

Resurrection Hope

Churches across the conference report record numbers Easter morning

By Paul Black

There is a certain expectation that attendance numbers increase on Christmas and Easter Sunday but several congregations within the IGRC are reporting record numbers amid baptisms and receiving members into the church – indicators that the growth may be more than a one Sunday bump.

■ Record numbers

Fairview Heights Christ UMC logged 2,282 on Easter in four Easter services – a new record.

O’Fallon First, with its five different styles of worship displayed a diversity that netted a record-setting attendance of more than 1,000. Included in that offering is the new Milburn Crossing Campus that had 69 in attendance – people whom the church would not otherwise reach.

“The many different worshippers and worship offerings have their roots in a body who truly seeks to know how to honor and glorify God in all the diversity God has given God’s people,” said Rev. Joel Catlin. “We have set our hearts on being one with Christ as our number one goal.”

Numbers are also up at Mascoutah Bethel UMC, where 189 were in attendance for Easter worship, up from 54 in 2007.

■ A culture of invitation

At Rosewood Heights St. Paul, the church participated in the “Pick a Church, Any Church” campaign initiated by the Wood River Township Ministerial Alliance.

The campaign included a March 20 prayer service before the group began a door-to-door campaign. Those praying asked that the seed planted that day would find receptive soil.

Although the results were mixed within the eight participating churches, the spirit of cooperation and collaboration was a strong positive witness to the community.

“While we had a 17 percent increase in attendance over Easter 2009, what we valued most was the culture of invitation generated within our congregation,” said Rev. Daryl Fansler. “We started our preparations in January when Paul Black, IGRC Director of Communications preached on The Inviting Church and offered a short seminar during the Sunday School hour. Our people see the importance of inviting



Photo courtesy of St. Joseph's UMC

people to reconnect with Christ and His church.”

Rev. Glen Bocox, pastor of Mahomet UMC, agrees that invitation is key. “We are more intentionally preaching decision for Christ and discipleship,” he said.

The church set a new all-time record in attendance with more than 600 in worship. The main reason for the growth has been the addition of a third service intended specifically for older members whose medical issues keep them from their preferred early service.

As a result of having room, new families with early elementary age children who attend worship while their children are in Sunday School have taken the place of those that have moved to the new service.

Casey Taylor, pastor at Lacon-Sparland UMC challenged his folks to invite two friends who have no church home. As part of the challenge, persons are to pray for their friends daily and invite them to worship on Easter.

The result is that Easter attendance has grown from 52 in 2008 to 105 in 2010. Average attendance is also on an upward swing from 50 in 2008 to 67 for the first three months of 2010.

“I’ve been humbled and excited to see the people of Lacon-Sparland ‘get it’ about inviting others into Christian com-

munity and share their faith,” Taylor said.

■ Growing in discipleship

Quincy Union UMC has also seen folks growing in their discipleship with Easter worship setting a seven-year high in attendance.

Rev. Bob Morwell reports that 18 new members were taken into the congregation on Easter with another two on April 11.

One who joined by profession of faith told the congregation that she was in her fifth year of sobriety and that her last “hit” on a crack pipe had happened just 48 hours before she first came to church. She credits the love she found at the church with helping her to overcome her addiction.

Harrisburg First UMC also experienced the joy by witnessing the baptism of twin girls who were both born at 2 pounds, 4 ounces 14 months ago. Three new members were also received.

■ Creative innovation

A parishioner at St. Joseph UMC built three 4-foot crosses from chicken wire and 300 silk flowers were purchased. As persons came forward for Communion, they were given a cut flower to place in the wire cross. Rev. Mark Harris reports the crosses will grace the church sanctuary through Pentecost

At Glen Carbon New Bethel UMC, both
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News from the Episcopal Office

Worship is our business



Dear Ones in Christ:

In a few short weeks we will be in Peoria for Annual Conference. This is the 14th session of the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference. Wow we really sound young don't we? But if count figure our age from the oldest antecedent conferences this is session 188.

Could it be that we are really old, by some calculations? Or is the angle of view that we are new and fresh in ministry but we have a deep heritage? Not a bad position to be in. So from that bi-focal viewpoint we might sing with gusto *A Charge to Keep We Have* with a keen awareness that we are called "To Serve the Present Age".

In order to remember the charge and to serve the now we will gather around the theme of *Passionate Worship* as a Christian practice. In this and previous issues of *The Current* you have had a peep at the ways in which we will be resourced to both think about the practice of *Passionate Christian Worship*. I am excited about the opportunity to learn and reflect with you on this.

Most of all I rejoice that we will become a worshipping community and actually offer ourselves to God through worship. It is my expectation that worship will frame, bracket, undergird and otherwise set the tone for all else that we will do and at that, we will all be able to bear witness to participating in worshipful work.

So then it won't be that we have "worship" and then "do business". Rather we will by God's grace embrace the truth that worship is our business and our business is worshipful work. See you in Peoria.

Your servant in Christ,

† Gregory Vaughn Palmer

You are invited to a celebration of festival worship

5 p.m., Saturday, May 15

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
2477 W. Washington St., Springfield

Sponsored by The United Methodist Church
and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

For more information, see the article on page 16.

Positions

Worship Leader — Bethany UMC in Columbia, IL seeks a permanent part time Worship Leader to lead two Sunday morning services: 8:15 traditional and 10:45 contemporary. Responsibilities include leading music, rehearsing weekly, planning worship with pastor. Successful candidate has strong music leadership skills and collaborates well. For more details visit our website <http://bethanyonthehill.org> or email us at office@bethanyonthehill.org with a link to your demo clip and/or website.

Director of Contemporary Music — First UMC Peoria is hiring a Director of Contemporary Music ministries to lead God's people in our existing contemporary worship service on Sunday mornings and our Celebrate Recovery program on Wednesday evenings. The music director will work with our other music ministry staff as well as pastoral and lay staff to further our ministries for sharing Christ with others. We seek an individual with a Bachelors level of education (music preferred) and quality experience in contemporary worship leadership. For more information and a full job description, see our FUMC website www.fumcpeoria.org, email employment@fumcpeoria.org or

contact Dr. Bob Phillips at 309-673-3641 ext. 114. Applications will be received until the position is filled. Applications review will begin May 1.

Director of Traditional Music Ministries — First UMC Peoria is hiring a Director of Traditional Music Ministries to lead God's people in two worship services on Sunday by planning and managing a diverse music ministry, multiple choirs, and ensembles. We seek an individual with a Master's Degree (music education, choral emphasis preferred) and minimum five years' experience, or an individual with a Bachelor's Degree and significant years' experience as a minimum expectation. To learn more about FUMC and view a full job description, see our website www.fumcpeoria.org, email employment@fumcpeoria.org or contact Dr. Bob Phillips at 309-673-3641 ext. 114. Applications will be received until the position is filled. Applications review will begin May 1.

Director of Children's Music Ministries (part-time) — First UMC Peoria seeks a creative, energetic person with excellent music and organizational skills. This position will have oversight over all children's choirs with related directors/staff in addition to directing one

See Positions on page 16 ...

Appointments

In consultation with the Cabinet of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference, Bishop Gregory V. Palmer announces the following appointments:

Mark Jordan to Champaign: New Horizon, Iroquois River District, effective July 1.

Megan Thompson to Melvin and Shiloh (new realignment), Iroquois River District, effective July 1.

H. Dayle Badman to Morrisonville, Sangamon River District, effective July 1.

Carol Stufflebeam to New Hope Parish: Hennepin, McNabb and Magnolia, Vermilion River District, effective July 1.

Mike R. Rucker to Trenton: First, Mississippi River District, effective July 1.

Mary Alice Cunningham to Virden: First and Girard, LaMoine River District, effective July 1.

Sheila Kelly to lead pastor at Barry, Hull, New Canton, Pleasant Hill and Hamburg, LaMoine River District, effective July 1. Note: This is a realignment of churches for form a new charge.

Leland L. Legg, Jr. to Waverly, Franklin and Durbin, LaMoine River District, effective July 1.

Sharon Renner to associate pastor at Barry, Hull, New Canton, Pleasant Hill, Hamburg, LaMoine River District, effective July 1.

Grant Armstrong to Normal: Calvary, Associate, Vermilion River District, effective July 1.

Michael Paulson to Springfield: First, Associate, Sangamon River District, effective July 1.

Florene Scott to Pawnee, Sangamon River District, effective July 1, 2010.

Kenneth Dees to Forsyth UMC, Sangamon River District, effective July 1.

Bradley Watkins II to Decatur: Grace, Associate, Sangamon River District, effective July 1.

Jarrett Wells to Athens and Cantrall, Sangamon River District, effective July 1.

Supply not appointed

Merlin H. Schendel supply-not-appointed to Pawnee, Sangamon River District, beginning April 5.

Realf Ottesen to Loraine, Spoon River District, effective April 5.

Brent Gordon supply-not-appointed to Tamms, Cache River District, beginning Nov. 1, 2009.

Brent Gordon supply-not-appointed to Olive Branch, Cache River District, beginning Nov. 1, 2009.

Change of status

Diane Yentes discontinued as a local pastor — Colfax and The Living Connection, Vermilion River District, effective April 30.

Stephen W. Brown discontinued from Loraine, Spoon River District, effective March 31.

Troy D. Benitone withdrawal to unite with another denomination effective March 31.

Deaths

Leola Conant, surviving spouse of Kenneth Conant, died April 24. Expressions of sympathy can be sent to her daughter Deborah Willhoit, 2118 Checkerberry Lane, Springfield, IL 62711.

Ferne L. Phillips died April 9. During her lifetime, Ferne was married to two United Methodist Ministers: Edgar Blaine Purdy, who passed away in active service in 1967; and Stephen B. Phillips, who retired from Sunfield UMC in 1981 and passed away in 1990. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to a son: Bruce Purdy, 11979 Cotton Mill Drive, Woodbridge, VA 22192.

Helen Robertson, widow of the Rev. Oscar Robertson, died in Florida April 5. She and her husband served the Watson UMC in the former Southern Illinois Conference from 1985 to 1990. Rev. Robertson died in 1990. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to a daughter, Betty Husky, 11 Queensway Drive, Sherman, IL 62684.

Donald Ray "Bubblegum" Wood, the husband of IGRC pastor Nancy Wood, died March 21. Pastor Nancy Wood serves Jacksonville Asbury UMC and Lynnville UMC in the LaMoine River District. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Pastor Nancy Wood, 424 Stewart Road, Franklin, IL 62638-4954.

Rev. Robert "Bob" Treat died March 20. Rev. Treat was a retired pastor from the former Southern Illinois Conference,

See Deaths on page 16 ...

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Announcements & Events

Mother Earth Healing Day set for May 1 in East Peoria

By CLARE HOWARD
Peoria Journal-Star

EAST PEORIA — On 43 acres of river bluff woodlands and clearings, leading Native American voices from across the country are meeting in East Peoria for a day of healing, clearing up racism, false stereotypes and cultural exploitation.

It also is a day for quiet contemplation, connecting with the earth and drawing peace from centuries of Native American traditions, said Phyllis “Singing Bird” Ballard, of Haudenosaunee and Abenaki heritage.

Those are all goals of Mother Earth Healing Day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 1 at Native American Fellowship Dayspring United Methodist Church, 201 N. Norwood Place, East Peoria. The event is free and open to the public.

“This is a rare opportunity for the public to hear authentic Native American voices,” said event organizer Adam Danner, leader of the Native American Fellowship Turtle Lodge Community. “We want to preserve and protect our traditional ways. So often people get caught up in things

that are not authentic. This is an opportunity for the public to hear some of our leaders. This is not learning from books or online, but from our tribal elders.”

There will be Native American frybread, music, crafts, jewelry and books for sale. A traditional naming ceremony is scheduled for 9 to 10:30 a.m.; a pipe ceremony is scheduled for 11 a.m. Speakers coming from throughout the country are scheduled from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

There will be Native American drum and flute players.

“People will learn what they can do to make a difference. Healing the earth is important to all people,” said the Rev. Dan Lybarger, of Cherokee and Ojibwa heritage. “We need to pray, not for us but for the seventh generation after us.”

Lybarger said a Native American tradition is to evaluate decisions based not on the immediate impact but on the impact those decisions will have on our descendants seven generations from now.

“There is compatibility between the teachings of Jesus and our Native American faith and spirituality. It is almost one and the same. It’s a circle of

life about living in harmony and balance,” Lybarger said.

Native American Fellowship Dayspring United Methodist Church is one of about 200 chartered Native American United Methodist congregations in the country but the only one in Illinois, he said.

Danner said, “It is not a conflict for us to follow Native American traditions and Christian traditions.”

He will have copies of his book for sale. “My book, *Honoring in a Good Way*, is a guide that offers readers respectful ways to know their native American heritage. ... The book is really for all people,” he said.

Other leading Native Americans who will be present for the event are Lionel Little Eagle of Micmac heritage; Fred Shaw of Shawnee heritage; Carol Lakota Eastin of Yakima and Lakota heritage; Gary Billiot of Houma Nation heritage; and Tom John of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa.

For more information on the event, call Adam Danner at 309-635-1107.

(Reprinted with permission from the April 25 issue of the Peoria Journal-Star).

Bible Bowl slated for May 2

The Conference Bible Bowl will be held at East Bay Camp again this year on Sunday, May 2, from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

For more information please contact John Hauck at john.hauck@gmail.com, 309- 363-1901, 309- 444-3228 or 309-444-4727.

UM Day at ballpark May 22

United Methodist Men are sponsoring its annual day at Busch Stadium on Saturday, May 22, when the Cardinals take on the Los Angeles Angels in inter-league play.

Game time is 1:15 p.m. and tickets range from \$15 to \$30. The order form can be downloaded from the IGRC website by visiting <http://www.igrc.org/United-Methodist-Men.aspx>

Tickets are processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

College of Christian Life registration online

Online registration is underway for the 2010 College of Christian Life to be held Aug. 9-11, at the Peoria City Centre Holiday Inn. Registration and more information is available at: <http://ccl2010.eventbrite.com>

Doug Anderson, executive director for the Reuben Job Center for Leadership Development, will be the keynote speaker.

This year’s event will focus on *Developing Congregations for the Mission*.

Pastoral counselors available

David Wence, Decatur, Linda Horrell, St. Louis area, and Steve Busick, Champaign, have all been providing therapy for clergy, spouses, and family members this past year. The first three visits are free with additional sessions provided by insurance.

Presently the Board of Pastoral Care and Counseling is evaluation and revising the service but therapy continues to be available.

Contact David Wence at 217-872-1700 or dwence@decaturpsych.com; Linda Horrell at 636-527-7615 or lhorrrell@hotmail.com; or Steve Busick at 217-363-1700 or sbusick@igrc.org

Clergy Benefits Academy

The General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits will host a Clergy Benefits Academy Oct. 4-6 at West Des Moines Marriott Hotel in West Des Moines, Iowa.

The academy includes classroom workshops that provides age-focused coursework with one-on-one consultations with GBOPHB staff. Continuing education units are also available.

Online registration begins in May 2010 by visiting www.gbophb.org and clicking on “Events and Education.”

Baby Fold CEO named Administrator of the Year by UMA

The United Methodist Association (UMA) recently named The Baby Fold’s President and CEO Dale Strassheim as Child, Youth, and Family Services Administrator of the Year.

The award was announced on March 6 during the UMA’s 70th National Convention in Burlingame, Calif.

The UMA, a national body which oversees the health and welfare ministries of the United Methodist Church, cited Strassheim’s resourcefulness and consistent dedication to the well-being of children and families. The award committee also recognized Strassheim for his foundational involvement in the Illinois Great Rivers Alliance, a group of five Illinois-based United Methodist agencies who have formed a Limited Liability Company to work together to share resources common to the agencies.

