

THE DETROIT EAST NEWS

*Detroit East District
April/May 2005
Rev. Dr. Dale Miller
District Superintendent
Cecelia Tolliver, Editor*

The Red Bookshelf Project

The Order of Deacons of the Detroit Annual Conference has decided to move beyond their individual ministries of connecting church and world and coordinate a children's book drive that will involve churches throughout the entire conference. Each local church is invited to collect new and very gently used books appropriate for children and youth. The books will then be brought to the Annual Conference in May. The Deacons will sort and re-distribute the books, dividing them among the seven district that comprise the Conference. Books will be sent to at least one distribution center in each District, where a Red Bookshelf will be located to display the books.

Last Fall when the Deacons gathered at one of their meetings, they were asked to share passages from some of their favorite childhood stories. Each one agreed that the joy of reading and of sharing books with children is something that everyone should be privileged to experience. While many of us take this for granted, there are still far too many homes throughout our Conference where reading and owning books is an unaffordable luxury. The Deacons decided an annual book drive could help put books in the hands of children, their parents and caregivers, and bring to life the excitement of reading.

One of the first steps of this project was to locate a center in each District from which books could be distributed. As the project grows each year, it is hoped that there will be several such centers in each District, especially the large geographic ones. As local churches begin their individual book drives, they may wish to include information in their newsletters and bulletins or plan special children's moments around this project. It is hoped that the children and youth of the church will also become involved in the book drives. Delegates to the Annual Conference will then be able to drop their books off at Merillat Center where they will be handled by the Deacons. Book collections will be sent back to the individual district and centers will be stocked throughout the year by a representative of the Order. Details on this project will be in the second pre-conference mailing sent to all delegates. Questions can be directed to Rev. Grace Ann Beebe at 734-676-3863 or beebega@aol.com. The Deacons look forward to everyone's participation in this most worthwhile project.

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**District Conference
Saturday, April 9th
at 10:00 a.m.
Sterling Heights UMC**


**SPRING FORWARD
Daylight Savings
Time Begins
Sunday, April 3rd**

DEDCYM 2005

Your DEDCYM President, Dan Hart

Monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday at Warren: First UMC, 5005 Chicago Rd., in Warren at 7:00 p.m. We hope to have youth participation from each district church!!! Upcoming district events include:

Upcoming Conference Events:

⇒ April 15-16—Spring Retreat. Focus: The Soap Operas of the Bible (*The Retreat of Our Lives* 2) at Mt. Clemens: First, 57 S.B. Gratiot Ave., Mt. Clemens (586-468-6464) R.S.V.P. by April 10th to DEDCYM@hotmail.com. Adults attending this event must be certified under the DAC Protection Policy. For training, contact Murphy Ehlers (248-371-9010).

District youth or youth leaders who want to be involved with DEDCYM, contact Dan Hart at (586) 573-4316 or danhart05@hotmail.com, or Rev. Caroline Hart at (586) 264-4701 or revchart@yahoo.com. You can also contact us at DEDCYM@hotmail.com. Each DE Dist. Church receives mailings for every event.

The Detroit Annual Conference Council on Youth Ministries has created a website to keep churches and youth aware of activities and resources. As of this printing, the website was still under construction; however, the URL is <http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/daccym>.



UMW DATES

Mary Fayerweather, President

Apr. 1-2—Church Women United States Assembly, Bay City
 May 6—Church Women United May Fellowship Day
 June 1 6-19—Midwest Region School, Des Moines, Iowa
 July 30—School of Christian Mission—Waterford: Central UMC
 Aug. 9-12—H.O.M.E. & 3-Day School—Flint Character Inn
 Oct. 8—District Annual Meeting—Waterford: Central UMC
 Oct. 24—Elected District Officers Training—Port Huron: First UMC, 4-8 p.m.
 Oct. 25—DAC UMW Annual Meeting—Port Huron: First UMC, 10-3 p.m.
 Nov. 4—Church Women United World Community Day



UNITED METHODIST MEN

Scott Shultz, President

The Detroit East District UMM has scheduled a Breakfast on Saturday, April 9th at Hazel Park: First UMC at 8:30 a.m. This is open to all men on the District. All men across the District are invited. Please see that two or three men from your congregation can attend this initial gathering. The breakfast will conclude by 10:30 a.m. To make your reservations, contact Scott Shultz at sashultz@comcast.net, or at 3095 Rolling Green Circle, Rochester Hills, MI 48309, 248-375-2712.



