin new units.



*Bishop William McAlilly tells Isaac Shaw, a member of BSA Troop 1 and a new member of Brentwood UMC, that he offered an excellent invocation. Photo by Martez D. Moore, BSA director of field service.*

AUGUSTA, Ga.—

### **Church honors Scouts**

Mann Memorial UMC wanted the community to know how proud they are of their Boy Scout troop and their

Cub Scout pack. The boys assist in church services and help with the spring barbecue. Two Scouts have become members of the Order of the Arrow.



CHANDLER, Ariz.—

### Scouting ministry receives Shepherd Church Charter

Chandler UMC, home of BSA Troop 283, BSA Venture Crew 2283 and Girl Scout Troop 283, received a Shepherd Church Charter Recognition.

GARDENA, Calif.—

### UM Men leader joins postal workers for food drive

Western Jurisdiction President Larry Dozier supported an effort in which letter carriers collect food items from Gardena residents on May 10.

Dozier, who retired from the Postal Service in 2009, says the effort to stock the shelves of Gardena food banks complements the UM Men Meals for Millions program.

“We’re asking UM Men across the nation to support this worthwhile effort in future years,” said Dozier.

Last year the national effort brought in 74.4 million pounds of non-perishable food and drove postal workers’ grand total to 1.3 billion pounds over the drive’s history.

Gardena Mayor Paul Tanaka (third from left) and Larry Dozier (second from left) join postal employees to remind Gardena residents to donate food

for the National Association of Letter Carriers food drive. Shown here from left are letter carrier Tenesha Henderson, Dozier, Tanaka, Postal Supervisor La Shawn Smith and letter carrier Camella Siler.



ANCHORAGE, Alaska—

### Talented hands and big heart

For the last eight years, Bill Florchinger has led the assembly of seats for Personal Energy Transportation (PET) hand-crank carts for people in developing nations who have lost the use of their legs.



*From left: Gale Weatherell, Laura and Scott Fahrney, Chuck Livers and Bill Florchinger assemble seats for PETs. The building project was part of the annual “Church Is a Verb” activities. During the day, church members also baked cookies for first responders, cleaned area roads and walkways, and made blankets for a child-serving agency. Photo by Walt Hays.*

Florchinger has worked with the men of St. John, other church men’s groups, service clubs, Boy Scouts, and youth at

summer camps. One Boy Scout built 50 seats for his Eagle project.

Through his efforts, 500 seats have been funded, built and shipped to the PET Inland-Northwest Shop in Spokane, Wash.

Since 2004, Alaska churches, clubs and individuals have raised \$75,000 for 250 total PET vehicles.

WINTER HAVEN, Fla.,—



### **UM Men build ramps**

Richard Blue, a member of St. John's UMC, is the design engineer and chief builder of ramps for residents of Winter Haven.

*Richard Blue finishes the base of a handicap ramp.*

WOODWORTH, La. —

### **UM Men and Scouts package 10,300 dehydrated meals for emergency situations**

UM men meeting at the Wesley Center packaged 10,300 dehydrated meals for Stop Hunger Now. Boy Scouts attending a nearby camporee joined in the packaging process. Men also participated in a golf tournament, skeet shooting, worship and workshops.



*Photo courtesy of Louisiana Conference*

INDIO, Calif.—

### **Men provide trailer for disaster response**

UM Men of Shepherd of the Valley raised more than \$25,000 over eight years to purchase and equip a trailer for relief efforts by the California-Pacific Annual Conference.



*The trailer is frequently used by volunteers of the UM Committee on Relief.*

FAYETTEVILLE, N.Y.—

### **Men help veterans get to medical appointments**

The Crossroads District's 77 congregations are purchasing a van that will help veterans in Central New York get to medical appointments.

Fayetteville UMC member Scott Stumpf brought the idea for a veterans van to Steve Ranous, president of the Crossroads District UM Men, in the fall of 2012.

Ranous said they both spoke with past presidents of UM Men units "to see if this idea had legs." It did.



WINTER GARDEN, Fla.—

## Men support Scout troop and Cuban churches

In June, 61 UM men and Scouts met together for a dinner and celebration of their ministries. Scoutmaster Steve Eisinger and UM Men President Joe Gracey expressed commitments to continue to work together.



*Scout leaders are honored by UM Men of First UMC in Winter Garden.*

TUCSON, Ariz. —

## Scouts place 3,500 flags on graves

On Memorial Day, Douglas Wright, a scouting ministry specialist, led an effort to place American flags on the graves of 3,500 military veterans buried in South Lawn Cemetery.

He was assisted by Chuck Moyer, scouting coordinator of the South District, and members of Cub pack and a Boy Scout troop chartered by Hope UMC.

Wright returned the following Monday to remove the flags. He was assisted in the five-hour effort by two military veterans.



*Doug Wright, Chuck Moyer and scouting families of Hope UMC spend seven hours placing flags on the graves of veterans at South Lawn Cemetery.*

WEST ORLANDO, Fla.—

## Scouts receive merit badge instruction

Boy Scouts attending a June Eagle Encampment received intensive instructions about merit badges.



