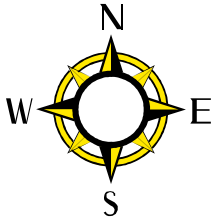


# THE DETROIT EAST NEWS

*Detroit East District  
August/September 2007  
Rev. Duane E. Miller  
District Superintendent  
Cecelia Tolliver, Editor*



## *Compass Points*

... a note from Pastor Duane

### DISTRICT MISSION TRIP TO LIBERIA

At our Detroit Annual Conference in 2000, we, as an annual conference, began a special covenant relation with the Liberia (West Africa) Annual Conference. We have worked at this covenant on a conference level with prayers, inviting persons from Liberia into our churches, and collecting supplies to fill containers at annual conference to be shipped to Liberia. We have also sent mission teams to Liberia. Now Detroit East District is about to embrace our covenant relationship with our sister districts in Liberia in a face-to-face expression! **It is with great excitement that I share this information with you.** We are taking a mission team to the Monrovia and Kakata-Farmington River Districts this Spring. Our main focus will be to complete the building of a district parsonage in the Kakata- Farmington River District.

Liberia is recovering from a 14 year civil war to oust the former government that had become a dictatorship. The United Nations has assisted in getting the former President, Charles Taylor, to leave the country and has assisted the people of Liberia in establishing a democratic government. Last year the people elected a United Methodist laywoman to be their President. She is the first female head of state on the African continent. The UN is continuing to assist with law and order in the country. The country is now making great strides to rebuild.

Since this is a Detroit East District mission project it will take the cooperation of **all the churches in our district** to make this a reality. First, we will need a work team – 5 to 9 persons who are healthy and willing to work at building a home (a district parsonage) for Rev. J. Albert Barchue so his wife and children can live with him on the district. Persons need to also be very flexible.

*(Continued on page 4)*

### DETROIT EAST DISTRICT NEWS

November 30, 2007

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#### **Inserts:**

*Bishop's Day—ES<sup>2</sup>  
Lay Speakers Course*

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***Office Closings  
See page 5***



## Looking Ahead at 2007-8

*Brenda Street, President*

As I have conversed with some of the units, they are diligently preparing the Hygiene Kits for children. Our Education Interpreter has made the contacts, and I am certain we will have made a difference in the Tri-County area. The ladies in my unit are seriously collecting items.

The 2008 highlight will be returning to Lake Huron for our Spiritual Life Retreat. It is scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please place this on your calendar. This is the time for Spiritual and Personal Growth. Lake Huron Retreat Center has the atmosphere to connect with the environment, and form new fellowships and relationships outside our unit. There will be time to learn, share, break bread together and have relaxing fun. Come and join us this year as we continue to pray for each other and for the ones we serve in mission.



## UMW Calendar

Mar. 28-30, 2008—NCJ Quadrennial Meeting in Bloomington, MN. For available scholarships, contact Diana Miller at 1148 Cadmus Dr., Troy, MI 48085, PH: 248-282-9920, or email: Diana@ddmiller.net

## Current List of Upcoming Young Adult Events!!!

If you want to be up-to-date on Young Adult activities, or want to be a part of planning conference Young Adult events, e-mail Ang Hart at trahgna@yahoo.com!



## You're invited!!!

We are the Detroit East District on Youth Ministries or the DEDCYM for short. We are a group of youth group representatives from churches all over the district. We gather to discuss upcoming events and how to make these events fun for everyone. These gatherings are rewarding for everyone who attends and we would love to share this fun and excitement for anyone who is interested. Is your church represented??? The next DEDCYM meeting is scheduled for December 18th at Warren First UMC at 7:00 p.m.



At the November 20th meeting they packed and wrapped 16 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas child. Operation Christmas Child sends the shoeboxes to children in need all over the world as an expression of God's love.

Put these dates on your group calendar  
**January Lock-In- with Flint District Youth**  
January 18/19 – Certified adults free  
Youth \$15 early bird before 12/19/07  
Youth \$20 after early bird date

**March 1, 2008 "ES<sup>2</sup>" Bishop's Day**  
(training for church youth leaders)

## Walk to Emmaus

Are you interested in sponsoring someone to go on a Walk to Emmaus? The Southeast Michigan Community has openings on their upcoming Fall walks. Where there has been a waiting list, there is now walk-on status. Please visit the Emmaus Website at [www.emmaussem.org](http://www.emmaussem.org) to find the application.