Leadership Events—2005

Sept. 18th—3:00—4:30 pm, Orchard UMC, Farmington. Focus: Staff/Parish. Theme: Nurturing Your Pastor...Legality of At-Will Evaluation Process. The cost is \$2 per person or \$10 per church.

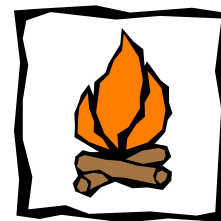
*Leadership
 Training*

Camping

The 2005 camp schedule is now on-line at umccamps.org! Registration have begun. Are you looking for something new? Try...

- ⇒ Great Lakes Family Adventure, July 4-7, Lake Huron Retreat Center
- ⇒ Superior Backpacking, June 26-July 2, Grades 9-12, leaves from Camp Kinawind
- ⇒ Adult Kayak Camp, July 19-21, ages 18 & older, leaves from Camp Kinawind
- ⇒ Outpost Challenge Camp, Grades 9-12 July 10-15 or Grades 7-9 July 17-22, Judson Collins Center
- ⇒ Dunes Survivor, Grades 7-12 July 3-8, Camp Kinawind
- ⇒ Operation: Mission, Grades 7-12 July 3-8, Judson Collins Center

For a complete listing of new camps and to see your old favorites, head to umccamps.org, or call Heather D. Laskos, Outdoor and Retreat Ministries at 800-334-0544.



You Might be Called to Ministry If . . .

Have you felt a 'Call' to be a Local Pastor? . . . An Elder? . . . A Deacon? If so, on Friday, April 8, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. until Saturday, April 9th at 4:00 p.m., there will be a retreat sponsored by the Detroit Conference Board of Ordained Ministry to help persons explore God's call in their lives into ministry in the United Methodist Church. Held at the Lake Huron Retreat Center, the cost is only \$55.00 per person which includes 3 meals (pizza Friday, breakfast and lunch Saturday). To register, send name and check made payable to the **Board of Ordained Ministry** by March 30, 2005 to Rev. Murphy Ehlers, 1741 Old Homestead Drive, Rochester Hills, MI 48306. Email your questions to murphyehlers@aol.com.



Mother's Day—May 8th

District Conference

The Detroit East District Conference is scheduled for Saturday, April 9th beginning at 10:00 a.m., at Sterling Heights UMC. There will be reports of the District Lay Speaker's Organization, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Youth, Martin Luther King, Jr. Rally Day Committee, Leadership Training Days Committee and others will be received. Churches who paid 100% of their district apportionments will be recognized. We will adopt the 2006 District Budget. Following this meeting there will be an orientation session for the upcoming Detroit Annual Conference. Pastors and lay members to Annual Conference are expected to be present for this meeting. Hopefully, we will be finished by 12:00 p.m.



Give Your Spouse the Best Valentine Ever!

Fall in love all over again at a Marriage Encounter weekend. If you'd like greater depth, growth and enrichment in your relationship, you'll love the difference a M-E weekend can make! United Methodist Encounter in Michigan is scheduled for April 29-May 1 in Midland. Call Registration Couple Dalice and Church Yost for information at (313) 937-1051, or email: CYOST@twmi.rr.com



Got Connection?

Here it is Monday and we were off to the mall for our morning walk. In addition to the regular walkers that we know only by sight, we said "hi" to a fellow church member from our church, another hi to a member of a neighboring United Methodist church and stopped for a long chat with a couple from another neighboring United Methodist church. That is just a small example of how interrelated we are as United Methodists. We share not only our faith and beliefs but also a fellowship beyond the local congregation.

This past weekend was a great example of just how being a United Methodist means so much more than simply seeing people you know at the mall.

For starters, Saturday was the Confirmands Rally at Albion College. This is a gathering of young people from across the entire state who are learning to be United Methodists. They gather on a United Methodist affiliated campus for a worship and information opportunity. Here they get to see and learn about the connection that is United Methodism. This year West Michigan Conference hosted the event and next year the Detroit Conference will host confirmands at Adrian College.

Also, this is a place where teen-aged United Methodists from each of the Michigan Conferences meet to develop and deliver information about the connections available to these confirmands through the district and conference youth councils. Playing a game of "Pictionary" allowed them to visualize the seven districts in the Conference and to meet others in the room from the same district. Playing a question game reinforced information that could have been very dry when delivered by an adult lecture. Again the connection of United Methodism.