*Phil Jones, Committee Chair of Troop 210, speaks to Scouts seeking merit badges leading to the rank of Eagle*

PINEVILLE, La.—

## Men support children's home

Each quarter, UM Men of First UMC in Pineville spend a day and a half at the UM Children's Home Outdoor Wilderness Learning Center.

Last quarter ten men made 17 cases of "Pretty Darn Hot Salsa" and 10 cases of jelly to support the center's fundraising project.

Fred Carter, president of UM Men, said they also donated a tool-storage chest to the maintenance department and a juice extractor to aid the jelly-making process.





NATCHITOCHES, La.—

## Men give books to first responders

After sending many copies of the *Strength for Service* book to the military, men of First UMC presented *Strength for Service to God and Community* books to the Parish Sheriff's Office, the City Fire Department and the City Police Department.

Each department received 50 copies of the books in appreciation for their service to the community and parish.



Members of the Natchitoches Fire Department receive *Strength for Service* books. From left: Keith Scoggins, David Fisher, Chief Crit Miller, UM Men President Johnny Broussard and Robert Harris.

BARNWELL, S.C.—

## No electricity but plenty of power

Following what some called the “ice storm of the century,” a team of volunteers from the South Carolina Conference removed limbs and debris off the home of 91-year-old Mary Hanks.

“My wife, Trudy, handed Mrs. Hanks a copy of *Strength for Service to God and Country*,” said Billy Robinson, conference disaster coordinator.

After Billy descended from the roof, Mrs. Hanks told him she had read the first devotion, titled “Keeping Power.”

“Wow, the power of God,” she said. “All the time I thought I was without

power, I really had all the power I will ever need.”

“Chills ran across my body as I was also hit with the reality of what real power is all about,” said Billy.

Following the ice storm, 51 volunteers worked on 68 homes, and they gave a copy of *Strength for Service to God and Country* to all homeowners.

In May, the team helped rebuild homes in Boaz, Ala., following a tornado.



Billy Robinson clears limbs following a February ice storm.

HINSDALE, Illinois —

## Church honors fire fighters and police officers

In May, Hinsdale UMC welcomed 25 firefighters, police officials, and paramedics to a Sunday service.



Children of First UMC in Hinsdale, Ill., get up-close look at a fire truck after a worship service honoring first responders. Three fire trucks, a police car, a traffic patrol car and an ambulance were in the church parking lot.

Hinsdale members recited a first-responders' prayer, followed by a photo tribute on sanctuary screens to seven firefighters who died in the line of duty. Michael Halligan, son of deceased Deputy Sheriff Carroll Edward Halligan, lit a memorial candle.

First responders were presented with personalized "thank you" cards prepared by the children.

JACKSON'S MILL, W.Va.—

### Men sponsor camporee

For 26 years UM Men of West Virginia Conference have sponsored a Circuit Rider Camporee for Scouts.



*Scouts participate in a flag-raising ceremony at the 2013 camporee.*

A total of 680 Scouts attended the 2013 camp.

Since 1996, men of the Mon Valley District have supported the camporee with funds from the Arnold Eddy Memorial Golf Tournament. Over the years, the district has raised \$109,000.

Every year, the men provide and serve the Saturday evening meal and also give Bibles or Strength for Service books to participants.

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball is scheduled to deliver the meditation and serve as celebrant at the closing Communion service of the 2014 camp in September.

CUTHBERT, Ga.—

### Men give \$10,000 for scholarships

South Georgia UM Men gave \$10,000 to Andrew College in Cuthbert Ga., for "Roy Lifsey Memorial Scholarships."



*Carl Childs (right), vice-president of South Georgia UM Men, presents a \$10,000 check to David Seyle, president of Andrew College.*

AUBURN, N.Y. —

### Two build name-tag board



*Harold Brown (right), a veteran shop teacher, built a nametag board for Auburn UMC. Jim Parker, an antique restorer, stained and completed the board. "It's now easier for worshippers to find their nametags," said John Burlew, an emeritus member of the UM Men Foundation.*

**Send news of your men's organization to Rich Peck  
([rpeck@gcumm.org](mailto:rpeck@gcumm.org)).**

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.—

## Five hundred invited to ‘take the plunge’

Bishop Jonathan Holston and five pastors invited 500 men attending a Feb. 28 to March 2 conference to “be real, step out on faith, take the plunge and do God’s will.”

The church is not built for our pleasure but for God’s purpose,” said Holston. “We’re so busy in the midst of our lives that we don’t have time for God; our lives are full of busy-ness, but every now and then you’ve got to step out of the main line and get in the God line.”

Other pastors speaking to the event included: Dr. George Ashford Jr., the Rev. Darren Hook, the Rev. Bob Howell Jr., the Rev. Jeff Kersey and the Rev. Mack McClam.

“Our work has just begun,” said Herman Lightsey, chair of the S.C. UM Men, at the close of the retreat. “We don’t want a great event. We want a great movement. And it’s all going to work if we go out and do that one simple thing God asked us: make disciples.”



*Men seek God’s guidance during Myrtle Beach conference.*

BRIDGE CITY, Texas—

## Men provide medical facility for Central America

Orange County UM Men turned a storage pod into a walk-in medical clinic for residents of Belize.

The men raised \$15,000 and worked for 10 months to change an empty structure into a clinic with linoleum floors, air conditioning, ceiling fans, multiple electrical sockets, sinks, three partitioned exam areas and a lab room.