## Upcoming Events!!

*Heather D. Laskos, Program and Marketing Assistant  
Detroit Conference Outdoor & Retreat Ministries  
800-334-0544 [umccamps.org](http://umccamps.org)*

### **Winter Adventure, 5th—8th grade Winter Retreat January 25-27, 2008 Judson Collins Center**

Warm up your heart for God and reconnect with friends from the summer. Join us at Judson Collins Center on January 25-27, 2008 for a weekend of fun and adventure. We will be looking at ways Christians can season our speech with salt and graciousness, as we discover the power of the spoken word. More information at <http://www.judsoncollinscenter.org/>

### **Camp Coordinator Kick-Offs**

Are you the person in your congregation responsible for getting campers signed up for camp? Come to our Camp Coordinator Kick-Off. Learn valuable information, such as: What a Camp Coordinator does; How to help your congregation register for camp; New registration information and deadlines for 2008; Information on camp scholarships, discounts and due dates; How you can use the webpage [www.umccamps.org](http://www.umccamps.org); Camp site descriptions and information; How to support those who go to camp from your congregation; and The value of camp. This is also a good time to network with other Camp Coordinators and find out how other churches support and promote camp. The Camp Coordinator Kick-off is a valuable event for camp coordinators, pastors and parents, so feel free to sign up as a group from your church. This is a free event. Lunch is provided! Please RSVP to Heather Laskos at 800-334-0544 or [hlaskos@umccamps.org](mailto:hlaskos@umccamps.org) by January 4.

Pick your choice of dates or location:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Jan. 10, 9:30-1:30 Midland First UMC   | Jan. 12, 9:30-1:30 Midland First UMC   |
| Jan. 23, 9:30-1:30 Southfield Hope UMC | Jan. 26, 9:30-1:30 Southfield Hope UMC |

## Boy Scouts of America

For 97 years, the Boy Scouts of America has provided charter partners like the United Methodist Church a program that instills values in young people through an outdoor education classroom, youth leadership development, and citizenship training. How does your church use the Scouting program? Is it an outreach into the community, or are they a group that meets on Monday night?

An article in the January/February 2007 *Interpreter* titled "On My Honor" by J. Richard Peck stated "43% of United Methodist churches in the United States did not receive a member by profession of faith in 2004, and yet 50% of the boys in Scout units housed in United Methodist churches are un-churched." What a great opportunity to spread the word of God by strengthening our relationship with our already existing Scouting programs and to grow our outreach by creating new partnerships?

Boy Scouts of America has programs for all age groups: Cub Scouts (boys ages 7-11), Boy Scouts (boys ages 11-18), Venturing (co-ed ages 14-21), and Learning for Life (co-ed K-12). If you would like to learn more about how to use the Scouting program as an outreach ministry, or would like to learn about some tools to better serve a particular age group, please contact Ray Brauer at (248) 338-0035 ext 117 or [rbrauer@bsamail.org](mailto:rbrauer@bsamail.org).

Ray Brauer is the Director of Field Service at the Clinton Valley Council, Boy Scouts of America. You can reach him at: 1100 County Center Drive W., Waterford, MI 48328, 248-338-0035 ext 17 - Office, 248-821-5065 - Cell Phone: [rbrauer@bsamail.org](mailto:rbrauer@bsamail.org) or [www.cvc-bsa.org](http://www.cvc-bsa.org)



(Continued from page 1)

Everything will not be under our control. It will be helpful if some of the team members have some construction knowledge and experience, but that will not be required of all team members. Some are needed to carry, hold, and assist in all kinds of ways. If you feel God is calling you to be a part of this team, call my office to get an application or to ask questions. The cost per person will be at least \$2,700.00 for airfare, ground transportation, meals and lodging. Team members will also need a passport and a visa (\$100). If you have not gone to places like Africa before, you will need shots and anti-malaria drugs (approx. \$350.00). Hopefully your church and others will join with you in helping to care for some of this expense. Sending a member of your congregation on this trip will richly bless your congregation. We will be going for 10-14 days during the period of April 19 – May 3. The final dates will be set soon as we sort out the days that flights go into and out of Monrovia.

Second, we need each church to help with the fund raising. We currently have about \$4,000 toward this project. We need to raise at least an additional \$16,000. I would encourage each church to plan a mission event, dinner, etc. to raise funds. Why not invite persons who have gone to Liberia to do a presentation for your congregation. Let the members of your church hear the stories and see the pictures of what God is doing in Liberia. Then take an offering. Suggest to people that they consider sharing the cost of a fast food meal (\$5) to help bring this project to reality. Teams have gone from Troy: First and Rochester: St. Paul's to name just a couple. Check with them or with me to get help with a mission program.

