

THE DETROIT EAST NEWS

*Detroit East District
April 2005/May 2006
Rev. Dr. Dale Miller
District Superintendent
Cecelia Tolliver, Editor*

Parson to Parson

Easter is peeking around the corner at us. April 8th is not far away. We look forward to that great and glorious festival when trumpets blare and multitudes of people come out of their burrows to enter through the church doors to sing the great resurrection hymns. Voices rise in unison to the eternal sky. Triumphant is not just a word but also a feeling, an experience, a stamp of validation upon our faith. We get excited. Aha! What kind of excitement was present upon that first Easter morn?

As I read the scriptures I sense an excitement that speaks more of apprehension than of enthusiasm. The excitement is more akin to disbelief and misunderstanding than it is to an affirmation of victory over death. In the Gospel of John Simon Peter and John (the beloved disciple) see the empty tomb, believe but do not understand, and return to their homes. Their response is more mundane than divine.

In the Gospel of Luke the women arrived at the tomb and they did not find the body. They were perplexed. When two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them they became terrified. Upon the announcement of his resurrection the women returned to tell the story to the eleven and all the rest but as Luke puts it, "These words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them."

Two thousand years later we know what a truly excited response could have been. On Easter morning we invite our people, God's people, to truly rejoice in Jesus' deliverance from death. Our celebration is not the shallow noisemaking of the superficial Palm Sunday parade. Rather it is a celebration that swells up from deep inside us, resonating with a deliverance from our sin and death. We, too, cast off the grave cloths of our inner turmoil and disease so that we might bask in the healing and wholeness of God's grace and mercy.

We are an Easter people. We live like an Easter people. No matter who or what is happening around us, we choose always to

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THE DETROIT EAST NEWS

April 5, 2006

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Inserts

<i>Confirmands' Rally</i>
<i>Road to Damascus</i>
<i>2006 PAUMCS Institute</i>

**District Conference
Saturday, April 8th
Sterling Heights UMC**

**The Metropolitan
Regional Offices
will be closed on
Good Friday,
April 14th**

**Annual Conference
May 19-21, 2006**

The Road to Damascus

*Angie Pryor,
DEDCYM President*

Next on the Detroit East District Youth's agenda is our very exciting traveling Spring Retreat - "The Road to Damascus" beginning at 8:00 p.m. on April 7th, and ending at 8:00 a.m. on April 8th. We will leave from Warren: First UMC and travel from church to church within the district throughout the night for a new surprise at each one, and return to Warren: First UMC. See flyer insert for details.

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!!! The DAC Council on Youth Ministries website is <http://www.gbqm-umc.org/daccym>.



UMW Looking Ahead—2006 School of Christian Mission

Theme: Harvesting Peace, Studies: Shalom-Salaam-Peace, Globalization: Its Impact in Our Lives India & Pakistan

School of the South: Waterford Central UMC, Sat., July 22nd.

Three-Day School: Colombiere Conference Center, Wed., July 26th thru Fri., July 28th.

School on the Bay: Bay Shore Camp, Sebewaing, Fri., Sept. 22nd and Sat., Sept. 23rd.

Scholarships are available from the Board of Global Ministries. To apply, write to Diana Spitnale Miller, 208 W. Burnside St., Caro, MI 48723-1501; ddmiller@centurytel.net, or call 989-673-4355.



Christian Educators Fellowship

The Detroit Chapter of the Christian Educators Fellowship (CEF) of the UMC nurtures, supports, challenges and advocates for persons with responsibility for fostering discipleship through Christian education. As a professional organization serving individuals, not agencies or institutions, CEF seeks to serve its members and the cause of Christian education by performing functions such as:

- Interpret the role of the Christian educator in the total ministry of the church:
- Assist in developing, maintaining and interpreting standards for the profession
- Cooperate in providing professional training
- Provide supportive strength, fellowship, and professional relationships
- Enhance Christian education as a vocational commitment
- Plan and coordinate experiences for continuing professional growth
- Represent CEF in the Ecumenical Movement
- Offer placement information for members

The Detroit Chapter's next meeting will be on May 5th from 9:30 am—1:30 pm at Troy: Fellowship UMC. Lunch will be a Potluck Picnic. Please R.S.V.P. by April 28th to Phyllis Hart at 248-649-2396.



Prayer Concerns:

*Bishop Jonathan Keaton
Detroit Annual Conference Cabinet*

FEMA/Red Cross/U.S. Government

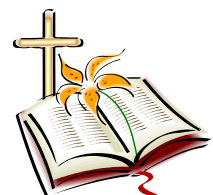
The Gulf Coast survivors and victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

Rev. Sam Yearby (Ret.)