“I am deeply humbled, not for my own recognition but for the acknowledgment of The Baby Fold’s supportive Board and the employees who do amazing work, day-in and day-out,” said Strassheim. “This award reflects the dedication of our staff who truly love children, and are enriching and transforming lives every day. It is so rewarding to work with a group of people who live out the mission of the agency so vividly.”

UMA is a national network of approximately 400 healthcare and human service organizations. UMA provides its members with education, accreditation, networking, communication and business services while keeping with the rich, historical Wesleyan traditions and practices of the United Methodist denomination.

The Baby Fold is a non-profit child and family service organization that serves



Dale Strassheim (right)

over 1,000 children and families every year. The organization offers professional services in the areas of adoption, foster care, pregnancy counseling, specialized education, residential treatment, family support and counseling, and operates Horizons Counseling.

Shelquist receives chaplain endorsement from GBHEM



Charles Shelquist

Charles G. Shelquist has been endorsed by The United Methodist Endorsing Agency to serve as a chaplain resident at West Virginia University Hospital. Endorsement is the recognition that Shelquist has met the requirements and completed the process to

serve in extension ministry.

Shelquist was ordained an elder in the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church in June 1992.

Additionally he has been under continuous appointment to local churches since 1988 serving both in the Wisconsin and Illinois Great Rivers Conferences.

Most recently Shelquist served the Oakland and Westfield UMC’s in the Embarras River District. Shelquist began his 12-month chaplain residency in August 2009.

Shelquist earned his bachelor’s degree in Economics from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1980 and his Master of Divinity Degree from University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in 1990.

The United Methodist Endorsing Agency endorses about 170 chaplains and pastoral counselors each year in more than 16 different civilian settings – including hospitals, hospices, prisons, and counseling centers – and in all areas of the military.

To learn more about United Methodist chaplains and pastoral counselors, log onto www.gbhem.org/chaplains.

Local Church News

Woman's heart reaches out to Romania

(Editor's note: Melissa Melvin is a member of Saunemin UMC and has made several trips to Romania. She has cerebral palsy and walks with the aid of two canes.)

By Melissa Melvin

Abandoned, abused, forgotten, neglected, malnourished and unwanted.

These are the themes the run through the life stories of more than 160,000 children living on the streets, in the sewers, and in hundreds of placement centers throughout the small, poor, spiritually dark country of Romania.

For so many of these children hope is not existent. Daily these children fight for their most basic needs to be met. Street children live in packs, scrounge for food in neighborhood dumpsters, and take shelter in open sewers. Children left to the care of the state live in overcrowded institutions, are clothed inadequately, and come away from the dinner table still feeling the pains of hunger as they are fed measly portions of bread, water, salami and cabbage.

Not only are these children deprived of these most basic needs of survival but, more importantly, they are deprived and starving for attention, acceptance and love. As a result of their failure to thrive, these children grow into adults who don't know how to give and receive love, or how to become productive, responsible members of society. With 100,000 new cases of abandonment in Romania each year, this cycle of hopelessness seems endless.

But, amidst the darkness and despair embers of hope are burning. As faithful followers of Christ embrace God's call to care for orphans, impacting the life of one child at a time, this cycle of abandonment, abuse and neglect can be broken. I have seen this first hand as, through the prayerful, and financial support of family, friends and the local church, I have had the privilege of traveling to Romania on several occasions to serve these children in a wide



variety of settings.

While all of these experiences have been rewarding, perhaps none have been more challenging, or valuable than my most recent experience, coming alongside a missionary family spending 6 weeks home schooling a set of Romanian twins whom they are in the process of adopting.

Having been abandoned from birth, and having spent the first 5 years of their lives in a children's home, Joey and Gina knew nothing of what it meant to have a healthy relationship with anyone before coming to live with this family. It took them many months to learn how to play nicely with their 4 other brothers. Coming from an environment where rules were virtually not existent, they struggle with boundaries, manners and obedience.

Academically the children, now almost 6 years old, are at about the level as their 3 year-old brother.

Days with the twins are often long and hard. But, seeing them grow, and mature, and knowing that they are safe, warm, well fed, and unconditionally loved has made everyday worth the effort. What a privilege it is to be the voice, hands, and feet of our Lord in the lives of these children.



Photo courtesy of Good Shepherd's Parish

7 confirmed into Good Shepherd's Parish

Seven young people from the Good Shepherd's Parish of the United Methodist Church recently completed their confirmation studies. Classes began in September, and students became full members of their respective churches in a special service on Sunday evening, April 11, at the Hillsboro United Methodist Church.

Joining the Witt United Methodist Church is Austin Furness, son of Kyle and Tina Furness of Hillsboro.

Joining the Irving United Methodist Church are Dalaney R. Caulk and Cody L. Caulk, children of Lane and Laura Caulk of Irving.

Joining the Hillsboro United Methodist Church are Kerriann M. Cooper, daughter of John and Peggy Cooper of Coffeen and Staci Cooper of Hillsboro; Trevor A. Guntren, son of Terri and Joe Logsdon of Hillsboro and Jeff and Hope Guntren; Jordyn T. Smith, daughter of Tim and Kris Carpenter of Hillsboro; and Noah Choi David Bigley, son of Rev. Dr. David and

Rev. Diane Bigley of Hillsboro.

Serving as adult mentors during the confirmation class were Kyle Furness, Laura Sturm, Connie Garrett Caulk, Eric Trader, Brandon Trader, Joyce Small and Rev. Dr. David Bigley.

All of the confirmands, their families, mentors and pastors participated in the worship service. The service was led by Rev. Diane Bigley and other clergy from within the parish including Rev. John Walsh, Pastor Richard Small, Rev. William Cooper (grandfather of confirmand Kerriann Cooper) and Rev. Dr. David Bigley.

Music for the ceremony was provided by Irene Graden and a special slideshow presentation was presented by Eric Trader during the service.

A pre-service meal was held for the confirmands and their families, hosted by Jane Spencer, Janet Carlyle and Judy James. A post-service reception was hosted by Carol Booher and Janet Spencer.



Photo courtesy of Pleasant Grove and Bloomington Grace

Volunteers from Pleasant Grove and Bloomington Grace work on a log home in Mississippi (see related story on page 5).



Photo courtesy of New Salem UMC

New Salem UMC in the Sangamon River District recently observed Scout Ministries Sunday. The congregation honored three Cub Scouts from Scout troops based in Springfield and New Berlin. The scouts participated in the worship service, serving as greeters, acolytes and leading the congregation in the American flag and Christian flag pledges. Pictured from left, are: Ben Kelly, Aaron Evans and Casey Bixby.

Local Church News



Photo courtesy of Christ UMC

Christ UMC backs Haiti tool project

The men of Fairview Heights Christ UMC recently collected more than 100 long handled shovels and rakes, five containers of hammers and saws, one large container of nails, and numerous other tools.

Rev Shane Bishop issued a challenge on Easter Sunday for everyone to bring a tool the following Sunday with a dollar bill attached. He pointed out that our mission includes helping those in our neighborhood as well as helping those around the world. He encouraged families to take their children with them to Lowe's or Home Depot or elsewhere to purchase the tools.

The response resulted in a trailer load of tools along with \$700 in cash donations to help defray the shipping. The expression on the children's faces as they brought their tools to the trailer at the church entrance was priceless.

You can get more information on times and places for collections from your local United Methodist Men or you can call one

of our district or conference UMM officers. Or call Bill Lawrence, Mississippi River District UMM President at 618-236-7311 or email WLL5@att.net

Tools for Haiti – rebuilding Haiti man-to-man, tool-to-tool. The United Methodist Men of the North Central jurisdiction have joined together to provide critically needed tools to help the people of Haiti rebuild their country. Over the next few weeks, they are asking the United Methodist Men of every congregation to lead the effort to collect hand tools. Shipping these tools will be expensive (approximately \$1 per pound), so they are asking that each tool have at least a dollar attached to it. Both new and good used hand tools will be accepted as well as direct financial donations. The primary types of tools needed are those that can be used with cleanup and rebuilding masonry construction. Shovels, rakes, hammers, saws, pry bars, nails, heavy duty cutters that can handle rebar, and small hand tools are all needed.

Pleasant Grove, Bloomington Grace volunteers work in Mississippi

By Anet Satvedi
Pleasant Grove UMC

Fourteen volunteers (12 men and two women) from the Pleasant Grove and Bloomington Grace UMC's, traveled with their tools and carpentry skills a van and a truck with a trailer to Pass Christian, (near Gulf-Port/Biloxi) Miss., a journey of 800 miles (one-way) to help build a log home for Billy Melton a member of the Bible Fellowship Church Pass Christian, Miss., who had lost his home during Hurricane Katrina. Pastor Anet Satvedi and PPRC Chair Homer Bozarth were part of the volunteer work team.

The men spent a week Feb. 21-27, working and building while the women prepared the meals for them at the church

where they all stayed. Daily devotions and evening fellowship time helped to know one another and come closer to God. All volunteers came in close touch with many families such as Rev. Don, his wife Inge and children Andrew, Phillip, Teerza, Timothy, Jeremiah, and Stephen of the Bible Fellowship Church, Rev. Nelson Roth and Betty, lay leader Zack and his wife of the Gulf Haven Mennonite Church in Gulfport and Rev. Jeff and Angie and children Pete and Grant of the Relevant Ministry of Gulfhaven preparing committed Christian leaders for the existing as well new churches.

It was a good and great carpentry work with pleasure and self satisfaction as they worked to glorify the Lord and serve the humanity in need.

Does your church celebrate misfits?

By Bob Morwell
Quincy Union UMC

The youth program at Quincy's Union UMC has grown from an average attendance of four to nearly thirty young people in less than two years.

Numerous factors account for the dramatic growth. One of them is the group's underlying sense of identity and purpose. That identity is reflected in their unusual name ... the Methodist Misfits.

The term was coined by one of the young people in the group and was adopted by the rest. Some parents expressed objections to the moniker, not wishing their kids to be labeled as "misfits" even if it was a self-applied label.

This prompted Pastor Bob Morwell to write an "Identity Statement" for the group...

Some people have asked why we call ourselves the Methodist Misfits? A few have objected to the name.

The truth is that following Jesus makes you a "misfit" in a world where so many people think that "fitting in" at any cost is the most important thing they can do. Peer pressure forces people to conform to all sorts of actions and attitudes that are often deeply destructive ... or just plain dumb. People who desperately want to "fit in"

are often seduced into disastrous choices.

Jesus was a misfit. There's no getting around that fact. He was about something other ... something more ... than looking out for Number One, being popular at any price, and following the crowd even when it was charging toward a cliff. He was crucified for being a misfit, according to the standards of the world. As the Apostle Paul (another misfit) wrote to the church in Rome, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Rom. 12:2)

Yes, some of us felt like misfits even before joining this odd and gracious group. But here, we have discovered Someone who loves us, even with our problems, quirks, eccentricities ... and let's face it, everyone has them! He is the One who has called us together.

That means we will still be "misfits" in a world that judges people by all sorts of shallow, materialistic, and even cruel standards ... Because we follow Jesus, who measures our worth by a radically different standard.

He stands with us. So we stand with him. Even if that makes us "misfits."

We figure we're in good company.

For what it's worth, welcoming and embracing "misfits" has caused this youth program to flourish.



Left to right Barb Kinnison, Barb McCann, Rick Penny (Local UMM President).

UMM chapter awards 'fellows' to women

By Rick Penny
Caseyville UMC

Two John Wesley Fellowship Awards were presented by the Orville Mueth Chapter of the United Methodist Men at Caseyville UMC March 21.

Barb Kinnison and Barb McCann were presented with the Fellowships during morning worship in honor of their service to church and community.

Kinnison served on the missions committee, served as Lay Member to Annual

Conference, created Bear You Up Babies to recognize new residents of Caseyville and new arrivals of the Caseyville UMC. She also served for eight years as the volunteer custodian at the Caseyville UMC.

McCann became part of the first husband/wife John Wesley Fellow in Caseyville with her husband Don. She served as chair of the missions committee at Caseyville UMC, serves still as church treasurer, and coordinates the community food pantry for Caseyville housed in the UMC.

Photo courtesy of Rick Penny

Local Church News

Pastor puts on the pads for semi-pro football team

CHENOA — Robb McCoy is a Dawg.

“It started with an email in September, letting me know when try-outs were going to take place in January,” Pastor Robb McCoy said. “I had started a workout regimen, and an idea started to percolate. At first I thought it was crazy, and in a way I still do.”

The idea was to try out for the Twin City Dawgs, a semi-professional football team based in Bloomington that plays their home games in Chenoa. McCoy is the pastor of Chenoa UMC. He played football in high school and for a year for Illinois Wesleyan University.

“I was the fifth-string right guard. I played in one game when we were winning by about 50,” said McCoy of his last appearance in a football game. It was 1996.

Last summer, the Dawgs started playing on the football field that was once home of the Chenoa High School Redbirds. When McCoy heard that a football team would be playing in Chenoa, he was excited and volunteered to work. Last summer he worked in the press box as the public address announcer or scoreboard operator. After telling Kellie Ridgeway, the owner of the team, that he wanted to help out again the next summer, she responded by telling him the date of the tryout.

“At first I thought, ‘yeah right,’ but then I talked to my wife about it, and she thought I should give it a shot,” McCoy said.

Since deciding to try out for the team, he has taken it one step at a time. The first step was get back into shape at the gym. He lifted weights two or three times a week from October to January. After



Robb McCoy

going to the first practice, he realized that he was not in over his head athletically. The second step was putting on pads for a full-contact practice. The third step will be the first game against another opponent.

“I’ve approached this with excitement and caution,” McCoy said. “I have prayed a lot about it. I have talked to my health insurance provider. I have talked to my District superintendent Keith Zimmerman. I have talked to the PPRC chair. My wife and I have discussed it at length.”

Football is a dangerous game. McCoy has one three-year-old daughter and another daughter expected in August. Some are afraid he’s being reckless, but he insists that he’s being as careful as possible. He also wants to inspire others to take risks for the sake of relationship.

“I guess you could say that this is my risk-taking mission,” McCoy says in reference to Bishop Robert Schnase’s book *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*.



“Where else can I go two or three times a week and be able to build a relationship with 50 young men?”

The Dawgs have a lot of different kinds

of players. Some are just out of high school, staying in shape until they start college football in the fall. Some are ex-college players that are trying to catch on with professional minor league franchises like the Bloomington Xtreme. Others are just guys that like to play football. Their ages range from 18 through their late 30s. McCoy will turn 33 during the season.

“I talked to coach [Skip Sutton] before the try out and told him, ‘I don’t know what I have to offer on the field, but I think I can be a positive influence.’ I told him that I am a pastor, but was not interested in proselytizing,” McCoy said. “After the first try out he told me that he thought I could help the team on the field as well.”

McCoy’s unique life outside of football has made him an interesting bridge between the community and the team. In church, people are starting to talk about their “Pastor Dawg.” At practice, he says that he’s never brought up church or God to any of the players, but every once in awhile the topic comes up, and he doesn’t shy away from it.

“The guys on the team all know I’m a pastor. Some of them call me ‘Preacher.’” McCoy said. “If someone wants to talk to me about religion or God, that’s great, but

“I guess you could say that this is my risk-taking mission,” McCoy says in reference to Bishop Robert Schnase’s book *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. “Where else can I go two or three times a week and be able to build a relationship with 50 young men?”

I’m more interested in building relationships, trust, and earning respect on the field.”

Apparently, he has done just that. The Dawgs first preseason game is May 1 in Chenoa. Last week, coach Skip Sutton approached McCoy and told him that he will be the starting right tackle. He insisted that his role in the community had nothing to do with his place on the team. Since earning respect with his play, McCoy has asked to lead a time of prayer and short devotion before each game.

