



Fruitful Faith For God's Followers

January 2009

Radical Hospitality *Passionate Worship* *Intentional Faith Development*
Risk-Taking Mission and Service *Extravagant Generosity*

Special points of interest:

- **Mission Trips and Opportunities**
- **Charge Conference Wrap-up**
- **Lay Speaker Training**
- **Ministry Clusters**
- **Annual Conference**
- **Retirees Luncheon**

Bishop Coyner and SIC Cabinet announce the following appointments:

Joyce Mincoff from Ft. Ritner to no appointment

Joe Crow from Moores Ridge to no appointment

Beth Ann Cook from Evansville Temple to Bedford First

A Note from Bob

I've just finished watching the Inauguration of President Obama-----. What an amazing testament of the way in which God has gifted America. We have a system by which transition happens in such a dramatic, peaceful and honoring way. Most of the millions around America witnessed one of the most historic occasions in our nation's history. I never imagined that I would witness an African-American becoming our President. It is amazing to consider that early in my lifetime there were thousands of places where Barack Obama would have been refused entry and denied service, and now he is our President. God has blessed America and has been at work among us to bring us so far along the road of equality.

But now we face the future together as members of our national community. On Monday, February 19 Bishop Woodie White delivered the keynote address at the Bloomington celebration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He shared what has become for me one of the most significant events of the Inauguration week. On Monday night, January 19, an event took place that had never before happened in the history of American political life. Barack Obama hosted a dinner honoring John McCain. The victor of a hard-fought political campaign honored the person against whom he had contested. What a significant statement about the character of Barack Obama, the contributions of John McCain and the future style of governing over the next four years! We are a national community which wraps up a lot of diversity within it. But unless we are open to all, our future is severely limited.

We are a blessed nation! God has blessed us beyond our imaginations! Can we set out on a course that will elevate the value of all persons, even those with whom we disagree?

Pre-Lenten Services around the Indiana Conference

Monday, February 23rd at 10:30am at Jasper Shiloh UMC

Monday, February 23rd at 3:00pm at Franklin Grace UMC

Tuesday, February 24th at 10:30am at Fort Wayne Aldersgate UMC

Tuesday, February 24th at 2:00pm at La Porte 1st UMC

Tuesday, February 24th at 7:30pm at Carmel St. Mark's UMC

Ministry Clusters

- **The Bishop and District Superintendents will be meeting clergy and laity for Tip-Off Meetings.
- **Each church will send a pastor and at least 2 lay persons.
- **Find in that meeting a group of other church leaders who might form a cluster with you.
- **Set a date for an initial meeting of the Clergy by May 1st.
- **Following the clergy meeting, set a meeting of clergy and lay teams by July 1st.
- **At the Tip-Off meeting, each person may nominate a person to be a Cluster Leader. The DS will select the leader from the gathered nominations.

****Tip Off Meeting Schedule:**

Indiana Conference District 10 (Lawrence and Orange)

Sunday, February 22nd at 7pm at Edwardsville UMC

Indiana Conference District 4 (Greene, Owen, and Monroe)

Sunday, March 8th at 7pm at Terre Haute Mt. Pleasant UMC

Indiana Conference District 6 (Morgan)

Sunday, March 8th at 3pm at Castleton UMC

Indiana Conference District 8 (Jackson and Brown)

Sunday, March 15th at 7pm at Seymour First UMC

Upcoming Events

February 28th-March 1st —Sr. High Youth Annual Conference “Duct-tape Faith” will be at Camp Illiana in Washington, IN. This event is for youth in grades 9-12 and their adult chaperones.

March 7th—Bishop’s Confirmation Rally at Noblesville UMC

April 20th-21st —Our Life Together at St. Luke’s UMC

Clergy Covenant Groups will be an integral part of our new Life Together in the Indiana Annual Conference. Many clergy have been part of covenant groups through the years. Others have not chosen to benefit from this kind of support and accountability group. Moving ahead into our new Annual Conference, all clergy will be expected to be part of clergy covenant groups. This will be an important part of our conversations at this year’s Our Life Together on April 20 and 21. Please note information to be coming about this event to be held in Indianapolis and be open to all that you hear about covenant groups.

May 13th —Retired Clergy Luncheon —Invitations will be sent out soon to all retired clergy, spouses and widows. The luncheon will be at 11:30am at Chapman’s Restaurant on the east side of Bloomington.