Rev. Herb Glenn (Ret.)

Rev. William 'Tex' Richard (Ret.)

Our communities



Spring has a double meaning

Yes, according to the calendar and the TV news, the season known as Spring arrived this week. The lawn care trucks are out in large numbers and I can almost see the grass turning greener by the minute.

No, wait, it is snowing again.

No, now the Sun peeks out from the gray clouds.

No, rain is pouring down and the wind is whipping the trash cans all over the neighborhood.

Here is the Sun again

OK, so this is Michigan and it is still March. That brings us to the other words associated with a spring – bouncing around in a crazy manner.

We have been bouncing from one task to another like a bee in a flower garden. Conference meetings abound with four of our household on four different Conference organizations and counselor training for summer camp underway, we seem to all be going off in different directions in the same time slots.

District events have been cranking up for the new year. Lay Speaker graduation is tomorrow, the Youth are running a multi-church all-night "Road to Damascus" field trip on April 7th, the District Conference and Annual Conference Orientation is scheduled for April 8th, and a celebration of Dale's six years will be held on the 30th. That is just through April.

All of this is intertwined with local church stuff such as spring clean up day, replacing light bulbs in the outdoor sign and the exit signs (a never ending task) and writing payroll checks after making sure the bank account has enough to cover them (also a never ending task).

May will bring real green grass, blooming flowers and the annual conference with several resolutions of significant importance. If you aren't tuned in to what is happening, come to the April 8th orientation at Sterling Heights UMC at 10a.m.

How are you coping with the crazyness of changing weather, full schedules and limited time? Do you still have time for a regular chat with God? Do your meetings have God in attendance. Are we doing His will? Next time the weather changes, take time to be thankful for all we have.

John Hart

Applicants Wanted for First Ever Young People's Address

The Division on Ministries with Young People is seeking submissions for a young person or team of young people to address the 2008 General Conference. The deadline for applying is July 1. The conference will gather in Fort Worth, Texas, April 22-May 2, 2008. It will be the first time young people have been added to the agenda to address the body. The 2004 General Conference voted to add the address. The division is requesting submissions of videotapes from people who would like to deliver the Young People's Address. UMs between the ages of 12 and 30 are eligible. Those interested should send a ten-minute videotape featuring a presentation addressing the concerns and dreams of young people in the UMC and a transcript of the speech, which can be in the applicant's native language. The division will select the speaker or speakers at its August meeting. For more information, contact Jay Clark at (615) 340-7058 or jjclark@gbod.org.—UMNS

District Lay Leader



Employment Opportunities

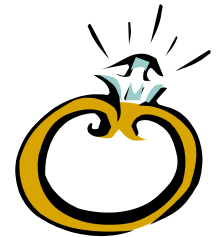
The First UMC of St. Clair Shores is looking for an experienced adult (Chancel) choir director. The 10-hour work week may increase as the individual develops a need. Please fax (586-772-4090) resume and cover letter including compensation requirements, or email to scsfir-stumc@sbcglobal.net attn: SPRC. No phone calls, please.

Choir Director & Keyboardist wanted at Clawson UMC.—We are looking for a part-time choir director to lead the sanctuary choir each Sunday, September – early June, and also lead a handbell choir that performs once a month (includes weekly rehearsals). These groups perform primarily at our 9:30 traditional service, although the choir may occasionally sing at our 11:15 folk-rock praise service. We are also looking for a keyboard player to accompany the choir and play for the traditional service each Sunday throughout the year. We would consider combining these positions if someone is interested. Salary: Choir Director- \$8,000. Keyboardist- \$4-5,000. Contact Rev. Tom Keef at 248-435-9090, or email at revkeef@netzero.com .



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

SPRING: When a man's thoughts turn to what his wife has been thinking about all winter . . . love. Let it happen at a Marriage Encounter weekend! Marriage Encounter is 44 hours where married couples can get away from the kids, chores and the T-V---and focus only on each other. 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 is scheduled for April 28-30 in Muskegon. Call Registration couple: Dalice and Chuck Yost for more information at (313) 937-1051, or e-mail: CYOST@twmi.rr.com.



ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

GETTING MARRIED OR THINKING ABOUT IT? Spend a quiet weekend with your spouse-to-be and consider the essential issues for a lasting relationship. Hear married couples tell their stories and learn from their experiences. Help your wedding and marriage be the best they can be. The next United Methodist Engaged Encounter weekend will be held near Jackson on April 7-9. Contact Dirk & Julie Fuller at (231) 755-5585 or fullermsu@comcast.net.