He’s not sure how well he will be able to lead worship on a Sunday morning after a Saturday night game, but that’s just the next step in this experiment. There are five home games on the Dawgs regular season schedule, which starts May 22.

There are five away games too; none are more than two hours away. He is going to miss at least two games during the season. One game he is officiating a wedding. He thinks he has a pretty good excuse for missing the other game too.

“I’ll be getting ordained,” McCoy said. “I’ll have to go from Pastor Dawg to Reverend Dawg.”

You can read more about Robb McCoy’s journey on his blog at <http://fatpastor.wordpress.com/the-dawgs/>

Saunemin UMC sponsors fifth mission trip to Louisiana Gulf Coast

Members of Saunemin UMC recently returned from their fifth mission trip to the Gulf Coast for hurricane relief.

Ten members of Saunemin UMC were joined by three members of Bonfield First UMC and eight members from Diboll, Texas UMC. The group spent the week of March 20 - March 27 working in the Lake Charles, Louisiana area. This is the second year that the group from Diboll combined with the Saunemin group.

Former Saunemin UMC pastor, Rev. Pinckney Love, Jr. and his wife, Rev. Becky Henson Love, led the Diboll group. Rev. John Cross of Bonfield First UMC made his first trip this year.

Most of the week was spent repairing the home of Vicky Brooks in Merryville, La., that was damaged by Hurricane Rita in September, 2005. The group also worked on a mobile home in DeRidder, La., and the home of Janette Stockman of

Lake Charles. They also had time to meet with Greg and Linda Palumbo of Lake Charles. The group had worked on the Palumbo’s home last year.

Once again this year St. Luke Simpson UMC of Lake Charles graciously housed the team. Rev. Becky Henson Love served as cook for the group. UMCOR’s Response Center in Lake Charles coordinated the housing and work assignments for the team.

This year’s group of 21 brings the total number of volunteers from the five Saunemin UMC trips to 92. They have donated over 3,000 work hours to aid in the recovery of Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi and Hurricane Rita in Louisiana.

If your church is interested in hearing more about the trips, please contact Dave Lowe at 815-832-4960.



Saunemin/Bonfield/Diboll, Tx Group with homeowner Vicky Brooks of Merryville, LA

Conference News

Haiti pilot project readied for Mission Volunteers

By Elliott Wright

STAMFORD, Conn. — Earthquake-related United Methodist mission volunteer service in Haiti will focus on housing, health, education, and pastoral services under a six-month pilot project expected to get underway soon.

The pilot, which could be extended for a longer period, will involve both Haitians and volunteers from outside the country. It is the outcome of consultations among the representatives of the Methodist Church in Haiti, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM), and the Volunteers Office of the General Board of Global Ministries.

The program is open to qualified volunteers from the United States and from Methodist churches in the Caribbean, Latin America, and other parts of the world.

A grant of \$565,000 from UMCOR will support at least six months of the work. It was approved on April 14 by directors of UMCOR and affirmed by the General Board of Global Ministries, of which UMCOR is a part. Discussion of the project in committee indicated that teams can possibly be in the field by early May.

■ Volunteer registration

Since the earthquake devastated Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas on January 12, more than 3,000 persons have registered their interest in going to Haiti as mission volunteers on a website maintained by Global Ministries. The website address is: <http://secure.gbgm-umc.org/HaitiVolunteer>



Sharlene Jean offers a sample of treated drinking water to a child living in a makeshift camp in Gresier, Haiti. The United Methodist Committee on Relief and partner agencies provided water treatment supplies to the camp.

Family housing will be one of the initial priorities, said Melissa Crutchfield, international disaster coordinator for UMCOR. While earthquake-resistant housing will be the long-term goal, she indicated, an immediate need is for transitional housing. Facilities for schools and health services are also priorities. Also included is training for Haitian pastors to become better equipped to deal with earthquake-related stress.

In the pilot stage, volunteer teams will work on projects selected as priorities by the Methodist Church in Haiti. Each team will be made up of 8 to 12 members with skills appropriate to particular projects. US

teams will come through United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM), a grassroots movement that operates on annual conference and jurisdictional levels.

Each team of volunteers will provide from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per qualifying project, amounts that will be matched by funds from the UMCOR grant. Team contributions will go through The Advance, the designated mission-giving channel of the church. All priority sites are expected to be identified by mid-June.

■ A central calendar

Teams will be scheduled (calendared) through a central US-based office, which will assure that necessary paper work covering insurance, finances, and travel is appropriately handled. An office in Haiti will provide links to the church there and coordinate logistics and materials on the ground for teams.

Susan J. Meister of Belleville, Illinois, has been chosen as the calendaring consultant. She is a member of the Signal Hill United Methodist Church in the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference, and has experience in mission, relief, and church communications. She is the mother of five surviving children. Her husband, the Rev. Peter J. Wehrly is pastor of Signal Hill UMC.

■ Process

The first critical step for volunteers is to register online (see above). In the US, these names will go to the jurisdictional and annual conference coordinators, who will assist in assembling teams and coordinating with the calendar office.

The United Methodist Church has been sending volunteer-in-mission teams to Haiti for more than 30 years, and has strong links to congregations and institutions there. Prior to the January earthquake, the UMCOR network was placing approximately 100 teams per year in Haiti.

Mission opportunities

- **Guatemala**
Dates: June 12-18, June 10-25
Church: Springfield First UMC
Contact: Bob Swickard
bswickard@springfieldfirst.org
Work: construction, VBS, dental.
Contact ASAP; must have a passport
- **Masada Retreat Center, Little Grassy Camp, Makanda**
Dates: May 14-15
Churches: Granite City Cluster
Contact: Tim Pate
bro_tim@yahoo.com
Work: construction. Contact ASAP
- **Louisiana Gulf Coast**
Dates: June 12-18
Church: New Hope Parish
Contact: Elaine Gauden
egggauden@ivnet.com
Work: construction
- **Red Bird Mission, Kentucky**
Dates: June 27-July 3
Church: Quest UMC
Contact: Holly Swaim
holly_swaim@comcast.net
Work: construction
Openings available as long as there is room for lodging at Red Bird
- **Heifer Ranch, Perryville, Ark**
Dates: July 6-11
Church: Carbondale First UMC
Contact: Adrienne Hutson
ADWalters1@aol.com
Work: youth; room for 1
- **Dulac, La.**
Dates: July 16-23
Churches: Savoy & Macomb Wesley UMC
Contact: Jim McClarey
jim@savoyumc.org
Work: intergenerational
- **Minneapolis, Minn.**
Dates: July 17-25
Church: Carbondale Grace UMC
Contact: Megan Devenport
megan.devenport@gmail.com
Work: inner city work, youth, cross cultural
Openings: 1 adult chaperone and 1 high school student
- **Red Bird Mission, Kentucky**
Dates: July 25-31
Church: Pittsfield UMC
Contact: Cindy Prentice
ydnicu2@casscomm.com
Work: construction
Room for two more
- **Midwest Mission Distribution Center**
Date: Sept. 22
Church: Prospect Park UMC
Contact: Karen Oplt
koplt@yahoo.com
- **New Orleans, La.**
Dates: November 2010
Church: Edwardsville St. John's UMC
Contact: Karen Reed
st.johnsmallgroup@gmail.com
Work: construction

McCarty returns to the Philippines

Janet McCarty has returned to Kidapawan in the Philippines after spending three months visiting supporting churches in Illinois and Indiana. She is a commissioned deaconess and missionary with the GBGM or the United Methodist Church. Janet currently serves as dean of education and acting president of Southern Philippines Methodist Colleges while teaching education courses.

She was glad to return to warmer weather after spending the winter months in central Illinois. Below is an excerpt from Janet's March email newsletter:

"It was with great joy that I carried back \$2,821 in donations that I gave for SPMC's Food Service Fund, \$400 for a scholarship, \$100 for lodging, \$135 for books, and \$25 for preschool.

"When I arrived, welcome back signs greeted me on my house door, on the school bulletin board and on my desk. The faculty and staff surprised me with a welcome back lunch the first day. Generally, Filipino culture expects the honoree to give the treat or party so I was really pleased to be the recipient of the lunch."



Janet McCarty

Mindanao is currently experiencing a shortage of electricity due to lack of rain which has drastically reduced water supplies to dams that provide hydro-electric power. The typhoons that were in the news recently were in the northern part of the Philippines not in the south where Janet is located. Janet is thankful that she has a rechargeable lantern to use in the evenings and a laptop computer that can be re-charged over night while the electricity is on.

In Janet's April email newsletter she reported, "God is awesome! Last month I placed the "Urgent prayer request — for a licensed librarian" at the end of my newsletter. Within a few days SPMC (Southern Philippines Methodist Colleges) was able to employ a licensed librarian who started to work on April 1. A big thank you from the bottom of my heart to all those who prayed!"

Conference News

MMDC now an UMCOR cooperating depot

The Midwest Mission Distribution Center and the United Methodist Committee on Relief have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as of February 2009.

The Center is now a Cooperating Depot in the UMCOR Relief Supply Network. This means that MMDC is an official drop off site for UMCOR Kits and works closely with UMCOR and other Cooperating Depots to provide relief supplies to devastated areas nationally and worldwide.

All shipments of "UMCOR" kits are made only with the approval of UMCOR.

MMDC will continue to make kits and projects specific to the Center such as Haiti School Bags, Children's Hospital Gowns, "Cover Them with Love" quilts, Haiti School Desks and Medicine Cabinets as well as the "UMCOR" kits. The Center will continue to take bikes & sewing machines for this part of the ministry.

IGRC selected for scouting pilot project

NASHVILLE — The United Methodist Office of Scouting Ministries is looking for advocates to help Illinois Great Rivers Conference churches establish and expand scouting ministry opportunities.

The National Office of Scouting Ministries has selected the area as a pilot conference to test the effectiveness of "scouting ministry specialists."

Scouting ministry specialists will also help churches enrich their relationship with existing Scout units. Fifty percent of the Scouts in troops chartered by United Methodist churches are unchurched.

"I have been involved in scouting for over 40 years," said Ray Gessel, co-conference scouting coordinator. "Scouting is fun; it provides high-adventure opportunities, develops leaders, provides fellowship and offers service opportunities.

"I have had the honor and privilege of serving on over 200 Eagle Scout boards of review that determine if Scouts are qualified for the awards," he said. "Almost without exception they are more mature and aware of their responsibilities as good citizens than those not involved in scouting."

Currently serving with Gessel as co-coordinator, Dennis Luessenheide, is a 34-year veteran of scouting, nine years as chair of the District (Eagle) Advancement Board.

For further information about becoming a scouting ministry specialist, contact LaNisha Sayles at lsayles@gcum.org, or call 866-297-4312. Please include name, address, phone number and email address.

The future? Think mobile, mobile, mobile...

By Chris Herlinger

CHICAGO — Trying to understand the future of global communication? A small hand-held device already takes pride of place, says a noted expert on digital communication.

Think mobile — the mobile phone with the capabilities of television, web surfing and texting.

"Mobile is at the center of everything," Jeffrey Cole, who directs the Center for the Digital Future at the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism, told participants at a Saturday, April 10, plenary session Religion Communication Congress 2010 in Chicago. "It's truly the transformational device."

More so than the personal computer, the mobile phone is being embraced by more people globally than any other single device — transforming lives everywhere, be they suburban kids in North America who stay in touch with friends through texting or farmers in Africa who use the phone to determine new markets for their goods.

The number of those with a mobile phone in their hands is estimated at 4.7 billion — the world's estimated population is 6.8 billion.

"There is nothing as a species that we share more than the mobile phone," said Cole. "The future is in mobile."

Cole said that studies by the California-based center also point to a future in which various media will survive but as smaller industries, particularly as they continue to move more fully to the Web and are seen increasingly in new formats.

Cole said he understands the frustration



"Your learning curve needs to be steeper than your action curve. In practical terms, that means you don't have to be on Twitter. But you have to understand Twitter."

of faith-based organizations trying to determine which media platforms to embrace, discard or ignore. Since the time of the ancient Greeks, those of every era and epoch have lamented that never before has the pace of change been so swift, Cole said. "But in this case, it might be true," he said to the RCCongress 2010 participants.

His advice to faith-based communicators? "Your learning curve needs to be steeper than your action curve." In practical terms, that means "you don't have to be on Twitter. But you have to understand Twitter."

The challenge of new media platforms cannot be underestimated, Cole said, given that studies show that teen-agers are now spending most of their waking hours in front of a screen of some sort.

Broadband, Cole argued, "changes everything" not merely because of the speed with which it transmits information but the fact that so many people are now "constantly on" — connected to friends and colleagues via mobile phones.

Cole said that teen-agers are avid consumers of news — in fact, he said, studies indicate they are actually more interested in news than teen-agers 70 years ago. But today's young people will never turn to the printed form of newspapers for their news, Cole said. Any time a reader of a printed newspaper dies, Cole said, that reader is not replaced with a new, younger reader.

A decade ago, Cole said, he predicted that printed newspapers had about a 30-

year future. Now, Cole predicts, newspapers in printed form have perhaps a five-year future.

Magazines, he said, have more of a future in their traditional form. While some will continue to move to the Web, others such as ad-heavy women's magazines will likely survive because of their sheer size.

As for television, Cole predicted the medium will continue a trend where it "escapes from the home" and "becomes a constant companion" on the Web and is watched on computers and mobile phones.

Movies will also survive, Cole said, though with people watching through different platforms. "No one will watch 'Avatar' for the first time on a cell phone, though they might for the third or fourth time," he said.

Cole also called social networking "the real deal" — noting that with 400 million active users, Facebook, were it a country, would be the third largest country in the world.

But Cole also compared sites like Facebook to nightclubs, which ultimately lose popularity when everyone wants to be seen at them, and eventually become victims of their own success. Noting the practice of mothers wanting to "friend" their children on Facebook, Cole said: "The worst thing (that can happen in) a nightclub is running into your mother."

Chris Herlinger is a communicator with the humanitarian organization Church World Service.

Deeper Still event focuses on worship, hospitality

By Beth Fender
New Streams Coordinator

MT. VERNON — More than 100 people gathered April 16-17 at Mt. Vernon West Salem Trinity UMC for *Drinking Deeper and Sharing the Cup*, a two-day experiential retreat focusing on worship and hospitality. The event was the second in the Deeper Still series sponsored by the IGRC New Streams Team.

Members of several Mt. Vernon-area churches partnered with the New Streams Team to provide participants with an experience of hospitality and worship in settings including baptismal renewal, a Love Feast, a foot-washing/hand-washing service, and Holy Communion.

Participants also had the opportunity to offer hospitality to those arriving for the closing worship service with Bishop Gregory Palmer preaching. Bishop Palmer and Kaskaskia River District Superintendent Cynthia Jones provided leadership for a number of teaching sessions during the event, interweaving the

spiritual disciplines of worship and hospitality. Rev. Brad Henson, pastor at West Salem Trinity UMC, and Rev. Annette Rummel, deacon at Mt. Vernon First UMC, along with the worship bands from their churches, created worship environments that welcomed everyone to join in the praise and worship of God.

In their evaluations of the event, participants reported experiencing the presence of God at many points throughout the weekend. Bishop Palmer's preaching was a high point for many participants, as was the hand-washing service. "Really, it was very obvious that God was present with us the entire weekend," reported one participant.

Those attending also expressed appreciation for the opportunity to connect with people from other United Methodist churches. In the words of one participant, "being able to share this event with lots of people I didn't know helped me to experience the presence of God." Those attending had the opportunity to interact with others through table discussion, reflection groups, and breakout sessions around specific areas

of hospitality.

Event participants also served together in hospitality roles that may have seemed new or unfamiliar. One such role was experienced by the "Undercover" group.

