

UM **MEN**

The magazine of
UNITED METHODIST MEN

SUMMER 2019 ● Volume 22 Number 3

A group of five diverse young adults (three women and two men) are standing in a row against a white brick wall. They are all smiling and holding a large white rectangular sign. The sign has the text 'OUR MINISTRIES WITH YOUNG PEOPLE' written in a bold, black, hand-drawn font. The person on the far left is a young woman with long blonde hair, wearing a light blue denim jacket over a white top and grey jeans. The person next to her is a young man with dark hair, wearing a pink long-sleeved shirt and dark pants. The person in the center is a young woman with long dark hair, wearing a white top and dark pants. The person next to her is a young woman with dark hair and glasses, wearing a green top and dark pants. The person on the far right is a young man with short dark hair, wearing a bright yellow t-shirt, dark pants, and a black backpack. The background is a plain white brick wall.

**OUR MINISTRIES
WITH
YOUNG PEOPLE**



letter from the **GENERAL SECRETARY**



GIL HANKE

*General Secretary/
Chief Executive Officer*

Congratulations!

If you are reading this, the e-version of the magazine is a huge success!

This issue really speaks to an important aspect of our work, which we have bundled as “youth-serving entities.” What I am about to tell you may seem like I am bragging – I am not.

Think of this as a challenge.

For those who know me, one of the expressions I use in teaching leaders is, “You can’t sell what you don’t buy.” In my position within the commission, I attempt to find ways of suggesting, encouraging, and insisting you be involved; so, I need to do the same.

My son, Carl, began in BSA as a Tiger Cub, and I was the Tiger Cub coach. He is an Eagle Scout and works for BSA in Oklahoma City. I got to spend some special time with him while I worked on staff at the National Jamboree in the Faith and Beliefs Area on behalf of the commission.

I encouraged our Tennessee church to start a Cub pack, and I serve as chair of the committee which links the pack and the church. It is great fun. We have very few young people in our church, but the pack comes from our wonderfully diverse neighborhood.

While in Texas, and prior to working for the commission, I had a tightly scheduled life with classes to teach at the university and patients to see at the hospital. Volunteering in the community during the day was not possible.

When we moved to Nashville, my day time schedule became a little more flexible, so I was able to get involved with several new opportunities.

I became a big brother with Big Brothers Big Sisters in a school-based program. This opportunity requires only 90 minutes each week.

After several steps, I was assigned to my “little”. At that time Robert was in the 2nd grade with a background that would break your heart. He is now in the 6th grade, making great grades and we are very close. Because we are of different ethnicities, he enjoys introducing me as his brother. This generates some interesting questions.

Someday I will retire from this position with the commission, but I will continue as a big brother to Robert until he graduates from high school.



I also will continue to help with the Cub pack at our church and I have been asked to serve as a volunteer within the area council.

As you read this issue, listen for the voice in your head that says, “Hey – I could do that” or “I could help fund that,” or “gosh, that really looks like fun.”

Act on that voice – it will bring you joy and satisfaction, and you will make a huge impact on the youth of your community for Christ.

contents

Letter from the General Secretary	2
Letter from the Editor	4
Youth Ministry & Scouting News	
Our Ministry with Young People	6
Youth Ministry and the Church	8
Nearing Centennial Mark of Scouting	10
I'm Only One Person...What Can I Do?"	12
Scouts Create Ripples	14
Why Do We Support Girl Scouts?	16
How Scouting Impacts Lives	18
Building Camp Fire	19
Alabama Church Celebrates Scouting	20
More than 52,000 Achieve Rank of Eagle	22
Scouting Awards	22
When Did You Realize You Were Big?	26
Become a Mentor	27
Men's News	
Upper Room Prayer Center Ends Call-ins	30
Gabe Simon Named Administrator	31
Endowment Fund Honors Fire Fighter	31
National Association of Conference Presidents News	
It's All About Relationships	32
UM Men Awards	36
Men's Health	38
Dad's Zone	40
Across the Nation	42



1000 17TH AVE. SOUTH
NASHVILLE, TN 37212
866.294.4312

PUBLISHER Gil Hanke
EDITOR Rich Peck
GRAPHIC DESIGNER Troy Dossett, UMCom
ASSOCIATE EDITORS Rick Vance
Steven Scheid
PROOF READERS Martha Davis
Nancy Grissom Self

UMMen is published four times a year:
Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall.

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 United Methodist Men. Articles without bylines are written by commission staff.

Copyright © 2019



letter from the **EDITOR**



REV. RICH PECK

Editor

It's a common complaint.

We have no young people in our church or in our UM Men organization.

However, when we review all the ways the UMC touches young lives, we are probably reaching more young people than you might imagine.

Steven Scheid, director of the Center for Scouting Ministries, tells us we have more than 420,000 youth and more than 180,000 adults engaged in UM Scouting ministries.

Your church may charter a Boy Scout troop or a Cub Scout pack. It might sponsor one or more Girl Scout troops or Camp Fire clubs. And some of the men of your church may be serving as big brothers with the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization.

If your church has none of these youth-serving organizations, it's past time to speak with your pastor about sponsoring one.

Lots of people and organizations stand ready to help. Talk with charter organization representatives and Scoutmasters in neighboring churches. Call on Boy Scout Council executives or Girl Scout Council leaders. And if you aren't sure how to start, call Steven Scheid; he will give you some suggestions and he may get you in touch with a scouting ministry specialist.

When I think about the joys of scouting, I recall scores of experiences while my son was in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. One of my favorite memories was when our troop took a bus to Philmont Scout Ranch. On the way to New Mexico, we took a raft trip down the Colorado River where the boys took turns throwing each other into the icy waters. We climbed ladders at Mesa Verde and camped out in a surprising rainstorm in the Painted Desert.

I've had the chance to add memories of building race cars for Pinewood Derbies with my grandsons, and Harrison proudly displays a trophy in his bedroom.

When I think of Big Brothers, I recall serving as a "big" to Darrel in Rhode Island. The 12-year-old had a fascination with fireworks and took special joy in scaring me with "lady-finger" fire crackers.

I suspect you have had memories with young people in one of these youth-serving organizations.

It's time to provide similar opportunities for young people in your community.

Several articles in this issue will give you a head start.



A letter to the EDITOR

We write to critique a statement in an otherwise cogent lead article on “Care for God’s Creation” in the fall 2018 UMM magazine.

“Nuclear power is not a just solution to avoid carbon dioxide emissions because the permanent storage and containment of nuclear waste pose grave and irreversible risks to communities, ecosystems, and all form of life.” (A proposed statement from the Board of Church and Society to the 2020 General Conference).

We can understand why you believe this statement. Nuclear has a bad reputation for several reasons:

1. Nuclear power is the only power source that started out as a weapon.
2. Megacuries of radiation were released by the testing of nuclear weapons from 1951 to 1992.
3. Reactors with solid-fueled water-cooled reactors at Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and Fukushima had serious safety problems.

We agree that renewable sources of power -- specifically wind and solar -- are worthy of support, but these sources are incurably intermittent and incapable of following demand. Storage presents huge problems.

We now have much improved designs for nuclear reactors ready for development.

The Liquid Fluoride Thorium Reactor (LFTR), developed at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, uses no water and operates at atmospheric pressure -- no massive pressure dome is required. In fact, with LFTR’s air-cooling can be substituted for water-cooling during electric power generation.

The LFTR is inherently safe. A pipe in the bottom of the reactor vessel leads to a drain tank. A fan cools a short section of the pipe to freeze a plug of fuel salt. Any interruption of power to the fan allows the plug of fuel salt to melt; the moisten-salt fuel then flows into a drain tank, the reaction stops, and the fuel cools down on its own with no human intervention.

The waste from the LFTR would be about 1/250th of reactors we now have, and the waste would be far more manageable than today’s spent-reactor fuel.

A LFTR power system would be superior to wind and solar because of its continuous output, its superior use of resources, and its lower cost. The power system can be located close to where the power is required, and its high operating temperature would provide valuable process heat for large scale water purification.

We contend nuclear is “a just solution to avoid carbon emissions,” given the advancement of superior reactor designs.

David A. Copeland and David G Earnshaw, cofounders
Wyoming LFTR Energy Alliance
Laramie, Wyo.



Our ministry with young people

By Chris Wilterdink

About 25 percent of the population of the United States is under the age of 18.

That means the odds are good that you have a significant number of young people connected to you by only one or two degrees of separation.

Even if you don't see many young people involved in your youth groups, choirs, Sunday schools, or confirmation classes, your church has a tremendous opportunity to be in ministry with youth by forming relationships with youth-serving organizations.

In order for youth ministry at your church to expand, leaders need to articulate the goals they have for young people, and the value young people contribute to their community.

We at Young People's Ministries and Discipleship Ministries exist to provide resources, and to challenge you to help the church live into its mission of forming disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We offer a variety of resources and connection points to support youth ministry.

When you give to your local church, you support Young People's Ministries. Our ministry is part of Discipleship Resources, an agency that receives monies from the World Service Fund.

We are one of the many ministries funded by your generosity.



Resources provided by Young People's Ministries

DISCIPLESHIP SYSTEMS

Youth ministry models are diversifying rapidly. A wide variety of program and relationship-based opportunities are designed to meet the needs of young people. A church must look for opportunities and models that work in their context, instead of subscribing to one set curriculum or a single program. A highly adaptable model for youth ministry involves the use of an intentional discipleship system. These systems provide a flexible framework for a youth ministry to track and work towards specific areas of growth in discipleship. A detailed booklet to discover more about these systems, their purpose, and their implementation can be downloaded [here](#). Print booklets for study or use by a leadership team can be purchased [here](#).

CONNECTIONAL EVENTS

Young people embody John Wesley's observation that "Christianity is essentially a social religion." Youth have a great time getting together, especially when they gather for purpose. One denomination-wide opportunity is the quadrennial YOUTH Event. YOUTH 2019 happens this July 10-14 in Kansas City, Mo.

This event is an incredible discipleship opportunity, with global worship leaders, top-notch speakers, and exposure to the wide connectional world of the UMC. Event information can be found [here](#).

We also coordinate the "Young People's Address" at General Conference. Applications to become a speaker at General Conference 2020 will be collected through the end of June 2019.

We also advocate for the election of young people as a part of voting delegations to various other conferences. Youth are looking for opportunities to lead and make a difference, but systems of the UMC require knowledge and experience to navigate. We are always looking for adult leaders who can mentor these young people.

We also offer more infrequent, regional events around the world through partnerships with other general agencies and annual conferences.

The Youth Worker Collective is full of field-tested, Wesleyan lesson plans, ministry planning tips, and coaching for youth ministers. Sometimes, those called to ministry with youth can feel alone, and the [Youth Worker Collective](#) wants to be there to support and connect them when times seem lonely and the road difficult. Weekly podcasts and frequent updates make this a site that needs to be on your youth ministry radar.

UM YOUTH MISSIONS

Service and mission opportunities have become a cornerstone of many youth ministries, and we keep a database of UM-related youth-friendly organizations and destinations here.

