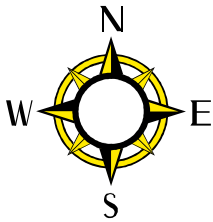


THE DETROIT EAST NEWS

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



Compass Points

... a note from Pastor Duane

Called to Witness

Following our Bishop's Day on Evangelism and Stewardship, I have had a number of conversations and questions about "witnessing". I thought I would share a little bit about how I view "witnessing". Maybe some of these thoughts will be helpful to share with your congregation, evangelism committee, etc.

When we accept Jesus as the Lord of our lives, the Scripture teaches that we are called to be witnesses to what we have discovered. We are each expected to lead others to Christ. Wow!! That sounds pretty scary to most of us.

As Christians, many feel inadequate to witness for God because they are afraid they won't know what to say. But getting the "Bible stuff" right is only a very small part of witnessing. What moves people who are currently not following Christ is not Bible facts, but your witness of how God has changed your life. It is more about sharing what you have discovered, than about facts you have learned. Saying to someone, "John 3:16 says ..." is less powerful than, "Can I tell you how Jesus has changed my life?" But this means that we need to examine our own faith and feel freer to discuss it. Sometimes we have not given much thought to how Jesus has changed our lives. We would do well to recall the old hymn that says "...you ask me how I know he lives, he lives within my heart."

Another struggle that prevents our witness is that we often feel that our lives are not sufficiently in order to be an effective witness for Christ. We fear that if "they" really knew the "real me" they would not want to follow Jesus. The reality is that most unbelievers know Christians aren't perfect. They are looking for

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DETROIT EAST DISTRICT NEWS

April 3, 2007

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Insert

DAC Secretaries Workshop

Haiti Container Project

**Annual Conference
May 17—20
Adrian College**

**District Conference
April 14th**

UM Women Looking Ahead at 2007

Apr. 27-30—Resurrection Women’s Retreat, Lansing Holiday Inn.
May 5—District Missions Workshop, Royal Oak: St. John’s UMC.
Oct. 6—Mission Speaker from Conference, Big Beaver UMC.
Nov. 3—Elected Leadership Training.



You’re invited!!!

*Patrick Hart
DEDCYM President*

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 once a month on the second Tuesday of each month at the Krispy Kream Doughnut shop (on 14 Mile by Oakland Mall) at 7:00 pm for about an hour 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 and, of course, a doughnut or two for anyone who is interested. Is your church represented???

Our calendar of events includes:

Motown Mission April 10-14, 2007—An alternative to Spring Break for youth groups co-sponsored by the DE & DW District Youth, and Birmingham: First UMC. For more information visit de.daccym.org.



UM Men

*DE District UMM Team
Anthony Bugliesi, III, President*

Greetings and Blessings, Men,

The year is off to a great start. Our body of believers is serving with a pure and unselfish heart. The communities are being blessed with shelters and good fellowship. We are planning rallies and activities for fellowship and teaching within our district. Your input and support is vital to accomplish this.

We have established communications with most of our churches and we are striving to reach all of the district churches this year and establish a contact man to represent each church. To date, Detroit: Central UMC has re-chartered. It is our goal for full district chartering and EMS memberships. EMS and Charter forms are available upon request.

We encourage you to be involved in supporting and receiving the benefits of The General Commission of United Methodist Men by chartering or re-chartering your men’s groups. Without the support of all of the churches in our district, it will be impossible to get our district UMM up and running again as an active district in the Detroit Conference.



**PLEASE REPRESENT YOUR CHURCH AT THESE UP COMING MEETING.
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS, CONTACT:**

TONY BUGLIESI PH: 586/777-4992 or
Detroit East District UMM President
EMAIL: hislandplan@hotmail.com

GENE EPPERSON PH: 586/992-9945
Detroit East District UMM Secretary
EMAIL: ggepperson@yahoo.com

Bishop's Event on Evangelism & Stewardship

*Submitted by Victor Raybaud
Detroit East District Treasurer*

On March 3rd at Birmingham First UMC over 300 United Methodists from the Detroit East District gave up a Saturday to worship, learn and fellowship with each other. This event was held simultaneously with all the other United Methodist Districts from both Conferences across the state of Michigan. The projected attendance was over 3,000 and was considered to be very successful.