CENTERVILLE, Ohio —

## Men help rebuild town in Alaska

Four men from Centerville UMC spent 16 days rebuilding four homes of a 400-member fishing community destroyed by an ice jam on the Yukon River in May 2013.



Ninety percent of the buildings in Galena, Alaska, were destroyed.

Centerville men were part of a 15-member team that stayed in tents set-up on the runway of a former Air Force base. Other teams continued the rebuilding effort.

SPRUCE PINE, NC—

### Men spend weekend in prison

Neil Brown, president of Western North Carolina Conference UM Men, led a team of 33 men from eight denominations to conduct a 3½-day Kairos ministry at the Avery Mitchell Correctional Institution. Thirty inmates participated in the event which is based on the Walk to Emmaus model. Nearly 20,000 home-baked prayed-over cookies were distributed to 856 inmates and 240 staff persons as tokens of agape, God's unconditional love.



RICHLAND HILLS, Texas—

### Men honor police officers

"The Fellas" of Richland Hills UMC presented copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community* to the 27-member City Police Department.

Books were given out over two days in June in order for UM Men to make presentations to all staff over shift changes.



Police Chief Childress, second from left, expresses appreciation to Dr. Duane Kirkdorffer, Al Moss and Ralph Houy on right.

PILGER, Neb. —

### Men give books to first responders following Nebraska tornado

UM Men of the Nebraska Conference provided copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community* to 200 first

responders and volunteers who provided support for tornado victims in northeast Nebraska.



The books were distributed by Linda Stewart, conference disaster response coordinator in Wichita.

The effort was led by Doug Kallese, communications director of the Prairie River District UM Men.

June 16 tornadoes killed two people, including a 5-year-old girl, and destroyed 150 homes.

KEEZLETOWN, Va.—

### Golf tournament provides \$7,500 for UM camp

Fifty-eight UM Men of the Winchester, Harrisonburg, and Staunton districts participated in the 16th annual golf tournament that raised \$7,500 for Overlook Retreat and Camp Ministries in Keezletown.



Participants in tournament (from left): Ron Robey, camp director; Monty Cox organizer, and Scott Dillard, Harrisonburg District UM Men president.

BULVERDE, Texas —

### Watermelons support missions

UM Men of Bulverde UMC raised \$2,000 by selling watermelons at \$5 each. Funds supported the church, UM Men,



Boy Scouts, and youth ministries in Bulverde and San Antonio.

# In Memoriam

## George D. Duvall

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.—

**G**eorge D Duvall, 66, a legacy builder and a life member of UM Men, died July 9.

He served as lay leader and chaired the Staff-Parish Relations Committee of Community UMC. He also served on the Administrative Board, the Council of Ministries, and the Finance Committee.

He represented the church as a member of the Virginia Annual Conference and served on a district committee that reviews plans for new church buildings and plans to close or merge congregations.

In 2001, Virginia Conference presented him with a Harry Denman Evangelism Award.

A graduate of Virginia Wesleyan College, he started the George Duvall &

Associates insurance agency in 1974.

He served on the civilian board of Virginia Beach Crime Solvers when the program began in 1982. He was also president of the Southeastern Crime Stoppers Board until he experienced a stroke in 2008.

He is survived by his wife, Sheila, children David and Jennifer, his mother, Ruth, sister, Elizabeth (John) Melby, brothers William C Duvall III (Toko) and Thomas Duvall. He is preceded in death by his father, William C. Duvall Jr. and his brother Charles M. Duvall.



*George Duvall*

# Legacy Builders

**T**he following men were left off the list of Legacy Builders in the annual report of the UMM Foundation. We apologize for the omissions.

## **Gold Legacy Builders (\$50 to \$99 per month)**

Johnnie Draughon, Virginia, and Bob Spinti, Wisconsin

## **Silver Legacy Builders (\$25 - \$49 per month)**

Richard Frette, Illinois; David Schafer, Kansas; Ronald Forrester, Maryland; Lloyd Miller, Missouri; Rick Stoker, Pennsylvania; Charles Pearre, Virginia; and James Russell, Washington.

## **Bronze Legacy Builders (\$10-\$24 per month)**

Herman Harville and John Shell, Alabama; Allen McClellan, Herbert John, Neil Schilling, Ron Hershberger and Steve Liehr, Illinois; Charles Fankhauser, John Reimer and Larry Parsons, Kansas; Don Cottrill and Matthew Wise, Louisiana; Donald Eckberg, Maryland; Dale Burgess and Scott Shultz, Michigan; Andrew Benjamin, Minnesota; Gary Moreau, Missouri; Daniel Thomas, Mississippi; Randy Schlick, Nebraska; George Ramseyer and Kenneth Summers, New York; John Bond and James Sheldon, Ohio; Floyd Hawk, Oklahoma; Clemon Bedwell, Mark Griffy and James Potts, Tennessee; Thomas Haines and Albert Vickers, Texas; Don Henderson and Thomas Inge, Virginia; and Arthur Hahn, West Virginia.

## UM Men Awards

### Bubba Hale

#### *Former president helps unit set record*

PHOEBUS, Va.—

**M**en of Phoebus UMC gave Bubba Hale, former UM Men president, a Life Membership Award. Under his leadership, the church was honored for membership increases and the highest number of men at district meetings.