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Visit [here](#) to apply for grants and scholarships. This page offers access to the Youth Service Fund (the by-youth, for-youth grant fund) and grants for Ministries with Young People. Each of these funds takes applications through June 1. The portal will automatically file their application for every possible scholarship offered through the general agencies.

Youth ministry requires adaptation to a changing landscape. Use these resources and links to review the models of youth ministry presently employed by your church.

Discover the needs of youth in your church and in your community. Don't be afraid to try new things to develop relationships with them.



Chris Wilterdink is the director of Young People's Ministries at Discipleship Ministries.

Youth ministry and the church

By Steven Scheid

There is a visual we use to teach children about the church. You may remember it. Interlock your fingers with your palms up. Fold your palms together and make a single block with your hands: “Here is the church”. Then the pointer fingers are extended upward: “Here is the steeple”. Open your hands so that all your fingers are sticking up in the middle: “Open it up and see all the people.”

I have been thinking about the church. This child’s visual has become a call to see it differently. When you see the people, you cannot see the building. The walls are flat and the people tall. We often say the church is the people. If we open the church and there are only four or five fingers standing tall, the children will tell us something is wrong. Where are the missing people?

At the Center for Scouting Ministries, the church is those we count. It is those we serve within our faith-and-life building. Just like a Sunday morning, not everyone who comes is a member of the church, but we are in the ministry together.

We have more than 420,000 youth and more than 180,000 adults engaged in United Methodist scouting ministries.

We use the term “scouting ministries” to describe several partnership programs that help youth grow and experience faith-development opportunities.

We are grateful to be in partnership with Girl Scouts of the USA, Boy Scouts of America, Camp Fire and Big Brothers Big Sisters. Each partner organization has a unique and proven set of methods to provide care and growth opportunities for young people.

Without scouting ministries many of the fingers in our church are missing.

Look around your congregation on a Sunday morning. The church is graying rapidly. We are grateful for the faithful members who have been and still are there. We also love your children, their children and the next generation. We want them all to have the opportunity

to walk together. We want them to have the chance to be exposed to the church and to choose to be in a relationship with God.

If we can open the doors and join in ministry, we can see all the people.



Steven Scheid is the director of the Center for Scouting Ministries of the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

The mission of The UMC is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

For a century, scouting ministries has been part of our concern for the spiritual formation of children in the Christian faith.

Boy scouting has been part of our reach to children and youth within the church and community since 1920.

Throughout the years, scouting ministry grew to include other youth-serving agencies. The 1948 Book of Discipline, ¶182 states, “Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and similar organizations and clubs may be included in the church school.”

In the early 1980s, to strengthen our reach to children and youth, UM Men, along with concerned Methodist scouters, provided funds to establish an Office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting Ministries with a full-time director.

In 2018, the position was retitled director of The Center for Scouting Ministries.

Steven Scheid serves as the director.

Ministries of the center include Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the USA, Camp Fire, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Youth and child protection programs, and Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY).

An estimated 1.7 million participants and family members are impacted by these ministries to young people.

The Center for Scouting Ministries provides local congregations with opportunities to mentor the spiritual and character development of children and youth in their communities through working on service projects; studying Bible-based resources; exploring new skills in: science, technology, engineering, math, and the arts; connecting children to nature; providing leadership opportunities; citizenship training and building healthy peer and intergenerational relationships.

For a quick-start guide to Scouts BSA visit the [Program Resources page](#). Here, you'll find a collection of links for starting a Scouts BSA troop, helping Scouts earn merit badges, guiding youth leaders toward more effective troop meetings and more.

The National Scouts BSA Committee posts information on program changes at the [Program Updates page](#). If there's a new program initiative, updated requirement or any change to Scouts BSA printed material, you'll find it here.

Nearing centennial mark of Scouting in the denomination

By BSA Chief Scout Executive Mike Surbaugh

It is truly my honor as Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America to recognize and celebrate the historic partnership with the UMC, and specifically the UM Men.

On February 12, 2020, we will recognize a 100-year journey that we have taken together to impact the lives of youth throughout our nation.

Church provides more than meeting space

As a new district executive in Jacksonville, Fla., I was struggling to learn how the chartered organization relationship worked on a structural level.

Having been a Scout in Troop 360, chartered by the Bethel Park (Pa.) UMC, I knew that this relationship was much different than simply having a place for the troop to meet.

While the church was generous in providing space for our equipment storage, parking for our troop

trailer, and a meeting hall for our weekly outings, I sensed that there was much more to this bond.

As I grew in the program and began participating and leading service projects, our first thought was always towards our chartering partner. Our Scoutmaster emphasized how special the relationship was and how the generosity of their support made our troop operations possible.

Often, as we were painting the basement, landscaping and various other projects, we slowly grew to realize that we did not have just a meeting place, we had a chartering partner that took ownership of our Scouting unit. That bond was strengthened as we participated in Scout Sunday and the pastor gave us responsibilities throughout the worship service.

All those thoughts came flooding back to me as I prepared to make my very first “sales call” to try to start a brand-new scouting unit.

Knocking on door of a UMC

It was natural that I was most comfortable the knocking on the door of the UMC in a small town in rural north Florida. I was warmly welcomed by the pastor and as I began my sales pitch, he laughed and said, “You can save the pitch. I’m an Eagle Scout. I get it.” He said that he had wanted to start Scouting but had been challenged because of a lack of available leadership.



Mike Surbaugh is the Chief Scout Executive for Boy Scouts of America.

Over the next few months, we developed a steering committee, formed a troop committee, and selected an outstanding scoutmaster who was not then a member of the church. Interestingly, that Scoutmaster later joined the church with his family and became a key lay leader.

The troop started out with just six boys, and quickly grew to 15 over the next few months. We then started a Cub Scout pack. I didn't know at the time that this is usually the reverse of how you organize units—typically, Cub Scout packs are first—but, in the end, it all worked out and we had a vibrant Scouting community in a town that had long been without the program.

Over the years, I have thought many times how different my career might have been if I had not been mentored and nurtured by key members of the Methodist Church through both my boyhood experience and learning the ropes as a new Scouting professional.

Rich heritage

Over the past 100 years, that spirit still permeates the UMC. You may remember in a letter to the first Chief Scout Executive James E. West, James V. Thompson, the superintendent of the Young People's Department said, "We welcome your fine spirit and eagerness to place the program of the Boy Scouts of America at the disposal of our leaders of Methodist youth. We shall do all we can to promote the use of the Boy Scout program throughout the Methodist Church."

Over this time, our relationship has remained strong throughout many changes in both the Boy Scouts of America and the UMC.

Scouting and the UMC have placed priority on reaching out to our communities. This dynamic partnership has been seen not just as a statement of faith but has provided an opportunity for many who are unchurched to experience a faith component in their families.

Scouting has provided an outreach ministry opportunity to the church and, in return, Scouting has grown across America due to the commitment and enthusiasm of UM Men.

New opportunities

At this moment in time, the UMC can help us through a significant time of need as we seek to impact greater numbers of youth throughout America. With The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints leaving the BSA as a chartering partner, we will rely on the UM Men to help us find homes for all of these families who seek to remain in scouting.

Scouting also has a new opportunity to grow as we have opened our service to the entire family.

This is an exciting time for our movement and we stand ready to serve the next generation of America's future leaders.

While we know that service to millions of youth is important, we never forget the impact that the program has on the individual Scout. Lives are changed one at a time and your mentorship and support has given character and leadership to countless youth and their families for multiple generations.

Speaking as one of those Scouts, I am truly grateful that there was a Methodist Church and Methodist men who gave me an opportunity to reach beyond myself, learn service to others, and eventually develop the most satisfying career imaginable.

Speaking not as the Chief Scout Executive for the Boy Scouts of America, but as one timid little 11-year-old walking through the doors of the Bethel Park Methodist Church, thank you.

"I'm only one person...what can I do?"

By Chris Karabinos

So, you want to grow your church by bringing in families, but your church has no kids. In addition, you are only one person with little help for others in the congregation.

What can you do?

More than you might think.

One approach is to partner with a youth organization that has a ready-made program that will allow you to modify it to fit your church's needs. A great partner will help you recruit leaders, provide training programs, and give you access to professional staff members, campsites, insurance, adult screening services and more.

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

You can partner with any youth-serving organization near your church.

The Center for Scouting Ministries recommends working with the Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the USA, Camp Fire, and/or Big Brothers Big Sisters. If you only have a few young people in your church, these organizations have ready-made, turn-key programs to help you serve youth within three to five miles of your church and bring new visitors to your church campus.

Even if you do have kids in your church, 90 percent of your Scouts will come from outside your church.

DUTY-TO-GOD

A key reason UM churches are interested in sponsoring a youth program like Scouts is to share the Word of God with children and their families. Both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts have Duty-to-God programs that allow (even encourage) the introduction of conversations about, and the study of, faith with kids and their families.

WHERE DO WE FIND LEADERS?

You don't need adults in your church to be the Scout leaders, although they certainly can be. The good news is that nearly all of the leaders of a Cub Scout pack, a Boy Scout troop or a Girl Scout troop will come from the parents of the kids who join the scouting unit. When you recruit the kids, you get the parents.

What you do need is at least one adult church member to serve as the scouting coordinator. That person will work closely with the pastor or lay leader to recruit people who view scouting as a ministry of the church. Those key leaders will be responsible for recruiting parents to fill the other leadership positions of the unit. The scouting coordinator doesn't run the pack or troop, but he/she does manage the leaders.

ASSISTANCE

If you need help thinking this through or starting a pack or troop, you have help.

Contact your UM Conference Scout Coordinator. If you're not sure who that is, contact [Steven Scheid](#), director of the Center for Scouting Ministries.



A 20-year veteran Scout leader at the pack, troop crew, church, district and council levels, Chris Karabinos is the scouting coordinator for the North Georgia Conference. He has served on UM Men boards at the local church and conference levels for 15 years.

CASE STUDY

New Prospect UMC is a 70-member congregation in Buford, Ga. The church hosts Boy and Girl Scout troops serving 87 young people. This North Georgia Conference church serves as home to Cub Scout Pack 513 and a Girl Scout Troop.

Rich Feggeler says the pack engages in service projects for the church, participates in Scout Sunday, and does a great job of recruiting and training parents to serve as Scout leaders by sending them to woodbadge or other training experiences. "They organize all the programs, including the meetings, campouts, pinewood derbies, and everything," says Rich.

“The amazing thing is that we have more Scouts in our pack than church members, says Rich Feggeler, the scouting coordinator for the church. “This shows you don’t need to have kids in your church to have a Cub Scout pack.”



RICH FEGGELER,
SCOUTING COORDINATOR

PACK 513, CHARTERED BY NEW PROSPECT UMC.



Scouts create ripples

By Teresa Pinkston-Rector

Boy Scout Troop 452 has been chartered by Arlington Tennessee UMC since 1999. During that 20-year period, the ministry has grown from seven boys to 165.

