



Global Christianity Changes Mission Focus

By Jackie Campbell, Editor

The “face of mission” looks a whole lot different today than it did 20 or 30 years ago – and that’s not a bad thing in this age of global Christianity, according to missionaries and leaders at the 2010 Cooperative School of Christian Mission in mid-July.

“Everything we have done in mission in our history has not been good,” said the Rev. Ken Haines, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries. “We need to learn our history, lest we repeat it.”

Over the years, the concept has moved from “evangelism as mission” to “mission as evangelism”, explained Lyda Pierce, a former missionary in Latin America who now serves as a pastor and Hispanic Plan Missionary in the Pacific Northwest.

“Mission is not ours; it belongs to God. We as a church are participating with God. We need to listen,” said Roseangela Oliveira, an international missionary with women, youth and children at the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM).

In early history of mission, the idea was to “colonize, civilize and take them the Gospel”, Pierce explained. “Today we realize that you can’t TAKE God anywhere – God is already there. The theology is contextual – it’s sung, spoken and danced by people from very different situations.”

“Today’s approach to mission is through building networks and relationships,” she

added. “It’s not ‘look at what the church is doing!’ It’s ‘look at what God is doing!’ If the church died tomorrow, God would still be there.”

Haines added: “When we go somewhere we need to go to the people and ask them what they need.”

Dr. Dana Robert, author of the study

book *Joy to the World: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity* and director of the Center for Global Christianity and Mission at Boston University’s School of Theology, put it this way in an interview with *Response* magazine’s Christie House:

“For a long time we’ve talked about mission partnership. That was the post-colonial model of the 1960s and 70s. But today, I think we are seeing a 21st-century model of mission collaboration through networking. Our communication and transportation networks in this era of globalization are so much richer than they were even 20 years ago. This makes multiple points of collaboration possible.

“The old partnership model was often bilateral... That’s been blown to bits. Every sizable local church involved in mission today has multiple networks. These overseas mission institutions... are now freed up by this new context to have multiple relationships with churches across the connection and with each other. They no longer see themselves as a junior partner to a Western funding source.

“It is really exciting and has a lot of potential. It changes the role of traditional mission structures in the United Methodist Church.”

Robert said the first time our denomination’s mission agency moved to the networking model was with the Russia Initiative

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Image by George Powers

The Rev. Lyda Pierce, Hispanic Plan missionary in the Pacific Northwest who taught at the Western PA School of Mission, uses an inflatable globe to tell children about mission around the world. An ordained elder, Pierce served several years as a GBGM missionary in Latin America.

Is Your Church Making Disciples? Know Why?

By Jackie Campbell, Editor

Is your congregation focused on making themselves comfortable or making disciples - or a little of both? In September, Dr. Doug Anderson, executive director of the Bishop Rueben Job Center for Leadership Development, will lead seminars in Western PA to help clergy and laity move toward mission-center ministry.

The seminars are designed to help participants:

- ✓ Understand what causes congregations to make decisions and plan ministries that reflect personal preferences and comfort, rather than the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world;
- ✓ Learn how to keep a congregation centered on making disciples.
- ✓ Discover ways to help members develop their ability and confidence in sharing their faith.

The same seminar will be offered in three locations:

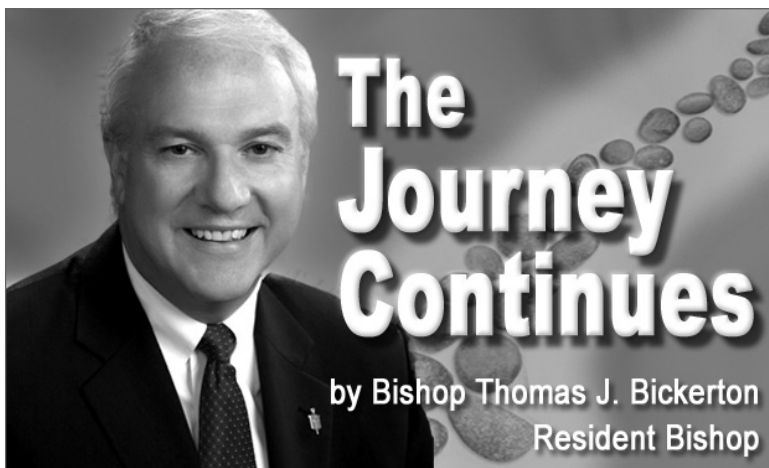
- ✓ September 20 at **Armagh UMC**
- ✓ September 21 at **Good Sheperd UMC**
- ✓ September 22 at the **UM Conference Center**

Each will include daytime and evening sessions, with the afternoon focused on aligning with the mission and developing leaders. The process is based on the Wesleyan class meetings, which were the core of the early Methodist movement when laity were dynamically involved in living out the mission. Participants will experience a 21st Century class meeting and hear practical ways to align ministry with the mission.

Evening sessions will focus on developing a congregation’s ability to do evangelism by using an educational model in which competency and confidence are developed in stages. It begins with “elementary-school” evangelism, which is service evangelism, moves through “middle school”

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I just read a new book on Francis Asbury entitled *American Saint*, by John Wigger. It is a fascinating and very thorough look at Asbury and the early days of the Methodist movement.

In the book I learned some new things about this Methodist icon. For example, did you know that in 1773 Francis Asbury contracted malaria? Or, did you know that Asbury went into seclusion during the American Revolutionary war for fear of his life because he was an Englishman and refused to sign a document agreeing to the principles of the war (not because of his English roots, but rather his Christian conviction)?

There were also some important reminders or rediscoveries that came to my attention in this book as well. Early on, Wigger makes the point of reminding his readers of the four ways this "American Saint" communicated his vision for Methodism in America:

- ✓ Through his piety and perseverance, rooted in his conversion. Asbury constantly journals about his desire to find a deeper devotion to God and a more complete love and service to others. "Where most Methodists, even most preach-

ers, settled for a serviceable faith, Asbury strove for a life of extraordinary devotion," Wigger writes on page 5.