Not to stop there, Sunday was United Methodist Women's Day at our church with a speaker from another Troy UMC. She talked about UMW and how each local church has a "Unit" which is defined as a part of the whole.

Finally, Sunday afternoon was spent with individuals from churches across the district who are learning about our common heritage through the Lay Speakers courses. Our mid session breaks are excellent opportunities for more connecting. These church leaders form a network for information, ideas and support as well as fellowship.

Maybe it was because I moved across the country a time or two that I became more aware of the scope of United Methodism. Maybe it was God's urging that I became involved with district and conference operations. Maybe it was the existence of the connection that allowed me to discover how rewarding it is to see friends from across the state at many opportunities.

So where are you in this connection? If you are reading this newsletter, you are probably already in a leadership position in the local church or even beyond. Please share this note with someone in your congregation who might have talents to share with the district or conference.

How do you get started? Two events that are available in the near future (and unfortunately they conflict on April 30th so you have to choose one). Bishop Keaton will be meeting with laity at 9:30 at Trinity UMC in Lansing and the United Methodist Men will host a leadership training day at the Mayville UMC. More information on the UMM event has been mailed to every church or email leedonley2@aol.com.

And one more reminder, be sure you have mailed your congregational request for mission interpreters to speak at your April 24th service and other events through the week of the district mission celebration. Yet another of our connections.

John Hart

Prayer Concerns:

*Bishop Jonathan Keaton
Johnny Liles—Troy: Fellowship
Tsunami victims and their families*

*Detroit Annual Conference Cabinet
Peace in Iraq
Children in Poverty*



From Our District Lay Leader

Employment Opportunities

Berkley: First UMC is looking for a part-time staff member needed to coordinate Christian Education Program from nursery through adult for UMC. Must be creative, able to delegate, organized and work well with people of all ages. Experience in Christian Ed preferred. Email resume to berkley1stumc@berkley1stumc.org or fax to 248-399-1939.

Secretary Position – 20-25 hrs a week. Must work well with others; have computer skills; be organized, exercise good judgment and willing to update skills as needed. Please send resume to Berkley First UMC, PO Box 721155, Berkley MI 48072.

Youth Coordinator

General Description: We are a regional, multi-cultural church in the heart of the City of Detroit. If you are someone who has sensed a call to an urban ministry that touches people of many races and ethnicities, this may be the place for you! We are looking for a committed, biblically astute Christian who relates well with middle school and high school students in a PART TIME position. This person must be effective in planning programs, Bible studies and special events; in supervising young people; and, in participating with them in these as well as in other programs and relational activities. The individual needs to be organized and dependable, a self-starter and team player, outgoing in personality and dependable in carrying out his or her job responsibilities. You would work along with the Associate Pastor responsible for Christian Education. Youth group meets each Sunday at noon. Salary negotiable. Interested candidates can fax or email their resumes to Rev. Green at 313-875-9067 or fgreen@metroumc.org.

District Mission Celebration Kick-Off Banquet

Saturday, April 23rd, at 6:00 p.m., at Troy: Korean UMC. The dinner is \$6.00. Calling Cecelia Tolliver at (248) 557-1144, extension 234 can make reservations. Guests for this dinner will be all of the mission interpreters that will be speaking throughout the district for the following five days. Following the dinner will be a time of worship featuring Dr. William Ritter, Senior Pastor of Birmingham: First UMC and some special musical guests. Pastors are expected to be an attendance and we hope that five or six people will accompany you from your congregation.

Peace with Justice Sunday

Sunday May 22, 2005. There is a Conference Resolution requesting churches to become covenant Peace with Justice churches and take the offering and enter into Bible studies focusing on peace and advocating changes in all systems that emphasize various injustices. You may order Peace with Justice Sunday Resources. Contact United Methodist communications at 888-346-2862.

Cross Roads

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary Admissions cordially invite you to experience one very full day of seminary life with them (like an intense episode of reality TV, if you're into that). You will meet students and faculty, attend classes, go to chapel & eat lunch with current students, tour the seminary, the United Library & Northwestern University, and learn about degree programs, housing, student life scholarships and financial aid. Your choice of days to explore all that they have to offer as you answer the 'Call' are: Tuesday, April 5th, Thursday, April 14 (African American prospective student focus), and Thursday, April 21st. A copy of the registration form is available at the Detroit East District Office.