(Continued from Page 1)

be an Easter people. Kent Keith in a little book titled, **Anyway – The Paradoxical Commandments**, writes:

- People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered. Love them anyway.*
- If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives. Do good anyway.*
- If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies. Succeed anyway.*
- The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.*
- Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway.*
- The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds. Think big anyway.*
- People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs. Fight for a few underdogs anyway.*
- What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway.*
- People really need help but may attack you if you do help them. Help people anyway.*
- Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth. Give the world the best you have anyway.*

We are an Easter people. Nothing less will do. Nothing more is required. God bless you.

Grace and Peace,

Dale

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Camping and Retreats—Upcoming Events

Free Camping and Volunteer Work Day, Myers Lake Campground

April 28-30, 2006. Volunteer at Myers Lake during the day on Saturday and enjoy a weekend of free camping. For more information, call Myers Lake at 810-266-4511 or visit <http://myerslake.com/fun.html>.

Memorial Weekend Family Camp, Judson Collins Center

May 26 at 7pm – May 29 at 11am, 2006. Whatever your idea of camping is, we have something for you. Choose to bring your *SMALL* RV, pop-up camper, or a tent. Whichever you choose, we have a spacious site for you. If that's too much trouble, why don't you let us provide a cabin or dorm room? The choice is yours.

Join family and friends and share good times: cook out, swim and boat on Wampers Lake, go for a hike, go for a hayride through our many scenic trails, or climb our high ropes course (for age 12 and over). Come together with Christ, while in fellowship with others around the campfire. Make Judson Collins Center your holiday weekend tradition. Fee covers lodging only. You must bring and prepare your own food over the campfire or bring your grill. It all adds to the fun! Families and adults welcome. Registration deadline is May 12. Cost is based on the type of housing you select, for up to a family of 4. (Additional persons \$21 each, Visitors are \$9 per person per day).

Dormitory \$99 (sleeps 8, 1 bath and shower) Cabin \$84 (sleeps 8-10, with electricity)

Campsite \$76 (with electricity) Campsite \$66 (without electricity)

Register at www.umccamps.org or call 800-334-0544 or contact: Heather D. Laskos, Program and Marketing Assistant, Detroit Conference, Outdoor and Retreat Ministries, 800-334-0544, www.umccamps.org.



Around the Conference & District . . .

** The Conference Board of Discipleship will be offering a Worship & Evangelism Workshop entitled: **Hearts Strangely Warmed: Rekindling the Call to Make Disciples for Christ** on Saturday, May 13th. It will be held at Calvary UMC in Flint. There are a variety of presenters and their workshops who will provide insight to all who attend. The registration fee (which includes lunch) is \$25 for the primary church participant, and \$15 for each additional participant. Child Care is available for \$10 pre child. Scholarships are available. The event schedule is expected to run from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. They will begin and end with worship services. For more information, contact Rev. Debbie Line at 248-628-4763 or email her at debiline@cs.com. Additional registration forms are available at the District Office.



** Join Bishop Jonathan D. Keaton and the Detroit & West Michigan Annual Conferences on a 10-day of Biblical Discovery. **Holy Land 2007** can take you to Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, Capernaum, Caesarea, Upper Room, Megiddo, Qumram, Via Dolorosa, and the Garden of Gethsemane. Your journey of a lifetime includes: roundtrip airfare, deluxe motor coaches, guided sightseeing, entrance fees to sites visited, Bible Study Guide, lecture series, first class hotels and superior first class hotels, buffet breakfast and dinner daily. Go to www.eo.travelwithus.com if you are interested or for easy registration via credit card.

Another Step with Technology

Would you prefer to receive your Detroit East District Newsletter via email or 'snail mail'? Let us know! Send your response to cecelia@umc-de.org and you will receive the district newsletter in printable form.



Dear Pastors:

I am convinced that a strong Scouting Ministry will allow us to insure that our conferences are built on a foundation of healthy churches with a primary focus of making disciples for Jesus Christ. It's an outreach and an in-reach ministry that provides intergenerational programs, evangelism initiatives, mission opportunities, and servant leader training.

On April 29, I will be hosting a Bishop's Dinner to recognize churches that have troops and/or other youth service organizations. This will also be a time to inspire and encourage churches that don't offer these opportunities in their communities to get something started. We will meet at 4:00 p.m. for a special program and then have a dinner at 5:30 p.m. The event is being held at Trinity UMC, in Lansing.