Members of that team intentionally spread out throughout the sanctuary for the closing worship service, with instructions to watch for those who had not been present all weekend and to do whatever was necessary to help them feel welcome and included. Even though this required dividing attention between service to others and one's own experience of worship, many who had this experience were eager to start a similar ministry in their own congregation.

The next event in the Deeper Still series, *Denying Oneself and Giving Life to Another*, is scheduled for November 19-20, in Champaign. This event will focus on experiencing fasting and sheltering the homeless. To receive further information as it becomes available, please contact Beth Fender, Coordinator of New Streams, at 217-529-2611 or via e-mail at bfender@igrc.org.

Conference News

Revamping the IGRC website just a part of the job



By Paul Black

After nearly three years, it was time.

Over the past several months, the IGRC Communications Team has been planning for a major makeover of the IGRC website. When it was unveiled in October 2007, it was a major advance into the world of content-management websites.

■ A major shift

With it came a major shift in how news was gathered and disseminated. In the past, news was first published in *The Current* and then posted to the web. In early 2007, we began changing the news cycle in order to disseminate the news in a more timely manner.

And it has produced amazing results.

There has been a 400-fold increase in traffic to the IGRC website over its previous model.

But even as traffic grew, the infrastructure put in place three years ago is not sufficient for the demands of today. In short, we've outgrown our current website. There is no juice left in the orange. So with new demands on the horizon, it was apparent we needed to invest in a new framework to carry the freight.

Some areas of the current website have grown beyond expectations while other areas never fully developed. The result was that the website was becoming bulky and difficult to manage.

Likewise, we suspected, that navigation was getting more difficult and persons were getting frustrated in trying to find things on the site.

■ Survey said ...

And so, as we began contemplating a

new design, we invited you to evaluate our current website. On March 5, 5,775 invitations were sent seeking your advice on helping set parameters and guidelines for the design process.

In all, 532 responded – a 9.2 percent response rate – and your insights have confirmed some of what we have suspected and there have been a few surprises as well.

Among the survey results:

- 29 percent are very satisfied and another 39 percent were somewhat satisfied with the current website. Only 13 percent expressed some dissatisfaction or a great deal of dissatisfaction.

- 55 percent of respondents visit the IGRC website on at least a weekly basis. Another 28 percent visit at least once a month.

- When coming to the conference website, 40 percent come seeking conference news, 14 percent come seeking ministry resources, 16 percent come seeking contact information and 13 percent for calendar and event information.

- 80 percent were able to find what they were looking for, but 16 percent (1 in 6 respondents) were not.

- Navigation and layout/design were the two areas graded the lowest among the website attributes, while accuracy of information, quality, quantity and freshness of content were given high marks.

- 90 percent of respondents were likely to return to the IGRC website.

- 61 percent are very likely or highly likely to use the site as a primary source of information while 16 percent rated the website as somewhat unlikely or very unlikely to be a primary source of information.

- 36 percent rated the IGRC website as average. 6 percent rated the site well above

average, 28 percent above average, 11 percent below average and 4 percent well below average

- 89 percent of respondents use Facebook, but only 15 percent were members of the IGRC Facebook group. However, during the time the survey was open, the IGRC Facebook group grew from 300 to 420 members – meaning 30 percent of those that were not members joined as a result of the survey. A smaller increase was also registered on the IGRC Acts Bible Study Facebook page.

■ Design phase

After meeting with conference leaders in February and with the results of the March survey, the Communications Ministry Team entered into a contract with Brick Rivers Technology of Exeter, N.H. to design and implement a new IGRC website.

Brick River has developed 32 of the 63 annual conference websites in the United States and so they have particular expertise in how conferences work, function and the kind of information needed by leaders, churches and church members.

Taking the information from the surveys and the information from conference leaders, the design and development of a new website is underway.

■ Constant reinvention

Communications today is very different than it was even three years ago. In internet terms, three years is a lifetime and so we are undertaking a new design for a new time.

In the upcoming weeks, you will see the new website. We hope that you will see these changes as positive changes.

We continue to welcome your feedback as our ministry is about serving and enabling your ministry to occur.

Communities of Shalom build community

By Clayton Coffey
IGRC Shalom Zone Coordinator

Communities of Shalom seek to build community, weave unity, and transform the world one community at a time.

Shalom Zones were created in a response to the Los Angeles rioting in 1992. A mandate was adopted by the General Conference later that year.

Shalom (Zones) Communities have been trained in over 40 annual conferences and IGRC has several communities with new communities being added.

Asset-Based Community Development – With Shalom training a team looks at the assets within the community and how to keep more resources in the home community. Often today assets are moved out of our communities for other areas. In Shalom we look at the whole community and how we can improve life in the community. Individual's gifts and abilities are given opportunities for affirmation and implementation.

Collaboration – Shalom is not one church alone working for the community. A Shalom Community is congregations, community residents, community organizations, institutions, and businesses all working together to strengthen the community. Shalom invites individuals and groups to serve together for one another. The collaboration benefits everyone in the community.

Faith in Action – “What good it is, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat our fill,’ and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” James 2:14-17 (NRSV). Nothing speaks more loudly than faith in action. Jesus met people where they were and showed them God's love. Shalom communities provide opportunities to share God's love in community.

Systemic Change – Shalom provides a way for people to experience freedom, hope, and justice in their communities. Shalom Communities help people become empowered to solve local problems and provide care for people within the community. Shalom Communities provide immediate care for people while working for long-term solutions to alleviate chronic needs. Relief and resolution are part of working for the common good. Shalom provides the community to resolve concerns and give people the opportunities for freedom, hope, and peace.

To learn more about the opportunities a Shalom Community could provide your community contact Rev. Clayton Coffey, IGRC Coordinator at P.O. Box 22, Sandoval, IL 62882 or call 618-267-5226.



Clayton and Joyce Coffey participate in a hand washing ceremony at the April 16-17 Deeper Still event.

Chaddock service retells Easter story

By Chaplain Gary Livesay

QUINCY — I often say Chaddock has the most unique and creative student-led chapel services in the world. Here's proof:

In Chaddock's first chapel after Easter, seven Appuhn cottage clients wrote short rap songs about how they felt certain Biblical characters thought following the Crucifixion and Resurrection. Clients rapped the “voices” of Peter, John, Mary, Pontius Pilate, Thomas, and Jesus.

An electronic keyboard with a rap beat was plugged into an amplifier for the special “musical effect.” Several of the girls reenacted the Walk to Emmaus scripture. As a fitting end to the service, clients were given the option to have Holy Communion with the famous song *Celebration* by Kool and the Gang in the background. Unconventional, but so meaningful to these young people and all in attendance!”

Apportionments Update

Church	CS/Admin Appt'd.	Pct. Paid	B/ConnMir Appt'd.	Pct. Paid	Church	CS/Admin Appt'd.	Pct. Paid	B/ConnMir Appt'd.	Pct. Paid
Cache River District					Olmsted UMC	\$1,680	25%	\$1,080	25%
Anna UMC	\$9,804	7.14%	\$6,312	7.92%	Pinckneyville UMC	\$15,888	25%	\$10,224	25%
Belknap UMC	\$1,308	8.33%	\$840	8.33%	Powers UMC	\$1,020	25%	\$660	25%
West Eden UMC	\$456	25%	\$300	25%	Sesser UMC	\$8,148	25%	\$5,244	25%
Benton First UMC	\$13,728	8.33%	\$8,832	8.33%	Valier UMC	\$1,944	16.67%	\$1,248	16.67%
Big Prairie UMC	\$636	8.33%	\$408	8.33%	Stiritz UMC	\$2,328	25%	\$1,500	25%
Maunie UMC	\$660	0%	\$432	0%	Sunfield UMC	\$7,692	25%	\$4,956	25%
Concord UMC	\$540	0%	\$348	0%	Tamms UMC	\$2,424	25%	\$1,560	25%
Broughton UMC	\$1,200	25%	\$780	25%	Tate's Chapel UMC	\$2,304	25%	\$1,476	25%
Cache Chapel UMC	\$1,740	25%	\$1,116	25%	Vergennes Faith UMC	\$2,712	25%	\$1,740	25%
Cairo Tigert Memorial UMC	\$4,380	0%	\$2,820	0%	Vienna UMC	\$14,856	16.67%	\$9,564	16.67%
Mounds UMC	\$2,148	8.33%	\$1,380	8.33%	West Frankfort Trinity UMC	\$22,104	25%	\$14,220	25%
Carbondale First UMC	\$45,420	25%	\$29,232	25%	Zeigler UMC	\$2,424	0%	\$1,560	0%
Carbondale Grace UMC	\$16,068	25%	\$10,344	25%	Royalton UMC	\$2,124	0%	\$1,368	0%
Carmi Emmanuel UMC	\$14,964	25%	\$9,636	25%	Total Cache River	\$579,720	21.01%	\$373,092	21.04%
Carmi First UMC	\$12,252	25%	\$7,884	25%	Embarras River District				
Carrier Mills UMC	\$9,348	25%	\$6,012	25%	Asbury UMC	\$1,020	25%	\$660	25%
Carterville UMC	\$13,440	25%	\$8,652	25%	Dexter UMC	\$696	0%	\$444	0%
Cedar Grove UMC	\$5,772	25%	\$3,720	25%	Funkhouser UMC	\$552	50%	\$348	50%
Pittsburg UMC	\$672	25%	\$432	25%	Salem UMC	\$408	0%	\$264	0%
Center UMC	\$396	25%	\$252	25%	Altamont First UMC	\$13,200	25%	\$8,496	25%
Cypress UMC	\$744	25%	\$480	25%	Annapolis UMC	\$960	9.38%	\$612	3.27%
Luther's Chapel UMC	\$636	16.67%	\$408	16.67%	Kirk Chapel UMC	\$960	25%	\$612	25%
Cobden Jesus Es El Senor UMC	\$2,676	25%	\$1,716	25%	Beecher City UMC	\$3,324	25%	\$2,148	25%
Colp UMC	\$1,764	25%	\$1,128	25%	Shumway UMC	\$3,252	25%	\$2,088	25%
Crab Orchard UMC	\$2,904	25%	\$1,872	25%	Brownstown UMC	\$2,904	25%	\$1,872	25%
Pleasant Grove UMC	\$1,296	0%	\$828	0%	Emmanuel UMC	\$888	25%	\$576	25%
New Burnside UMC	\$1,980	12.45%	\$1,272	12.5%	Casey UMC	\$22,500	16.67%	\$14,484	16.67%
Cross Road UMC	\$5,184	25%	\$3,336	25%	Charleston Otterbein UMC	\$7,704	16.67%	\$4,956	16.67%
Crossville UMC	\$8,328	25%	\$5,364	25%	Charleston Wesley UMC	\$43,140	25%	\$27,768	25%
Zion UMC	\$1,740	25%	\$1,116	25%	Cowden UMC	\$3,888	25%	\$2,508	25%
Dahlgren UMC	\$1,524	25%	\$984	25%	Lakewood UMC	\$3,936	25%	\$2,532	25%
Macedonia UMC	\$1,104	25%	\$708	25%	Greenup UMC	\$3,564	16.67%	\$2,292	16.67%
Dale UMC	\$612	25%	\$396	25%	Toledo UMC	\$3,360	25%	\$2,160	25%
Oliver UMC	\$516	25%	\$336	25%	Cottonwood UMC	\$1,248	25%	\$804	25%
Webb's Chapel UMC	\$624	25%	\$396	25%	Pleasant Valley UMC	\$636	25%	\$408	25%
DeSoto UMC	\$2,088	25%	\$1,344	25%	Salem UMC	\$2,160	25%	\$1,392	25%
Vergennes Wesley UMC	\$1,632	25%	\$1,056	25%	Woodbury UMC	\$2,556	25%	\$1,644	25%
Hallidayboro UMC	\$1,392	25%	\$900	25%	Dogwood Prairie UMC	\$4,788	25%	\$3,084	25%
DuQuoin UMC	\$16,056	16.67%	\$10,332	16.67%	Seed Chapel UMC	\$2,820	28.69%	\$1,812	28.59%
Eldorado UMC	\$7,980	0%	\$5,136	0%	Hume UMC	\$1,968	50%	\$1,272	50%
Raleigh UMC	\$984	25%	\$636	25%	Chrisman UMC	\$5,964	25%	\$3,840	25%
Elkville UMC	\$1,020	10.78%	\$660	18.18%	Scotland UMC	\$1,092	16.67%	\$708	16.67%
Enfield UMC	\$3,924	25%	\$2,520	25%	Clay's Prairie UMC	\$312	25%	\$204	25%
Wesley Chapel UMC	\$1,536	25%	\$984	25%	Vermilion UMC	\$2,844	25%	\$1,824	25%
Equality UMC	\$2,700	25%	\$1,740	25%	Paris Otterbein UMC	\$7,296	16.67%	\$4,704	16.67%
Wesley Chapel UMC	\$2,952	25%	\$1,896	25%	Grandview UMC	\$1,080	25%	\$696	25%
Ridgway UMC	\$2,016	25%	\$1,296	25%	Effingham Centenary UMC	\$31,608	25%	\$20,340	25%
Fountain UMC	\$1,236	25%	\$792	25%	Stewardson UMC	\$6,420	25%	\$4,128	25%
Galatia UMC	\$1,908	25%	\$1,236	25%	Mode UMC	\$1,896	25%	\$1,224	25%
Glendale UMC	\$4,464	25%	\$2,868	25%	Strasburg UMC	\$3,840	100%	\$2,472	100%
Eddyville UMC	\$1,512	25%	\$972	25%	Washington UMC	\$1,632	25%	\$1,056	25%
Taylor UMC	\$2,112	0%	\$1,356	0%	Gaskill UMC	\$1,104	25%	\$708	25%
Golconda UMC	\$3,492	16.67%	\$2,244	16.67%	Flat Rock UMC	\$6,384	0%	\$4,104	0%
Rosiclare UMC	\$1,968	25%	\$1,260	25%	Harmon UMC	\$1,092	16.67%	\$708	16.67%
Goreville UMC	\$9,576	8.33%	\$6,168	13.65%	Harvest UMC	\$2,640	8.33%	\$1,704	8.33%
Creal Springs UMC	\$3,504	41.67%	\$2,256	41.67%	Humboldt UMC	\$2,196	25%	\$1,416	25%
Grand Tower UMC	\$2,292	25%	\$1,476	25%	Kansas UMC	\$2,748	25%	\$1,776	25%
Wolf Lake UMC	\$1,656	25%	\$1,068	25%	Lerna UMC	\$948	0%	\$612	0%
Ware UMC	\$840	25%	\$540	25%	Johnstown UMC	\$792	25%	\$516	25%
West Frankfort Antioch UMC	\$3,708	25%	\$2,388	25%	Marshall Armstrong UMC	\$6,048	25%	\$3,900	25%
West Frankfort Central UMC	\$2,652	25%	\$1,704	25%	Marshall Emmanuel UMC	\$4,836	25%	\$3,108	25%
West Frankfort First UMC	\$2,844	16.67%	\$1,836	16.67%	Zion UMC	\$4,152	25%	\$2,676	25%
Mount Etna UMC	\$756	25%	\$480	25%	Dunlap UMC	\$1,980	25%	\$1,272	25%
Greenwood UMC	\$2,340	25%	\$1,512	25%	Marshall Asbury UMC	\$936	25%	\$600	25%
Dorris Heights UMC	\$756	33.33%	\$480	33.33%	Marshall First UMC	\$19,920	25%	\$12,828	25%
Mount Moriah UMC	\$852	25%	\$540	25%	Patton UMC	\$2,904	25%	\$1,872	25%
Harrisburg First UMC	\$18,384	25%	\$11,832	25%	Marshall Trinity UMC	\$5,904	0%	\$3,804	0%
Herrin UMC	\$12,528	0%	\$8,064	0%	Brick UMC	\$2,088	25%	\$1,344	25%
Hurst UMC	\$1,104	25%	\$708	25%	Martinsville UMC	\$3,624	33.33%	\$2,328	33.33%
Johnston City UMC	\$8,760	0%	\$5,640	0%	Mattoon First UMC	\$33,072	25%	\$21,288	25%
Energy UMC	\$2,484	0%	\$1,596	0%	Coffeen UMC	\$2,016	16.67%	\$1,296	16.67%
Jonesboro UMC	\$1,620	25%	\$1,044	25%	Fillmore UMC	\$2,004	25%	\$1,296	25%
Walnut Grove UMC	\$1,716	25%	\$1,104	25%	Hillsboro UMC	\$8,760	16.67%	\$5,640	16.67%
Joppa UMC	\$1,572	33.33%	\$1,008	33.33%	Irving UMC	\$1,428	25%	\$912	25%
Oak Grove UMC	\$1,056	25%	\$684	25%	Witt UMC	\$4,116	25%	\$2,652	25%
Karnak UMC	\$5,784	25%	\$3,720	25%	Montrose UMC	\$1,188	25%	\$768	25%
Marion Aldersgate UMC	\$56,724	25%	\$36,504	25%	Neoga UMC	\$10,416	25%	\$6,696	25%
Marion First UMC	\$23,004	25%	\$14,808	25%	Etna UMC	\$1,452	25%	\$936	25%
McHenry UMC	\$144	25%	\$96	25%	Newton Grace UMC	\$9,180	25%	\$5,916	25%
McLeansboro First UMC	\$10,728	16.67%	\$6,912	16.67%	Nokomis UMC	\$8,292	25%	\$5,340	25%
Metropolis UMC	\$26,412	21.67%	\$17,004	19.74%	Oakland UMC	\$2,916	25%	\$1,872	25%
Murphysboro UMC	\$23,640	25%	\$15,216	25%	Westfield UMC	\$6,492	25%	\$4,176	25%
Norris City UMC	\$8,340	16.67%	\$5,364	16.67%	Oak Ridge UMC	\$1,200	25%	\$780	25%
Shiloh UMC	\$1,392	25%	\$900	25%	Oblong Central UMC	\$9,540	0%	\$6,144	0%
Ohio Chapel UMC	\$2,436	25%	\$1,572	25%	Oblong Evangelical UMC	\$9,708	26.97%	\$6,252	27.22%
Shawneetown UMC	\$2,448	25%	\$1,572	25%	Oliver UMC	\$1,764	25%	\$1,140	25%
Cave In Rock UMC	\$1,092	25%	\$696	25%	Palestine First UMC	\$2,244	25%	\$1,440	25%
Elizabethtown UMC	\$444	25%	\$288	25%	Palestine Grace UMC	\$1,488	25%	\$960	25%
Olive Branch UMC	\$948	16.67%	\$612	16.67%					