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Worship Connection Teaching Conferences 2005

Worship Connection Teaching Conferences are three-day events that provide educational and community-building opportunities. Designed for leaders of any size church. The Conferences have breakout sessions that explore specific worship topics in detail. To date, two Conferences are scheduled: April 7-9, 2005 in Kansas City, KS at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection; and May 5-7, 2005 in New York, NY at Christ Church United Methodist. Visit WorshipConnection.com for more information!



Celebrate Christian Education

Saturday, April 23, 2005 at Lapeer Trinity UMC, 1310 N. Main Street (M-24), Lapeer, Michigan, from 8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Guest Speaker: Sandy Mabry. Select from the following workshops:

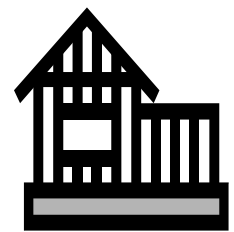
1. Rotation Model Sunday School (am or pm).....Sandy Mabry
2. Making A Lesson Come Alive (am).....Pam Buchholz
3. Godly Play (am)Sue Wojcicki
4. The Teen Brain (am).....Beth Miller
5. Ministry for the Aging (am).....Gerry Tibbits
6. Young Adult Ministries (am/college & post-coll.)Rev. Hal Weemhoff
7. Protection Certification Class (am & pm—3 hrs.)Dea. Murphy Ehlers
8. Puppet Ministry (pm).....Kim Nadrowski
9. "Help! I'm a Sunday School Teacher!" (pm)Karen Wissman
10. "Claim the Name" Confirmation (pm).....Rev. Steve McCoy
11. Building Sunday Morning for Youth (pm).....Beth Miller
12. Strengthening Adult Studies (pm).....Karen Golden

Registration Fee: \$10/person or \$25/church (includes lunch). The deadline for registration is April 20th. Questions: Call Jackie Euper at 517-625-2920. Call Detroit East District for complete Registration Form.

Habitat for Humanity Blitz

The Jimmy Carter Work Project is Habitat for Humanity's largest annual event. It is coming to our state in June of 2005. Two cities, Benton Harbor and Detroit, have been designated as host sites where former President Jimmy Carter and his wife will be personally working on this project. In addition, 63 other sites across Michigan will be building houses in participation of the project.

I am encouraging you to seek out ways that you and your congregations can actively participate locally in this 22nd Work Project. The goal for this event is to build and complete



Igniting Ministry

Through its national television campaign, The United Methodist Church promises to be a denomination of open hearts, open minds and open doors. The call to live this promise is a worthy goal, set high, yet the achievement of the "Open Hearts" promise is perhaps best judged by those the church serves. When seekers respond to the advertising messages, they especially check out "the people of the United Methodist Church" to see whether we live up to that promise. As a result, it's essential that we live what we say.

The Igniting Ministry event offers three different training options at the same time. You can bring a team and cover all the sessions or just catch up with the newest information and resources. Your choice—all for one low price of \$40 per church. Please contact the Detroit East District Office for information or a brochure.

The dates are:

April 2nd—North Texas Area

April 16th—West Ohio Area

April 30th—California-Nevada Area



Around the District

Conant Golf Classic—Conant Ave. UMC is holding their First Annual Golf Classic on Saturday, April 30, 2005 at the St. John's Golf & Conference Center, 44045 Five Mile Road, Plymouth, MI. Activities include: Four Person Scramble, Free Golf Clinic for beginners, Continental Breakfast and more. There will be 'Giveaways,' such as a FREE 2-year lease on a fully loaded 2005 Mustang GT, Trip for 2, and more. The Early Bird cost is \$125.00 by April 2nd, and \$150 thereafter. For more information, call (313) 891-7237.

Detroit: St. Paul's Mother's Day Dinner/Dance, "*Dance With Our Mothers*". Friday, May 6th from 6:00 to 10:00 pm at Hope UMC. Attire: Dressy—Donation: \$30.00. For further information, call 313-342-4656.