### Maxine Baker

#### *Church leader is 'anchor' of mission activities*

PASADENA, Texas—

**H**ope Community UMC presented a Susanna Wesley Award of Excellence to Maxine Baker.

“She is an active part of many ministries here, but all agree that she is not only a participant but an anchor for many of the outreach ministries of Hope,” said the Rev. Jack Womack, pastor of the 3-year-old congregation. “Whether it is a spaghetti fundraising dinner, the annual Pumpkin Patch or tutoring at the nearby elementary school, Maxine is eager and willing to set an

example of service to members of our church as well as for those being served.”

### Bishop Paul Leeland

#### *Men honor bishop*

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—

**M**en of the Alabama-West Florida Conference honored Bishop Paul Leeland with a Life Membership Award.

A graduate of North Carolina Wesleyan College (B.A), Duke Divinity School (M.Div.) and North Carolina State University (Ed.D.), Leeland served as a delegate to General Conference in 2000, 2004, and 2008. He was elected to the episcopacy in 2008 and appointed to the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference.

He currently serves on General Board of Church and Society, after a four-year term with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.



*Bishop Paul Leeland*

### Charles Owusu

#### *Church honors man prior to return to Ghana*

COLUMBUS, Ohio —

**M**en of Ebenezer UMC honored Charles Owusu for 12 years of service to the men's fellowship. J. Kassare Mokwah, president of the fellowship, presented the 75-year-old with a plaque and money



*The family of Maxine Baker (with award) joins her after a surprise presentation of the Susanna Wesley Award of Excellence.*



*Men of Ebenezer UMC join Charles Owusa (white shirt) following the presentation of an award.*

following his decision to retire and return to Ghana.

### **The Rev. John T. LeGault** *Retired pastor inducted into John Wesley Society*

NEWPORT NEWS, Va.—

**J**ohn T. LeGault, former pastor of First UMC in Newport News, was inducted into the John Wesley Society. The award was made possible by a \$1,000 gift from the Ouzts Family Foundation.



*The Rev. John T. LeGault*

In 2006, LeGault received the G.

Ross Freeman Foundation Award for outstanding ministry to men. He was nominated by Virginia Conference UM Men.

### **Hank Dozier** *North Carolina leader inducted into John Wesley Society*

LAKE JUNALUSKA, N.C.—

**B**ecause of his “unselfish work at the local, district, conference and jurisdictional levels of UM Men,” Henry (Hank) Dozier was named a fellow of the Society of John Wesley during the 34th annual Western

North Carolina Conference UMC Men Rally.

Dozier has served as president of UM Men at St. Mark’s UMC, Metro District UM Men, and the conference UM Men. He currently serves as vice-president of Southeastern Jurisdiction UM Men.

Dozier also served on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the Board of Laity and is a candidate for the position of men’s ministry specialist.



*Nancy Dozier joins husband Hank following the presentation at Lake Junaluska.*

### **John Hilliard** *Retired Air Force colonel serves on mission teams*

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—

**C**hapel Hill UMC presented John Hilliard with a Life Membership Award for teaching an adult class and participating in several mission trips, including two to Russia.

The retired Air Force colonel also serves on the Church Finance Committee and the Administrative Board.

“This man is truly a great individual, a dedicated Christian, and very loyal to his church,” said Stewart Cloer, UM Men president.

### **Warren Sherman** *Vice president cooks and washes dishes*

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.—

**M**en of Haygood UMC named Warren Sherman a life member of UM Men.

“He can routinely be found in the kitchen preparing meals for homeless citizens, washing endless piles of dishes at special events or



*Warren Sherman*

trimming bushes and mowing lawns,” said Bill Slingerland, president of Haygood UM Men.

Sherman, a member of the Board of Trustees and vice-president of UM Men, received the honor at an annual banquet of the Elizabeth River District Men’s

Ministry Team, hosted by Hickory UMC in Chesapeake, Va.

### **The Rev. Carl Johnston** *Army veteran leads dramatic turn-around*

NEW BADEN, Ill.—

**M**en of New Baden UMC presented Pastor Carl Johnson with a Life Membership Award.

Johnston, a 23-year veteran of the U.S.

Army, became pastor of New Baden UMC in 2011. “Since

arriving, Pastor Carl has been instrumental in leading a dramatic turn-around in our church,” says Joe Jackson, president of UM Men. “Attendance is up, membership is up, participation in all activities is rising and we’re working towards a long-needed expansion of our facilities.”



*The Rev. Carl Johnston*

### **Marcia Nusz, Lionelle Elsesser and Carrie Sullivan** *Church presents three Susanna Wesley Awards*

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—

**G**race UMC presented Susanna Wesley Awards of Excellence to Marcia Nusz, Lionelle Elsesser and Carrie Sullivan.



*Marcia Nusz*



*Lionelle Elsesser*



*Carrie Sullivan*

“These three women devoted countless hours before and after the major renovation of our church offices, Sunday school rooms, food pantry area, conference rooms and gathering hall,” said Ken Dillner, president of Grace UM Men. “They identified what was to be saved, stored, refurbished and reused in these areas, and finally redecorated the new spaces beautifully.”