The church does much more than just provide a space for Scouts to meet. A representative from the scouting ministry is appointed and regularly attends meetings with the Church Council and consults with the Board of Trustees on how Scouts can serve the church. For instance, Troop 452 is currently planning to build benches for the church playground so parents have a place to sit while watching the children.

Pastoral involvement

The Rev. Larry Woodruff, pastor of Arlington UMC, is a registered leader with the pack and troop, He serves as the executive officer on scouting charters and is incredibly supportive of the church's ministry to young people.

He can often be seen cheering for Scouts or other young people at extracurricular events.

He frequently volunteers to serve in the concession stand so parents can watch their kids play.

Pastor Woodruff recently received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Point of Light Foundation for more than 4,000 documented hours of community service. Friends and family applied for the award to show how much he is truly loved and appreciated.



EAGLE SCOUT CARSON KNAUSS AND ADULT LEADER MATT DURKEE BUILD TWO WHEELCHAIR RAMPS FOR METHODIST HOSPICE ALLIANCE.

Good turns

Even the youngest children, can create ripple effects with acts of kindness.

“Do a Good Turn Daily.” This is the slogan of the Boy Scouts.

Good turns might include major events such as saving a life or helping out after floods or other disasters. They might be ordinary events such as recycling community trash or working on conservation projects.

To quote Anthony Douglas Williams, “Do a good turn daily each day of the year and change 365 lives.”



THIRD GRADE BEAR SCOUTS LOOK ON AS CUBMASTER BUDDY BURKETT AND THE WEBELOOS SCOUTS PROPERLY RETIRE TATTERED FLAGS AT A CUB SCOUT PACK 452 CAMPOUT.



Teresa-Pinkston-Rector serves Arlington UMC as the chartered organization representative and a teacher of PRAY classes, she also serves on the Church Council.

Service to church and community

Scouts serve Arlington as members of the color guard for the Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies. They also erected a flagpole in the town square.

Scouts and leaders also participate in Habitat for Humanity Youth United, and they serve the children of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home.

Every third Saturday they can be found working in a food pantry and clothing closet.

Scouts will also make 100 Easter baskets for children of the UM Neighborhood Center in the inner city of Memphis.

Military service projects

Since 2008, members of the pack and troop have collected cell phones in any condition. The phones are shipped to a recycling agency which gives Scouts a 60-minute military calling card for each phone. These cards are then sent to deployed soldiers along with a care package and a note of encouragement. Children of military families are given books.

Members of the pack and troop also make holiday cards for patients at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. Each quarter, a military dad personally delivers the cards to soldiers wounded in the line of duty.



SCOUTS PLACE FLAGS BY GRAVES AT THE WEST TENNESSEE VETERANS CEMETERY.

Scouting Ministry Sunday

Each February, Pastor Woodruff and the congregation invite scouting families to attend a Scouting Ministry Sunday where Scouts read Scripture and offer prayers.

On Sunday, February 10, 2019, both the Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop received the Bishop's

Award of Excellence in Scouting signed by Nashville Area Bishop William McAlilly. The award recognizes outstanding UM scouting units which have met established criteria.

Arlington UMC also received The Shepherd Church Charter Recognition which annually recognizes churches that provide outstanding scouting/youth mentoring ministry to their communities through sponsorship of one or more of the civic youth-serving agencies.

Several members of the congregation mentor our scouts. They serve as merit badge counselors and as guest speakers for special events. They are always present whenever there is a need of a helping hand.



CUBMASTER BUDDY BURKETT AND HIS SON, ALEX PREPARE TO SERVE AS COLOR GUARD FOR THE ARLINGTON SOFTBALL BASEBALL LEAGUE

PRAY classes

Scouts and youth of Arlington UMC have a heart for Jesus.

Over the years, more than 500 Scouts have completed at least one of four levels of the Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY) classes for young people in grades 1 to-12.

It is more than heart-warming when PRAY classes result in a child asking Jesus to come into his or her heart and is later baptized. Little wonder that adults give hundreds of hours serving as Scout leaders.

Quite a few of Arlington Scouts are also members of the church youth ministry and serve the church and community through "Mountain T.O.P", "Night on the Street" and "24 Hour Famine" to get a feel of the conditions endured by the homeless and poor.

Scouts will assist with minor home repairs and Vacation Bible School this summer, and four Scouts will be traveling with Youth Minister Rose Vettraino to Mountain T.O.P. to serve underprivileged families in the Cumberland Mountains of Tennessee.

Why do we support Girl Scouts?

By Steven Scheid

“You support Girl Scouts? Why? Why do UM Men support Girl Scouts?” It is a question I have been asked frequently. In many ways it is a question that perplexes me as well. I have been blessed to have an amazing partner in my wife. She is truly better than me. I have a daughter who is absolutely incredible. I have been blessed to watch and share time with young women as they have grown. I cherish these times and relationships. I’m sure other men have had similar experiences. So I would venture that the program is not where the question comes from. It instead comes from the place of asking, “Why are the UM Men a supporter of Girl Scouts? You are men.”

The [Girl Scouts of the USA](#) put it this way:

Why Girl Scouts?

Who do you want the girl in your life to become? Whether she is 7 or 17, you want her to become self-confident, strong, and compassionate. You want her to respect herself and others, make good decisions, be open to new challenges, and use her skills and talents to make her world a better place. You want her to build strong friendships, be a leader, and put her values into practice in her everyday life. You want her to become her best self.

Girl Scouts is all about helping girls develop their full individual potential; relate to others with increasing understanding, skill, and respect; develop values to guide their actions and provide the foundation for sound decision making; and contribute to the improvement of society through their abilities, leadership skills, and cooperation with others.

Through the unique Girl Scout Leadership Experience, girls discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together. Girls grow courageous and strong through a wide variety of enriching experiences, such as field trips, skill-building sports clinics, community service projects, cultural exchanges, and environmental stewardship. The program unleashes the G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)[™] in every girl, preparing her for a lifetime of leadership—from taking a hike under the stars to accepting a mission

on the International Space Station; from lobbying the city council with her troop to holding a seat in Congress; from running her own cookie business today to tackling cybersecurity tomorrow.

And Girl Scouts is proud of its diverse and inclusive reach. Approximately 30 percent of our girls come from underserved and underrepresented communities, allowing Girl Scouts to serve as a pathway to a brighter future.

As the world’s premier leadership development organization for girls, Girl Scouts believes a girl’s personal faith is an enormous part of our mission. Girls of all faiths and backgrounds are welcome as long as they abide by the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Girl Scouts encourages girls to explore their personal faith, and to develop a deeper understanding of the role it plays in their own lives.

Girls connect with and develop their own spiritual and religious beliefs by earning recognitions offered by their faith-based communities as well as the My Promise, My Faith pin, which helps girls deepen the connection between the Girl Scout Law and their faith. We also support the right of faith leaders to verify that Girl Scout programming delivered to girls in their places of worship is consistent with the faith’s teachings.



“My purpose... to go on with my heart and soul, devoting all my energies to Girl Scouts, and heart and hand with them, we will make our lives and the lives of the future girls happy, healthy and holy.”

— Juliette Gordon Low

Methodists have supported Girl Scouts since 1913

In 1912, Juliette Gordon Low founded the first Girl Scouts of the USA troop in Savannah, Ga., following a meeting with Sir Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts.

Low was inspired to provide a similar opportunity for girls to grow and develop. Her first gathering was composed of 18 girls from the community. Her desire was to include all girls regardless of class, ethnicity, ability, or culture.

Low told her friend, Jessamine Flowers Link, about Girl Scouts of the USA, and in 1913 Link formed the second Girl Scout troop at Hyde Park Methodist Church in Tampa, Fla. Link led her 9-member troop into the woods, earning badges and helping others.

Today, seven Girl Scout troops make their home at Hyde Park UMC. Each girl is encouraged to discover her interests, connect with others and take action to make the world a better place. (hydeparkumc.org/girl-scout)

The relationship between the UMC and Girl Scouts of the USA stems from a deep desire to support girls in growth.

A quick Google search of the words “United Methodist” and “Girl Scouts” results in scores of churches that recognize parallel missions: Wesley UMC, University City UMC, Hyde Park UMC, Providence UMC, Asbury UMC, Grace UMC, Hilltop UMC, Trinity UMC, St. Matthew’s UMC, Fuquay-Varina UMC, Harve de Grace UMC, Cypress Trails UMC, Flag Springs UMC, St. John UMC, Dallas First UMC, Chestnut UMC, Perry Hall UMC, Cascade UMC, Chase UMC, Rupert UMC, and many more.

These churches reach out to communities and into the lives of girls. We are grateful for their passion. It is the same passion that Low and Link brought to the founding of the premier girl-growth program.

We look forward to the continued growth and success of the Girl Scouts of the USA. We will continue to encourage churches to initiate partnerships with Girl Scout troops.

We hear the call to support girls and echo it today.



How scouting impacts lives

By Ken Hudgins

Several years ago, I became president of our men's organization at First UMC of Chesterton, Ind. After assuming office, I realized that we had neither a Cub Scout pack nor a Boy Scout troop at our church.

I was told that many years before we had a troop, but it folded due to lack of leadership. I was determined to work with the men of our church to revive the scouting program.

After a brief search, a couple men and their wives stepped up to lead the revived troop. With their help, we got Cub Scout Pack 929 and Boy Scout Troop 929 up and running. We then found additional parents in the pack and the troop who helped with fundraisers. This enabled us to purchase a trailer and camping gear.

Scouting ministry at First UMC began to grow.

A grateful mother

A mother came up to me after a Scout ceremony where her son received several Scout patches. She thanked me for having Troop 929 and told me about her son's handicapping condition. "He has a hard time at school and people frequently stare and make comments about him," she said.

She went on to tell me, in tears, that this Scout troop had not only accepted her son but had helped him

grow and have confidence in himself. She said the boys and leaders were genuine friends with him. "This is the first time in his life that this has ever happened," she said. "The troop has changed him and helped him to grow and have faith in himself."

She encouraged me to keep our pack and troop strong and growing.

I assured her we would do just that and thanked her for sharing the ways in which scouting had powerfully impacted her son.

Proud of scouting ministry

I was proud of the leaders and boys in our troop who fostered an environment which helped the boys become the men God created them to be. That's really what it is all about, isn't it?

What child doesn't like to camp out under the stars or learn how to safely start and manage a fire?

What child doesn't like to fish and hunt, or learn how to swim, make pottery, and sew?

Scouting provides many opportunities for all of this and more; all of them experiences that last a lifetime.

Boy Scouts of America, I praise God for you and thank you for all you do!



Ken Hudgins is president of UM Men in the North Central Jurisdiction. He is a lay speaker and a certified men's ministry specialist.

Building Camp Fire

By Steven Scheid

In February I was honored to spend a few hours with the executive director of the Long Beach Council of Camp Fire. It was a great opportunity to reconnect with a leader of one of our national partners. We found a common passion in the desire to support and help youth grow and thrive.

For more than 110 years Camp Fire has served youth with a passion for success and growth.