In 2003 I went with a Volunteer in Mission team from the Saginaw Bay District to Liberia to work on a district parsonage that was partially destroyed during the civil fighting. Then in 2005, my wife and I led a medical mission team to Liberia to provide medical care -- particularly to clergy families and laity at their annual conference held in Monrovia, and then to others at the Ganta UM Hospital and at the clinic at the Camphor Mission.

The third thing we need each church to do is to begin to pray for this mission. I would ask for your prayers for our team and for our work, as well as for the leaders in Liberia.

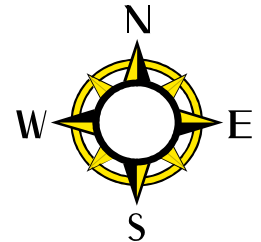
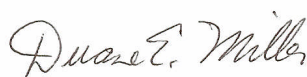
The fourth thing we need your help with is the collection of Bibles. They should be in excellent condition (not old and torn) and they should be a modern translation. Very few pastors and even fewer of the people have Bibles. They were lost and destroyed in the years of war.

Some have asked me, "Why travel all that way and spend all that money? Why not just send the money to them?" Let me answer that by sharing what so many Liberians said to us when we were there. People would stop us in the streets and say something like this: "You don't understand what it means for us that you are here working side-by-side with us. You are not just meeting some physical need of ours -- you bring us hope for our country and for our future!"

The people we will serve need to know that someone does care about them, need to know that God cares about them, and need to know that there is hope for them. Maybe one day they'll break out of the poverty in which they feel confined. Maybe a child whose life is saved will grow up to lead his family and people into better times. None of that happens if we just send money. We have to be there to show that we care, to offer smiles and hugs, and to spark that encouragement and hope.

Thanks for your support for this special ministry of love and care.

Your brother in Christ,



### 2007 Church Conference Dates

This is the remaining schedule for the 2007 Detroit East District Church Conferences. The S/PPRC will meet 45 minutes prior to the church conference, or 45 minutes prior to the last morning worship service.

December	Church	Time
Sun 2	Troy: Korean	12:00pm
	Det: Cass Community	6:00pm
Mon 3	Birmingham: First *	7:30pm
Thurs 6	Ferndale: First	7:00pm

\*(Dinner @ 5:30: SPRC @ 6:30)

### Other Stuff

Copies of information on the following events are available in the DE District office.

- ML King Jr. Rally, Sunday, Jan. 13, 2008 at Eastpointe: Immanuel UMC at 4:00 p.m.
- Winter Lay Speakers Course beginning Sunday, Feb. 10, 2008 from 2-5 p.m. at Clawson UMC, 205 N. main St., Clawson, MI.

### The Congress on Evangelism 2008

The Council on Evangelism and the General Board of Discipleship are sponsoring **'Spirit of Faith COME DOWN,'** a series of workshops honoring the 300th anniversary of the birth of Charles Wesley. The event is schedule for January 2—5, 2008 in Savannah, GA. Workshops feature keynote speakers such as: Bishop James Swanson, Holston Conference, Tennessee; Rev. Dr. Robert Tuttle, Professor of Evangelism at Asbury Seminary's Florida campus; Rev. Grace Imathiu, Bible Teacher and pastor of Brown Deer UMC near Milwaukee; Dr. Swee Hong Lim, Music Leader is a Lecturer at Trinity Theological College in Singapore, and many others.. Registration fee is \$135—Single; \$175—Couples; NAUME Members—\$67.50 Single; \$87.50—Couples. You may select up to 5 of the 16 workshops available. Register Online at [www.congressonevangelism.org](http://www.congressonevangelism.org). Room rate is \$99 (Single/Double) at both, The Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort & Spa, or The Marriott Savannah Riverfront, and mention Council on Evangelism.

### Prayer Concerns:

*Bishop Jonathan Keaton & MI Area Cabinet  
Michigan Area Transition Team (MATT)  
Members of the United States Military  
Richard Leyshock (Rev. Elizabeth Hill's father)*

*Rev. Dr. Dennis Paulson  
Carl Ventour (Spouse)  
Rev. Clifford Rice (Ret.)*

*When the world pushes you to your knees,  
you're in the perfect position to pray.*

*Anonymous*

Other  
Stuff  
&  
Dates

GBOD



## Consulting for Congregational Renewal and Vitality

As cliché as vision and mission statements have become, there is much value in a congregation having a clear sense of its identity, strengths and values. Healthy, vital churches have a sense of energy and excitement, and imagine the possibilities of what can happen with God's guidance. While spontaneity and creativity are important components to a church's vitality, often it is through planned processes with intentional focus and discernment that congregations achieve vitality. Churches, like any organization, have a life-cycle. Once a church has been birthed and reached stability, it must re-engage itself from time to time and assess its health and focus. If not, a congregation can fall into decline. The longer a church is in decline, the harder it is to change without taking radical steps, and the closer it moves toward dying.