I invite you and one/two of your key leaders to attend this event. The key leader(s) might be your Lay leader, Church Council Chair, Youth Minister/coordinator, Church School Superintendent, UMM/UMW President, or chairperson of Family Ministries, Evangelism, or Outreach. Perhaps there is a particular young person who is involved or would like to be involved in such a program that you could bring or sponsor to this event.

During the event, I will describe why I believe this ministry is so important to the health of churches throughout our conferences. Representatives will join us from our civic youth-serving agency/scouting partners, and you will see why the United Methodist church established such strong partnerships with the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H and Camp Fire USA.

During the next two months, many of you will receive a personal contact from the team we have formed representing the various agencies. I encourage you to cooperate with this team by considering their new unit/club proposals and by responding to their effort to highlight the importance of the April 29th event.

At the dinner, our UMM Team and some youth will provide for the evening meal. There will be no charge for the food. So that we may have an accurate count of attendees before the food is purchased, please provide the names of those who will represent your church by sending an RSVP e-mail by Tuesday, April 25 to my office at bishopsoffice@miareaumc.org. Should you not have e-mail access, please feel free to call our office at 517.347.4030 and leave the appropriate information.

As responses are received, I will personally pray for each person coming to these events. Assuring you of my grateful appreciation of your anticipated participation.

Sincerely,

Jonathan D. Keaton

Other Stuff

The Detroit East District is losing it's Web Master. Is there a replacement nearby?

If you have an event/bazaar planned let us know in three lines or less.

Liberia Begins Anew

“Let us begin anew, moving forward into a future that is filled with hope and promise.” Those words from the January 16th inaugural address of Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, new President of Liberia, mark the beginning of a new, hopeful era for this African republic.

President Johnson-Sirleaf faces many challenges in leading war-torn Liberia. Her country has a large unemployment rate, an infrastructure in shambles after 14 years of civil war, and the task of re-integrating child soldiers back into society. But, this United Methodist mother and grandmother brings strong resources to the task ahead of her: her faith, her American-based education and her professional experience as an economist, having worked for Citibank, the World Bank and United Nations. She has been part of the political struggle in her country for many years, having even endured imprisonment during the regime of the corrupt President Charles Taylor.

On CNN, President Johnson-Sirleaf said that she has no magic wand for resolving Liberia’s problems, and knows that there is a long road ahead to create a realistic development agenda. Liberia is blessed with abundant natural resources, but “has not managed natural resources well or for the benefit of the people.” Interview by Ann Curry of the “Today Show” on NBC, the issue of bringing Charles Taylor to justice was discussed. President Johnson-Sirleaf promised that he will have “his day in court.”” She acknowledged that her life is in danger, but with a calm confidence, the woman whose nickname is the Iron Lady, said that the ultimate sacrifice “will be worth it. Others will carry on.”

As United Methodists, we have a unique opportunity to assist this country on the road to recovery. The Judith Craig Children’s Home in Monrovia, the nation’s capital, and the hospital in Ganta are two important United Methodist institutions which can be supported by Advance giving. The annual container project at the 2006 Annual Conferences will be designated for Liberia. Covenant relationship exist between districts within Michigan and Liberia, and personal relationships, prayer and financial support have been the result.

In spite of, or maybe because of, the hardships of life in Liberia, the people are blessed with a joy-filled faith expressed through colorful clothing, praise, music and dancing. Those of us who have been fortunate enough to either visit Liberia or spend time with Liberians who have visited Michigan have been truly blessed by the relationship.

DAC Liberian Task Force.

APPORTIONMENT PAYMENT UPDATE

Below is the record of the Detroit East District churches through February of 2006. If you are on target, you should have paid at least 20% of this year's apportionment. We congratulate each churches effort in maintaining their connection.

CHURCH	%	CHURCH	%
Berkley First	20	Mt. Clemens First	8
Beverly Hills	16	New Baltimore Grace	10
Birmingham: Embury	3	Oak Park Faith	0
Birmingham First	20	Pontiac First	0
Bloomfield St. Paul's	0	Pontiac Grace & Peace	10
Clawson	0.5	Pontiac St. John	22
Detroit Cass	0	Rochester St. Paul's	0
Detroit Central	0	Rochester Hills St. Luke's	6
Detroit Christ	0	Roseville Trinity	10
Detroit Conant Avenue	10	Royal Oak First	20
Detroit Exousia	0	Royal Oak St. John's	0
Detroit Metropolitan	0	SCS Good Shepherd	10
Detroit Mt. Hope	12	SCS First	0
Detroit St. Paul's	0	Sterling Heights	8
Eastpointe Immanuel	10	Troy Big Beaver	20
Ferndale First	0	Troy Fellowship	20
Fraser Christ	20	Troy First	20
Grosse Pointe	20	Troy Korean	20
Harper Woods Redeemer	0	Utica	10
Hazel Park First	20	Warren First	20
Highland Park Berea-St. Paul's	0	Waterford Central	20
Korean First Central	20	Waterford Four Towns	0
Madison Heights	20	Waterford Trinity	30