A Camp Fire club is a powerful tool to enable youth to grow in life and community. Youth need caring adults, friends and a place to learn. Camp Fire provides a carefully researched and designed program known as “Thriveology”. This program was first rolled out by the Thrive Foundation for Youth.

THRIVEOLOGY HAS A FOUR-STEP PATH TO SUCCESS:

- **Discover the sparks.**

Adults and peers help youth find the answers to “What things inspire, ignite or engage your heart? What makes your heart sing?”

- **Develop a mindset that leads to growth.**

Growth comes from stretching and reaching. Camp Fire youth learn to push past obstacles, take risks, and learn as they come to the other side. They acquire new skills and learn with a newly found confidence.

- **Identify life goals and decide how to achieve the goals.**

Camp Fire advisors help provide youth with support and accountability as they strive to meet their goals.

- **Engage in reflection.**

Every well-fed spark results in a fire. Camp Fire helps youth take the time to enjoy the warmth of the fire. Reflection provides an opportunity to learn from both mistakes and wins.

Camp Fire is a solid partner in growing youth and communities. Camp Fire clubs have a positive and deep impact on the youth and adults. To start a Camp Fire program site at your church, go to Campfire.org.



Camp Fire



Alabama church celebrates century of scouting

The symbiotic relationship between First UMC and scouting began more than a century ago when the congregation was known as Court Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

Early church leaders, and the Methodist denomination as a whole, soon recognized that the principles of scouting exemplified the character-building attributes of young men and women who would grow up to become church leaders. In fact, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, sponsored more than 2,000 troops within a decade after scouting was introduced to America in 1910.

Church forms research group

To recognize its century-long history and encourage continued support of Scouting as a church ministry, First UMC formed a Scout History Task Force in March 2016. The task force requested information from the congregation on several occasions, set up a Facebook page to post old photos, and conducted and transcribed more than 25 interviews.

Volunteers spent untold hours poring over records at the local Tukabatchee Area Council, the church archives (newsletters, Sunday bulletins, board minutes, etc.), the Alabama Department of Archives and History, and internet resources. As word of the project spread, church members came forward with personal stories, mementos, photos, and scrapbooks. More than two years of research and writing recently culminated in an illustrated history comprising some 120 pages with some interesting revelations.

A Scout is reverent

Boy Scouts of America believes that no member can grow into the best citizen without recognizing an obligation to God. One founding father of the movement, Washington attorney James E. West, had the wisdom to require reverence as a tenet of scouting, but without ties to any particular denomination, and the foresight to insist on tolerance toward other religions. West was recruited for a six-month stint as Chief Scout Executive in 1911; 35 years later he retired from this position. He advocated for what is now known as the religious principle of the Scout Law and had it incorporated into the BSA Constitution.

Montgomery's Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist, Baptist, and Jewish community leaders all worked together to keep the fledgling movement alive.

COURT STREET CHURCH TROOP 3, LED BY SCOUTMASTER W. L. NOLL, ON CAMPING TRIP TO MENTONE, ALABAMA IN 1916.





City embraces scouting

Civic leaders in Montgomery quickly embraced the scouting movement and had a scoutmaster school in place less than a year after the movement formed in America. Local growth was explosive in 1910–11, to the extent that the Montgomery Council was singled out by the national leadership as a model for other councils and the city was considered for a regional headquarters.

Troop 3, formed at the Court Street Church, became the first Methodist-sponsored troop to remain active.

When the Court Street congregation was asked by the Alabama Conference board of education to relocate to the Cloverdale neighborhood in 1929 to support the church-related Huntingdon College, the architect for the new “Cathedral in the Pines” was instructed to provide a space for scouting activities. After occupying temporary space at Huntingdon, suffering a devastating explosion during construction, and overcoming several financial crises, the new First Methodist Church was finally able to charter its first Boy Scout troop in March 1940. It has provided meeting space, financial support, and adult leadership for Scouting ever since, including a short-lived Scout Hut, which fell victim to expansion of the church campus.

Church hosts nine BSA units and 12 Girl Scout troops

Over the intervening years, First Church has chartered at least nine BSA units from Cubs to Explorers and has hosted up to 14 different Girl Scout troops. By the mid-1950s, 15 different Boy, Cub, and Girl Scout troops were meeting at the church each week. First Methodist has continuously chartered Boy Scout Troop 15 since March 22, 1940.

First UMC troops and packs have never limited membership to church members, and for some youths this scouting activity may be the first time they have been inside a church. Scouting can be a low-key but effective way to reach out to unchurched families. The 12 tenets of the Scout Law and the Ten Commandments parallel each other closely, with the desired outcome of endowing young adults with honor and integrity. Having a youth program that aligns with the church’s teaching has proven to be a positive ministry over the past century at First UMC.

More than 52,000 achieve rank of Eagle



In 2018, a total of 52,160 boys from all 50 states earned scouting's highest honor, that's 6.49 percent of eligible Scouts.

Last year is the eighth-biggest Eagle Scout class in history. The largest class was in 2012 with 58,659 Eagle Scouts.

Each Scout and his volunteers spent an average of 153 hours on his Eagle project. When you multiply the number of service hours for each of the 52,160 Eagle projects, it totals 7.98 million hours. At the 2018 value-of-volunteer-time rate of \$24.69 per hour, that works out to \$197.2 million worth of service to communities.

Meet the following Eagles in troops chartered by UM congregations:

COLE BUTLER

A member of Blackhawk Troop 11, chartered by Wesley UMC in Aurora, Ill., Cole recruited 30 Scouts to set 17 new grave markers and reset 30 existing markers of Civil War veterans in Riverside Cemetery in Montgomery.



PHOTO BY AL BENSON

COLE BUTLER RECEIVES HIS EAGLE KERCHIEF FROM HARRIS SHAFI (LEFT) AND JUSTIN HUBERTY.

RYAN CALHOUN

A member of Troop 146 in Braselton, Ga., Ryan's Eagle project was to provide a bird sanctuary for New Liberty UMC. He designed bird houses with biblical themes and added bird baths, bird feeders, a bench for meditation and prayer, and a path centered around a map of biblical Israel with signs citing Scripture passages related to birds.



MATTHEW RAY KESSLER

An 11-year scouting veteran of Troop 124 in the Hartland District of the W. D. Boyce Council in Peoria, Ill., Matthew led a group of Scouts to clean up, lay mulch, and install a border for the Canton Veterans' Memorial at Lakeland Park in Canton, Ill. This Eagle project was finished right before a Memorial Day ceremony. He served as troop chaplain.



MAXWELL K. KRAS

A member of Troop 195 chartered by Modena (New York) Memorial UMC, Max is a Brotherhood member of Boy Scouts Honor Society and the Order of the Arrow. His Eagle project was to complete an unfinished room at the church. Max and Scouts installed sheetrock to the walls and ceiling. The room is now suitable for use.

ANAKIN KELLER

A member of Heart of Virginia Council, Troop 184. Anakin received 89 merit badges and served as senior patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader and patrol leader. His Eagle project provided 100 bags filled with personal hygiene items, stuffed animals, blankets, and more for families who have lost everything in house fires. Anakin raised nearly \$2,000 to purchase the contents.



BRENDAN TODD

A member of Holbrook (Mass.) UMC and a member of Troop 56 of the Mayflower Council, Brendan's Eagle project was to build a memorial walkway for the church. He sold more than 140 personalized bricks. With the profits, he was able to buy the remaining supplies. With the help of leaders, fellow Scouts, and friends, he dug up the existing grass, leveled the area, and placed 400 bricks in paver sand.



Scouting Awards

Church honors two Scout leaders

Nacogdoches, Texas

Perritte Memorial UMC presented Cross and Flame Awards to Max McCarley and Ray Stoner. Both were instrumental in the scouting at that church and were mentors to many Eagles, including Carl J. Hanke, son of Gil Hanke.



MAX MCCARLEY (LEFT) AND RAY STONER

Three churches honor Scout leaders

Richmond and Chesterfield County, Virginia

Woodlake UMC in Chesterfield County presented a Cross and Flame to Tom McKee, a Venture Crew leader who has served on several jamboree staffs and assisted with two Bishop's Dinner for Scouting.

Shady Grove UMC in Short Pump presented a Torch Award to Rick Bragga, a distinguished Eagle Scout and holder of the Silver Buffalo Award who serves on the Philmont Museum Board and sings in the church choir.

Trinity UMC in Richmond presented Bruce Sofinski a Cross and Flame Award for under-the-radar service at the church.

Tim Goodman received the Torch Award for serving as a Scout leader for 30 years.

Three leaders receive Cross and Flame Awards

Midlothian, Virginia

St. Marks UMC honored three Scout leaders with Cross and Flame Awards on Scout Sunday.

Holly Luther, part-time youth director and mother of a Boy Scout, supports PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth).

Phil Webber, a grandfather of Ohio Cub Scouts, supports God & Me and God & Family courses, provides devotions at pack meetings, and prepares meals for mission dinners.

Former cubmaster, and now unit religious emblems coordinator, Ron Flournoy came to the pack when his oldest son joined, and he now runs PRAY classes.



FROM LEFT: HOLLY LUTHER, PHIL WEBBER, AND RON FLOURNOY

Church presents Good Samaritan Awards to Eagle Scouts

Newport News, Virginia

Chestnut Memorial UMC presented Good Samaritan Awards to Henry Harris and Daulton Cooper.

The Eagle Scouts also received God and Life Awards following their study of PRAY material.

Scouting Ministry Coordinator Tim Ewing also presented Cross and Flame Awards to Randy Merkel, a leader of Troop 11, and Michelle Cullison, a leader of Pack 11.

The church received Shepherd Church Charter recognition for the third year in a row.



HENRY HARRIS AND DALTON COOPER.

Cross and Flame for 14-years of service

Murrells Inlet, South Carolina

Belin Memorial UMC presented Graham with a Cross and Flame Award for leading BSA Troop 396 for 14 years.

The Eagle Scout is an active member of the FISH Sunday school class, a chaperone for youth trips, and chair of the Church Council.



PHOTO BY WENDY ZULANCH

THE FAMILY OF GRAHAM MCELVEEN JOINS HIM AT THE CHANCEL OF BELIN MEMORIAL UMC.



PRESTON WEATHERRED IS SURPRISED WITH A CROSS AND FLAME AWARD.

Scoutmaster serves 35 years

Kerville, Texas

First UMC surprised Preston Weatherred with a Cross and Flame Award following 35 years of service as a scoutmaster.

Preston began his scouting career at a 9-year-old member of a Cub Scout pack at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church in Houston, Texas. He recalls that his first scoutmasters were World War II veterans who emphasized First Aid.

As a result, Preston emphasized First Aid throughout his career as a scoutmaster. He served for 25 years as the scoutmaster for a troop at First UMC in Richmond, Texas. After retiring from a career in the moving and storage industry, Preston moved to Kerrville, where he became the scoutmaster for a troop at First UMC. After 10 years of service, he continues to serve as a troop adviser.

Preston helped 205 young people achieve the rank of Eagle.

When did you realize you were big?