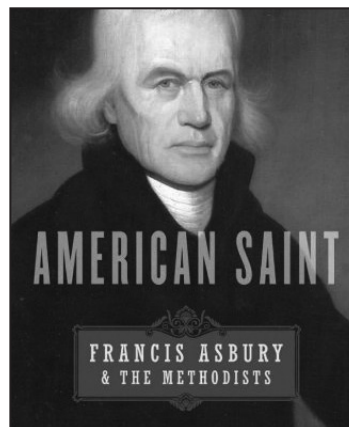
- ✓ Through his ability to connect with ordinary people. Francis Asbury embodied the meaning of "connection" better than anyone. Unlike many English-trained preachers who had more of a bent toward education and elitism, Asbury traveled among and with the people, who found him approachable and willing to listen.

- ✓ Through his remarkable ability to understand and use popular culture to transmit his faith and the Methodist way of living.

- ✓ Through the organization of the Methodist Church. Wigger writes that at the center of this vision was Asbury's system of itinerant ministry. He believed in sending preachers where they would have the most impact, rather than leaving them where they were most comfortable. Early in Asbury's work he wrote that he desired a circulation of preachers to avoid "partiality and popularity" at the expense of the gospel message.

In reading Wigger's work, I have become more aware of the reality that for everything that changes there are an equal number of things that remain the same. There is no doubt that times have changed significantly since the mid-to-late 1700's. Yet, there is also little doubt in my mind that the visions of Francis Asbury are some of the keys to our vitality and sustainability as modern-day United Methodists.

What would it look like if we strove for a deeper



piety and perseverance? Pray this day for an extraordinary devotion to God and a deeper commitment to serve others more than you serve yourself.

What would it look like if we improved our ability to make a connection with people? The result surely would be a free and radical hospitality within all of our churches and an aggressive attitude among us all to offer the world around us grace and words of hope and encouragement. Wouldn't our region be blessed if the people called Methodist committed themselves to a deeper connection with all of God's children in our midst?

What would it look like if we took it upon ourselves to understand and use popular culture to impact the way we do ministry? Mr. Asbury had some tough choices in his day, given the impending war and the ongoing practice of slavery. Adapting to the culture isn't always easy or possible. Yet, many of our emerging churches have modeled how to understand and use popular culture to further the gospel message. Times change and so must we if the Christ's message is to be heard by different ears.

Finally, what would it look like if we made a commitment to understand more fully our organization and structure? For Asbury that meant focusing more on Christ and the conversion of souls than on convenience and popularity. It meant a commitment to discipline and order as a foundation for church growth, rather than accepting anyone at any time under any terms. To lead is to set the pace, to make sure that it's not about you, and to lead others in an understanding that committing ourselves to following Jesus involves sacrifice and discipline.

For everything that changes there are a number of constants that continue to guide us on the journey ahead. May the constants of piety, connection, culture, and discipline guide us as we continue to spread God's love in this part of God's world.

The Journey Continues, . . .

Boy Scouts Adopt Nothing But Nets

(UMNS)-The United Methodist Church had a strong presence at the two-week national Boy Scout Jamboree in Virginia.

"There's a tremendous interest in *Nothing But Nets* and our *Strength for Service* program," said Gil Hanke, executive for United Methodist Men. There were 12 staff members and 18 UM chaplains at the Jamboree.

To celebrate its 100th anniversary, the Boy Scouts established the international Good Turn Project,

which this year will be Nothing But Nets. That means individual and troop projects will focus on educating the public on how to eradicate malaria. For their efforts, a special patch - bearing the United Methodist cross, as well as an angry mosquito - will be awarded.

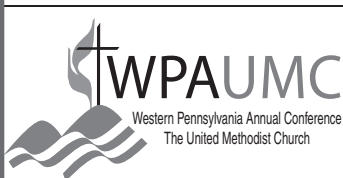
Pittsburgh District Superintendent Don Scandrol and the Rev. Alan Morrison were among Western PA Conference members at the Jamboree, which drew more than 45,000 scouts and leaders.

LINDBERG HONORED BY PENSIONS BOARD: Terry Lyon, left, chair of the Conference Board of Pensions presents a resolution honoring the late Rev. David Lindberg to Lindberg's widow Sue and grandsons Brendan and Ethan. Lindberg, who died suddenly April 16 at age 72, served on the pensions board for many years, most recently as a consultant. He also served as Conference statistician and memoirs secretary. A pastor for more than 40 years, Lindberg retired in 2002 after 10 years as pastor of California UMC, where he was named pastor emeritus.

Photo by Jackie Campbell



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P.O. Box 5002
Cranberry Township, PA 16066-0002
(800) 886-3382
Fax (724) 776-1355
InterLink@wpaumc.org
Thomas J. Bickerton, Resident Bishop
Jackie Campbell, Editor

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Western PA Conference-UMC Events

Major events are featured here. For a complete listing, go to Calendar on www.wpaumc.org. Submit Conference events, observances and meetings there or call 800-886-3382.

August 2010

- 8 **Rural Life Special Offering Sunday**
- 10 **Prepare/Enrich Pre-Marriage Counseling Training**, Conference Center, 9 am
- 17 **After-School Ministry Presentation**, Conference Center, 6:30 pm
- 21 **Managing in a Faith-based Organization - Laity**, Conference Center, 10 am
- 23 **Baseball and Theology Seminar**, Conference Center, 9 am

September 2010

- 6 **Labor Day**, Conference Center CLOSED
- 12 **Christian Education Sunday**
- 13 **Bishop's Cup Golf Outing**, Grove City Country Club, 10:30 am registration

Task Force Named to Study Realignment of Districts, Staff

By Jackie Campbell, Editor

The Conference Connectional Network has named a task force to study and recommend a plan for realignment of districts and Conference. Legislation approved at the 2010 annual conference session directs that the task force bring its study and recommendations to the CCN by March of 2011.

This will allow CCN time to determine whether to submit it to the 2011 annual conference for consideration.

A plan that would reduce the number of districts from 10 to seven and redeploy program staff into the districts was brought to CCN before the 2010 annual conference, the leadership group determined that further study was needed.

Among the questions the task force is to examine are: how to best provide leadership, connection and resources to the local church; how to share personnel resources with local churches and communities, and how to be better stewards of Mission Share

funds.