If you didn't have the opportunity to attend this event, the full day of activities began with a contemporary worship service led by the Troy Big Beaver UMC Praise Band. The service included a special pre-recorded video message from Bishop Keaton. The guest preacher for the morning worship service was Dr. Gennifer Brooks from Garrett Evangelical Seminary. Her message, "A Place for Encouragement", focused on "the power of declaring Jesus as Christ" and the reality that "every act of ministry should radiate the good news of Jesus Christ".

After the morning worship service attendees had the choice of attending one of 19 workshops. These workshops covered many aspects of either Evangelism or Stewardship. In these workshops attendees not only had the opportunity to learn more about the subject but also to share with fellow attendees their experiences in their own local churches. The workshops were led not only by District Leaders and Pastors but also persons from Igniting Ministry and United Methodist Communications. One of the workshops was led by the guest preacher, Dr. Brooks. After lunch the attendees had another opportunity to attend another workshop of their choice.

The day's event concluded with a traditional worship service and Holy Communion with District Superintendent Rev. Duane Miller giving the message and speaking about "The Valley of Dry Bones." Rev. Miller challenged those present to "live and work in the power of the Holy Spirit that transforms hopeless situations -- because God is really in charge, really ready, really willing and really able to bring even dried out bones to life."

Those attending the Bishop's Event completed an evaluation at the end of the day and almost 90% of them rated the day as good or excellent.

If any church would like a copy of the DVD that contains Bishop Keaton's message, please send your requests to Victor Raybaud (email vraybaud@wideopenwest.com or phone him at 586-774-5449). The DVD also includes a message from Wayne Barrett (president UM Foundation) and Denny Buwalda.

Employment Opportunities

Troy: Big Beaver UMC has job positions in the areas of Christian Education Children's Ministry, and coordination of volunteers. The hours and salary to be determined. Interested individuals should send their resume to: Big Beaver UMC, Attn: Staff Parish committee 3753 John R Road, Troy, MI 48083 or email to bbumc@bbumchurch.org, mark the subject line: Job Position. This announcements closes on May 6, 2007.

Livonia: Newburg UMC, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, is looking for a Director of Christian Education. Full time position with benefits to coordinate and supervise all educational programming: Sunday morning, UMYF, LOGOS, VBS, Confirmation and Adult Education. Personal commitment to Jesus Christ and the ministry of the United Methodist Church. Professional certification (or a plan for working towards it) a plus!

**HELP
WANTED**

Zigbuo itineration in Detroit Conference

The District Secretaries of Mission met and developed the following plan for Herbert and Mary Zigbuo itineration in Detroit Conference July 10-Aug 2, 2007

Nothing But Nets

April 25 is Malaria Awareness Day: Skip a lunch. Send a net. Save a life. What if you could save a child's life just by skipping lunch for one day? April 25 is Africa Malaria Day and for the first time, President Bush has also declared it Malaria Awareness Day in the U.S. in order to educate the public about a disease that kills one child in Africa every 30 seconds. On April 25th, United Methodists are encouraged to skip lunch and donate the money saved to the Nothing But Nets campaign - www.NothingButNets.net - to purchase mosquito bed nets for children in Africa. A \$10 contribution will pay for an insecticide-treated bed net, getting it to a family in Africa and teaching them how to use it properly. A challenge grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is matching contributions dollar for dollar, so your gift will have twice the impact. Sleeping under an insecticide-treated bed net can protect a child from mosquitoes at night — the time when most transmissions occur. Providing a bed net is a simple and inexpensive way to prevent malaria. To support Malaria Awareness Day, churches are encouraged to have a noon worship service with a focus on malaria on April 25 as an alternative to lunch; to hold a Wednesday evening service; or to host another activity such as a fundraiser. To learn more about how you and your church can get involved in the fight against malaria on Malaria Awareness Day, visit our website at www.UMC.org/nets. There you will find downloadable resources, including a bulletin cover, web banner, door hanger, worship graphic, poster, e-mail postcard, sample news release and other materials. It's easy to help. Skip a lunch. Send a net. Save a life. That's all it takes.

Nothing But Nets will be featured during a two-night American Idol special on April 24 and 25. "Idol Gives Back" seeks to increase awareness and raise funds for organizations that provide assistance to children living in poverty in the U.S. and Africa. American Idol sponsors will make a donation for each vote viewers cast on April 24. Don't miss the opportunity to see the campaign featured on this national television event. Tune in! You can make your Malaria Awareness Day donation at www.NothingButNets.net or www.UMC.org/nets.