Apportionments Update

Church	CS/Admin Appt'd.	Pct. Paid	B/ConnMir Appt'd.	Pct. Paid	Church	CS/Admin Appt'd.	Pct. Paid	B/ConnMir Appt'd.	Pct. Paid
Paris First UMC	\$17,244	25%	\$11,100	25%	Toulon UMC	\$10,296	16.67%	\$6,624	16.67%
Pearl Chapel UMC	\$2,712	25%	\$1,740	25%	Tremont UMC	\$26,232	16.67%	\$16,884	16.67%
Robinson First UMC	\$17,520	1.08%	\$11,268	1.07%	Varna UMC	\$3,480	25%	\$2,244	25%
Robinson Otterbein UMC	\$10,968	0%	\$7,056	16.67%	Washburn UMC	\$3,756	0%	\$2,424	0%
Hutsonville UMC	\$2,352	25%	\$1,512	25%	Washington Evangelical UMC	\$15,432	25%	\$9,936	25%
Fourth Street UMC	\$3,156	25%	\$2,040	25%	White Chapel UMC	\$3,996	25%	\$2,568	25%
Wesley Chapel UMC	\$1,224	25%	\$780	25%	Kingston Mines UMC	\$3,084	8.33%	\$1,992	8.33%
Shelbyville First UMC	\$19,212	25%	\$12,372	25%	Monterey UMC	\$2,460	25%	\$1,584	25%
Fairview UMC	\$1,020	25%	\$660	25%	Willow Hill UMC	\$23,700	25%	\$15,252	25%
Trinity Chapel UMC	\$1,716	25%	\$1,104	25%	Wyoming UMC	\$6,168	25%	\$3,972	25%
Saint Elmo First UMC	\$9,300	25%	\$5,988	25%	Neponset UMC	\$2,772	1.8%	\$1,788	0%
Sugar Grove UMC	\$2,136	25%	\$1,368	25%	Total Illinois River	\$921,852	20.17%	\$593,352	20.58%
Tower Hill UMC	\$3,072	25%	\$1,980	25%					
Ramsey UMC	\$2,976	0%	\$1,920	0%	Iroquois River District				
Herrick UMC	\$2,916	25%	\$1,884	25%	Allerton UMC	\$1,344	25%	\$864	25%
Vandalia Haley Chapel UMC	\$2,076	25%	\$1,332	25%	Arcola UMC	\$12,204	25%	\$7,848	25%
Mount Carmel UMC	\$456	0%	\$288	0%	Arthur UMC	\$12,516	16.67%	\$8,052	16.67%
Vandalia Luster Chapel UMC	\$204	25%	\$132	25%	Batestown UMC	\$2,088	25%	\$1,344	25%
Watson UMC	\$3,588	25%	\$2,316	25%	Union Corner UMC	\$1,956	25%	\$1,260	25%
West Liberty UMC	\$1,500	25%	\$960	25%	Bellflower UMC	\$2,916	25%	\$1,872	25%
Kedron UMC	\$1,272	25%	\$828	25%	Bement UMC	\$7,380	16.67%	\$4,752	16.67%
Willow Hill UMC	\$3,084	16.67%	\$1,992	16.67%	Bondville UMC	\$3,480	25%	\$2,244	25%
Falmouth UMC	\$2,040	25%	\$1,308	25%	Camargo UMC	\$5,832	25%	\$3,756	25%
Windsor UMC	\$5,184	25%	\$3,336	25%	Catlin UMC	\$13,944	25%	\$8,976	25%
Zion Hill UMC	\$3,120	25%	\$2,016	25%	Centerville UMC	\$4,776	25%	\$3,072	25%
Zion UMC	\$1,692	25%	\$1,092	25%	Seymour UMC	\$1,716	25%	\$1,104	25%
Total Embarras River	\$505,728	22.03%	\$325,584	22.39%	White Heath UMC	\$1,536	25%	\$996	25%
					Champaign Faith UMC	\$46,740	25%	\$30,072	25%
Illinois River District					Champaign First UMC	\$74,316	25%	\$47,832	25%
Bartonville UMC	\$6,948	20%	\$4,476	20%	Champaign New Horizon UMC	\$53,292	25%	\$34,296	25%
Blue Ridge UMC	\$1,644	25%	\$1,056	25%	Cissna Park UMC	\$2,412	25%	\$1,548	25%
Bradford Leet Memorial UMC	\$6,132	0%	\$3,948	0%	Rankin UMC	\$2,916	16.67%	\$1,884	16.67%
Boyd's Grove UMC	\$3,252	25%	\$2,088	25%	Collison UMC	\$1,104	25%	\$708	25%
Brimfield UMC	\$1,344	25%	\$864	25%	Countryside UMC	\$12,072	25%	\$7,776	25%
Canton South Park UMC	\$2,904	25%	\$1,872	25%	Danville Bowman Avenue UMC	\$3,864	25%	\$2,484	25%
Shields' Chapel UMC	\$6,288	25%	\$4,044	25%	Danville Farmers Chapel UMC	\$3,744	25%	\$2,412	25%
Canton Wesley UMC	\$53,328	25%	\$34,320	25%	Danville First UMC	\$10,632	25%	\$6,852	25%
Chillicothe First UMC	\$21,312	8.33%	\$13,716	11.98%	Danville Saint James UMC	\$62,568	25%	\$40,260	25%
Crossroads UMC	\$62,208	3.14%	\$40,032	8.33%	Donovan UMC	\$3,936	25%	\$2,532	25%
Cuba UMC	\$5,160	7.73%	\$3,312	0%	Crescent City UMC	\$1,968	25%	\$1,260	25%
London Mills UMC	\$5,496	25%	\$3,540	25%	East Lynn UMC	\$1,620	0%	\$1,044	0%
Dayspring UMC	\$2,364	0%	\$1,524	0%	Fisher UMC	\$7,548	8.33%	\$4,860	8.33%
East Peoria Faith UMC	\$4,380	0%	\$2,820	0%	Fithian UMC	\$5,640	16.67%	\$3,624	16.67%
Zion Evangelical UMC	\$5,160	8.33%	\$3,324	8.33%	Oakwood UMC	\$7,212	25%	\$4,644	25%
Deer Creek UMC	\$1,776	25%	\$1,140	25%	Hebron UMC	\$1,680	25%	\$1,080	25%
Delavan UMC	\$11,004	25%	\$7,080	25%	Gibson City UMC	\$21,108	25%	\$13,584	25%
Dunlap Prospect UMC	\$22,404	16.67%	\$14,424	16.67%	Gifford UMC	\$1,932	16.67%	\$1,236	16.67%
East Peoria First UMC	\$18,936	25%	\$12,192	25%	Ludlow UMC	\$1,572	33.33%	\$1,008	33.33%
Edwards UMC	\$1,332	0%	\$864	0%	Gilman UMC	\$7,524	0%	\$4,836	0%
Eureka UMC	\$14,052	25%	\$9,036	25%	Ashkum UMC	\$3,180	25%	\$2,052	25%
Farmington UMC	\$7,272	8.33%	\$4,680	8.33%	Hindsboro UMC	\$1,548	25%	\$996	0%
Glasford UMC	\$10,968	4.92%	\$7,056	5.1%	Mount Gilead UMC	\$720	0%	\$468	0%
Green Valley First UMC	\$3,696	0%	\$2,388	0%	Homer UMC	\$9,012	0%	\$5,796	0%
Hopedale UMC	\$4,080	25%	\$2,628	25%	Hoopston UMC	\$9,900	25%	\$6,372	25%
Hanna City UMC	\$5,808	41.67%	\$3,732	41.67%	Wellington UMC	\$2,712	16.67%	\$1,752	16.67%
Trivoli UMC	\$4,584	25%	\$2,952	25%	Iroquois UMC	\$1,092	25%	\$708	25%
Henry UMC	\$8,076	4.71%	\$5,196	7.78%	Sheldon UMC	\$1,380	0%	\$888	0%
Kewanee First UMC	\$19,164	25%	\$12,336	25%	Loda UMC	\$9,756	25%	\$6,288	25%
Lacon Sparland UMC	\$5,580	16.67%	\$3,588	16.67%	Mahomet UMC	\$31,440	25%	\$20,232	25%
LaFayette UMC	\$4,356	0%	\$2,796	0%	Mansfield UMC	\$9,900	25%	\$6,372	25%
West Jersey UMC	\$1,356	16.67%	\$876	16.67%	Melvin UMC	\$7,188	0%	\$4,632	0%
Laura UMC	\$4,512	16.67%	\$2,904	16.67%	Sibley UMC	\$2,736	0%	\$1,752	0%
Monica UMC	\$2,340	16.67%	\$1,512	16.67%	Middlefork UMC	\$3,552	25%	\$2,280	25%
Lewistown UMC	\$10,236	16.67%	\$6,588	16.67%	Milford UMC	\$4,608	25%	\$2,964	25%
Mackinaw UMC	\$15,168	25%	\$9,756	25%	Goodwine UMC	\$876	16.67%	\$564	16.67%
Manito UMC	\$8,532	25%	\$5,496	25%	Stockland UMC	\$2,340	25%	\$1,500	25%
Maples Mill UMC	\$3,864	25%	\$2,496	25%	Mount Vernon UMC	\$2,640	25%	\$1,692	25%
Morton UMC	\$44,520	25%	\$28,656	25%	Newman UMC	\$3,924	25%	\$2,520	25%
Mossville UMC	\$13,668	25%	\$8,796	25%	Murdock UMC	\$1,272	25%	\$816	25%
Mount Pleasant UMC	\$708	25%	\$456	25%	Ogden UMC	\$3,900	25%	\$2,520	25%
Norris UMC	\$1,584	25%	\$1,020	25%	Broadlands UMC	\$4,368	25%	\$2,808	25%
Providence Chapel UMC	\$948	16.67%	\$612	16.67%	Onarga UMC	\$7,272	16.67%	\$4,680	16.67%
Pekin First UMC	\$40,548	25%	\$26,088	25%	Piper City UMC	\$3,960	16.67%	\$2,544	16.67%
Pekin Grace UMC	\$38,784	25%	\$24,960	25%	Paxton First UMC	\$16,620	33.33%	\$10,704	33.33%
Peoria Bethel UMC	\$15,336	25%	\$9,876	25%	Pleasant Grove UMC	\$828	25%	\$540	25%
Peoria Bradley Epworth UMC	\$32,796	25%	\$21,108	25%	Quest UMC	\$6,072	16.67%	\$3,912	16.67%
Peoria First UMC	\$161,052	25%	\$103,656	25%	Rantoul First UMC	\$20,784	16.67%	\$13,368	8.33%
Peoria Madison Avenue UMC	\$6,024	0%	\$3,876	0%	Roberts UMC	\$1,644	25%	\$1,068	25%
Peoria Forrest Hill UMC	\$12,828	25%	\$8,256	25%	Thawville UMC	\$960	0%	\$624	0%
Peoria Northwest UMC	\$14,472	16.67%	\$9,312	16.67%	Rossville UMC	\$8,616	25%	\$5,544	25%
Peoria University UMC	\$23,664	25%	\$15,228	25%	Bismarck UMC	\$4,620	25%	\$2,976	25%
Princeville UMC	\$14,160	0%	\$9,120	0%	Sadorus UMC	\$1,824	0%	\$1,176	0%
RiversEdge UMC	\$10,104	25%	\$6,504	25%	Parkville UMC	\$1,116	25%	\$720	25%
Saint David UMC	\$672	0%	\$432	0%	Saint Joseph UMC	\$14,640	0%	\$9,420	0%
Bryant UMC	\$300	0%	\$192	0%	Farmer City UMC	\$6,480	25%	\$4,176	25%
Sheffield UMC	\$2,148	25%	\$1,380	25%	Weedman UMC	\$3,096	25%	\$1,992	25%
Smithfield Brock UMC	\$3,084	25%	\$1,992	25%	Weldon UMC	\$3,624	8.33%	\$2,340	8.33%
Locust Lane UMC	\$2,940	25%	\$1,896	25%	Savoy UMC	\$18,672	25%	\$12,012	25%
Texas UMC	\$840	16.67%	\$540	16.67%	Shiloh UMC	\$2,796	25%	\$1,800	25%
Tiskilwa Community Church UM/AB	\$2,280	25%	\$1,476	25%	Fairview UMC	\$1,392	25%	\$900	25%