### **Rodney Diggs** *Marriage counselor honored*

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

**R**odney Diggs and his wife, Zenola, are founders of One Flesh Ministries Inc., an organization that provides faith-based pre-marital enrichment and family counseling services in cooperation with McKendree UMC.

Rodney is a graduate of Andersonville Theological Seminary, and he is pursuing a D.Min. degree at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. He serves as vice president of UM Men of the Tennessee Conference.

### **The Rev. Paul White** *Men honor conference executive*

NORTH CANTON, Ohio —

**E**ast Ohio UM Men presented the Rev. Paul White with a Life Membership Award.



*Leland Spencer presents a Life Membership Award to the Rev. Paul White.*



A former district superintendent, White served as East Ohio Conference director of connectional ministries prior to his 2014 retirement after 40 years in the ministry.

“We are very thankful to have Paul with us all these years,” said Leland Spencer, president of East Ohio UM Men. “He has always been there when we needed him and something had to be done via the conference office.”

Spencer presented the surprise award during a UM Men breakfast at annual conference.

### **Chris Doran**

#### ***‘Her life is wrapped around her faith’***

SYRACUSE,  
N.Y.—

**D**uring the Upper New York Annual Conference session, Mark Jones, conference president of UM Men, presented a Susanna Wesley Award of Excellence Chris Doran, executive assistant to the bishop.

Jones said, “Chris was our choice for the award because— as one of her sisters in Christ said—“Her life is wrapped around her faith; it is deep and profound and drives almost everything she does.”



*Chris Doran proudly shows her Susanna Wesley Award.<sup>10</sup>*

### **Marion Clark**

#### ***Volunteer receives Susanna Wesley Award***

PINE ISLAND, Fla. —

**U**M Men presented Marion Clark with a Susanna Wesley Award of Excellence for serving as the volunteer church



*Marion Clark*

treasurer and director of congregational care. She also serves as the coordinator of eight Bible study groups and other educational efforts. “I only hope that I can live up to the honor of this award,” said Clark following the May presentation.

### **Evelyn Brunson**

#### ***Former assistant to the bishop honored***

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y.—

**M**en of New York Annual Conference presented Evelyn Brunson with a Life Membership Award during the 15th annual Men’s and Bishop’s Luncheon during the May conference session at Hofstra University.

She served as administrative assistant to the bishop from 1997 to 2012 and currently serves on the Conference Board of Laity and the Conference Older Adult Committee. She is also an assistant lay leader of the Metropolitan District.



*Evelyn Brunson*

The former lay leader of Salem United Methodist Church in Manhattan, currently serves the church as class leader, choir member, lay servant and lay member to the New York Annual Conference. She also chairs the Salem Older Adult Committee and the Staff-Parish Relations Committee.

### **Joseph Iman**

#### ***Leader provides vegetables for food pantries***

PORTSMOUTH, Va.—

**A**ldersgate UMC presented a Life Membership Award to Joseph Iman for serving as district coordinator of the Society of St. Andrew and chair of Tidewater gleaners.

He served as a leader of a UMM rally with 1,000 Scouts and led teenagers in summer service projects.

## Beneath the Tooth of Time

By Jim Finley

CIMARRON, N.M. —

Wow! Philmont — awe inspiring, majestic, comforting, assuring, and the most magical place of scouting.

At first glance the center seems the same as it was in the 1970s when I was here last. At that time, I was new to scouting and Philmont seemed necessary if I wanted to become an effective leader.



*Jim Finley, a scouting ministry specialist in Springfield, Mo., teaches Scout knots to a member of the troop.*

Now, as a PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth) counselor and troop chaplain I attended a 2014 workshop on “Scouting in the United Methodist Church.”



*The Tooth of Time in the Sangre de Cristo mountain range is an icon of the Philmont Scout Ranch in northern New Mexico.*

My attendance at the Philmont workshop began last winter when I received an invitation from Larry Coppock to become a scouting ministry specialist.

I submitted my application and became the 282nd member of that group of experienced scouters, but it was only after I arrived at Philmont that I began to understand my new role in scouting.

Having served as president of a group of UM Men in the late 1980s, I thought I knew what it was all about. But, I learned it was more



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vigorous, more get-with-it; and more shed-some-sweat, than I had envisioned.

My class was the best of the best.

Five clergy and lay leaders taught us how to lead Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Big Brothers Big Sisters, 4-H, and Camp Fire USA and PRAY programs.

Learning? Oh yes. —Fresh ideas, novel approaches, and innovative ways to implement tried-and-true methods.

You know what? Very little, came from a printed manual. Most of the ideas came from the seasoned scouting veterans — young and old alike. They came from the enthusiastic staffers, other attendees, and Mark Wappel, a professional scouter.

We learned from parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles; UM brothers and sisters; who are passionate about following Christ and

who understand that youth are the future of the UMC.

Oh yes, before I forget —Philmont Training Center has greatly improved, with individual showers and restrooms, additional training buildings, and improved dining halls and meals.

The center seems more organized and responsive to attendees, but the center has the same mystique, the same displays of servant leadership, and the same caring and nurturing staff.

So what did I take away from my experience at Philmont?

Thank you for asking.

I am more energized about scouting, more engaged with UM Men, and more passionate about youth development.