By Steven Scheid

When I was little, I remember my parents encouraging me to take more responsibility. They would let me know that responsibility came with being “big”. I am sure you have heard it. “You can do it. You’re big.” I am also sure you have said it to your kids. I know I have.

Becoming a big

A couple of months ago I became a “big”. That is, I was given the opportunity to serve with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. This organization trains, matches and supports adult volunteers in mentorships with youth. The older person is referred to as the “big” – big brother / big sister. The little becomes the younger sibling. The great part of being a big is not needing any special skill, degree or background. You just need the desire to care for a young person. You become a role model, friend and fan for someone growing in life. It gives you a chance to use the phrase again: “You can do it.”

Still growing

My little and I got to play a game called Hedbanz. Each player draws a card without looking at it and puts it in the headband they are wearing. The others can see it, but you can’t. Now you ask each other questions trying to figure out what card you have on your head. When my little had a snowman on his hedbanz, I learned a few things when my clues provided him no help.

Not everyone has made a snowman, not everyone eats the same veggies and I have a whole lot more to learn. The irony about being a big is the simple things remind me I still have so much grow yet to attain. It is good to have someone to grow with. I don’t have to have all the answers, I just need to provide the time and the caring. It is good to have someone with whom you can share questions and answers until the picture becomes clear.

Thankful

I am thankful when someone reminds me I am big. But even more, I thank God for the chance to be big and share with someone becoming big. The Oak Ridge Boys got it right.

*"If it weren't for kids
have you ever thought
There wouldn't be no Santa Claus
Or look what the stork just brought
thank god for kids*

*And we'd all live in a quiet house
without Big Bird or Mickey Mouse
And cool-Aid on the couch
thank god for kids*

*Thank god for kids
there's magic for a while
A special kind of sunshine in a smile
Do you ever stop to think or wonder why?
The nearest thing to heaven is a child..."*

Become a mentor to a boy whose father is incarcerated

Do you remember a person from your childhood who you not only looked up to, but who brought a little magic into your life just by being there? Likely, it was someone other than your parents—someone you respected, but who did not have an authoritarian, parental role.

The Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) organization, an affiliate organization of the General Commission on UM Men, invites you to serve as a mentor to a boy between the ages of 5 to 18.



UM Men are especially encouraged to serve as a “big” to boys whose fathers are incarcerated through the Amachi program of BBBS. Amachi, a Nigerian word of hope from the Ibo people, means, “who knows but what God has brought us through this child.”

Having a dad in prison can make growing up difficult. Children with an incarcerated parent often need additional support and guidance. The Amachi program helps these children broaden their perspectives on what they can achieve in life.

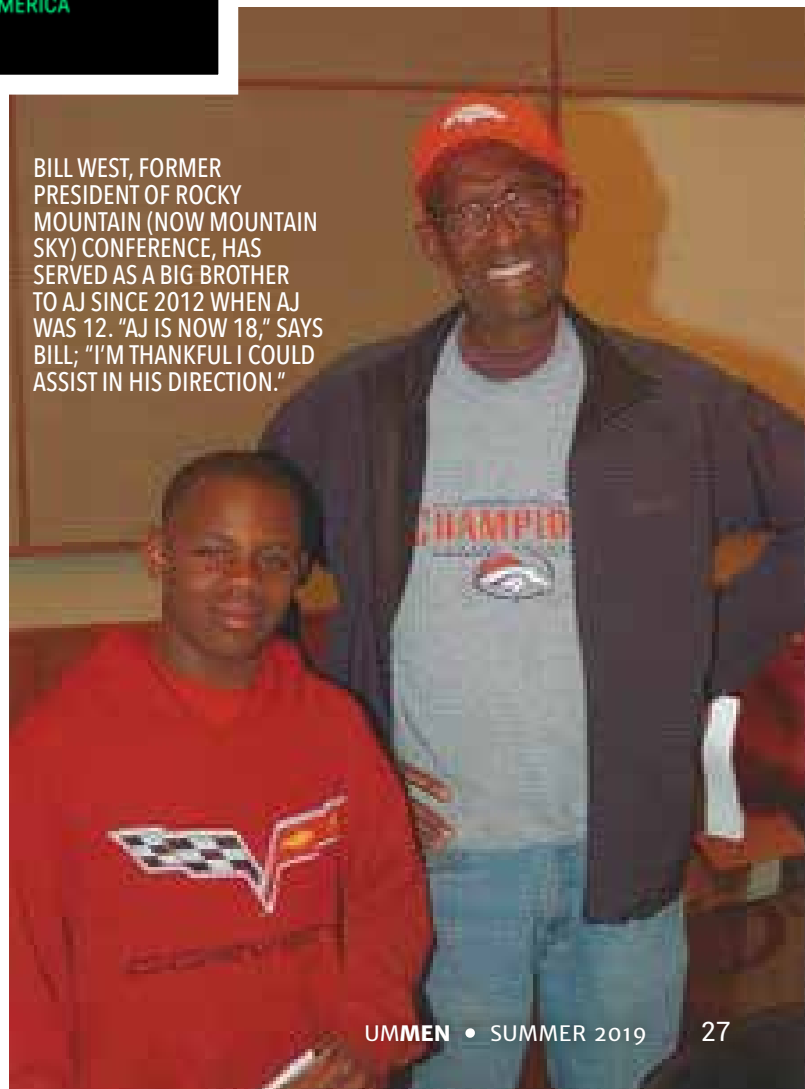
Through their friendship with big brothers, “littles” often discover a whole new world of experiences, opportunities, and potential. Being a little can have lifelong results.

Bigs and littles do simple things together: they play sports, watch movies, cook, review schoolwork, visit museums, take walks, volunteer for community service projects, or just hang out together.

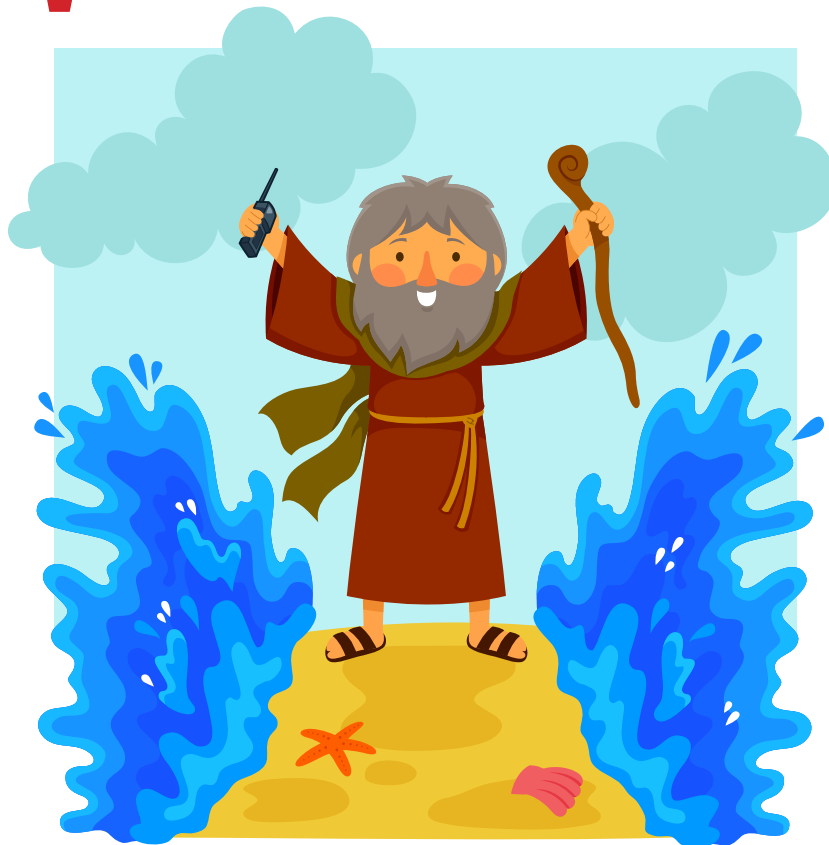
It’s the friendship that develops while doing these everyday activities that makes the difference.

BBBS works closely with parents and guardians to match every child with the right “big”. Every volunteer is screened, trained, and supervised. Professionals in youth development support each match to help ensure that the relationship will be safe and rewarding for everyone involved.

For information and to volunteer, click [here](#).



BILL WEST, FORMER PRESIDENT OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN (NOW MOUNTAIN SKY) CONFERENCE, HAS SERVED AS A BIG BROTHER TO AJ SINCE 2012 WHEN AJ WAS 12. “AJ IS NOW 18,” SAYS BILL; “I’M THANKFUL I COULD ASSIST IN HIS DIRECTION.”



MISSION "POSSIBLE"

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School.

“Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved.”

“Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?” his Mother asked.

“Well, no, Mom, but, if I told it the way the teacher did, you’d never believe it!”

SECURITY CHECK

There was once a rich man who was near death. He was very grieved because he had worked hard for his money, and he wanted to take it with him to heaven. So, he began to pray that he might be able to take some of his wealth with him.

An angel hears his plea and appears to him, “Sorry, but you can’t take your wealth with you.”

The man implores the angel to speak to God to see if He might bend the rules.

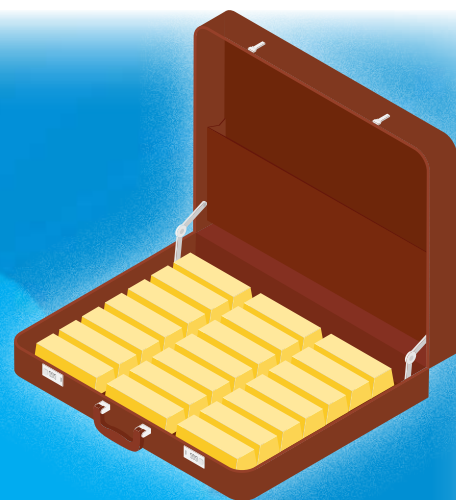
The man continued to pray that his wealth could follow him. The angel reappears and informs the man that God has decided to allow him to take one suitcase with him. Overjoyed, the man gathers his largest suitcase and fills it with pure gold bars and places it beside his bed.

Soon afterward, the man dies and shows up at the

Gates of Heaven to greet St. Peter. Seeing the suitcase, Peter says, “Hold on, you can’t bring that in here!”

But the man explains to him that he has permission and asks him to verify his story with the Lord. Sure enough, St. Peter checks and comes back saying, “You’re right. You are allowed one carry-on bag, but I’m supposed to check its contents before letting it through.”

Peter opens the suitcase to inspect the worldly items that the man found too precious to leave behind and exclaims, “You brought pavement?!?”





COMMUNICATIONS

United Methodist Communications

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

We support all levels of the church through:

- ▶ Online and in-person training experiences
- ▶ Local church marketing grant opportunities
- ▶ Affordable webhosting
- ▶ Effective outreach tools
- ▶ Sharing tips and best practices that will make your job easier

Helping you
communicate
all the good
you can.

Partner with us!

Find details about these resources, and many more, at

UMCom.org

Upper Room Prayer Center ends call-ins

“After prayerful discernment, research, and evaluation of data”, The Upper Room Prayer Center has ended the live call-in ministry.