Apportionments Update

Church	CS/Admin Appt'd.	Pct. Paid	B/ConnMir Appt'd.	Pct. Paid	Church	CS/Admin Appt'd.	Pct. Paid	B/ConnMir Appt'd.	Pct. Paid
Fairmount UMC	\$3,012	25%	\$1,944	25%	Noble UMC	\$1,452	1.72%	\$936	0%
Georgetown UMC	\$4,704	25%	\$3,036	25%	Parkersburg UMC	\$1,296	25%	\$828	25%
Indianola UMC	\$1,548	25%	\$996	25%	Ebenezer UMC	\$1,188	63.13%	\$756	99.21%
Ridge Farm UMC	\$3,048	8.33%	\$1,956	8.33%	Little Wabash UMC	\$1,200	25%	\$768	25%
Sidell UMC	\$8,256	25%	\$5,316	25%	Pinkstaff UMC	\$2,784	25%	\$1,788	25%
Sullivan UMC	\$16,608	16.67%	\$10,692	16.67%	Birds UMC	\$1,236	25%	\$792	25%
Tolono UMC	\$8,148	16.67%	\$5,244	16.67%	Richview UMC	\$3,108	0%	\$2,004	0%
Pesotum UMC	\$2,364	16.67%	\$1,524	16.67%	Salem Grace UMC	\$27,624	16.67%	\$17,784	16.67%
Tuscola UMC	\$20,220	25%	\$13,008	25%	Salem Trinity UMC	\$9,168	16.67%	\$5,904	16.67%
Urbana First UMC	\$16,272	0%	\$10,476	0%	Iuka UMC	\$2,892	25%	\$1,860	25%
Urbana Grace UMC	\$17,352	0%	\$11,172	0%	Cabbage Chapel UMC	\$540	25%	\$348	25%
Urbana Wesley UMC	\$18,468	25%	\$11,880	25%	Sandoval UMC	\$5,808	25%	\$3,744	25%
Villa Grove UMC	\$16,464	25%	\$10,596	25%	Patoka UMC	\$5,388	25%	\$3,468	25%
Watseka UMC	\$20,340	0%	\$13,092	0%	Boulder UMC	\$1,680	25%	\$1,080	25%
Woodland UMC	\$2,040	25%	\$1,308	25%	Saint Francisville UMC	\$3,096	25%	\$1,992	25%
Total Iroquois River	\$808,992	20.73%	\$520,680	20.47%	Sumner UMC	\$13,704	25%	\$8,820	25%
Kaskaskia River District					Clay City UMC	\$5,604	25%	\$3,612	25%
Albion UMC	\$9,276	25%	\$5,964	25%	Harmony UMC	\$3,564	25%	\$2,292	25%
Bethel UMC	\$3,336	25%	\$2,148	25%	Bethel UMC	\$4,644	0%	\$2,988	0%
Allendale UMC	\$3,120	25%	\$2,004	25%	Union Chapel UMC	\$1,104	25%	\$708	25%
Alma UMC	\$1,596	25%	\$1,032	25%	Landes UMC	\$948	0%	\$612	0%
Pleasant Grove UMC	\$1,188	25%	\$768	25%	Vandalia First UMC	\$26,784	25%	\$17,232	25%
Ashley UMC	\$2,616	16.67%	\$1,680	16.67%	Bethel UMC	\$1,572	16.67%	\$1,020	16.67%
Waltonville UMC	\$1,140	25%	\$732	25%	Cisne UMC	\$1,680	25%	\$1,080	25%
Beulah UMC	\$10,188	33.33%	\$6,564	33.33%	Johnsonville UMC	\$1,236	25%	\$792	25%
Bluford Otterbein UMC	\$2,604	8.33%	\$1,680	8.33%	West Salem Zion UMC	\$9,732	25%	\$6,264	25%
Wayne City UMC	\$3,408	25%	\$2,196	25%	Xenia UMC	\$3,948	25%	\$2,544	25%
Bonnie UMC	\$1,752	25%	\$1,128	25%	Total Kaskaskia River	\$535,256	20.87%	\$345,156	19.82%
Ina UMC	\$924	25%	\$600	25%	LaMoine River District				
Bridgeport UMC	\$7,908	8.33%	\$5,088	8.33%	Paloma UMC	\$1,116	25%	\$720	25%
Petrolia UMC	\$828	25%	\$528	25%	Pleasant Grove UMC	\$2,292	0%	\$1,476	0%
Browns UMC	\$1,872	0%	\$1,212	0%	Beverly UMC	\$840	25%	\$540	25%
Calhoun UMC	\$2,004	0%	\$1,296	0%	Kingston UMC	\$1,104	25%	\$708	0%
Ebenezer UMC	\$1,980	25%	\$1,272	25%	Ashland UMC	\$4,752	25%	\$3,060	25%
Centralia Demaree UMC	\$6,300	4.19%	\$4,056	4.19%	Peter Cartwright UMC	\$10,536	7.52%	\$6,780	7.52%
Odin UMC	\$1,824	25%	\$1,176	25%	Barry UMC	\$5,604	16.67%	\$3,600	16.67%
Shattuc UMC	\$3,576	25%	\$2,304	25%	Batchtown UMC	\$792	25%	\$516	25%
Gilead UMC	\$600	100%	\$384	100%	Beardstown UMC	\$14,112	16.67%	\$9,084	16.67%
Centralia Faith UMC	\$6,216	25%	\$3,996	25%	Bethel UMC	\$1,536	16.67%	\$984	16.67%
Central City UMC	\$2,520	25%	\$1,620	0%	Kane UMC	\$1,212	0%	\$780	0%
Centralia First UMC	\$15,960	25%	\$10,272	25%	Bluff Springs UMC	\$1,440	25%	\$924	25%
Chauncey UMC	\$1,344	33.33%	\$864	33.33%	Griggsville UMC	\$4,272	25%	\$2,748	25%
Claremont UMC	\$492	0%	\$312	0%	New Salem UMC	\$1,044	25%	\$672	25%
Prairieton UMC	\$516	7.75%	\$336	0%	Detroit UMC	\$1,464	100%	\$948	100%
Dix UMC	\$1,428	25%	\$924	25%	Florence UMC	\$276	25%	\$180	25%
Union Chapel UMC	\$2,124	25%	\$1,368	25%	Oxville UMC	\$444	50%	\$288	50%
Garrison Temple UMC	\$1,164	25%	\$756	25%	Perry UMC	\$3,852	25%	\$2,472	25%
Enterprise UMC	\$2,820	25%	\$1,812	25%	Baylis UMC	\$504	25%	\$324	25%
West UMC	\$1,932	25%	\$1,248	25%	Camp Point UMC	\$8,520	25%	\$5,484	25%
Fairfield Ellen Moore UMC	\$8,592	16.67%	\$5,532	17.57%	Centennial Ebenezer UMC	\$2,280	0%	\$1,464	0%
Fairfield First UMC	\$19,584	25%	\$12,600	25%	Carlinville UMC	\$18,336	16.67%	\$11,796	25%
Fairview UMC	\$540	16.67%	\$348	16.67%	Carrollton UMC	\$5,664	25%	\$3,648	25%
Farina UMC	\$7,932	25%	\$5,112	25%	Christ UMC	\$5,220	16.67%	\$3,360	16.67%
Louisville UMC	\$11,424	8.33%	\$7,356	8.33%	Carthage First UMC	\$18,252	0%	\$11,748	0%
Flora First UMC	\$16,896	25%	\$10,872	25%	Astoria UMC	\$3,504	25%	\$2,256	25%
Flora Trinity UMC	\$1,980	16.67%	\$1,272	16.67%	Sheldon's Grove UMC	\$1,896	16.67%	\$1,224	16.67%
Golden Gate UMC	\$1,272	25%	\$816	25%	Browning UMC	\$984	25%	\$636	25%
Conway UMC	\$852	0%	\$552	0%	Sugar Grove UMC	\$2,148	25%	\$1,380	25%
Grayville UMC	\$7,464	33.33%	\$4,800	33.33%	Concord UMC	\$1,512	25%	\$972	25%
Fortney UMC	\$1,248	25%	\$804	25%	Arenzville UMC	\$7,500	25%	\$4,824	25%
Hopewell UMC	\$372	29.57%	\$240	4.17%	Doddsville UMC	\$1,008	25%	\$648	25%
Olive Branch UMC	\$132	25%	\$84	25%	Bluffs UMC	\$4,068	25%	\$2,616	25%
Kinmundy First UMC	\$12,132	25%	\$7,800	25%	Naples UMC	\$2,568	8.33%	\$1,656	8.33%
Wesley UMC	\$1,500	25%	\$972	25%	Grafton UMC	\$2,544	25%	\$1,632	25%
Lancaster UMC	\$1,296	25%	\$840	25%	Rosedale UMC	\$2,568	16.67%	\$1,656	16.67%
Nye Chapel UMC	\$432	25%	\$276	25%	Greenfield UMC	\$6,324	16.67%	\$4,068	16.67%
Pleasant Grove UMC	\$948	50%	\$612	50%	Rock Bridge UMC	\$2,928	16.67%	\$1,884	16.67%
Lawrenceville First UMC	\$21,300	25.09%	\$13,716	6.54%	Hamilton UMC	\$5,172	25%	\$3,324	25%
Lawrenceville Otterbein UMC	\$2,904	0%	\$1,872	0%	Warsaw UMC	\$5,160	25%	\$3,324	25%
May Chapel UMC	\$528	41.67%	\$336	41.67%	Havana First UMC	\$12,780	25%	\$8,232	25%
Lawrenceville Zion UMC	\$4,212	25%	\$2,712	25%	Industry UMC	\$6,348	16.67%	\$4,080	16.67%
Billett UMC	\$4,692	25%	\$3,024	25%	Vermont UMC	\$2,916	25%	\$1,884	25%
Mount Carmel Evangelical UMC	\$18,636	16.67%	\$11,988	16.67%	Jacksonville Asbury UMC	\$1,344	25%	\$864	25%
Mount Carmel Trinity UMC	\$10,524	12.39%	\$6,780	12.36%	Lynnville UMC	\$1,320	16.67%	\$852	16.67%
Adams Corner UMC	\$1,236	25%	\$792	25%	Jacksonville Centenary UMC	\$15,336	16.67%	\$9,864	16.67%
Asbury Chapel UMC	\$1,452	25%	\$936	25%	Jacksonville Brooklyn UMC	\$3,744	25%	\$2,412	25%
Bellmont UMC	\$1,716	8.33%	\$1,104	8.33%	Jacksonville Grace UMC	\$28,152	25%	\$18,120	25%
Mount Vernon Epworth UMC	\$4,140	16.67%	\$2,664	16.67%	Jacksonville Wesley Chapel UMC	\$11,604	25%	\$7,464	25%
Hopewell UMC	\$684	16.67%	\$432	16.67%	Jerseyville UMC	\$29,256	25%	\$18,828	25%
Zion UMC	\$2,184	25%	\$1,404	25%	Living Faith UMC	\$11,520	25%	\$7,416	25%
Mount Vernon First UMC	\$39,744	25%	\$25,572	25%	Loraine UMC	\$4,416	25%	\$2,844	25%
Mount Vernon Wesley UMC	\$5,244	8.33%	\$3,384	8.33%	Manchester UMC	\$1,944	25%	\$1,260	25%
Irvington UMC	\$2,904	16.67%	\$1,872	16.67%	Mount Sterling UMC	\$9,060	8.33%	\$5,832	8.33%
Mount Vernon West Salem Trinity UMC	\$16,056	25%	\$10,332	25%	Columbus UMC	\$1,644	25%	\$1,056	25%
Mount Zion UMC	\$5,328	0%	\$3,432	0%	Murrayville UMC	\$11,928	25%	\$7,668	25%
Brown's Chapel UMC	\$3,420	25%	\$2,196	25%	New Hope UMC	\$672	0%	\$432	0%
Olney First UMC	\$25,932	16.67%	\$16,692	16.67%	Palmyra UMC	\$1,608	0%	\$1,032	0%
Olney Immanuel UMC	\$12,588	2.92%	\$8,100	2.92%	Modesto UMC	\$1,128	25%	\$732	25%
Olney Saint Paul UMC	\$8,700	23.97%	\$5,592	8.33%	Payson UMC	\$2,952	16.67%	\$1,908	16.67%