MATT

Maybe you've received an email from Rev. John Huhtala or from the Michigan Christian Advocate about MATT—the Michigan Area Transition Team. In an effort to keep the congregations in the Detroit Annual Conference updated with its progression, emails have been sent to key members in all congregations from the district offices, that may request information about your church. If you are in a leadership role, and have not been receiving these updates, please notify the district office by return email to cecelia@umc-de.org, and you will be placed on the distribution list. If you are not sure, give us a call at 248-557-1144, ext. 234 or 888-356-6202, ext. 234.

Random thoughts of spring

This time of year is really not my favorite since the leftover snow is black, the exposed grass is brown, the ground is soggy, the trees are all barren and my daily driver cars all are caked with layers of salt and mud. Our Michigan weather is about as predictable as the pathway of a frightened church mouse in the middle of a classroom (don't ask) and it seems that really nice weather is a long way from now.

Then we get a day like yesterday when the sun came out, convertible tops opened up and the joggers were wearing shorts as the temperature flirted with an all time record high. The days are getting longer (even without the premature imposition of daylight savings time) and I am beginning to think seriously about moving the antique cars out of their evil winter storage, tending to their needs and putting them back on the road.

Suddenly, I just might like late winter.

Maybe it is the hope of Easter at the end of Lent that parallels the gloom of this late winter season leading to full blown springtime and makes the days go faster. Maybe it is the added sunshine that makes me feel better each day. Maybe it is joining with other United Methodists at gatherings that buoys my spirits. Maybe it is a combination of the above. In any case, I hope your season is looking up, too.

Some signs of District good health have been visible lately. Just over 300 of us gathered at Birmingham First UMC for the Bishop's day of stewardship and evangelism. Even though some of us were not enthusiastic about the event before we went, I heard lots of positive feedback afterwards. Thanks to the planning team. On another front, lay speaking is underway and we have five classes running, including one youth class.

One sign that there is still room for growth is the low attendance at district youth council meetings. I'd bet that your church is not represented.

My wife reminds me that spring is almost here so let's remember the season of rebirth as we dust off the cars, tools, and thoughts that have been dormant all winter. Find a passion and make it come alive.

John Hart

You're invited

A VIM (Volunteers in Mission) team will be going to northern Haiti April 21-29, 2007, to help paint and prepare the new high school wing of College Modele School in Cap Haitien. We will be celebrating the dedication of the three new classrooms and also work on other projects in the area.

We will worship and learn as we visit several sites and meet people in various settings. If you would like to join the Haiti School Project team as we work alongside Haitian workers, contact Curtis Bartz for more information and an application. Call (313) 278-4849 or email jbartz@mish.com.

Prayer Concerns:

Bishop Jonathan Keaton & MI Area Cabinet Rev. Woody Berkompas (Ret.)
Duane Slaughter (Son of Rev. Linda Slaughter-Titus)
Rev. Howard Spitnale (father of Diana Spitnale Miller)

District Lay Leader



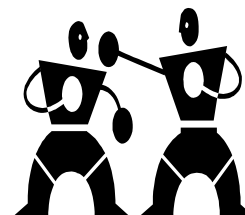
Evangelism/Outreach with Leather & Iron

**Rev. Thomas Taylor
Pontiac: First UMC**

First UMC in Pontiac has an innovated way in doing Evangelism & Outreach in its' community. The church has a full service weight room equipped with free weights- barbells and dumbbells (Iron), machines, treadmills and stationary bikes (sanction by the AAU). The church has partnered with Unity Boxing (Leather) a full scaled boxing program sanctioned by USA Boxing. The weight training, and boxing is open to the greater Pontiac community (Pontiac, Rochester, Waterford, Auburn Hills, Bloomfield Hills, West Bloomfield White Lake, Highland, Holly). First Church is not only meeting the Spiritual needs of the community, we are reaching its' physical needs. Church members interact with participants, allowing us to establish relationships, and opening a way for a formal invitation to Sunday worship service (11:00 am or 4:00 pm); Tues. evening Bible Study (Youth & Young Adults); or Wed. lunchtime Bible Study (11:00 am-12:00 pm & 12:00 pm-1:00 pm).