July 9th-12th—10th National Men’s Gathering at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. This event held every four years is moving from Purdue University to Belmont in Nashville. Featured Musical Guest will be Vince Gill.

July 21st-24th—FOCUS 2009 National Training Event for Persons in Ministry with Children in Indianapolis. The District is offering six \$100 scholarships toward the registration fee for this event.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ALL EVENTS, VISIT THE DISTRICT WEBSITE OR CONTACT DISTRICT OFFICE.

District News

- The following are churches that are still have not submitted all of their 2008 Charge Conference Forms: Banta: Centenary, Bloomfield, St. Mark's UMC, Crossroads, Freetown, Gosport, Heltonville, Jasonville, Leesville, Lyons, Patricksburg, Poplar Grove, Prairie Chapel, Scotland, Shiloh-Wesley, Tunnelton: Bono, Ft. Ritner, Wesley Chapel (Lawrence Co.), Folsom Memorial and Freedom.
- January 12th was the last day to accept apportionment s for 2008. The 2009 Apportionment Remittance Forms are available online at www.blumc.org. **Please make sure that if you are making more than one payment, that you are calculating the correct amounts and include a remittance form with your payment.** If you have questions, regarding please contact the district office for assistance.
- **THANK YOU** to the 64 District churches that submitted 100% of their apportionments.
- Check Day paperwork has been mailed out. If you are a Senior Pastor and have not received that mailing from the Indiana Conference-Bloomington Office, please let the district office know. If your church is currently without a pastor, the check day paperwork was mailed to the church treasurer. **Check Day online submission begins on Feb. 2nd and end Feb. 20th. If you are not submitting the 2008 Check Day reports online, then the paperwork needs to be at the district office by Feb. 18th.**
- Please access the district website (www.blumc.org) for updates on mission news, continuing education, upcoming events, etc. This is important especially when things need to be announced in between newsletter publications. **PASTORS: If you do not have access to the internet, please have someone in your congregation check the website for you so that you will be up to date on District information.**

Annual Conference-Beyond our Imagination

Annual Conference will be a NEW THING for United Methodists in Indiana! The dates are different from that to which we have grown accustomed. The location is a radical change from the way things have been for over 40 years and the format of Annual Conference will be brand new for us.

Dates: June 25-28 Location: Ball State University

Theme: Rethink Church

June 25 will be a day of teaching with Rev. Adam Hamilton of the Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City giving leadership. June 27 (Saturday) will involve us in projects around the Muncie area. And on Sunday we bring Annual Conference to an end with worship, ordination and appointment reading.

It's beyond what many of us could have imagined!

Fruitful Faith

Charge Conference Wrap-Up

Charge Conferences this year were focused around the Five Practices of Fruit Congregations. During each cluster charge conference, the District Superintendent asked questions of the pastors and laity in regards to those five practices. Here are some of the questions and answers. Also included are comments made by the District Superintendent directed to the church leadership.

SCRIPTURE FOR CHARGE CONFERENCE: Now to Him who by power at work within us is able to accomplish far more than we can ask or image, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20

RADICAL HOSPITALITY

What have you done recently (or what are you planning for the future) to be more hospitable to "strangers" who enter your facility?

New building/remodeling project, new signs, taxi service, jr. church, welcome table, rocking chair in sanctuary for a mom

TO THE TRUSTEES COMMITTEE: How we maintain our church says much about our attitudes toward God and persons. The trustees are caretakers of the worship space of congregations, entrusted to do all that is possible to make space hospitable.

INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT

To practice intentional faith development we need to remember this: Someone has said that the Church is the only organization that exists for the sake of those who do not yet belong to it. We thrive only when we bring new persons into our communities of faith. From 1970—2010 the United Methodist Membership in Indiana will have decreased from 300, 000 to 200, 000 members. We need to be INTENTIONAL about FAITH DEVELOPMENT.

TO THE PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE: You are entrusted with the stewardship of relationships in your congregations. Have you been faithful in nurturing the relationship within your congregation and between your pastoral leadership and congregation?

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY

TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: One of Wesley's sayings on stewardship is "gain all you can, save all you can, and give all you can." By this he meant that we should work hard to earn a living, be frugal in our spending and be generous in our giving. Will you encourage extravagant generosity in the life of your congregations and present to your congregations opportunities by which we can share financially in and underwrite the exciting ministries of the church?