Laities named to the task force include: Louise Patterson, new chair of the CCN; Vanessa Gleason of the Council on Finance and Administration (CFA), Bobi Kincaid, chair of the Personnel Committee; Conference Treasurer Pat Morris; CCN at-large member Roberta Plohr and Patti Columbe, CEO of the Keystone UM Federal Credit Union.

Clergy named to the team were: Greg Cox, past chair of CCN; Kevin Haley and Rick Helsel of the Parish and Community Development Committee; Bishop's assistant Robert Higginbotham; CCN member Pam Gardner; Michele Wobrak, Directional Oversight Team chair; Jeff Sterling of the Board of Ordained Ministry; Paul Taylor, vice chair of CCN; and Bob Zilhaver of CFA. In addition, District Superintendents Pat Harbison, George Porter and Sharon Schwab will serve, along with the yet-to-be-named Director of Connectional Ministries and Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton.

Relationships Key to Mission

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The Russia Initiative brought together all kinds of different stakeholders. GBGM asked what was happening and what the Russians needed, rather than saying, "We'll send the missionaries and control the entire mission."

Short-term mission trips are a bit different. A lot of energy in the church is put into short-term mission work, Robert noted. In many cases, individual churches make their own arrangements and some

don't study the context in which they will serve. "I think they focus more on their own spiritual formation, yet the relationship building is still a positive aspect of short-term mission trips," she said.

Robert added: "We need to take the next step, which is to educate people to see themselves as part of this global network."

In writing the *Joy to World* study, Robert said, "I wanted to introduce people to the reality that we are in a global church, but mission is not finished just because there are Christians around the world. The mission remains, the context has changed.

"I want to encourage people to connect the dots – to recognize that to be a follower of Jesus Christ means to be in mission. Ordi-

nary people in our church working in mission need to be strengthened and encouraged in their work.

"Another goal is to help people recognize that we need to have long-term mission support. We need this networking model for ourselves and our discipleship, and we must support long-term persons and projects in mission as well.

"I hope to give people confidence to witness to what God has done for them through Jesus Christ."

In Western PA, groups like the Russia Initiative and The Nyadire Connection emphasize learning about the area and the culture through training sessions and reading before a mission trip. Conference Mission/Volunteers in Mission Director Diane Miller has also made preparation an essential element of trips she leads. Networking is also an essential element in our "Chabadza" partnership with Zimbabwe, where several Conferences are working together with in-country church leaders.

This newspaper contains several stories and photos of Western Pennsylvania United Methodists in mission. Many illustrate the 21st Century look of mission.



Photo by George Power

Rev. Kenneth Haines



Kristen Sneller

Letter from Camp

All Have Part in God's Symphony

By Kristen Sneller, Jumonville Summer Staff

"You're a beautiful, unrepeatable miracle and you're worth the air you breathe in and the space you take up," was a common saying that Ree Enlow, the director of Guest Services and summer staff supervisor at Jumonville, said often. She continued to remind us throughout last summer to all of us summer staff to remember that each of us is given unique instruments to play in God's symphony. Even the hearing impaired girl on the cookout staff had a unique role to play last summer, that girl was me.

When I first came into Jumonville, I was unsure of what the summer would bring and curious to see what God had in mind for me. I doubted my potential in furthering God's kingdom. After all, how in the world can God use a hearing impaired girl at camp? I figured I would be hiding behind the kitchen doors doing whatever needed to serve the food to the hungry campers. After three months on the Jumonville mountain, God has taught me to see the big picture and the importance of serving others.

Every person, every camper, every summer staff, every dean that walked on campus mattered dearly to God. All my life, serving others was an important thing to me, but last summer the Holy Spirit gave me a new perspective on serving others. Enlow also taught us summer staff that serving others means to put other before yourself even when it's inconvenient for you. There were many times last summer, I did things I did not want to do because it was inconvenient to me such as if it would require me to go out of my way to get it accomplished, or step out of my comfort zone, or to put aside my aching back or extreme exhaustion to help another. All the other summer staff would do the same for each other and others.

Suddenly I realized that it was not convenient for Christ to step down from His glorious throne to dwell among us, to face unthinkable temptations, pain, and suffering...to bear the sins of the world on His shoulders. After taking all of it in, I realized that it was crazy for Christ to do all that. Why did Christ make himself uncomfortable so that others could bask in God's blessings? Then I realized it's because we mattered so dearly to God and because of His great love for us.

At that moment of realization, another revelation came to me. If I matter to God that much, then why should I doubt how God will use me? It's really an insult to God's master plan if I do. Even though I may not know why God has allowed me to be born deaf, I trust completely in God that He has a reason for it. Even though my hearing loss has brought me and is bringing many trials, I know that God will use it for good. My disability has made me dependent on God for the strength I need and hold every promise God has made his Word ever close to my heart despite of what tomorrow may bring. The last time I checked, that's always a good thing.

Seminars To Focus on Disciple-Making

FROM ANDERSON/PAGE 1

evangelism of faith sharing in small groups to "high school" evangelism of sharing testimony in worship. Beyond that, "college" and "graduate school" evangelism has proven strategies to invite others, and methods of sharing faith with those who have none. By following process, one step at a time, Anderson says a congregation can develop the ability to carry out the mission of making disciples consistently and well!

Cost of the afternoon and evening sessions, including dinner and all materials is \$25. The seminar is worth 0.6 Continuing Education Units. The afternoon session only

is \$15 and the evening session only is \$10.

Anderson was a district superintendent and pastor of several growing churches of different sizes. He is the co author with Bishop Michael Coyner of the award-winning book *The Race to Reach Out*.

The registration deadline is Sept. 10. Register online at www.wpaumc.org or contact the Rev. Beth Nelson, director of Training and Resources, at 800-886-3382 or e-mail Beth.Nelson@wpaumc.org.

70x7 Imagine No Malaria Goal Doubled at School of Mission

Dean Pam Gardner, pastor of Slippery Rock UMC, set a goal for the Western PA Cooperative School of Christian Mission (CSCM) last week at Grove City College in Grove City, PA: Raise funds for 70 mosquito nets in 7 days. But, the School's weekday and weekend participants had other ideas.