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Church	CS/Admin Appt'd.	Pct. Paid	B/ConnMir Appt'd.	Pct. Paid	Church	CS/Admin Appt'd.	Pct. Paid	B/ConnMir Appt'd.	Pct. Paid
Plainville UMC	\$2,616	25%	\$1,680	25%	Shiloh UMC	\$58,452	8.73%	\$37,620	13.56%
Richfield UMC	\$1,536	25%	\$996	25%	Shipman UMC	\$3,852	25%	\$2,484	25%
Pittsfield UMC	\$19,440	25%	\$12,516	25%	Dorchester UMC	\$696	41.67%	\$444	41.67%
Pleasant Hill UMC	\$1,656	16.67%	\$1,068	16.67%	Sparta First UMC	\$18,300	16.67%	\$11,784	16.67%
Hamburg UMC	\$444	25%	\$288	25%	Saint Jacob UMC	\$4,128	8.33%	\$2,652	8.33%
Oakford UMC	\$5,556	25%	\$3,576	25%	Staunton UMC	\$2,772	11.54%	\$1,788	8.17%
Bath UMC	\$1,260	25%	\$816	25%	Steeleville UMC	\$1,620	0%	\$1,044	0%
Fairview UMC	\$1,476	25%	\$948	25%	Percy UMC	\$3,216	25%	\$2,076	25%
Quincy Melrose Chapel UMC	\$13,452	25%	\$8,664	25%	Trenton First UMC	\$14,400	25%	\$9,264	25%
Quincy Union UMC	\$16,320	8.33%	\$10,512	0%	Trinity East Saint Louis UMC	\$8,592	0%	\$5,532	0%
Quincy Vermont Street UMC	\$35,940	25%	\$23,136	25%	Troy UMC	\$37,248	0%	\$23,976	0%
Rural UMC	\$2,124	0%	\$1,368	0%	Worden UMC	\$2,112	33.33%	\$1,356	33.33%
Rushville First UMC	\$18,276	16.67%	\$11,760	16.67%	Wanda UMC	\$9,852	25%	\$6,348	25%
Virden First UMC	\$6,852	16.67%	\$4,416	16.67%	Wood River First UMC	\$7,704	8.33%	\$4,956	8.33%
Girard UMC	\$5,688	25%	\$3,660	25%	Benld UMC	\$4,008	25%	\$2,580	25%
Virginia UMC	\$13,344	0%	\$8,592	0%	Total Mississippi River	\$3,073,848	18.29%	\$623,868	14.04%
Waverly UMC	\$9,060	25%	\$5,832	25%	Sangamon River District				
Franklin UMC	\$3,120	25%	\$2,016	25%	Argenta UMC	\$5,244	18.08%	\$3,372	18.08%
Durbin UMC	\$2,616	25%	\$1,692	25%	Warrensburg UMC	\$4,380	25%	\$2,820	25%
Brooklyn UMC	\$972	16.67%	\$624	16.67%	Assumption UMC	\$3,912	25%	\$2,520	25%
Ebenezer UMC	\$984	25%	\$636	25%	Findlay UMC	\$5,124	25%	\$3,300	25%
Houston UMC	\$1,344	25%	\$864	25%	Athens UMC	\$9,360	25%	\$6,024	25%
Littleton UMC	\$1,656	25%	\$1,068	25%	Cantrall UMC	\$4,032	25%	\$2,592	25%
Clayton Federated UMC	\$3,072	16.67%	\$1,980	16.67%	Auburn UMC	\$12,720	25%	\$8,184	25%
Camden UMC	\$2,112	25%	\$1,356	25%	Bethany UMC	\$3,372	25%	\$2,172	25%
Elm Grove UMC	\$1,236	25%	\$792	25%	Sanner Chapel UMC	\$3,420	16.67%	\$2,196	16.67%
Hull UMC	\$5,784	25%	\$3,720	25%	Bethel UMC	\$2,712	25%	\$1,740	25%
New Canton UMC	\$3,240	25%	\$2,088	25%	Bissell UMC	\$2,256	25%	\$1,452	25%
Winchester UMC	\$9,804	25%	\$6,312	100%	Blue Mound UMC	\$6,960	25%	\$4,488	16.58%
Total LaMoine River	\$516,000	20.09%	\$332,160	21.49%	Buckeye UMC	\$3,600	33.33%	\$2,316	33.33%
Mississippi River District					Owaneco UMC	\$3,672	25%	\$2,364	25%
Alton Grace UMC	\$2,196	0%	\$1,416	0%	Chatham UMC	\$22,272	33.67%	\$14,328	0%
Hartford UMC	\$2,376	25%	\$1,524	25%	Cisco UMC	\$6,768	25%	\$4,356	25%
Elsah UMC	\$1,908	25%	\$1,224	25%	Clinton UMC	\$23,676	25%	\$15,240	25%
Alton Main Street UMC	\$49,164	8.33%	\$31,644	8.33%	Decatur Central UMC	\$8,040	0%	\$5,172	0%
Belleville Saint Matthew UMC	\$109,668	16.67%	\$70,584	0%	Decatur South Shores UMC	\$4,524	8.33%	\$2,916	8.33%
Belleville Signal Hill UMC	\$12,048	25%	\$7,752	25%	Decatur Christ UMC	\$10,344	16.67%	\$6,660	16.67%
Belleville Union UMC	\$29,916	0%	\$19,260	0%	Decatur First UMC	\$34,344	25%	\$22,104	25%
New Athens UMC	\$1,512	25%	\$972	25%	Decatur Grace UMC	\$53,208	16.67%	\$34,236	16.67%
Bethalto UMC	\$19,212	11.2%	\$12,372	8.96%	Decatur Wesley UMC	\$3,336	25%	\$2,148	25%
Brighton Saint Paul UMC	\$7,488	25%	\$4,824	25%	Garver Brick UMC	\$2,412	50%	\$1,548	50%
Bunker Hill UMC	\$1,848	25%	\$1,188	25%	Divernon UMC	\$5,244	25%	\$3,372	25%
Cahokia Park UMC	\$6,744	13.78%	\$4,332	13.71%	Farmersville UMC	\$984	25%	\$636	25%
Carlyle UMC	\$13,332	16.67%	\$8,580	16.67%	Midland UMC	\$3,936	0%	\$2,532	0%
Huey UMC	\$456	25%	\$288	25%	Easton UMC	\$3,540	25%	\$2,280	25%
Beckemeyer UMC	\$972	16.67%	\$624	16.67%	Edinburg UMC	\$6,024	25%	\$3,876	25%
Caseyville UMC	\$10,356	24.14%	\$6,672	0%	Stonington UMC	\$5,664	41.1%	\$3,648	25%
Chester UMC	\$4,848	17.41%	\$3,120	13.46%	Elwin UMC	\$10,488	25%	\$6,756	25%
Collinsville First UMC	\$14,256	25%	\$9,180	25%	Forsyth UMC	\$13,248	25%	\$8,532	25%
Columbia Bethany UMC	\$17,940	25%	\$11,544	25%	Fountain of Life UMC	\$4,680	8.33%	\$3,012	8.33%
Coulterville UMC	\$6,372	25%	\$4,104	25%	Island Grove UMC	\$2,604	25%	\$1,680	25%
Tilden UMC	\$2,376	25%	\$1,536	25%	Loami UMC	\$2,268	25%	\$1,452	25%
East Alton First UMC	\$18,240	25%	\$11,736	25%	Kenney UMC	\$900	25%	\$576	25%
Edwardsville Immanuel UMC	\$15,012	8.33%	\$9,660	8.33%	Lincoln First UMC	\$26,640	16.67%	\$17,148	8.33%
Edwardsville Saint John's UMC	\$28,092	25%	\$18,072	25%	Beason UMC	\$1,320	33.33%	\$852	25%
Ellis Grove UMC	\$1,392	25%	\$888	25%	Elkhart UMC	\$1,536	25%	\$984	25%
New Palestine UMC	\$1,812	25%	\$1,164	25%	Hartsburg UMC	\$2,340	25%	\$1,512	25%
Preston UMC	\$504	16.67%	\$324	16.67%	New Holland UMC	\$2,688	25%	\$1,728	25%
Fairview Heights Christ UMC	\$88,056	16.67%	\$56,676	16.67%	Long Creek UMC	\$5,268	25%	\$3,384	25%
Fairview Heights Prospect Park UMC	\$2,016	25%	\$1,296	25%	Dalton City UMC	\$2,880	25%	\$1,860	25%
Gillespie First UMC	\$8,724	25%	\$5,616	25%	Macon UMC	\$9,360	16.67%	\$6,024	16.67%
Glen Carbon New Bethel UMC	\$19,896	16.67%	\$12,804	16.67%	Maroa UMC	\$11,604	16.67%	\$7,464	16.67%
Godfrey UMC	\$21,444	16.67%	\$13,800	16.67%	Mason City UMC	\$10,044	8.33%	\$6,468	8.33%
Granite City Dewey Avenue UMC	\$3,204	25%	\$2,064	25%	San Jose UMC	\$7,236	25%	\$4,656	25%
Granite City Good Shepherd UMC	\$3,168	25%	\$2,040	25%	Middletown UMC	\$1,572	25%	\$1,008	25%
Granite City Nameoki UMC	\$16,188	16.67%	\$10,416	16.67%	Monticello UMC	\$32,124	25%	\$20,676	25%
Granite City Niedringhaus UMC	\$17,736	4.99%	\$11,412	5.01%	Moweaqua UMC	\$10,236	0%	\$6,588	0%
Granite City Trinity UMC	\$4,428	16.67%	\$2,844	16.67%	Mount Auburn UMC	\$2,676	16.67%	\$1,728	16.67%
Greenville First UMC	\$13,488	25%	\$8,676	25%	Mount Pulaski First UMC	\$6,216	8.33%	\$3,996	8.33%
Highland Hope UMC	\$19,884	25%	\$12,792	25%	Chestnut UMC	\$1,968	16.67%	\$1,272	16.67%
Keyesport UMC	\$1,200	25%	\$780	25%	Latham UMC	\$2,568	25%	\$1,644	25%
Lebanon First UMC	\$15,972	25%	\$10,284	25%	Mount Zion UMC	\$15,876	0%	\$10,212	0%
Litchfield Saint Timothy UMC	\$14,460	0%	\$9,312	0%	New Salem UMC	\$2,640	25%	\$1,692	25%
Marissa UMC	\$6,744	25.86%	\$4,332	30.98%	Niantic UMC	\$5,688	25%	\$3,660	25%
Maryville Saint Luke's UMC	\$15,060	25%	\$9,696	25%	Illioipolis UMC	\$4,140	16.67%	\$2,664	16.67%
Mascoutah Bethel UMC	\$9,132	9.86%	\$5,880	13.61%	Cerro Gordo UMC	\$12,348	16.67%	\$7,956	16.67%
Medora UMC	\$1,524	25%	\$984	25%	Lovington UMC	\$5,520	25%	\$3,552	25%
Piasa UMC	\$1,992	25%	\$1,284	25%	Hammond UMC	\$4,968	16.67%	\$3,204	16.67%
Mount Olive UMC	\$3,540	16.67%	\$2,280	16.67%	LaPlace UMC	\$2,880	25%	\$1,860	25%
Sorento UMC	\$984	33.33%	\$636	33.33%	Pana UMC	\$15,144	8.34%	\$9,744	7.73%
Mulberry Grove UMC	\$2,184	25%	\$1,404	25%	Pawnee UMC	\$16,908	0%	\$10,884	0%
Pleasant Mound UMC	\$1,044	25%	\$672	25%	Petersburg UMC	\$12,252	8.33%	\$7,884	8.33%
Nashville Grace UMC	\$27,732	16.67%	\$17,844	16.67%	Raymond Community Of Faith UMC	\$7,488	25%	\$4,824	25%
New Baden UMC	\$6,492	18.32%	\$4,176	18.21%	Morrisonville UMC	\$6,120	25%	\$3,936	25%
O'Fallon First UMC	\$51,048	16.67%	\$32,856	16.67%	Riverton First UMC	\$8,100	16.67%	\$5,208	16.67%
Okawville UMC	\$2,688	25%	\$1,728	25%	Rochester UMC	\$27,444	16.67%	\$17,664	16.67%
Pocahontas UMC	\$6,660	25%	\$4,284	25%	Sharon UMC	\$8,952	25%	\$5,760	25%
Panama UMC	\$3,528	16.67%	\$2,268	16.67%	Sherman UMC	\$23,928	16.67%	\$15,396	16.67%
Rosewood Heights Saint Paul UMC	\$22,128	16.67%	\$14,244	16.67%	South Fork UMC	\$5,352	25%	\$3,444	25%

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Fairview UMC	\$1,704	25%	\$1,092	25%	Silvis UMC	\$6,408	25%	\$4,128	25%
Springfield Asbury UMC	\$5,160	16.67%	\$3,324	16.67%	Victoria UMC	\$4,932	25%	\$3,180	25%
Springfield Douglas Avenue UMC	\$20,208	25%	\$13,008	25%	Maxey Chapel UMC	\$3,228	25%	\$2,076	25%
Springfield First UMC	\$166,848	25%	\$107,388	25%	Viola UMC	\$5,268	25%	\$3,396	25%
Springfield Grace UMC	\$9,780	5.33%	\$6,300	4.6%	Preemption UMC	\$6,336	25%	\$4,080	25%
Springfield Kumler UMC	\$11,268	25%	\$7,248	25%	Walnut Grove UMC	\$5,040	25%	\$3,252	25%
Springfield Jerome UMC	\$5,160	25%	\$3,324	25%	Joy UMC	\$4,944	16.67%	\$3,180	16.67%
Springfield Laurel UMC	\$50,952	25%	\$32,784	25%	Eliza UMC	\$2,556	25%	\$-	0%
Springfield Northside UMC	\$11,904	0%	\$7,656	0%	New Boston UMC	\$4,152	0%	\$2,676	0%
Springfield Woodside UMC	\$14,604	16.67%	\$9,396	16.67%	Williamsfield UMC	\$5,052	16.67%	\$3,252	16.67%
Sugar Creek UMC	\$29,556	25%	\$19,020	25%	Dahinda UMC	\$4,932	100%	\$3,180	100%
Taylorville UMC	\$26,928	25%	\$17,328	25%	Total Spoon River	\$650,688	21.08%	\$417,180	20.95%
Thayer UMC	\$3,072	25%	\$1,980	25%					
Williamsville UMC	\$6,216	25%	\$3,996	25%	Vermilion River District				
Zion Chapel UMC	\$8,784	25%	\$5,652	25%	Atlanta UMC	\$7,104	25%	\$4,572	25%
Total Sangamon River	\$995,436	20.75%	\$640,632	19.60%	Ebenezer UMC	\$4,332	25%	\$2,796	25%
					Bloomington Grace UMC	\$12,036	28.15%	\$7,752	0%
Spoon River District					Bloomington Park UMC	\$13,944	17.46%	\$8,976	17.45%
Abingdon UMC	\$10,764	16.67%	\$6,924	16.67%	Bloomington West Olive Faith UMC	\$3,972	0%	\$2,556	0%
Aledo UMC	\$16,716	0%	\$10,764	0%	Bloomington Wesley UMC	\$84,192	25%	\$54,192	25%
Alpha UMC	\$7,716	25%	\$4,968	25%	Bonfield First UMC	\$2,088	25%	\$1,344	25%
Altona UMC	\$4,884	25%	\$3,144	25%	Bonfield Evangelical UMC	\$4,380	0%	\$2,820	0%
Oneida UMC	\$3,984	0%	\$2,568	0%	Grand Prairie UMC	\$3,684	25%	\$2,376	25%
Annanaw Community UMC	\$4,116	0%	\$2,652	0%	Bourbonnais Grace UMC	\$12,300	0%	\$7,920	0%
Fairview UMC	\$4,368	16.67%	\$2,808	16.67%	Braceville UMC	\$3,816	25%	\$2,460	25%
Blandinsville UMC	\$2,604	25%	\$1,680	25%	Bradley Wesley UMC	\$12,876	25%	\$8,280	25%
Burnside UMC	\$1,992	46.69%	\$1,284	0%	Chatsworth UMC	\$6,828	50%	\$4,392	50%
Bushnell UMC	\$6,816	25%	\$4,392	25%	Forrest UMC	\$6,828	25%	\$4,392	25%
Avon UMC	\$3,660	25%	\$2,352	25%	Chenoa UMC	\$6,672	25%	\$4,296	25%
Cambridge UMC	\$10,728	0%	\$6,912	0%	Coal City UMC	\$19,860	16.67%	\$12,780	16.67%
Colchester UMC	\$8,148	16.67%	\$5,244	16.67%	Colfax UMC	\$8,112	0%	\$5,220	8.33%
Colona UMC	\$11,412	16.67%	\$7,344	16.67%	Cornell-Blackstone UMC	\$3,360	25%	\$2,160	25%
Colusa UMC	\$2,184	25%	\$1,404	25%	Cropsey UMC	\$3,828	25%	\$2,460	25%
East Moline Christ UMC	\$32,844	16.67%	\$21,132	16.67%	Saybrook Wesbein UMC	\$4,296	25%	\$2,772	25%
Elmwood UMC	\$10,884	27.76%	\$7,008	29.28%	Downs UMC	\$10,692	16.67%	\$6,876	16.67%
Fairview Center UMC	\$7,560	25%	\$4,872	25%	Dwight UMC	\$22,992	25%	\$14,796	25%
Galesburg First UMC	\$41,148	16.67%	\$26,484	16.67%	Ellsworth UMC	\$4,824	25%	\$3,108	25%
Galesburg Faith UMC	\$7,260	9.94%	\$4,680	7.71%	El Paso UMC	\$6,864	16.67%	\$4,416	16.67%
Galesburg Emmanuel UMC	\$7,368	6.18%	\$4,740	9.6%	Essex UMC	\$1,092	25%	\$708	25%
Galva Grace UMC	\$2,376	16.67%	\$1,524	16.67%	Fairbury UMC	\$14,028	25%	\$9,024	25%
Geneseo First UMC	\$36,924	25%	\$23,772	25%	Lostant UMC	\$2,304	16.67%	\$1,488	16.67%
Geneseo Grace UMC	\$28,848	25%	\$18,564	25%	Minonk UMC	\$2,820	25%	\$1,812	25%
Henderson UMC	\$1,464	0%	\$936	0%	Richland UMC	\$852	25%	\$540	25%
North Henderson UMC	\$2,028	25%	\$1,308	25%	Wenona Saint John's UMC	\$2,328	25%	\$1,500	25%
Hills Grove UMC	\$1,416	16.67%	\$912	16.67%	Flanagan UMC	\$1,752	25%	\$1,128	25%
Hooppole Zion UMC	\$3,528	25%	\$2,268	25%	Herscher UMC	\$11,688	0%	\$7,524	0%
Hillsdale UMC	\$3,468	25%	\$2,232	25%	Heyworth UMC	\$13,236	8.33%	\$8,520	8.33%
Illinois City UMC	\$4,236	25%	\$2,724	25%	Hudson UMC	\$6,984	25%	\$4,500	25%
Pine Bluff UMC	\$984	25%	\$636	25%	Kankakee Asbury UMC	\$31,764	16.67%	\$20,436	16.67%
Kirkwood UMC	\$5,244	16.67%	\$3,372	16.67%	Kankakee Saint Mark UMC	\$14,760	8.33%	\$9,504	8.33%
Smithshire UMC	\$1,260	25%	\$816	25%	Kankakee Trinity UMC	\$8,340	25%	\$5,376	25%
Knoxville UMC	\$14,544	10.18%	\$9,360	9.62%	Aroma Park UMC	\$5,436	0%	\$3,492	0%
LaHarpe UMC	\$3,528	25%	\$2,268	25%	Bradley Evangelical UMC	\$6,096	0%	\$3,924	0%
Durham UMC	\$2,148	25%	\$1,380	25%	LeRoy UMC	\$20,664	25%	\$13,296	25%
Terre Haute UMC	\$3,600	25%	\$2,316	25%	Lexington First UMC	\$16,428	25%	\$10,572	25%
Good Hope UMC	\$6,252	25%	\$4,032	25%	Manteno UMC	\$14,064	25%	\$9,060	25%
Jerusalem UMC	\$3,552	0%	\$2,280	0%	McDowell UMC	\$4,068	100%	\$2,616	100%
Lorraine UMC	\$9,036	25%	\$5,808	25%	McLean UMC	\$8,184	0%	\$5,268	0%
Macomb Wesley UMC	\$43,080	25%	\$27,732	25%	Waynesville UMC	\$8,016	25%	\$5,160	25%
Maquon UMC	\$4,800	25%	\$3,096	25%	Momence UMC	\$10,368	25%	\$6,672	25%
Douglas UMC	\$2,448	25%	\$1,572	25%	Grant Park UMC	\$2,028	25%	\$1,308	25%
Orange Chapel UMC	\$1,872	16.67%	\$1,200	16.67%	Hennepin UMC	\$5,556	5.49%	\$3,576	5.45%
Milan Trinity UMC	\$9,240	16.67%	\$5,952	16.67%	Magnolia UMC	\$1,344	16.67%	\$864	16.67%
Green River UMC	\$1,368	25%	\$876	25%	McNabb UMC	\$1,488	25%	\$960	25%
Mineral UMC	\$1,500	0%	\$960	0%	Normal Calvary UMC	\$74,136	25%	\$47,712	25%
Moline Bethel Wesley UMC	\$16,260	25%	\$10,464	25%	Normal First UMC	\$62,484	16.67%	\$40,212	16.67%
Moline Riverside UMC	\$42,696	25%	\$27,480	25%	Normal Morningstar UMC	\$10,956	8.33%	\$7,044	8.33%
Monmouth First UMC	\$18,780	25%	\$12,084	25%	Odell UMC	\$1,488	0%	\$960	0%
Nauvoo UMC	\$3,144	25%	\$2,028	25%	Pleasant Grove UMC	\$4,080	25%	\$2,628	25%
Galva First UMC	\$11,160	16.67%	\$7,188	16.67%	Pontiac First UMC	\$34,860	25%	\$22,440	25%
Bishop Hill UMC	\$1,656	25%	\$1,068	25%	Ransom UMC	\$4,092	25%	\$2,628	25%
New Philadelphia UMC	\$528	25%	\$336	25%	Reddick UMC	\$6,192	25%	\$3,984	25%
Point Pleasant UMC	\$972	25%	\$624	25%	South Wilmington UMC	\$1,128	25%	\$732	25%
Oquawka UMC	\$2,100	25%	\$1,356	25%	Ritchey UMC	\$528	0%	\$336	0%
Gladstone UMC	\$684	16.67%	\$432	16.67%	Roanoke UMC	\$7,236	25%	\$4,656	25%
Biggsville UMC	\$828	41.67%	\$540	41.67%	Secor UMC	\$2,652	25%	\$1,704	25%
Orion UMC	\$15,324	25%	\$9,864	25%	Saunemin UMC	\$6,024	25%	\$3,876	25%
Reynolds UMC	\$7,284	25%	\$4,692	25%	Cabery UMC	\$2,148	25%	\$1,380	25%
Taylor Ridge UMC	\$2,052	25%	\$1,320	25%	Cullom UMC	\$3,084	25%	\$1,992	25%
Rock Island Two Rivers UMC	\$27,372	25%	\$17,616	25%	Kempton UMC	\$2,220	25%	\$1,428	25%
Roseville UMC	\$8,484	25%	\$5,460	25%	Streator First UMC	\$13,800	0%	\$8,880	0%
Swan Creek UMC	\$1,716	16.67%	\$1,104	16.67%	Grand Ridge UMC	\$5,004	33.33%	\$3,228	33.33%
Stronghurst UMC	\$5,340	8.33%	\$3,432	8.33%	Long Point UMC	\$2,112	25%	\$1,356	25%
Carman UMC	\$3,564	16.67%	\$2,292	16.67%	Tonica UMC	\$9,096	25%	\$5,856	25%
Carbon Cliff UMC	\$2,568	25%	\$1,656	25%	Verona UMC	\$2,160	25%	\$1,392	25%
Church of the Cross UMC	\$3,372	25%	\$2,172	25%	Mazon UMC	\$1,752	25%	\$1,128	25%
East Moline Grace UMC	\$1,992	25%	\$1,284	25%	Total Vermilion River	\$742,800	20.51%	\$478,092	20.15%
Fairfield UMC	\$2,076	25%	\$1,332	24.92%					
Hampton UMC	\$3,420	25%	\$2,196	25%					
Port Byron First UMC	\$8,568	25%	\$5,508	25%					
					TOTAL IGRC	\$7,229,040	20.10%	\$4,651,224	19.71%