WHAT ARE YOU EXCITED ABOUT IN YOUR CONGREGATION?

MYF started, providing a trick or treating alternative, participating in Operation Christmas Child, increase in youth attendance, new members, mission work in community, new building project, new Wednesday night bible study



January 2009

Continuing Education

First Monday continues after the New Year. Theory is presented in the mornings (beginning at 9am) and supervision/consultation is presented in the afternoons. Also, a Clergy Covenant group meets after supervision/consultation (usually at 3pm); all are invited to attend.

Of special note is that two dates have changed since originally being published. Those are January 26th (was Feb. 2nd) and March 9th (was March 2nd). Meetings are held at the Conference Center in Bloomington, IN, and you may register with payment upon arrival.

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| January 26, 2009 | Group Dynamics: keeping the group on track |
| March 9, 2009 | Group Dynamics: successes and life cycles |
| April 6, 2009 | Group Dynamics: closure and evaluations |
| May 4, 2009 | Three models of the Life-Cycle |
| June 1, 2009 | "Fun" From a Pastoral Approach |

Upcoming Lay Speaking Courses

Columbus District - Basic and Advanced Courses on April 18th 8:30am-3:00pm at N. Vernon First

Indy Districts - Basic and Advanced Courses on April 18th 8:30am-3:00pm at Zionsville

New Albany District - Basic Course on April 25th & May 16th

Advanced Course on October 24th

Rushville District - Basic Course on April 18th

Advanced Course on April 25th

Missions

Spring 2009 Mission Trips

Places are OPEN for two mission trips in spring of 2009.

1. Haiti Trip, March 20-29 to continue construction of a Haiti Methodist Orphanage in the Jeremie area. Estimated cost: \$1,500 (includes all housing and food on site). For information, contact Bob at the District Office.
2. On March 21-28, 2009, a work team will be going to Gulfport, MS led by VIM Coordinator, Rev. Gary Loy. For more information on this trip, please contact Rev. Loy at 812-366-4139.

Other Opportunities (For more information on these opportunities, visit the district website)

If you cannot go on a mission trip, there are other ways to support missions.

1. Support the teachers in the Methodist Schools in Haiti, send funds with designation Advance #3019695 Haiti Teacher Salary to Conference Office.
2. Buy a bike for an African Pastor in the Congo for \$110. This is their only way of transportation to spread the gospel. Send funds with designation Bikes for Pastors to Conference Office.
3. Church and Parsonage Construction in the Lubudi District, Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Evansville District, Baker Chapel, and Spencer/Warrick Co. Church Clusters have donated money to build two churches and two parsonages. Money can be sent to the Bloomington District Office with the designation of the Lubudi District.

Bloomington District UMC

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JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 Robert Sharp (Retired) | 21 Barbara Reed (Lyons Charge) |
| 1 Curt Hurley (Fairview) | 23 Connie Greathouse (Heltonville) |
| 4 Linda Ostermeier (Ext Min) | 24 Elizabeth Freeman (Mooresville) |
| 5 Betty Jean Hillenburg (Ret.) | 26 Mildred Kessinger (Retired) |
| 7 Carolyn Brinegar (Retired) | 27 Joan Murphy (Erie) |
| 9 Farley Snell (Retired) | 31 Rhoda Chase (Retired) |
| 10 Hugh Reynolds (Retired) | 31 Al McFadden (Spencer) |
| 12 Mary Bair (Retired) | |
| 12 Mary Ann Moman (Ext. Min) | |
| 16 Diane Purnell (Blgtn First) | |
| 17 Don McMahan (Retired) | |
| 18 Jim Ramsey (St. Mark's) | |
| 21 Dot Payton (Retired) | |
| 21 Rob Martindale (Bonds Chapel Charge) | |



February Birthdays

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| 2 Marcie Young (Retired) |
| 5 Berniece Bastin (Retired) |
| 5 Harold Nolting (Retired) |
| 6 Zach Meunier (Prairie Chapel) |
| 10 Richard Chase (Retired) |
| 12 Sharyn Kersey (Jacob Finger) |
| 13 Onalee Giggy (Springville) |
| 16 Kurt Freeman (Mooresville) |
| 23 Debbie Martindale (Bonds Chapel Charge) |
| 25 Lester Ellie (Retired) |
| 25 Tiffany Raidy (Bloomfield) |
| 28 Margarett Farr (Retired) |