What more would you need?

## Scouting in the United Methodist Church



**Philmont Training Center  
June 22 to 28, 2014**



Twenty-eight Scout leaders participated in the 2014 training experience. Led by John Anderson, scouting coordinator of the Western Jurisdiction, participants were divided into three “societies” (working groups): the John Wesley Society, shepherded by Bill Byrd; Charles Wesley Society, shepherded by John Dockery; and Susanna Wesley Society, shepherded by Susan Lawyer.

Amanda Vogt served as assistant director, and the Rev. Greg Godwin and BSA official Mark Wappel served as advisers.

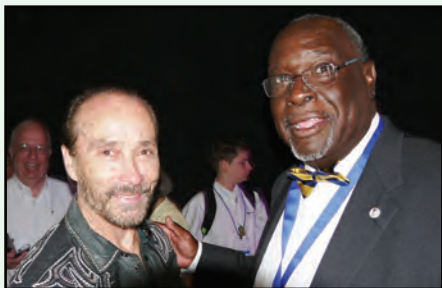
Topics included PRAY awards, *Strength for Service* devotional books; charter organization representatives; local church coordinators, and safe-sanctuary and youth-protection programs.

Bob Scott, a developer of the new Cub Scout program, gave a synopsis of all changes. Rudy Gonzalez and Oscar Santoyo, national coaches for reaching out to the Hispanic/Latino communities, offered new tools to expand ministries.

## Bishop provides encouragement to Scouts and leaders

NASHVILLE —

Mississippi Area Bishop James Swanson offered encouraging words to 1,500 people attending the “Duty to God” breakfast as part of the national gathering of Boy Scouts of America.



*Bishop Swanson and Lee Greenwood, composer of “I’m proud to be an American,” meet after the breakfast.*

“As a youngster, one of my favorite players was Maury Wills, a shortstop for the Los Angeles Dodgers,” the president of the General Commission on UM Men told Scouts and leaders attending the May 22 breakfast.

“In 1962, he set a record by stealing 104 bases. But Maury also set another record during his career that very few baseball buffs

ever talk about. In 1965, he was caught stealing a record 31 times in a single season.”

Swanson said Maury’s failures to reach second base did not deter him from dusting himself off trying again even when it caused pain. He noted that Maury did not steal bases in order to set a record; he did so because the team counted on him to be on second base for the power hitters.

“We can also depend on trustworthy Scouts to shoulder their responsibilities,” said Swanson. “The demands on their lives to be faithful, to be reliable and to be loyal will never stop coming.”

Following the presentation, Wayne Perry, BSA president, and Wayne Brock, chief scout executive, presented the bishop with a shadow box containing a painting by Norman Rockwell and silver medallions representing the 12 points of the Scout law.

Music for the event was provided by Lee Greenwood. Scouts from several states were presented with scouting awards.

Guests also received copies of the Boy Scout edition of *Strength for Service to God and Community* and a video featured the scouting ministry of Lovers Lane UMC in Dallas.

Joshua McDonald, an Eagle Scout at McKendree UMC in Nashville, delivered the benediction.



*Some 1,500 Scouts and leaders attend a May, 2014, Duty to God breakfast at Opryland Hotel in Nashville*

# Tennessee high-adventure center dedicated

SPENCER, Tenn.—

**T**wo hundred and twenty-five people attended the May 3 ribbon-cutting and dedication services at the Latimer High Adventure Reservation

“Only three BSA camps had been built in the last 20 years.” said Bill Latimer, primary philanthropist of the 1,550-acre camp on the Cumberland Plateau, 112 miles from Nashville.

Dr. Timothy Tennent, president of Asbury Theological Seminary, spoke at the dedication of Trinity Chapel. Copies of the Scout edition of *Strength for Service to God and Community* were distributed during the dedication service.

Latimer purchased 10,000 copies of the book for first responders as well as 10,000 New Testaments with Psalms to give to Scouts coming to the reservation.

Ribbon-cutting and dedication services were also conducted at the AWC Observatory and the Wade Travis Trust Cabin.

Bill Latimer, and his wife, Carol, reside in Union City, Tenn., and have made significant financial gifts to several organizations including Lambuth University and Asbury Theological Seminary.



*Trinity Chapel during the May 3 dedication service.*

Latimer High Adventure Reservation is owned and operated by the Middle Tennessee Council, Boy Scouts of America. The reservation provides youth with a new destination for high-energy, high-risk outdoor activities such as rappelling, spelunking, rock-climbing, mountain biking, backpacking, rafting, and canoeing.

Surrounded by more than 50,000 acres of public wilderness, the reservation is available to public and private organizations for church retreats, team building and other exercises.



*John Harney, a member of the Middle Tennessee BSA Board of Directors, speaks at the dedication of the Ted and Gloria LaRoche Dining Hall. Hugh Travis, an executive of the council and tMr. and Mrs. LaRoche stand near the entrance.*

## Memphis Conference honors the Latimers

PADUCAH, Ky.—

**T**he Memphis Annual Conference presented Silver Torch Awards to Bill and Carol Latimer for their generous support of Lakeshore Camping and Retreat Ministries in Eva, Tenn., and Boy Scout Councils in West and Middle Tennessee.