The cost is free, however monetary and commercial equipment donations are accepted. The hours of operation: Weight Training Mon., Wed., Fri. 4:00 pm-8:00 pm.; Boxing- Mon.-Fri. 6:00 pm-8:00 pm.

If you're looking for a place to exercise, box, lift weights or become a member of a power lifting team, look no further than Pontiac: First UMC. We're located at: 14 Judson St. between the Woodward Loop (one block south of Auburn Ave. behind the Phoenix Center) in downtown Pontiac.



Gulf Coast Mission Opportunity

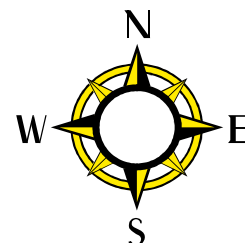
An opportunity to respond to the continuing needs in the Gulf Coast recovery is available. As the months roll past the needs continue. Consider the dates of April 21-29, 2007. Contact: team leader, Rev. Jim Kellermann from Waterford: Central UMC. The team will be working in Aurora, Louisiana. Call Rev. Jim Kellermann at the church at 248-681-0040 for more information.

(Continued from page 1)

authentic, honest Christians who will talk about how the struggles of life intersect with faith. Our aim should be to walk in holiness, but be gracious and honest enough to admit our brokenness and need of God.

What we really need to know to lead someone to Christ is our own personal story of God's transforming work in our own life. We also need a basic understanding of the salvation message –God loves us unconditionally, with no strings attached! We should focus on the reality of the good news that Jesus changes lives! Then we need to be patient. We must earn the right to be heard through consistent contact -- trusting the Holy Spirit to work.

Your brother in Christ,



Please Note: People have been trying to reach me at home using the number given in the 2006 Journal from page 48 of the Pastoral Record. The telephone number given is the Fax number for the Detroit East District Office. My home telephone number is 248-828-9920. The telephone number is correct in the District Directory.

Other Stuff

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

- Apr 6—DAC Black Clergy Annual Good Friday Service, Noon to 3:00 p.m. at Detroit: Scott Memorial UMC. Theme: ***Servant Ministry: WWJD in Today's World?***
- Apr 10—Coaching Practicum 9:30-3:30 at the Flint Regional Office. This is the last class focusing on leadership skills and conflict transformation skills. It is a required class for second year probationers but is always open to others. Rev. Terry N. Gladstone is the Leader
- Apr 12-14—PAUMCS celebrates 25th Anniversary, Intercontinental Hotel, Addison, Texas.
- Apr. 21—Confirmands Rally—The Confirmands Rally aka “Bishop’s Day with the Confirmands: will be held on Saturday, April 21 at Albion College from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. workshops will be available a the Detroit East District Office.
- Apr 19-22—Celebrating Diakonia: 10 years of the Order of Deacon and 30 year of diaconal Ministry, Orlando, Florida.
- Apr 22—Native American Ministries Sunday.
- Apr 28—Celebrate Christian Education at Fenton UMC from 8:30—3:00. Sponsored by the DAC Board of Christian Education. Registration Fee: \$10 or \$25/church (includes lunch) deadline: April 20.
- May 5—Hearts Strangely Warmed: Rekindling the Call to Make Disciples for Christ. This is a Worship & Evangelism Workshop sponsored by the DAC Board of Discipleship at Flint: Bethel UMC. The workshop is from 9:15-3:45. Registration fee is \$15 per person in advance and \$25 at the door (includes lunch). Scholarships are available—call Rev. Jack Mannschreck at 248-689-1932. Child care is available at \$10 per child - call Rev. Ray Wightman at 734-676-2066. Register by April 30 for early bird rate!
- Jun 3—Peace with Justice Sunday.
- Jul 22-25—Dr. Tony Campolo, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Eastern University in St. Davids, Pennsylvania, preacher and author, social activist, and media commentator, will serve as Lakeside’s Chaplain of the Week, Lakeside, Ohio. Church groups wishing to hear Dr. Campolo may arrange additional fellowship meals or events for their group through Lakeside’s group sales manager, (419) 798-4461, ext. 279, or (866) 952-5374, email: groupsales@lakesideohio.com. For further information contact (419) 798-4461, ext. 239, or email: bstephensrich@aol.com.
- Oct 7—World Communion Sunday.
- Oct 21—Laity Sunday.
- Nov 25—United Methodist Student Day.