Apportionment Update

United Methodist Student Forum to Meet at Adrian College

ADRIAN, Mich. - The premier international college student event of The United Methodist Church will meet on the campus of Adrian College May 25-28, 2006.

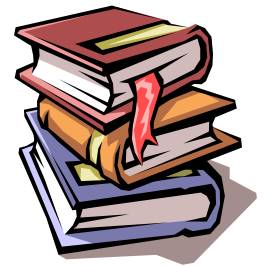
The Student Forum of the United Methodist Student Movement, sponsored by the denomination's General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, is a leadership development conference for college and university students. It is expected to draw 600 to 700 college students from around the nation and world, as well as internationally-recognized speakers and professionals in church-related higher education. The forum seeks to provide leadership training, Bible study, theological reflection, worship, and education for social justice. It also offers a gathering place and time to discuss and take action regarding national/international issues. Recent student forum events have been held in Mississippi, Arkansas, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Montana, Georgia, and Oklahoma. "Students at Adrian College feel very privileged and blessed to know that the 2006 Student Forum will be held on our campus," said Robin Huth, president of the Adrian College student Religious Life Council.

The May gathering will allow Adrian College to offer several leadership gifts to the church: the passion of committed students and staff, the energy and vision of Adrian President Jeffrey Docking, improved campus facilities, and a chaplaincy that has developed a model Pre-Seminary program.

The United Methodist Student Forum harks back to pre-World War II nationwide campus spiritual life movements and was established in 1989.

Adrian College, located in southeast Michigan, is a selective liberal arts college related to The United Methodist Church. Go to www.adrian.edu for more.

CONTACT PERSON: Brad Whitehouse, 517-264-3175, bwhitehouse@adrian.edu



Exploration 2006

Scheduled for November 17-18, 2006, this is an event for high school seniors through age 24 considering ordained ministry in the UMC. This is sponsored by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Exploration is a three-day event for committed youth and young adults (high school seniors—age 24) to hear, discern, and respond to God's call to ministry and to explore their gifts for ordained ministry as deacon or elder in the UMC. If you have sensed that God might be calling you to ordained ministry, wondered what ministry in the UMC is all about, or would like some help sorting through the issues surrounding a Christian vocation, this gathering is for you.

Participants will attend two workshops. Workshops are divided into two categories - "Dive In" and "Make Waves". "Dive In" workshops are for those in the process of discerning their call into ordained ministry. "Make Waves" workshops are for those who are committed to entering the candidacy process, or are already certified candidates, and are ready to go deeper. Every effort will be made to honor your top two choices

The General Board of Higher Education and ministry (GBHEM) is underwriting most of the cost of the event. Participants pay travel expenses and \$150 registration fee, which includes two nights at the Hyatt Regency, all event meals (Friday dinner—Sunday breakfast), and all EXPLORATION events. If you want to attend and cost is a problem, speak to your pastor, campus minister, campus chaplain who can help you in securing scholarships. A limited number of registration scholarships are available from the GBHEM for eligible participants.

Participants may register online through the secure EXPLORATION registration Web Site at www.gbhem.org/exploration/register/html or request a booklet that includes all information and the registration form.

For additional questions, contact: Valerie Ealey, P.O. Box 340007, Nashville, TN 37203-0007, (615) 340-7431 or exploration@gbhem.org.

**Share
His
Incredible
News
Everywhere**

**The Detroit Annual Conference
Committee on Archives and History
is honored to host guest lecturer**

Dr. William K. Quick

**FROM SADDLEBAGS
TO SATELLITES!
Detroit Conference Methodism:
1856-2006**

**Thursday, May 18—6:00 p.m.
Shipman Library, Adrian College**

For more information contact: Diana Spitnale Miller, 989-673-4355



Detroit East News

The United Methodist Church
Metropolitan Regional Office
17117 West Nine Mile Road, Suite 1545
Southfield, MI 48075

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
www.umc-de.org