*Bill and Carol Latimer show their awards to their pastor. Photo by the Rev. Tim Atkins, senior pastor of Union City First UMC, the church in which the Latimers hold membership.*

Larry Coppock, national director of scouting ministries, noted their “extravagant generosity” in providing funds to build the Latimer High Adventure Reservation. The couple also provides thousands of copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community* and New Testaments to Scouts attending the reservation.

“They have demonstrated their love for Jesus Christ through their gifts and service,” said Coppock.

## Scouting Awards

### Bishops Thomas J. Bickerton and Sandra Steiner Ball *Leaders of two national jamborees receive awards*

BUCKHANNON, W.Va.—

**B**ishop Thomas J. Bickerton received a Silver Torch Award during the June session of the West Virginia Annual Conference. The General Commission on UM Men honored him for his service as vice president of the commission, leadership at the 2010 National Scout Jamboree, and chairing the Nothing But Nets campaign. Scouts attending the 2010 event contributed \$17,500 to the anti-malaria effort.

During the conference, Presiding Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball was presented the same award for her service as a denominational leader at the 2013 National Scout Jamboree. She is the first female bishop of any denomination to participate in a jamboree.



*Representing the General Commission on UM Men, the Rev. Greg Godwin tells West Virginia Conference members why the two United Methodist bishops were presented Silver Torch Awards.*

### Grant Bradley *Youth assists pastor*

EMPORIA, Va.—

**M**onumental UMC presented a Good Samaritan Award to Grant Bradley following two months of service as an intern

with Pastor Jerry Wicker.

Grant helped resolve computer problems, typed information for the newsletter, moved furniture and researched the location of biblical stories. “Grant’s knowledge of Scripture and ability to write biblical questions and create a worksheet for my ecumenical weekly Bible study program was extraordinarily helpful,” said Wicker.

## **Lauren Rankin** *Choir member serves hot meals*

LIBERTY, Mo.—

**L**iberty UMC presented a Good Samaritan Award to Lauren Rankin for serving hot meals through a Kansas City outreach ministry. A member of the children’s choir, the 13-year-old is also a member of a Girl Scout troop.

“Lauren’s actions are all so very notable,” said the Rev. Jack DeWees, pastor. “I can only wonder what the upcoming years hold for her.”



*Lauren Rankin*

## **Gary Dailey** *Computer-savvy teacher leads Cub Scouts*

**L**AWRENCEVILLE, Ga.—Prospect UMC presented a Cross and Flame Award to Gary Dailey for leading Cub Scout Pack 500 for the past five years. He serves as chair of the Pack Committee and coordinates Pinewood Derbies and Rain-Gutter Regattas.

“Gary worked closely with me to ensure Cub Scouts enrolled in ‘God and Me’ and ‘God and Family’ classes,” said the Rev. Eddie Herring, pastor.



*Gary Dailey*

Dailey teaches 3rd and 4th grade Sunday school classes, participates in overnight housing of the homeless, and handles the church’s computer needs.

## **Logan Hagler** *Scout leads children’s class*

CUMMING, Ga.—

**F**irst UMC of Cumming presented Logan Hagler with a Good Samaritan Award.

A member of Scout Troop 2010, Logan volunteered to help lead Kid’s Kingdom, a service for children during Sunday worship service.



*Logan Hagler*

Kristy Thompson and Cherie Perkins, leaders of Kid’s Kingdom, say, “There are several children who are now attending Kid’s Kingdom, only because of Logan’s ability to make them feel comfortable.”

## **Jim McCarthy** *Leader of God and Country class honored*

SHARPSBURG, Ga.—

**T**he Rev. Mark Jordan, pastor at Cokes Chapel UMC, presented Jim McCarthy with a Cross and Flame Award.

McCarthy, the assistant BSA council commissioner, served as a counselor for 21 students enrolled in God and Country classes sponsored by St. Louis-based Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY).



*Jim McCarthy, left front, receives the Cross and Flame Award from Mark Jordan, pastor at Cokes Chapel UMC. Behind them are, from left, Glenda McCool, and Sean and Cormac McCarthy.*

## Frank Dale Kuntz Conference honors scoutmaster

LAWTON, Okla.—

Oklahoma Annual Conference presented a Torch Award to Frank Dale Kuntz for 20 years of service to First UMC in Lawton and previous service to First UMC in Cache, Okla.

In 1982, he became scoutmaster in Cache. He moved to Lawton in 1993 where he again assumed the role of scoutmaster. He was named Oklahoma scoutmaster of the year in 2001.

He retired as scoutmaster in 2014 and he now serves as charter organization representative.

“Frank has made a positive impact on many children and youth,” said the Rev. Al Potts, pastor of First UMC in Lawton. “He has taught many of the God and Country classes. As a former police officer, he knows the kinds of issues our young people encounter and his counseling and encouragement have had a profound impact on their lives.”

## Courtney Beals High school senior led Bible school for Armenian children

ELKIN, N.C.—

First UMC presented Courtney Beals with a Good Samaritan Award following her participation in a 2012 mission trip to Armenia.

While men replaced a roof of a warehouse in Berdzor, Courtney led a Bible school for 22 children in a nearby orphanage.

“Though their living conditions and situations were much less than fortunate,” said the high school senior, “all the people I came into contact with were extremely gracious beyond belief.”