Called Clergy Session

This is a heads up for all of the pastors in our district. Bishop Jonathan d. Keaton has scheduled a called clergy session for Sunday, October 21, and Monday, October 22, 2007 for all the clergy in the Michigan Area.

This meeting will be held at the Lansing Civic Center in downtown Lansing. Grace Imathiu has been announced as the keynote speaker. Registration materials will be sent to you this spring—please watch for them.

Other
Stuff
&
Dates

Outdoor & Retreat Ministries are On-Line

Go to www.umccamps.org and click on 2007 camps. From there you can search by grade or date. Camp descriptions and costs will be available on-line in December, and registration begins in January.

Can't wait until next summer?

Below are our upcoming events:

Memorial Weekend Family Camp (Families and Singles are welcome), May 25–28, 2007. Judson Collins Center

Whatever your idea of camping is, we have something for you. Choose to bring your SMALL RV, pop-up camper, or a tent. We have a group area site for you. If that is too much trouble, we have cabins or dorm rooms available. Join family and friends and share good times: Cook out, swim and boat on Wamplers Lake, go for a hike, go for a hay ride through our many scenic trails, or experience 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. In addition to the fun you bring your own food and cook over the campfire or bring your grill. Register January-May 11, www.umccamps.org or call 800-334-0544. 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 (sleeps 8, 1 bath and shower)	\$99
Cabin (sleeps 8-10, with electricity)	\$89
Campsite (with electricity)	\$79
Campsite (without electricity)	\$69

Heather D. Laskos, Program and Marketing Assistant
Detroit Conference, Outdoor and Retreat Ministries



APPORTIONMENT PAYMENT UPDATE

Below is the record of the Detroit East District churches through February of 2007. If you are on target, you should have paid 10% of this year's apportionment. We congratulate each churches effort in maintaining their connection.

CHURCH	% Pension	Common Budget	CHURCH	% Pension	Common Budget
Berkley First	2	0	Mt. Clemens First	33	5
Beverly Hills	0	0	New Baltimore Grace	10	5
Birmingham: Embury	26	26	Oak Park Faith	4	0
Birmingham First	10	10	Pontiac First	0	0
Bloomfield St. Paul's	20	20	Pontiac Grace & Peace	10	10
Clawson	10	1	Pontiac St. John	10	25
Detroit Cass	22	0	Rochester St. Paul's	17	0
Detroit Central	0	0	Rochester Hills St. Luke's	0	0
Detroit Christ	0	0	Roseville Trinity	10	10
Detroit Conant Avenue	0	0	Royal Oak First	0	0
Detroit Exousia	10	0	Royal Oak St. John's	10	0
Detroit Metropolitan	0	0	SCS First	20	1
Detroit Mt. Hope	0	0	SCS Good Shepherd	10	0
Detroit St. Paul's	0	0	Sterling Heights	10	6
Eastpointe Immanuel	0	0	Troy Big Beaver	20	20
Ferndale First	0	0	Troy Fellowship	10	10
Fraser Christ	20	20	Troy First	20	20
Grosse Pointe	20	20	Troy Korean	0	0
Harper Woods Redeemer	20	0	Utica	10	0
Hazel Park First	20	20	Warren First	10	10
Korean First Central	54	10	Waterford Central	20	20
Madison Heights	10	10	Waterford Four Towns	0	0
			Waterford Trinity	10	10

Apportionment Update

New beginnings 2007

A good way to insure a health transition when changing pastors is to participate in the New Beginnings program of the Detroit annual Conference. Take a look at the dates and resources and mark your calendars!

New Beginnings Workshop for S/PPRC's:
May 5, 2007 12:30—3:30 P.M.

New Beginnings for Pastors and Staff:
May 3, 2007 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Detroit Conference Center
1309 N. Ballenger Hwy., Flint
800-334-0544

Detroit Conference Center
1309 . Ballenger Hwy., Flint
800-334-0544

New Beginnings Fall Retreat for Pastors:
September 5-6, 2007 1:00 P.M.—11:00 A.M.

Lake Huron Retreat Center

To register for these events: Call Rev. Ron Iris at 313-928-7484. A CD of useful information will be mailed to every church. An audio CD will be mailed to all pastors.

Detroit East News

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Southfield, MI 48075

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