Over the course of the week, United Methodist Women and other CSCM participants came together to raise

\$1,680 - enough for 168 nets, 336 rounds of treatment for malaria or 840 Rapid Diagnostic Tests used to diagnose the disease in the field.

"These people just responded to the call!" said Gardner.

Evening worship on Tuesday featured guest speakers Sandra Matoushaya, coordinator

for the Conference's Zimbabwe Partnership and Laura Meengs, field coordinator for Imagine No Malaria. Meengs spoke again at the weekend school on Saturday evening.

Following worship, an Imagine No Malaria Festival offered fun, fellowship and a little bit of fundraising. The women were treated to "bug juice" complete with plastic bugs frozen into the ice cubes, mosquito-shaped cookies, and plenty of activities facilitated by the School of Mission's children and youth participants. Purchased tickets brought the opportunities to make pipe cleaner mosquitoes, play beanbag toss games or broomball or "buy" refreshments.

Members of the Acts 29 praise band from Slippery Rock UMC provided spirit-filled music to accompany the festivities.

"It's so encouraging to see everyone getting involved! We are blessed to have the support of the United Methodist Women in Western Pennsylvania and can't wait to see how they bring the Imagine No Malaria message - and fun - back to their churches," said Meengs.

Following the first festivals, the youth and women took the fun to the next level. Using a borrowed bed net, friends could make a donation to have unsuspecting participants "netted" during the School. Anyone concerned with messed hair from having the giant net tossed over them could "purchase insurance" with a donation. The "official netters", however, weren't above accepting a bribe in the form of a larger donation to invalidate the "insurance." Even study



Photo by Jackie Campbell

Official "netters" nabbed an unsuspecting Dr. Steven Tuell as he finished lunch during the weekend session of the 2010 School of Mission. For a donation to Imagine No Malaria, the Net Squad would capture selected individuals in a mosquito net. Tuell, a professor at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, led the spiritual growth study of the Epistles of John.

leader Dr. Steve Tuell of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary wasn't immune. He was netted in the middle of leading Bible study during the weekday school and while finishing his lunch on Saturday.

All in all, participants had a great time coming together in service and stewardship to further the kingdom of God. Their blessings will make a difference in lives of many sisters and brothers in Christ in Africa.

Consider holding an Imagine No Malaria carnival in your community. For ideas, visit www.wpaumc.org/nomalaria or e-mail Imeengs@wpaumc.org.

Youth Inspire Churches to Imagine No Malaria

By Laura Meengs, Imagine No Malaria Field Coordinator

Children and youth often inspire congregations to reach out in ministry. That's happened in several Western PA congregations as support grows for the Imagine No Malaria campaign to save lives in Africa. Here are some examples:

Summer brings with it Vacation Bible School, which is not only fun for the children involved, but also offers opportunities for service for a congregation's adults.

Many VBS programs, like the one at **New Stanton UMC**, have received offerings for Imagine No Malaria. A few industrious children even took the project back to their neighborhood, starting a LemonAID stand to help raise funds for bed nets, malaria treatments and more. Together, these two efforts raised \$820!

The children of **Seneca UMC** had fun smashing mosquitoes on the windshield of their homemade RV during their Route 254 VBS last week. They added to the fun with a little friendly competition.

"The competition was stiff with up to 80 children involved," said the Rev. Rob Wilson. "The girls outnumbered the boys and led in daily giving the first half of the week. The boys came back from behind to almost win the competition. The final totals are Girls: \$359.29 and Boys: \$353.21 -- for a total of \$712.50. Winners: Those suffering from malaria in Africa."

Twenty-five youngsters from the **Nicklin UMC/Center UMC Charge** came together to raise \$700 for Imagine No Malaria through their VBS offerings and a very special auction. During the week they decorated shoeboxes that were brought home to be filled. At the closing festival, church and community members bid on the secret contents. One gentleman purchased a dozen brownies for \$25. "Well," he said, "that's two and a half lives!"

Pastor Stephanie Thompson said that the congregations are just getting started, adding, "The kids have really challenged the adults to think outside of the box!"

The Focus on HOOPS (Honor Our One Personal Savior) basketball camp at **Chippewa UMC** gave half their week's offering to Imagine No Malaria after a moving presentation by the Rev. Rod Smith.



Smashed bugs on the front of Seneca UMC's VBS RV represent funds raised for the Imagine No Malaria Campaign.

In Matthew 18:1-4 (NIV), we find this story: *At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"*

He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Let the children and youth of your congregations lead and inspire, but don't forget to have a plan to include the adults. How can they become like children in their fervor to give to our brothers and sisters in Africa?

Nyadire Connection Links Sponsors, Orphans in Zimbabwe

By Sandy McKnight, St. Paul's UMC, Allison Park,

Two years ago, my family made a commitment to sponsor an orphan through the Home of Hope Outreach program of The Nyadire Connection (TNC), a Western PA group that works with United Methodists in Zimbabwe. We gave just \$60 and sent a backpack full of school supplies to a boy, unknown to us, in a remote place on the African continent.

We had received a picture of the boy and his name (Blessing), grade and school. We also received letters from him and his "mother", a schoolteacher who has taken him in to live with her and two younger girls.

Blessing thanked us and explained that he had already missed two years of schooling due to financial difficulties after the death of his father. The government in Zimbabwe does not pay for schooling. The students' families must provide for school tuition and uniforms. Given the 80% unemployment in the country, this fee is a huge obstacle. Blessing is one of the estimated 1 million children in Zimbabwe who have lost one or both parents, primarily due to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The letter my husband, Gary, my daughters and I received from Moleena Chimbwanda, Blessing's "mother", brought tears to my eyes. It read, in part:

Thank you very much for the back pack we have received from your family. Surely you did something more important than the word itself. Blessing was extremely excited that he didn't eat supper. In fact, all my children were yelling at the top of their voices, seeing wonderful things prepared by you... I am happy to hear that you are prepared to sponsor my child for his schooling. May God bless you for that. Thank Father Gary for me for his love and tell him that Blessing is no longer an orphan since you are there to act in loco-parentis....