Native American Ministries Sunday

This year, Native American Ministries Sunday falls on April 10th. It is suggested by General Conference that this celebration be held the second Sunday after Easter. We encourage you to celebrate any Sunday, including April 10th, that fits your church's schedule. TAKE NOTE: THE NAME OF THE SUNDAY HAS BEEN CHANGED BY GENERAL CONFERENCE. Prepared packets have been mailed to all churches to assist in altar ideas, worship, and liturgy. If you need replacement, call the Detroit East District Office.

PAUMCS

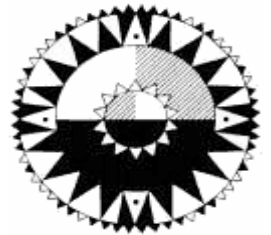
Travel with the New Mexico Conference Chapter to Albuquerque, New Mexico for the 23rd Annual Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries (PAUMCS) Conference! The Conference is from April 14-16th. The theme is 'Catch the Dream of the Land of Enchantment', The cost of the Conference is \$200 for members and \$220 for Non-members. Scholarships for a portion of the Registration are available on a limited basis. Forms may be obtained from the Registrar. Please feel free to contact the Detroit East District Office for a brochure.

Institute Certification Program

The PAUMCS Institute Certification Program is held annually at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. The Programs is sponsored by the General Council on Finance and Administration of the United Methodist Church. The Institute provides outstanding advance professional training and enrichment for Untied Methodist church secretaries from across the denomination. A participant who completes the program and meets the requirements set forth by the GCFA is eligible to apply for certification as a Professional United Methodist Church Secretary.

The five-day PAUMCS Institute is designed to stimulate professional growth and development of the individual. Participants are introduced to business concepts required for understanding the financial operations of the church as well as relationships with the pastor, church employees and members of the congregation. Studying such concepts with professors selected from a strong business school faculty and other experts encourages secretaries to become better informed and more effective church administrators.

Tuition for the 2005 Institute is \$300. This includes course materials, some lunches and dinners, and refreshments. Travel, room and additional meals and any other incidentals are the responsibility of each participants. Tuition scholarships for the Institute are available on a limited basis by written requests. Please feel free to contact the Detroit East District Office for a brochure.



DAC Annual Conference
May 20, 21, & 22, 2005
Adrian College



PARSON TO PARSON

Lent and Easter has been completed. The fifty days of Eastertide propels us toward the third high holy day of the Christian calendar – Pentecost. Biblically, Eastertide was an anxious time, with disciples and believers wondering if they had misplaced their faith and trust in Jesus of Nazareth. Today, Eastertide becomes yet another flurry of activity filled with an alternative anxiety – the anxiety of touching the important ministry Sundays that fall so quickly one after another throughout April and May.

Biblically, Eastertide was a period of waiting for the power of God to be revealed in a new way, a different way than the physical presence of Jesus. Today, Eastertide has no sense of patience, instead, racing across the pages of the calendar, attempting to avoid surprise obstacles or emergency stops. The celebration of Pentecost becomes almost anticlimactic, a spiritual hiccup in our hurried gasp of the breath of life.

Biblically, Eastertide was the time for people to decide to look away from their fears and to peer at the vision of what could be through the dynamic presence of a living God in their lives. Today, Eastertide suffers a spiritual myopia that does not allow us to see beyond our part of the world in which we live.

All too often, we attempt to hold on to life with our fingertips. We “hang in there,” hoping that survival will be acceptable in the trials of life. All too often I encounter people, pastors and congregations that seek survival against difficult odds such as

financial stress, loss of loved ones, employment changes, community population changes or dysfunctional “family” relationships. Many people adopt a “survival” mentality, a “sanctuary” mentality.

People who think of their discipleship or their church in this way will withdraw from people. They seek security and emotional protection. They do not see their church as a base camp for ministry to a hurting community. When people shift their thinking to unbiblical internal protection, a church begins to lose its vitality. Its service mentality deteriorates into a “serve-us” mentality.

When churches are the “Body of Christ” with integrity, they serve their communities as well as their members. When they fail to care for their neighbors, they begin moving toward failure as a self-serving organization.

There was the occasion of Pentecost that dramatically occurred at a particular time and place in history, but there is a vital need for more occasions of Pentecost each and every day of our lives and the life of our churches. God is the God of the past, but God is also our God of the present, capable of breathing new life into the nostrils of a living organism known as the church. This year, celebrate more than what was, celebrate what is. Amen.

Grace and Peace,

Dale



Detroit East News

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.umc-de.org