- Does your congregation replace members who leave by moving, death or attrition?
- Are new ideas welcomed and embraced?
- Is there a sense of engagement with a wider community?
- Do people feel that their spiritual lives are nurtured?
- Are people growing in their knowledge and practice of the faith?
- Are differences of opinion handled well?

As a church consultant, I will help your congregation engage in strategic planning for health and vitality. Having been a pastor in both a suburban and rural setting, I know the demanding nature of the work of the clergy. I know that even with the best of intentions, it can be time-consuming and difficult to stay on task when walking a congregation through a time of discernment and change. There are times when an outsider – a consultant – is a valuable asset. Frequently an outsider can name the things that members of the church cannot, and help move the congregation in a new direction. If you are in a time of spiritual discernment, I would be interested in a conversation to see if I can help your church grow in its unique calling as the body of Christ. We will lay out a plan with activities, reading, and worship to focus a selected group from your congregation in leading your congregation in the mission to which God has called it.

Kate Pettersen is an Elder from the West Ohio Conference on honorable location. She lives with her husband, young children, and their exchange student in Bloomfield Hills. Please contact her at 248-745-9075 or [kbpettersen@yahoo.com](mailto:kbpettersen@yahoo.com) if you are interested in a further conversation on strategic planning.

### *Office Closings*

*The Metropolitan Regional Offices will be closed:  
Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years Eve, and New Years Day*

*The Detroit East District Superintendent and Administrative Assistant will be out of the office beginning Monday, December 17th and will return to the office on Wednesday, January 2, 2008.*

*Additionally, in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, the Metropolitan Regional Offices will be closed on Monday, January 21, 2-008.*



**Closed**

## APPORTIONMENT PAYMENT UPDATE

Below is the record of the Detroit East District churches through October of 2007. If you are on target, you should have paid 80% of this year's apportionment. We congratulate each churches' effort in maintaining their connection.

CHURCH	% Pension	Common Budget	CHURCH	% Pension	Common Budget
Berkley First	100	21	New Baltimore Grace	70	12
Beverly Hills	90	70	Oak Park Exousia	11	0
Birmingham: Embury	91	90	Oak Park Faith	29	14
Birmingham First	80	80	Pontiac First	0	0
Bloomfield St. Paul's	90	30	Pontiac Grace & Peace	80	80
Clawson	90	28	Pontiac St. John	100	42
Detroit Cass	22	0	Rochester St. Paul's	83	27
Detroit Central	83	0	Rochester Hills St. Luke's	100	71
Detroit Christ	74	50	Roseville Trinity	80	80
Detroit Conant Avenue	60	25	Royal Oak First	80	80
Detroit Metropolitan	70	1	Royal Oak St. John's	77	21
Detroit Mt. Hope	80	67	SCS First	80	10
Detroit St. Paul's	0	0	SCS Good Shepherd	70	10
Eastpointe Immanuel	80	15	Sterling Heights	94	42
Ferndale First	42	5	Troy Big Beaver	100	100
Fraser Christ	80	80	Troy Fellowship	80	80
Grosse Pointe	80	80	Troy First	90	90
Harper Woods Redeemer	80	58	Troy Korean	100	84
Hazel Park First	80	80	Utica	80	76
Korean First Central	100	86	Warren First	80	80
Madison Heights	70	60	Waterford Central	80	74
Mt. Clemens First	70	29	Waterford Four Towns	00	00
			Waterford Trinity	70	70

**Effective immediately!** As we continue to reduce district expenses, please be advised that this newsletter will only be distributed via email unless specifically requested. We now have a new Web Master who has already began updating our website.

**Apportionment Update**



*In preparation for this Advent Season, and while celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, may we continue to share the Good News, and that it be for all humankind everywhere!*

*Duane & Diana Spitnale Miller & Cecelia & Alta Tolliver  
Your Detroit East District Families*



**Detroit East News**

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

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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

**[www.umc-de.org](http://www.umc-de.org)**

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