We were hooked! We have since signed on to sponsor Blessing for another year, as well as two other orphans. We were provided the name of another boy, Tafadzwa and are

waiting to find out the name of our third orphan.

After attending a couple of meetings about The Nyadire Mission in Zimbabwe, I found myself signing up for one of the four VIM (Volunteers in Mission) trips to visit Nyadire in 2010. It was on this trip that I was able to see first-hand how God has been working through individuals in Zimbabwe and their partners here at The Nyadire Connection.

The Home of Hope (HOH) orphanage is situated on the mission. It consists of a concrete building that houses 25 boys and girls. There is a small office, pens for goats and rabbits, and an outdoor cooking fire. What makes the orphanage a home is the presence and love of the director, Emmanuel Chiimba, his assistant, Elina Naybote, several "aunties" who care for the children around the clock, and the two men who also provide security and labor 24 hours a day.

The orphanage program was extended just a few years ago into the Home of Hope Outreach after one of the VIM teams traveling to Nyadire recognized the great number of orphans living in the rural areas surrounding the mission. Although many had been taken in by caring families, those families did not have the financial means to pay school fees for the orphans.

Emmanuel Chiiimba identifies orphans in need and VIM team members take photographs and gather what information they can about each child's circumstance. Once back in the United States, team members locate sponsors for these orphans.

Providing school sponsorship is an incredible gift, as education in Zimbabwe is highly valued. In fact, a high school education is necessary to obtain even the most basic jobs.



Sandy McKnight, center, with Blessing, right, one of the Home of Hope Outreach orphans her family sponsors, and Moleena Chimbwanda, left, who has cared for him since his father died.

Blessing wrote that he hopes to become a truck driver.

I was blessed while in Zimbabwe to meet Blessing, his caregiver Moleena, and also Tafadzwa. They each traveled several miles on foot through the bush on dirt paths to see me.

While I was used to the fluent English spoken on the mission, I soon learned that English is more difficult for those in the rural areas to master. Most families speak their native language, Shona or Ndebele, at home. Children begin to learn English when they start school at age 5 or 6. Despite the language difficulties, with some help from Emmanuel, we were able to make a wonderful connection. My family and I look forward to continuing our relationships with these beautiful people in such a place that no longer seems so far away.

For more information, or to sponsor an orphan through the Home of Hope Outreach program, e-mail sandy_mcknight@hotmail.com.

Youth Excel in Mission Work

Youth experienced a variety of hands-on work to help others during the Cooperative School of Christian Mission (CSOM) in the Grove City-New Castle Area and at Uth4Mission in Johnstown. Projects in both areas involved building handicap ramps and painting and doing repairs and remodeling in homes and at the Mission Barn. Below, a CSOM teen learns wood-working skills.



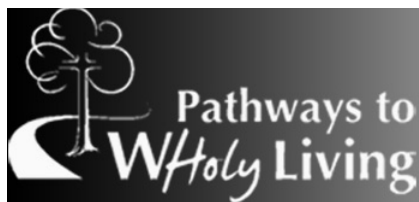
Photo by Bill Jacka

Nearly 150 youth from Western PA and Peninsula-Delaware gathered in Johnstown for fun, fellowship and hands-on mission work on one of July's hottest weeks. Besides repair and construction work, some of the crew spent time with residents of Arbutus Manor, a United Methodist-related senior living community.



Photos by George Power

At Boaz Field, planted at White Chapel UMC, School of Mission youth harvested beans, onions and other vegetables for New Castle area food pantries and feeding programs.



presented by



By Barb Lewis, Coordinator

The Health As Wholeness (HAW) Ministry Team recognized the health ministry of three United Methodist churches at the 2010 Annual Conference. Congratulations to:

Christ UMC in Bethel Park -- Parish Nurse Lois Slocum, Pastor Duane Thompson (www.christumc.net). Christ Church has a well established and active health ministry with many great programs.

Heritage UMC in Ligonier -- Parish Health & Fitness Group, Pastor John Flower; (www.ligonierheritageumc.org). Heritage Church held a Community Health Gala in June to kick-off their new *Faith-based Wellness Initiative*.

Sewickley UMC -- Sandra Lane, Health and Wellness Minister; Pastor Russell Shuluga; (www.sewickleyumc.org). Be sure to check out their awesome *Health and Wellness Blog* (click on Health and Wellness on the church homepage.).

The purpose of the honor was to: Recognize intentional health ministries that promote the spiritual, physical, emotional, relational, and environmental health of UM congregations and the communities they serve.

Promote and encourage other WPA UM congregations to develop their own health ministries.

The [Introduction to Health Ministries for United Methodist Congregations](#) notes that

as United Methodists, we believe the human body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (*1 Corinthians 6:19*), a sacred place consecrated by God's presence. People who believe that the body is a gift and the dwelling place of God will treat it with great care. This positive aspect of spirituality can lead to healthy behavior and thinking.

Most health problems are related to lifestyle and are preventable. Research on the immune system and other health studies have identified hope, religious belief, a purpose in life, a sense of connectedness to others, a positive self-image, and love to be important factors in good health. The church is a strategic place where all of these ele-

ments of wholistic health and healing can be discussed and nurtured.

The Health As Wholeness Ministry Team believes that Health Ministry is a way to assist others in your congregation and your community to discover their Pathway to WHoly Living. John Wesley preached about the restoration of the soul through inward and outward health.

By understanding and acting on what it means to care for our body as the temple of the Holy Spirit, we are able to "live the abundant life" (*John 10:10*) God has planned for each of us.

To learn more, go to wpaumc.org/health or e-mail healthteam@wpaumc.org.

Media Resource Corner

By the Rev. Emma Smith, WPAUMC Media Resource Director



Eighteen months ago, Adam Hamilton delivered a series of sermons that were born out of a conversation he had with a young man named John, who had some pretty strong opinions of Christianity. The result is his latest 6-session DVD study entitled **When Christians Get It Wrong**, intended to help us draw people to Christ, rather than push them away. This new kit is available in the MRC and includes a Leader's

Guide. When young adults talk about the problems they have with Christianity and the church, they often name attitudes and behaviors they believe are practiced too often by Christians: judging others, condemning people of other faiths,

rejecting science, injecting politics into faith, and being anti-homosexual. With his familiar style, Adam Hamilton tackles these issues and addresses the how's and why's of Christians getting it right when it comes to being Christ in the world. Participants are encouraged to purchase the accompanying paperback book and participant's guide to enhance their study experience. This is a perfect study for an intergenerational group, Sunday School class, small group or campus ministries.