*Courtney hugs one of the children in the Armenian orphanage.*

## Samantha Elliott Girl Scout coaches children with special needs

STROUDSBURG, Pa.—

Neola UMC presented a Good Samaritan Award to Samantha Elliott following eight years as a baseball, basketball and soccer coach of children with handicapping conditions. Each sports season lasts eight weeks.

The 16-year-old is a four-star recipient of PRAY awards. She also serves as a counselor for a 6-week summer recreation program, and she is an auxiliary member of the Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Company.



*Samantha Elliott tells Channel 16 viewers about the Challenger Sports Program for children with special needs.*

## Michael Feist City presents award to Scout leader

CLOVIS, Calif.—

The city of Clovis presented Michael Feist with the 2014 “Friend of Youth Award.” He received the honor at the June 14 Hall of Fame Award Ceremony. The scouting ministry specialist serves 12 scout units and he led five boys through the God and Church Award program. He also led an effort to package 120,000 dehydrated meals for Stop Hunger Now.



*Michael Feist*



## Cory Reimert Scout rescues children caught in riptide

CROSS LANES, W.Va.—

Cross Lanes UMC presented a Good Samaritan Award to Cory Reimert following his actions to save two children caught in a powerful, riptide at Top Sail Beach in North Carolina.

Cory, 17, was on a July mission trip jumping waves at the beach when he noticed three kids farther out in the water.

“They were screaming for help and trying to swim back,” he said.

Without thinking, Cory ran through the churning surf toward the screaming children. He managed to reach a girl who was closest to him.

“I grabbed the girl’s arm, and she grabbed her brother’s arm,” said Cory. Another boy was able to swim back on his own.

They all reached an area where they could stand up.

A few months later, Boy Scouts presented Cory the rarely given Honor Medal with Crossed Palms.



Cory Reimert

## Dennis Luessenheide Conference honors Scout leader

MARYVILLE, Ill. —

Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference presented a Torch Award to Dennis Luessenheide for his service as conference scouting co-coordinator from 1996 to 2012.

A retired communication technician, Luessenheide has served as a cubmaster, scoutmaster and troop committee member. He was appointed unit commissioner for Illini District in 1987, and he still serves in

that position.

He served as president of UM Men of Collinsville UMC from 1995 to 2011, and he was inducted into the John Wesley Society in 2000.

## Jordan Harris and Kit DeHoff Church presents Good Samaritan Awards

CHANDLER, Ariz. —

On May 25, Chandler UMC presented Good Samaritan awards to Eagle Scouts Jordan Harris and Kit DeHoff; both are members of Troop 283.

Kit served as senior patrol leader and is attending a junior college.

Jordan is a high school senior and senior patrol leader.



Jordan Harris is joined by parents Michelle and Scott Harris, and Tom Denney (right), a scouting ministry specialist and troop chaplain.



Kit DeHoff is joined by parents Linda and Gary DeHoff, and Tom Denny (right), a Silver Beaver Award winner and the scouting organization representative.

In addition, the Rev. Jonathan Arnpriester, pastor of Chandler UMC, received the Shepherd Church Charter Recognition Award for the second year in a row for the ongoing support of Troop 283 and Venturing Crew 2283.

## **Eric Schomber** *Homes for homeless cats*

PINE BUSH, N.Y.—

**W**ith donations from a plumbing supply business and help of three adults and 12 Scouts, Eric Schomber, 15, built three PCV cat towers with beds for the Humane Society of Walden (N.Y.).



*Eric Schomber stands before cat towers he built for a humane society.*

Mountain View UMC presented Eric with a Good Samaritan Award for his Eagle project.

## **Phil Secrist** *District honors scoutmaster*

SHENANDOAH, Va.—

**T**he Harrisonburg District presented a Cross and Flame Award to Phil Secrist, scoutmaster of Troop 8.

The award was presented by the Rev. Tommy Herndon at the Harrisonburg District UM Men's spring rally at Dayton (Va.) UMC.



*Phil Secrist holds the Cross and Flame Award presented by Kemper Dadisman, co-chair of the District Scouting Committee (left) and the Rev. Tommy Herndon, superintendent of the Harrisonburg District.*

## **Bob Vogt** *Scouting coordinator receives Silver Torch Award*

BALLWIN, Mo. —

**B**ob Vogt, scouting coordinator for eastern Missouri, received a Silver Torch Award.

A 50-year veteran of scouting, he chairs a Venturing Committee and serves as an adviser of a St. Louis Venturing Crew.

An Eagle Scout, Vogt has led 27 week-long super activities across the country, including trips to Philmont and the Florida Sea Base.



*Bob Vogt*

He serves on the BSA National Religious Relations Task Force and coordinates studies for all four levels of PRAY awards at Salem UMC in Ballwin.

## **Carrolanne Brannon** *Volunteer and donkey-back player*

LONGVIEW, Texas—

**C**arrolanne Brannon is a volunteer when and where she can find it—any time of day,” says David Perkins, a 28-year veteran scouter. “She rose from beginner Girl Scout to Silver Award, and then transferred to a Venture Crew and continues to display outstanding qualities and knowledge.”



*Carrolanne prepares to ride for a fund-raising basketball game played on the backs of donkeys.*

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