That’s what Migdiel Pérez, manager of the prayer line, told conference prayer advocates and conference presidents of UM Men, during their March meeting.

Live call-ins ended May 1.

Kara Oliver, executive director of The Upper Room Center for Christian Spiritual Formation, explained the prayer line annually receives 111,000 calls, but only 20,000 receive answers. “You’re not doing anything wrong,” she said. “But we have to ask, ‘Are we promising something we aren’t delivering?’”

PROUD TRADITION

“We’re proud of this ministry and the places it has led us – from reclaiming the importance of intercessory prayer, to the creation of sacred, welcoming prayer space for people of all walks of life,” said Migdiel. “Both laypersons and clergy have had a safe and confidential space in which to share their deepest needs in prayer. Volunteers have prayed with callers on the prayer line for so many needs – current issues facing the church, chronic and terminal illness, addiction, interfaith hospitality, poverty, the restoration of relationships and more.”

PRAYERS STILL NEEDED

All prayer requests may now be posted at the [Upper Room Prayer Center Wall](#).

UM Men may continue as “[prayer volunteers](#)” who answer prayer requests posted on the website.

“You have journeyed with us through changes in technology and the world,” said Migdiel. “The hundreds of thousands of people who post on our prayer site continue to need your prayers.”



MIGDIEL PEREZ AND SHERRY ELLIOTT (RIGHT) PRESENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE WITH THE AWARD FOR PROVIDING \$2,200 TO THE UPPER ROOM PRAYER CENTER, THE HIGHEST AMOUNT PROVIDED BY 20 CONFERENCES. WILLIAM WADDELL, PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE, HOLDS THE PLAQUE. HANK DOZIER (LEFT) AND DICK STRACHAN ALSO REPRESENT THE CONFERENCE.

Commission names Gabe Simon as charter system administrator

The General Commission on UM Men has named Gabriel (Gabe) Simon, an employee of a health-care system in Baton Rouge, La., as the new charter system administrator.

“Gabe comes to the commission with a wealth of knowledge, skills and expertise, and a willingness to be a life-long learner,” said Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the commission. “He is a man of faith, who immediately fit in with the staff during his interview.”

“Gabe was seeking a position that was in a faith-based setting,” says Gil. “He is the son of a pastor, and his previous work experience gave him an understanding of a work/life balance.”

When Gabe assumes the position in July, he will process requests for charter subscriptions for UM Men organizations, and he will provide them with president’s packets and other resources. He will also respond to requests for information on our ministry partners, individual memberships, and the men’s ministry specialist candidacy process. He will

also provide current conference and jurisdictional presidents of UM Men with information about churches in their area with charters and individual supporters.



GABRIEL SIMON

In his present position as senior supply chain process specialist for the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System, Gabe operates a state-wide help desk, answers questions and redirects callers to the appropriate services. He uses the same business software platforms that are used by the Nashville-based agency.

Gabe is a 2007 graduate of Morehouse College, and holds certification in supply chain management from WP Carey School of Business at Arizona State University.

Gabe will assume the post formerly occupied by Joe Strausbaugh who left the commission on May 3rd. A graduate of Gettysburg College and Drew University Theological School, Joe served the commission since 2012.

Endowment fund honors fire fighter

A [Strength for Service](#) endowment fund was established last year to honor Jim Jeffery, a retired captain in the Los Angeles Fire Department.

After a brief battle with cancer, Jim died last July at the age of 74. His will provided seed money for this fund that will continue his life efforts to care for firefighters and other first responders.

Upon his 1987 retirement as a firefighter, Jim took an active role in providing copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community* to firefighters and police officers in the Long Beach area.

He served as member of the SFS Advisory Committee and he was a charter member of the Strength for Service Society, a group that promises to remember the ministry through their planned gifts.



JIM JEFFERY

“Like most first responders, I have post-traumatic stress disorder,” said Jim. “Most military do also. Spirituality is the primary tool I use to combat PTSD. *Strength for Service* is one of the best tools I use to stay spiritually fit.”

Jim not only took SFS books to firefighters and police officers, he also handed copies to patients at a VA hospital in Long Beach.

“Jim sat with us every year at the Duty to God Breakfast during the national BSA meeting,” said Larry Coppock, executive director of Strength for Service, Inc. “On two occasions, Jim co-sponsored SFS Scout edition devotionals

for the national gatherings. He was a great man and will be missed.”



It's all about relationships

On the opening day of a March gathering of conference presidents of UM Men and conference prayer advocates, the Rev. Dr. Rick Vance advised the 80 participants to focus on relationships.

“Men’s ministry is all about relationships,” said Vance, who serves as the director of the Center for Men’s Ministries. “It’s about man to man, God to man, man to God, and man to church relationships.”

Follow first

Noting that the first disciples spent three years following Jesus before they became leaders, Rick said, “You can’t lead if you don’t follow.”

He noted that most conference leaders serve as leaders of study and accountable groups, but few of them serve as rank and file members of such groups. “We need to be in a group to which we are accountable,” said Rick. “Ninety-eight percent of men don’t have another guy they can go to when they are dealing with life struggles.”

Ministry accompanies mission

“Ministry is different from missions, but ministry frequently results from missions,” said Rick. He explained that men who work together to build a handicap ramp frequently share their faith and find ways to provide spiritual nurture. “That’s where ministry begins,” he said.



Practical advice

“How many of you like meetings?” Rick asked in opening another training session.

Few men raised their hands.

Rick offered several suggestions to improve the quality of UM Men meetings:

- Know why you are meeting.
- Select participants—Not everyone needs to attend every meeting.
- Develop an effective agenda with a proposed outcome.
- Start and end on schedule.
- Ask the group for suggestions when time is running out.
- Provide follow-up information that highlights who is to do what and by when.
- Get a commitment from the participants to attend the next meeting.

Ministry is complex

In another training session, Vance asked the men to form table groups to determine their biggest obstacle in ministering to men. He received a long and varying list of obstacles.

“Men’s ministry is complex,” said Vance. “Our ministry must reach men at all points of their journeys.”

He noted that the Center for Men’s Ministries has many new resources that conference organizations and local churches may use to reach both the men in the church and those outside the church who are looking for relationships.

“You don’t need to reinvent the wheel,” said Vance. “We have the resource, or we will find the resource. If we can’t find it, we’ll create it.”

CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS OF UNITED METHODIST MEN JOIN CONFERENCE PRAYER ADVOCATES IN A CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DENMAN BUILDING IN NASHVILLE.





In other business, the assembly:

- Commissioned Odell Horne, Jeff Thornton, and Robert Wright as certified men's ministry specialists
- Received reports on the February special session of the General Conference via video calls from Bishop James Swanson, president of the commission, and Bishop Gary Mueller, vice president.
- Learned of the death of [Robert Powell](#), former president of the NACP and former president of the UM Men Foundation. Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the commission, missed the opening sessions of the NACP meeting in order to attend the funeral in Dothan, Ala.
- Learned that the Upper Room Living Prayer Center plans to end the live call-in ministry and replace it with a living prayer wall on the Upper Room [website](#).
- Received a report from Steven Scheid, director of the Center for Scouting Ministries, that notes the [Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will end its partnership with Boy Scouts on December 31](#). "This leaves 425,000 boys without a chartering partner in Scouting," said Scheid. "This is a great opportunity for UM congregations to welcome these Scouts into their troops."
- Received advice on ways to reach younger men from Odell Horne, a certified men's ministry specialist based in Atlanta and a member of [YoungER Men](#) of the Southeastern Jurisdiction.
- Received a report from Wade Mays, director of the Meals for Millions program of the [Society of Saint Andrew](#). Northern Illinois Conference was the top supporter of that ministry with a gift of \$20,437; Virginia Conference was second with \$9,305; Susquehanna was third with \$7,400. Iowa Conference received the Bud-the-Spud Award for the greatest percentage increase in giving with a total of \$4,351, a 446 percent increase in giving from 2017 to 2018.
- Presented, via video conversation, the Dale Waymire Award to Ed Shytle, former president of the UM Men Foundation battling Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. An additional \$4,950 was added to a fund honoring Shytle.
- Received an invitation from Greg Arnold to join [Adventure Men](#).
- Presented a Life Achievement Award to Marc Stowe, a 21-year staff member of the commission.
- Approved the 2019 budget of the UM Men Foundation that provides \$114,500 for the Center for Scouting Ministries and \$41,000 for the Center for Men's Ministries. The Jan. 31 report shows the foundation has assets totaling \$2.4 million.
- Poured 800 pounds of rice and 500 pounds of beans into plastic packages for children at the [Tusculum Elementary School](#) in Nashville.



CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS OF UM MEN AND CONFERENCE PRAYER ADVOCATES PACK 500 POUNDS OF BEANS AND 800 POUNDS OF RICE IN PLASTIC BAGS FOR CHILDREN AT THE TUSCULUM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN NASHVILLE.

GREG ARNOLD (LEFT) PRAYS FOR NEWLY COMMISSIONED MEN'S MINISTRY SPECIALISTS (FROM LEFT) JEFF THORNTON, ODELL HORNE AND ROBERT WRIGHT. MARK LUBBOCK IS ON THE RIGHT AND OTHER STAFF MEMBERS ARE BEHIND THE TRIO.





UM Men AWARDS

The Rev. Mike Chaffin inducted into John Wesley Society

STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA

UM Men for First UMC inducted their pastor, the Rev. Mike Chaffin, into the [John Wesley Society](#).

Mike was appointed senior pastor of First UMC in June 2011, returning to the church where he served as associate pastor from 1981-1984. Prior to his appointment to First Church, he was superintendent for the Tulsa District.



ROGER MCMILLIAN, PRESIDENT OF UM MEN OF FIRST UMC IN STILLWATER, OKLA., PRESENTS THE JOHN WESLEY PLAQUE TO PASTOR MIKE CHAFFIN.

He is a recipient of the Governor's Advocacy Award for his labor of love for the homeless and efforts to provide affordable housing in Oklahoma. He helped build a medical facility in Bolivia, participated in hurricane-recovery efforts in Louisiana and Texas, and helped rebuild homes in tornado-ravaged areas of Oklahoma.

Jack Vicory, John Laughlin and Pastor John Donaldson receive Life Achievement Awards

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

Burles Johnson, president of Burns Memorial UM Men, presented Jack Vicory, John Laughlin and Pastor John Donaldson with Life Achievement Awards. The awards were presented during the UM Men Sweetheart Banquet.



BURLES JOHNSON, PRESIDENT OF UM MEN; JACK VICORY WITH FREDDA JACKSON; JOHN LAUGHLIN WITH WIFE MIMI; AND PASTOR JOHN DONALDSON WITH WIFE LORI. THE TRIO WERE ALSO NAMED TO THE CLASS OF 2019 BURNS MEMORIAL MILFORD SCOTT MEN OF THE YEAR. MILFORD WAS A CHARTER MEMBER OF UM MEN AT BURNS.