The fall is a GREAT time to GO FISHing for converts and make disciples. The **Go Fish! Series** (available in the MRC) is based on Matthew 4:18-20 and encourages and equips congregations to do God's fishing.

Transform your community -- from fear to faith, from complacency to compassion, and from greed to generosity. Jack Ewing, executive director of the Foundation for Evangelism, says "Kent Millard has put into a clear concise form the genius behind the growth and spiritual vitality of St. Luke's United Methodist Church. The lives of people inside and outside of St. Luke's have been transformed by this powerful form of evangelism. These are the kinds of things John Wesley would be admonishing us to do if he were alive today" Kits available in this series include:

The T.I.M.E. PLANNING KIT with one copy each of the HANDBOOK, WORKBOOK, DVD, AND 52 DEVOTIONS book. This starter kit includes the inspiration and processes for introducing your congregation to the T.I.M.E. approach to evangelism and outreach.

The CATCH PLANNING KIT teaches churches how to go on "fishing expeditions" in their communities and connect with unchurched people. It is a comprehensive DVD program filled with practical ideas to help churches of any size guide visitors to becoming thriving members.

Log onto www.wpaumc.org to see all of the new resources. Drop by the UIM Center in Cranberry Township between 8:30a.m. and 4:30p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, contact me at 800-886-3382, ext. 259 or resources@wpaumc.org. Annual membership in the Media Resource Center is \$40, or you may decide to rent videos on an 'as needed' basis.

FUND your Faith

ministry resources from




UMFWPA

Foundation Helps United Methodists Serve

By Joe Reasinger, Director of Programs

Reasinger

The United Methodist Foundation of Western Pennsylvania recently held its Annual Meeting in Grove City. Each of our account holders was invited to send two representatives. An important part of the meeting was the election of new members to our Board of Directors. It was the culmination of a year-long process to nominate and elect United Methodists to our 30-member board.

The Foundation's Board Development Committee reviews nominations received, then interviews those people whose skills and interests match the current and potential needs of the Foundation. At the interviews, the nominee and the committee members have an opportunity to exchange information and determine if there is interest from all parties to have the nominee added to the pool of potential candidates. After interviews are completed the committee reconvenes and determines which candidates would best complement the needs of the Board. At the Annual Meeting those persons are then elected to serve by the Foundation Committee of the Annual Conference.

This year two new members, the Rev. Edward Bailey of **New Castle First UMC** and Gary Olson of **Warren First UMC** were elected to the Board Class of 2014. Eleven other current members of the Board were elected to serve an additional four-year term. Conference Treasurer Pat Morris also was elected to represent the interests of the Conference on the Foundation Board.

Following their election the new Board members attend an orientation and training session before assuming their position on one of the committees of the Board. All members of the Foundation Board are required to serve on at least one committee and to regularly attend Board meetings. A complete list of Board members and their committee affiliations is on our website, www.umfoundation.org.

The Foundation is blessed to be governed by a professional and dedicated Board of Directors. We always seek qualified persons who would be willing to serve. If you are interested, please contact us.

FundYour Faith is provided by the United Methodist Foundation of Western Pennsylvania. To learn more about how the Foundation can assist in funding ministry in your congregation, visit www.umfoundation.org or call 800-743-2128.



e-news

The weekly Conference e-news, sent Wednesdays, carries important, concise, timely Conference news, as well as links

to resources and information for church leaders. It is e-mailed to all clergy and a growing list of laity "subscribers - for free. To subscribe, send an e-mail message with your name and church affiliation to e-news@wpaumc.org with "subscribe to e-news" in the subject area.

August Event Links Baseball and Theology

Shaun Casey, professor of Christian Ethics at Wesley Theological Seminary, will lead a seminar in Pittsburgh examining the social, political, economic and theological aspects of baseball from 9 am -



Casey

4 pm, Aug. 23. After the class, participants will proceed to the club level at PNC Park for dinner and a

Pirate game.

The seminar is worth .6 continuing education units, and the \$75 registration fee includes the seminar, lunch, club level seats for the Pirates vs. Cardinals game and dinner. Extra game tickets are available.

Schnase Event Focus: Faithful, Fruitful Practices For Clergy, Laity

Bishop Robert Schnase of the Missouri Area, author of *The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, is coming to Western PA to lead an event for laity and clergy, Jan. 20-22. Plan now to bring a team from your church.

"Bishop Schnase will use insights from his recent books as he challenges all of us to be more faithful and fruitful," said the Rev. Beth Nelson, director of WPAUMC training and resources. "His book has excited many churches to reshape their ministries by looking at the five areas: Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service; and Extravagant Generosity."

Bishop Schnase brings a sense of freshness to our church today," Nelson added. "He is a deep

thinker, very insightful and at the same time extremely practical. His books are easy to read, but more challenging to live.

Casey, who also serves as director of Wesley's National Capital Semester for Seminarians, has written on the ethics of the war in Iraq, as well the role of religion in American presidential politics. He was senior advisor for religious affairs for the Obama campaign. His research interests include ethics and international affairs, the public implications of religious belief, and the intersection of religion and politics.

A graduate of Harvard Divinity School with a Master of Divinity and a Doctorate of Theology in Religion and Society, he also earned a Master of Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

Register online www.wpaumc.org. For more info, contact the Rev. Beth L. Nelson at 800-886-3382, ext. 228 or beth.nelson@wpaumc.org.



Courtesy U.M. News Service
Bishop Schnase



night.

Event registration is \$100 per person, including all materials, two breakfasts, two lunches, and snacks. Dinner will be on your own. To register, go to www.wpaumc.org. For more information, contact Nelson at beth.nelson@wpaumc.org or 800-886-3382, ext. 228.



Young Clergy Group: These young clergy recently completed a year of mentoring by the Rev. Brian Bauknight, who has served as a consultant in leadership development. Bauknight met with the group about 15 times for 2 1/2 hours session and visited and worshipped at each of their churches during the year. Each received 4 CEU credits for the experience. Pictured in first row, from left, are Kelley Schanely, Brett Dinger and Tim Bowser. Second row, Jim Kimmel, Katrina Laude, Scott Hamley and Chris Morgan. In the back row, from left, are Corben Russell, Jonathan Bell and Steve Tiffany. Bauknight will begin working with a new group this month.

Women Form Book Group

All women in ministry are invited to a book discussion on Thursday, Sept. 30 in the back room of Panera Bread in Cranberry Twp. The group will gather around 9:30 a.m. and discussion will start at 10. The book: *This Odd and Wondrous Calling* by Lillian Daniel and Martin Copenhaver. It is available at Cokesbury. Learn more at www.wpaumc.org or contact Beth Nelson at Beth.Nelson@wpaumc.org.

Training Events Scheduled

Prepare/Enrich: If you want to learn more about pre-marriage counseling or need a new idea for helping couples understand the complexity of relationships, consider Prepare/Enrich training. It offer a great perspective on engaging couples to work on relationships to receive the full blessing of the marriage covenant. Prepare and Enrich provides a comprehensive assessment tool for premarriage and marriage enrichment and offers a great way to engage couples to work on relationship. Learn more at www.prepare-enrich.com. Choose one of two sessions:

- **Aug. 10**, 9 am-3 pm, United Methodist Center, 6 CEUs, \$175 including lunch. Register online at www.wpaumc.org or contact Beth at beth.nelson@wpaumc.org or 800-886-3382 ex. 228.

- **Sept. 16**, Grace Church on Grubb Road in Erie, \$175; no lunch provided. Register at www.prepare-enrich.com.

Managing a Faith-Based Organization: Essential Skills for Laity, led by Jeff Canter of Step 1 Management Services, Aug. 21, 10 am-2 pm, the United Methodist Center, lunch included, no cost, registration required at www.wpaumc.org. Clergy and laity, improve your practical leadership skills. Topics will be accountability, decision-making and motivating volunteers.

Questions? Contact the Rev. Beth L Nelson at beth.nelson@wpaumc.org or 800-886-3382 ex. 228.

Help Wanted

Keystone U.M. Federal Credit Union seeks a full-time Administrative Asst with strong financial aptitude for its office in U.M. Conference Center in Cranberry Twp. Qualifications include: extensive experience with MS Office programs; strong organizational and problem-solving skills, ability to multitask, desire to learn. Send cover letter and resume to info@keystoneumfcu.org.

First UMC in Kittanning seeks an organist for Sunday worship, special services, choir rehearsals, weddings etc. Hillgreen Lane organ with 17 ranks of pipes and associate midi. For complete job description, click here or call the church office at 724-548-4312.

McMasters UMC, Turtle Creek, is seeking an experienced, part time (30 hours) office assistant, needed immediately. Requires advanced computer skills, Salary commensurate with experience, paid vacation, sick days, and paid holidays. Act 33 & 34 clearances required. Send resume to: McMasters UMC c/o Pat Lombardo, 200 Church Street, Turtle Creek, PA 15145. or email pastorscottg@yahoo.com EOE

Faith UMC in Fox Chapel is looking for a skilled and motivated Music Director to direct the adult choir for one Sunday service and one weekly practice September through May. Contact: Faith United Methodist Church, 261 W. Chapel Ridge Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15238 or office@faithfoxchapel.com

Singles Invited To Labor Day Weekend Retreat

Christian Singles Fellowship offers a Labor Day retreat for singles September 3-6 at Jumonville. It's the 37th year for this annual event.

Always single, separated, divorced or widowed of any denomination are welcome.

Speaker is Evangelist Roy Gearhart of Cutting Edge Ministries.

Sign-in begins at 4 p.m. Friday, with the first session at 7 p.m.. It ends on Monday after brunch at 10:30 a.m.

For details or to reserve a place, contact Deborah at 412-243-8449 or email at stshane@verizon.net

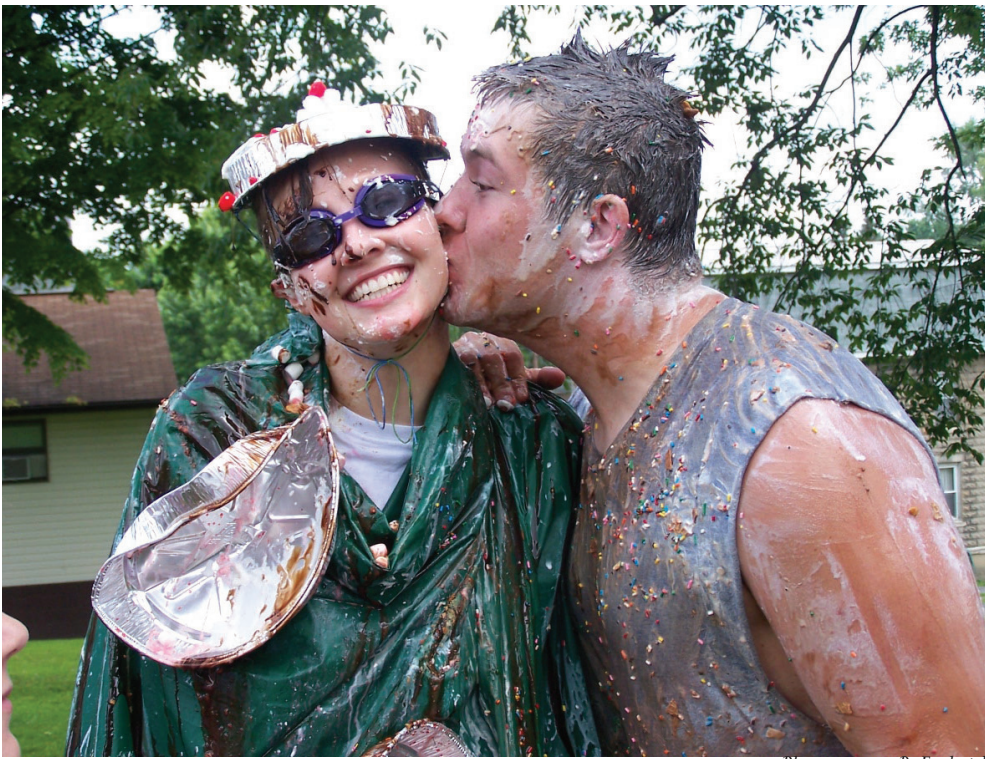


Photo courtesy R. Frederick

Mt. Zion UMC Youth Director Rachel Frederick and her brother Patrick Lydick became human sundaes after a contest between boy and girls at Mt. Zion UMC to raise money for a mission project.