Church honors Butch Hough and David Stroupe

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

Trinity UM Men gave a Trinity UM Men Award to David Stroupe and a Life Achievement Award to Butch Hough.

“David has gone above and beyond to support our ministries at Trinity,” says Chuck Laney, president of UM Men at Trinity. “You can find David at the church just about anytime some maintenance needs to be done.”

The men honored Butch for overseeing the UM Men annual fish fry's and barbecues.



BUTCH HOUGH (LEFT) AND DAVID STROUPE DISPLAY THEIR NEWLY ACQUIRED WARES.

Men honor founding member Ruth Malvern

FLORISSANT, MISSOURI

UM Men of St. Mark's UMC presented Ruth Malvern with a Susanna Wesley Award of Excellence.

Ruth, a 1943 graduate of Washington University Architectural School in St. Louis, was a founding member of St. Mark's. She used her architectural skills to design the church building and she served as chair of the Board of Trustees. She held several positions with the former Women's Society of Christian Service and with UM Women. She also embroidered the altar paraments at St. Mark's. She is now a member of Manchester UMC.



RUTH MALVERN HOLDS HER SUSANNA WESLEY AWARD AS SHE STANDS IN FRONT OF (FROM LEFT): DON PANASSOW, MISSOURI CONFERENCE UM MEN TREASURER; MARK SCHRADER, FORMER MISSOURI CONFERENCE PRAYER ADVOCATE, BILL MOONEY, FORMER MISSOURI CONFERENCE PRESIDENT (NOW DECEASED); AND GLENN WINTEMBERG, PRESIDENT OF THE UM MEN FOUNDATION.

Men honor Ema Williams, former president of UM Women

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

UM Men of Centenary UMC presented Erma Williams with the Susanna Wesley Award of Excellence.

"Mrs. Williams exemplifies all aspects of this award: nurturing, motherhood, faith, perseverance, intelligence, compassion and devotion," said the men. "She has served as chair of the Church Council, a trustee, president of the UM Women for more than 10 years, sub-group leader, and a MYF supporter. She is a member of the Finance Committee, works in the food pantry, coordinates the church library, helps with the annual health fair and school supplies drive and is a Methodist Hospital volunteer."



EMA WILLIAMS HOLDS HER SUSANNA WESLEY AWARD.



CHARLIE ODELL

Church honors five-time president Charlie Odell

GAINESVILLE, GA

UM Men of Redwine UMC presented Charlie Odell with a Life Achievement Award for serving as president of UM Men on five occasions during his 55-year membership in the church.

"He has been a mentor and friend to many men in the Gainesville area, and his leadership has made a difference," said the men.

Follow these steps to prevent Alzheimer's disease

By Dr. Bryant Stamford

In recent years, we have made great strides in unraveling some of the mysteries surrounding Alzheimer's disease. We know, for example, that Alzheimer's involves changes in the brain, and the problem appears to be abnormal deposits of amyloid ("sticky") proteins that form plaques and tangles that stop nerves from functioning and interacting properly. Eventually, nerves die, and the brain shrinks, disrupting nearly all brain functions. Alzheimer's most often begins in folks 65 and older, and it impacts about 6 percent of folks in this age group.

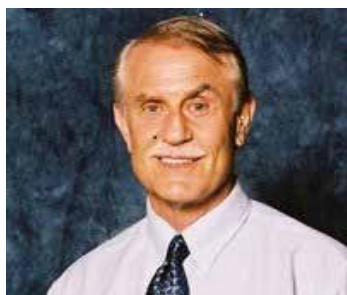
In the early stages of Alzheimer's, there are few signs. Loss of short-term memory is typical, but this is common with old age, so don't panic because you are having a hard time remembering recent events or where you last placed your car keys. However, when symptoms advance to include easily getting lost, mood swings and behavior issues, problems with language and such, it's time to be concerned. When Alzheimer's is finally diagnosed, the rate of progression can vary greatly from person to person. As declining brain function impacts bodily functions, life expectancy is on the order of about three to nine years.

The root cause

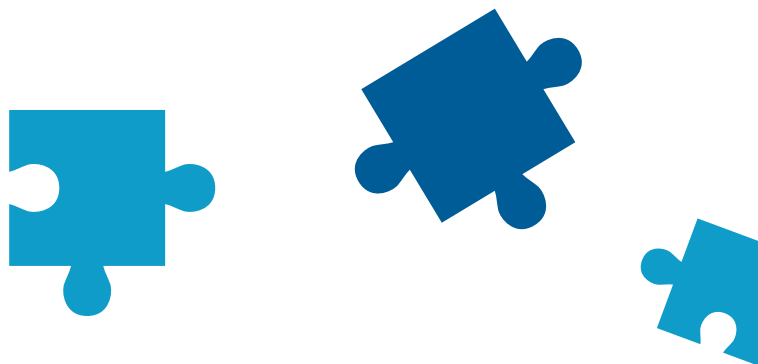
The big question that remains unanswered is, "What starts the downward spiral?" Considerable research efforts are attempting to answer this question, but the best we can do, thus far, is identify factors that correlate with the onset of Alzheimer's. Unfortunately, correlations can be misleading, and they don't reveal the cause.

Several factors correlate with the onset of Alzheimer's, and the strongest is genetics—your family history. Unfortunately, there is nothing you can do about that. Other factors include head trauma earlier in life, cardiovascular diseases, and strokes.

What about all the other things you've heard of over the years that we encounter in everyday life? The list includes such things as exposure to aluminum used in soda cans and aluminum foil, viruses that cause the common cold, microwave ovens, E coli bacteria, artificial sweeteners, deodorants, and dietary cholesterol. But, to date, none of these has proven to be important. The latest list of possible culprits under investigation includes exposure to high amounts of chemicals, particularly fertilizers and pesticides, plus benzene (found in crude oil and used to make plastics) and toluene (a solvent used in paint thinners, nail polish remover and glue).



Dr. Bryant Stamford is chair of the Department of Health and Sport Sciences at the University of Louisville. This article is courtesy of the Courier Journal, Louisville, Ky.



Preventative steps

If you are taking steps to avoid heart disease, stroke, and diabetes you also are making significant strides to prevent Alzheimer's as well. For example, invest considerable time and effort on the "Big Three." Don't smoke, exercise daily and follow a healthy diet rich in vegetables, fruits and lean protein primarily from fish high in omega-3 fatty acids (salmon, mackerel, tuna).

Other potentially important preventive steps include being socially active and keeping your mind busy which helps keep it sharp.

Choose activities that stretch you mentally. This could include reading, crossword puzzles, jigsaw puzzles, chess, checkers, creative writing, adult education classes, and games that force you to think and strategize. Be curious and engage in lifelong learning activities.

Recent studies indicate that Alzheimer's patients engaged in fewer of these challenging activities; they spent more time watching TV.

Exercise

When you review the many research studies about preventing Alzheimer's, daily exercise is on every list. Physical exercise is good for your body and your brain, because it requires highly sophisticated communication of the nerves on one side of the brain with the other, plus remarkably precise coordination of nerve firing sequences, stimulating one group of nerves while suppressing another from one moment to the next. As far as the brain is concerned, exercise is like working crossword puzzles on steroids.

If you were going to choose one factor to possibly help you beat Alzheimer's, my strong advice is to go with exercise. A brisk daily walk is a good place to start.

Truth and lies

By Tom Tozer and Bill Black

When Bill's sons were in Boy Scouts, they had to learn the Scout Oath and Law. Most of you know them. The first point of the Scout Law is Tell the truth and keep promises.

We both tried to instill this in our children (Bill's two sons, Tom's two daughters). It didn't always work. Sometimes "Did you finish your homework?" was met with the universal "I don't have any," a less than convincing silent shrug, a minimal nod, or our favorite, "Yeah, I guess."

Other times questions like, "Did you sign up for the test like I asked?" or "Where are you going tonight?" were met with a meandering response that left us dads perplexed.

Today, however, dishonesty has become a cottage industry. In late 2016, we learned of a major bank creating millions of phony account and defrauding clients of money. More recently, a large group of parents, coaches and college prep officials were accused of using money to falsify school exams and puff up resumes, so their kids could jump the line and get into prestigious academic institutions.

When our leaders lie, what hope do we parents have for instilling truthfulness in our children?

Why and how kids lie

Kids lie to protect someone else, to appear more popular or powerful, or to avoid punishment. At times they lie to avoid being embarrassed or taking responsibility. Frequently, lies are tools to cover up for some nefarious behavior. Lying can be specific but it can also be the omission of facts, leaving out what you don't want others to know.



How parents can handle lying

Telling a lie can be like grabbing an alligator by the tail. You might be able to get away with it for a while—until the other end swings around and bites you. Eventually the lie is uncovered.

DIFFUSE.

Don't react. Stay calm. It's best if you can take a step back and consider the circumstance and possible reasons your child is not being honest before talking about it.

INVESTIGATE.

Maybe the lie has to do with a bad grade, manipulation by someone else, or the desire to do something you wouldn't want your child doing. It could be the fear of reprisal based on the way you responded to an issue in the past.

BE REASONABLE.

While you definitely want to hold your child accountable, you want to use the situation as an opportunity to educate, to talk about honesty and forthrightness, to stress being a person who says and does the right thing.

COMMUNICATE.

Be tuned in to what's going on in your child's life. Know what's important to her. Find out what he is involved in. Listen! Provide an environment where your kids can talk with you.

CHOOSE HONESTY.

Teens notice what you do and how you act. They recognize inconsistency. Reflect on your own relationship with the truth.

BE CLEAR.

Make sure your kids know your expectations and the reasons behind them. Hold them accountable but be reasonable.

PROVIDE RESPECT.

There's a fine balance between oversight, safety, and intrusiveness. Just as anger will cause kids to retreat, so too will embarrassment, criticism, and unreasonable punishment.



Tom Tozer and Bill Black write a syndicated column on fatherhood and are authors of *Dad2Dads Tools for Raising Teenagers*.



BREWTON, ALABAMA

Men build 400 ramps

UM Men of First UMC have built 400 wheel chair ramps.

Durwood Mantel said the ministry began eight years ago when a lady at the church needed a ramp. “It just took off from there.”

He says it takes four to eight men three-to-four hours to build a ramp.



BREWTON MEN ARE PROFICIENT AT BUILDING RAMPS.

TUCSON, ARIZONA

A gathering of Eagles

The 155-member 2018 class of the Catalina Council Eagle Scouts were recognized before more than 300 family, friends, and Scouters during a recognition dinner at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, five miles from downtown Tucson.

Alec Newman was honored for attaining the rank of Eagle and simultaneously receiving the Summit and Quartermaster Awards, a first for the council. Alec plans on serving in the U.S. Air Force after graduation from college with a degree in mechanical engineering.

DOUG WRIGHT,
CO-VICE-CHAIR OF
THE UM SCOUTING
MINISTRY COMMITTEE
OF THE GENERAL
COMMISSION ON UM
MEN, CONGRATULATES
ALEC NEWMAN FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK
OF EAGLE.



LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Church regains basketball court

Larry Dozier, former president of the Western Jurisdiction of UM Men, serves as pastor of St. John's UMC in south Los Angeles.

Behind the church is a basketball court where Woody Harrelson and Wesley Snipes' characters pull off an early hustle in the 1992 Spike Lee film "White Men Can't Jump."

"When I became pastor, it was just a backboard—there was no goal on it," recalls Larry. "People would come by and throw things, and we would have to clean up pretty regularly."

Nick Ansom, founder of the competitive Venice Basketball League, has spent two decades rebuilding basketball courts for communities in need.

Nick led a team of local artists and volunteers to restore the court as a community resource and a work of art.

The court now has a multicolored playing surfaces, freshly painted art on the walls.

The boundary markers and backboards are decorated with mosaic tiles.

Larry expects the court will serve as "a neutral zone" in a neighborhood where street gangs remain strong.



A NEW BASKETBALL COURT STANDS NEAR ST. JOHN'S UMC.



AURORA, ILLINOIS

Church celebrates scouting ministry

Scouts and volunteers led Scout Sunday at Flowing Forth UMC.

"The Scouting program is more than just an activity for our youth to learn about the outdoors," said Pastor Derek Rogers. "Scouting provides fun, fellowship, and training to our youth as well as youth in our community. It emphasizes honesty, self-reliance, and respect."

EAGLE SCOUT THOMAS LARSEN OF NAPERVILLE SINGS AND PLAYS GUITAR AS THE CO-WORSHIP LEADER OF SCOUT SUNDAY SERVICE AT FLOWING FORTH UMC.

PHOTO BY AL BENSON



OSWEGO, ILLINOIS

Mr. Potato announces potato drop



REPORTER JUDY MCGREGOR INTERVIEWS CRAIG "MR. POTATO" MCGREGOR FOLLOWING HIS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT A POTATO-BAR BENEFIT AT CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD WOULD RAISE FUNDS TO PROVIDE 21 TONS OF POTATOES TO AREA FOOD PANTRIES. PHOTO BY AL BENSON

NEW ALBANY, INDIANA

Car show raises money for several causes

Last year, men of Centenary UMC raised \$2,100 at an annual car show and a food booth at a parade.

The funds enabled the group to provide Strength for Service books to first responders and military veterans. The funds also provided financial support for an organization helping senior citizens, a group providing food and assistance to the needy, and Christmas gifts for shut-ins.



MEN OF CENTENARY UMC HOST THEIR FOURTH ANNUAL CAR SHOW.

GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

'Never give up,' says speaker

Jack Bunker, owner of Jack Bunker Trucking of Arlington, S.D., told 76 men of the Prairie Rivers District how God helped family and friends overcome difficulties. He told representatives of 23 churches to believe in themselves and never give up.

JACK BUNKER ADDRESSES MEN OF THE PRAIRIE RIVERS DISTRICT.



MEN OF FIRST FAITH UMC IN GRAND ISLAND PROVIDED A MEAL AND LED A HYMN SING FOR MEN OF THE PRAIRIE RIVERS DISTRICT. THIS MEETING WAS HELD JUST DAYS AFTER SPRING FLOODS. AN OFFERING OF \$910 WAS EQUALLY DIVIDED AMONG THE GREAT PLAINS DISASTER RELIEF FUND, CAMP COMECA, AND CAMP FONTANELLE.

HACKETTSTOWN, NEW JERSEY

UM Men sponsor CPR training

UM Men of Trinity UMC worked with Atlantic Health System to provide CPR/AED training for 34 people. The \$10 per-person cost of the 3-hour training experience was paid by UM Men; they will provide the training again when certification runs out in two years.



ATLANTIC HEALTH STAFF HELP A MEMBER OF TRINITY UMC LEARN THE TECHNIQUE OF CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION.

DAYTON, OHIO

Author cites five marks of a man

The Pohly Center at United Theological Seminary invited men to gather for a morning of worship, encouragement and inspiration.



THE REV. BRIAN TOME

The Rev Brian Tome, pastor of Crossroads UMC in Cincinnati and author of *Five Marks of a Man*, told the assembly a boy does not become a man at 18.

What differentiates a man from a boy is the way he lives. 1) A man has a vision for his life while a boy lives day to day. 2) A man is a team player while a boy wants to be MVP. 3) A man works while a boy plays. 4) A man has the courage to take a minority position while a boy just wants to fit in. 5) A man is a protector while a boy is a predator.



MEN LISTEN TO THE REV. BRIAN TOME.

WATSONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Church observes Scout Sunday

Members of troops and packs related to Watsonstown UMC participated in Scout Sunday.



MEMBERS OF TROOP 610 GATHER AT THE FRONT OF THE SANCTUARY OF WATSONTOWN UMC ON SCOUT SUNDAY.

ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Police captain distributes devotional books

Captain Mike Bracone provided copies of Strength for Service to God and Community to fellow officers.

A GRADUATE OF THE TRI-COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE, CAPTAIN BRAZONE IS A MEMBER OF THE ANDERSON CRITICAL INCIDENT TEAM.



CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Don't cripple the crippled

UM Men groups at Old Bethel UMC and Wesley UMC invited men from various Charleston congregations to talk about issues pertinent to black men.

The Rev. Nelson Rivers, pastor of Charity Missionary Baptist Church in North Charleston, said many black men are crippled from birth by racism, hopelessness, violence and poverty so they choose to beg, sell drugs, live off others or steal to make it. "But there is another way," said Nelson. "Don't cripple the crippled by being an enabler of evil or dangerous behavior or self-destructive choices."



MEN FROM THE CHARLESTON AREA GATHER AT ENTRANCE OF OLD BETHEL UMC AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE.

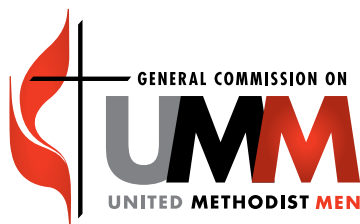
GREENWOOD, SOUTH CAROLINA

District men host shelter

Winchester District UM Men hosted a Temporary Thermal Shelter providing 35 homeless guests a night out of the cold. The men provided dinner, breakfast, and a bagged lunch.



THIRTY-FIVE BEDS AWAIT GUESTS AT THE GREENWOOD VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE BUILDING.



LEXINGTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Get out of the boat

Stuart Hall, a leadership expert, told 600 men at Mount Horeb UMC they need to get out of the boat.

Hall showed a wrenching clip from the movie "Saving Private Ryan"; it depicted terrified soldiers as they prepared to leave their landing craft to face certain death on the coast of France in World War II.

"We have an enemy giving assault to men who sit there scared to death like young teenagers storming the beach in Normandy," Hall said.

"There are reasons to be fearful, but there so much to fight for," Hall said. "Whether you like it or not, you have an enemy that absolutely wants to capture your mind and heart. The enemy wants you not to get out of boat! He wants you to sit there."

"There's no such thing as courage unless you decide to wrestle with the thing that wrecks havoc in your heart."

"FEAR AND COURAGE ARE NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE," HALL SAYS. "MOST OF US FEEL BRAVE AND SCARED AT THE SAME TIME."



PHOTO BY JESSICA BRODIE

ANTIOCH, TENNESSEE

Imagine a world that follows the Scout Law

Gil Hanke, general secretary of the General Commission on UM Men, talked about the value of the Scout Law during a Scout Sunday service at Antioch UMC.

"How would it be if everyone were trustworthy?" he asked. "Imagine that. The world might just seem like it had more if everyone were thrifty."

"A Scout is reverent, and we are here today."



GIL HANKE IMAGINES A WORLD IN WHICH EVERYONE FOLLOWS THE SCOUT LAW.

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

Bishop has regret

Nashville Area Bishop Bill McAlilly told people attending a Bishop's Dinner for Scouting Ministries that he regrets not staying with Scouting long enough to achieve the rank of Eagle.



FROM LEFT: STEVEN SCHEID, DIRECTOR OF CENTER FOR SCOUTING MINISTRIES, BILL BOWEN, PRESIDENT OF TENNESSEE CONFERENCE UM MEN, AND BISHOP MCALILLY GATHER AT FIRST UMC IN MURFREESBORO.

BISHOP MCALILLY ENCOURAGES CHURCH LEADERS TO ESTABLISH SCOUTING UNITS.



ATHENS, TEXAS

Chili cook-off raises money for mission projects

UM Men of Athens UMC raised \$20,000 for mission projects by sponsoring an annual chili competition and auction.

Trophies and ribbons were awarded to the top cook, the best presentation, and the best theme.

A "Can't-Live-Without Auction" included baked goods, a lake experience, and items donated by local merchants.



HENDERSON, TEXAS

Men honor police

Members of the men's ministry at First UMC presented copies of Strength for Service to God and the Community to members of the Henderson Police Department.



FROM LEFT: DAVID PHIPPS, CHIEF CHAD TAYLOR, CHAPLAIN STACIE HORNE, ROBERT WRIGHT, AND MIKE JIMERSON.

HOUSTON, TEXAS

Fire fighters receive devotional books

A whopping 600 volunteers serve the Cypress-Fairbanks Fire Department, the largest volunteer department in the U.S. AJ Brian, a member of the Strength for Service Board of Directors, gave the volunteers copies of the book for first responders.

At a presentation service, Fire Chief Amy Ramon spoke of what the books will mean to her fellow members who face difficulties and need the assurance the books will provide. Several firefighters expressed their appreciation for the books and the recognition of their service.



MEMBERS OF THE CY-FAIR POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVE COPIES OF STRENGTH FOR SERVICE TO GOD AND COMMUNITY.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Men 'light the fire'

UM Men of the Rio Texas Conference hosted a Light-the-Fire men's ministry event at University UMC. One hundred men had the opportunity to hear Greg Arnold, Robert Noland Jim Boesch, and Bishop Robert Schnase. They also had their choice of 10 different workshops.

GREG ARNOLD SPEAKS TO MEN ATTENDING A LIGHT-THE-FIRE EVENT.



SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Men provide ice cream social for teachers

UM Men of Northwest Hills UMC provided an ice cream social to welcome teachers back to the Carson Elementary Middle School.

Because of the event, two men became mentors to students.



UM MEN AND TEACHERS GATHER IN THE SCHOOL HALLWAY.



Society of St. Andrew
GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS
FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY



Adopt a Bushel, Feed a Nation

30-Day, \$806 Fundraising Challenge
to benefit the Society of St. Andrew

Adopt a Bushel

FEED A NATION



Click here to
Learn More

Click here to
**Order
Challenge Kit**

Looking for a new way to inspire your UMM Men's group this year? Help SoSA feed hungry Americans with the The Adopt a Bushel, Feed a Nation challenge. It is a simple and effective way to raise awareness about hunger, not to mention much needed funds. Meals for Millions will help make a difference by being a part of the solution to hunger issues throughout America. Order your kit today.

Order Challenge Kit: EndHunger.org/ABFN

Contact Meals for Millions director Wade Mays for more info. or click the buttons above.
800-333-4597 • email wade@endhunger.org • visit EndHunger.org/umm