Church Grows Mission Advocates

At **Mt. Zion UMC in DuBois**, Vacation Bible School is not only fun – it enables children, youth and young adults to make a difference beyond their hometown.

Rachel Frederick, 29, and her brother Patrick Lydick, 22, hold a contest each year to go along with the theme of the Bible School. It pits the boys against the girls to raise money for a mission project. If the girls win, then Patrick has to be the target and if the boys win then Rachel is the target. So far they have dressed silly, been hit with water balloons, rolled in mud and worms, kissed a 400-pound pig, and became human hotdogs and sundaes.

Last summer, their VBS theme was Studio Go; a game show theme. The money being donated was designated towards building wells in Uganda.

One well costs about \$2,000 and the goal was to bring in about \$500, “However as the contest neared the kids got so excited to see Patrick or Rachel become human sundaes that they raised more than expected-\$1,644.70. Somehow the girls and boys tied. So Rachel and Patrick both became human sundaes. The church promised to match what they raised, so Mt. Zion children and youth helped to build two wells in Uganda!

“The children really understood the impact they were making. They wanted to give others clean, fresh water. I think this whole concept helped to make them realize how fortunate they are,” said Rachel, the youth director at Mt. Zion.

The youth are an important part of VBS. In fact, Rachel said, “Without their helping hands and kind hearts we would not have VBS. Most parents work during the day and it is a struggle to find adult volunteers, she explained.

“They have taken their roles and the responsibilities so well,” she said. “They do all the decorating; take care of the snacks, crafts, games and lessons. They help do Biblical skits to help the children in VBS understand the Bible. They come early to set up and open the church; they stay late to clean up and close up the church. I am so proud of all of these kids. They are making a difference in others lives and I know it is making a difference in theirs.”

The decision to raise money for a well in Uganda was inspired by the work of church member Velma Forsythe, a former Mission Ambassador for the Conference who first traveled to Uganda to help build a church in 1991 and returned with a mission team from the former Pittsburgh East District in 1993. For 18 years, she has been sending Ugandan children who couldn't otherwise go to school. Half of them have been girls and the first one to graduate from college was a woman who majored in environmental science.

Two years ago, after a severe water problem developed and money was needed to put in wells, Forsythe took on the project and raised funds from her own and other UMC churches. After the well was dedicated, she said, she showed pictures to children in Sunday School and last summer the youth wanted to raise funds through VBS.

“Our kids have a wonderful spirit of mission,” Forsythe said.

Last year, Mt. Zion's youth and adults took a mission trip to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky, KY. This year, the youth voted to send this year's VBS money to Red Bird Mission School, which has been struggling to keep its doors open.

Conference Staff Offers Training in Districts

Conference Treasurer Pat Morris, Training and Resources Director Beth Nelson and other staff members will travel to each of the ten districts beginning the third week in September to meet with local church leaders. They'll offer useful information and updates to help those in the local church in their ministry areas.

Participants can choose from workshops for trustees, new church treasurers or clergy or congregation members planning to buy a house. Other choices will offer information on audits, payroll and clergy tax issues, Safe Sanctuaries, and resources for stewardship.

All are welcome to attend any of the sessions. Weekday sessions begin with sign-in at 6:15 p.m. and gathering at 6:30 p.m. Times for the Saturday, Nov. 6 sessions are noted below.

Here's the schedule:

Tuesday, Sept. 21, 6:15 pm, Washington First UMC

Thursday, Sept. 23, 6:15 pm, Christ UMC in Scottsdale

Wednesday, Sept. 29 at Grace UMC in Grove City

Tuesday, Oct. 5 at First UMC in Irwin

Thursday, Oct. 14 at Sewickley UMC

Tuesday, Oct. 19 at Glenwood UMC in Erie

Friday, Nov. 5 at Oakland UMC in Johnstown

Saturday, Nov. 6, 8:45 am at First UMC in Reynoldsville

Saturday Nov. 6, 1:15 pm at Sheffield UMC

Tuesday, Nov. 9 at New Brighton UMC

For more information, visit www.wpaumc.org or call 800-886-3382

It Worked For Us

Brass Choir Makes Joyful Noise

By the Rev. Raymond Beal

A group of horn players climbs up into the church belfry and plays triumphant fanfares just as the worship service below is letting out. What a glorious way to recall Jesus' promise to return from heaven.

This old European Ascension Day tradition sounded to me like a wonderful idea, so six years ago we recruited local brass players willing to make the 80-foot climb to make it happen at **DuBois First UMC**. With a few volunteers, most from the local high school, we celebrated Ascension Day from our perch on the church. People from several congregations gathered on the sidewalk below to hear the horns proclaim the glory of God and the reign of our Lord Jesus Christ. It was awesome. We bought the kids lunch as a reward for their efforts.

Once it was over, the musicians asked if they could do it again the next year. Playing hymns together was so much fun that the group started rehearsing monthly and playing in worship. The group has expanded to

include musicians from middle school to Medicare age. The brass adds another layer of excitement to worship and has brought generations together. The stronger patiently guide the less proficient.

A brass choir is a wonderful way to involve youth from your community in leading worship. Those who play for their school seem eager to use their talents for Christ. Oldsters can anchor the group when the young move on to college.

Warning: if your group is like ours, it will be hard to get them to stop. Rehearsals tend to run late into the evening, with members asking to play just one more hymn.

For more tips on starting a brass choir visit www.wpaumc.org or e-mail Beal at pastorray50@hotmail.com.



Photo Courtesy Ray Beal