Christian Conversation

Can a car wash change the world?

By Robb McCoy
Chenoa UMC

Can a car wash change the world?
Can the hungry be fed?
Can the sick find healing?
Can a sinner be redeemed?
Can swords be beaten into plows?
Can a heart be transformed?
Can the dead live again?
Can a car wash change the world?

I suppose it is all a matter of perspective. If we offer a free car wash at church on Saturday, will the world be a different place? If someone's day is brightened by a free act of love, will their perspective be changed? If someone receives a flyer about World Malaria Day can awareness be achieved?

On Saturday, April 24 from noon until 3 p.m. volunteers will gather at Chenoa United Methodist Church to wash cars. We will not accept money. We will also extend an invitation. It is an invitation to be in relationship for a few moments. It is an invitation to be a loving community. It is an invitation to pray, worship, and learn about a movement that can change the world.

Just two generations ago, malaria was a serious health concern in the United States. A comprehensive public health effort from 1947 to 1951 virtually eradicated malaria in this country.

Sixty years later, malaria continues to kill 1 million people a year. None of those deaths occurred in the United States, Canada or Europe. 90 percent of those deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa. Most of these are children.

A lot of religious folk want to talk about sin. They like to make their list of sins, often that others commit. They may pay

lip service to the fact that we are all "sinners," but then act as if it is all 'those people' that sin. If you want to start talking about sin, let's start with the fact that while we sit and spend an hour in worship, or reading the Bible, or watching TV, or eating dinner – every hour of the day – 120 children in Africa die of a disease that is preventable and curable.

The people of The United Methodist Church have said, "No more."

Imagine No Malaria is a bold initiative to raise \$75 million (that's less than \$7 per member of the United Methodist Church) to eradicate malaria in Africa by the year 2015. Through education, medicine, prevention, this is an achievable goal. According to Imagine No Malaria's website, increased net coverage and access to medicine has cut the mortality rates in Rwanda 66% in two years.

So, can a car wash change the world? Could one relationship be built that could lead someone to pray? Could one person with a flyer in their hand make a donation that they would not have otherwise made?

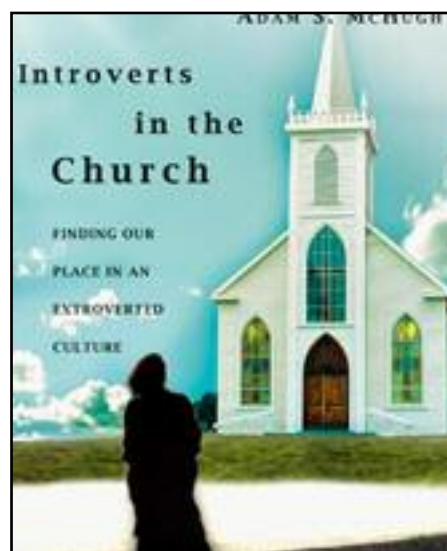
\$20 can buy a mosquito net for a family. That net could save the lives of parents and children. It can allow a parent to work and make a living. It can help a child go to school. It can help a family live in health.

"To the world, you might be one person; but to one person, you might be the world" (Heather Cortez).

(Reprinted with permission from Rev. McCoy's blog, The Fat Pastor, <http://fatpastor.wordpress.com>)



Robb McCoy



Adam McHugh

BOOK REVIEW

Loving the introverts among you



By Rev. Pam Hoffman

We have been written off as reserved, aloof, shy and self absorbed. We have been described as withdrawn, quiet and antisocial. We are

admittedly people who need to spend great chunks of time alone. We don't do well with small talk and if someone manages to drag us to a party, we will need half a day to recover. We also comprise 50.7 percent of the population. We are, of course, the introverts in your world.

If you are an extrovert, chances are that you have used some of these labels yourself to describe the co-worker in the next cubicle, the neighbor next door, or, God forbid, the pastor in your pulpit. The reality is that none of these labels really get to the core of who we are as introverts. Instead, they enable a large percentage of the population, both inside and outside of the church, to be quickly dismissed as having little of value to offer.

Truth be told, we live in a world that highly favors the extroverts. It is widely held that "those who are talkative, outgoing, energetic and assertive have a decided advantage," says Adam McHugh in his new book, *Introverts in the Church: Finding Our Place in an Extroverted Culture*. An ordained Presbyterian pastor, spiritual director and an introvert himself, McHugh, has done us a huge favor by unmasking the outright prejudice within the culture and the church toward introverts whose temperaments are often seen as inferior to that of extroverts. So ingrained is this prejudice that even the vast majority of *introverted* college students surveyed affirm that Jesus himself was an extrovert. If we were to examine the gospels, McHugh argues, we would in fact see a more ambiguous picture with

Jesus manifesting traits from both ends of the spectrum. It may also be surprising to many that a 2006 USA Today article reported that four out of 10 top executives are introverts and 24 percent of senior pastors in 2006 identified themselves as introverts.

McHugh does far more, however, than simply uncover a cultural prejudice. He helps the extroverts of the world understand the rest of us, namely how we think, what makes us tick, why we need time to process internally before we speak. He also uncovers the natural gifts that introverts bring to the church and to the world and encourages them to lead, not as others want them to be, but to lead as themselves.

If you have often found yourself baffled by the behavior of a coworker or neighbor, or even your pastor... if you yourself are an introvert and have ever questioned the value of what you have to offer the church, your place of work, or the world...if you are a church leader and have ignored the introverts in your midst, thinking they have nothing to contribute, you just may find McHugh's book an eye opener. For the introverts, it is a healing book. For the extroverts, it is a call to recognize and use the gifts of those who don't fit the stereotypical picture of an effective leader.

(Rev. Hoffman is pastor of New Baden UMC, Mississippi River District).

Being responsible for your own 'wake'



By Dr. James Bortell

As a nation we have entered a new level of incivility in speech and behavior.

Good people in politics, from both parties, say they will not run again because of a poisoned atmosphere of incivility. Athletic events erupt into brawls. On the roads there is "road rage." Talk show hosts shout, spout and promote fear and hate. This climate provides a breeding ground for disturbed people to express their anger with senseless violent acts.

The issue for Christians and all citizens is not disagreement. Our democracy, families, churches and friendships are enriched and benefit from discussions of different opinions and give and take on important

issues. However, the line is crossed when the honest discussion of differences turns to name calling, cursing, demonizing, threats and even violence.

There is a universal unwritten law for boaters that "you are responsible for your own wake." For landlubbers, a "wake" is the waves produced by a powerboat. A wake can capsize a small boat, destroy habitat, and demolish docks.

Human relationships and a society get better only when people take responsibility for their own wake (i.e. their behavior and language). We need grassroots movements promoting civility, and Christians and their churches need to lead the way. Our historic Methodist (and Mennonite) emphasis upon peace and reconciliation adds responsibility to the contribution we can make.

(Rev. James Bortell is a retired IGRC clergy member who serves as pastor of the Carlock Mennonite Church. Reprinted with permission from the church's newsletter)

Deadline moved for June issue

Due to the Memorial Day holiday and the start of Annual Conference on June 2, the June issue of *The Current* will be published one week earlier than previously announced on Friday, May 21.

Copy and ad deadlines for the paper have also been moved up a week to Friday, May 14.

Conference News

An invitation from Bishop Palmer

Dear Friends:

As you may be aware, The United Methodist Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) completed several years of dialogue which culminated in the adoption of a full communion agreement between the two denominations. This new relationship is not a merger of the two denominations, but recognition of each other's ministry and mission. It recognizes that each has "the one, holy, catholic and apostolic faith" expressed in the Scriptures and confessed in historic creeds and the core teachings of each denomination. Under full communion, the two churches recognize the authenticity of each other's baptism and Eucharist and the full interchangeability of all ordained ministers.

To celebrate this new relationship, I would like to invite you to join me as we join our Lutheran sisters and brothers for a festival worship at 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 15, at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2477 W. Washington St. in Springfield.

I will be preaching and Bishop Warren D. Freiheit, bishop of the Central-Southern Illinois Synod for the ELCA will be presiding at Holy Communion. A freewill offering will be taken with the

proceeds designated for Nothing But Nets, an initiative that purchases and delivers mosquito nets as a means of malaria prevention.

A volunteer choir will sing for the service. They will rehearse onsite on the day of the service at 3:45 p.m. If you are interested in singing for the service, please contact Jean Welch by emailing jwtelch@stjohns-springfield.org at St. John's Lutheran Church.

Many of you already have working relationships with your Lutheran colleagues in the communities in which you serve. The agreement gives, in some sense, a formal expression to what is happening on the ground already. Full communion is fundamentally about strengthening relationships and allowing for new opportunities which already exist in many areas across the ELCA and the UMC.

Join me as we begin that journey of working together for greater unity in mission and ministry, and in more refined stewardship of the gifts God has given to both.

Your servant in Christ,
+Gregory V. Palmer
Resident Bishop
Illinois Episcopal Area
Illinois Great Rivers Conference

Resurrection Hope

Continued from page 1

attendance and giving records were set as congregants experienced the drama in a Easter trilogy – The Triumphal Entry, Upper Room Communion and The Crucifixion of Christ.

Alton Main Street UMC held an outside Sunrise Service on Easter near the property they are purchasing from the United Methodist Village in Godfrey.

Rev. Jame Hahs reports the service was held under street lamps and an air of excitement was present as a new chapter begins for the congregation.

At Oakford UMC in LaMoine River District, a communications breakdown resulted in no palms being ordered for Palm Sunday. The church were innovative, however, as the children made con-

fetti and used it for the palm parade giving the service a more contemporary flair.

"Next year we'll make sure the palms are ordered, but the confetti worked well as an alternative," reported Rev. Judy Vidakovich.

The Sidell and Newman UMC's combine for a cantata that is performed on Palm Sunday at Newman and for sunrise service at Sidell.

Large crowds were recorded at both performances as well as Easter worship, said Charles Graul, pastor at Sidell.

At Pawnee UMC, attendance rose to 120 on Easter Sunday as the church experienced Easter without a full-time pastor.

"The worship was alive and ready for a new beginning," reports Brandy, the church's secretary. "We miss our previous pastor but we are a strong congregation that believes God will take care of us."

Address change

Update your records as the Kaskaskia River District has changed addresses and has a new administrative assistant:

Kaskaskia River District Office
Jane Heinzmann, Admin Asst.
Office Hours 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
Monday through Thursday
1603 Salem Road
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
phone 618-242-2817
fax 618-242-2917
KaskaskiaRiver@igrc.org



Photo by Thaddeus Lolling

Members of the IGRC board of Church and Society and the ELCA social Justice Committee held its first joint meeting to discuss ministry opportunities March 23.

Methodists, Lutherans meet jointly to discuss ministry opportunities

By Kent Lolling

SPRINGFIELD – Representatives from the Central/Southern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Illinois Great Rivers Board of Church and Society met jointly March 26 to explore ways to partner and collaborate on issues of mutual concern.

The meeting was a result of fruitful conversations between Terry Moore, Director of Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod, and Kent Lolling, Director of Connectional Ministries. Quickly the circle was enlarged to include Rev. Miley Palmer, chair of the IGRC Board of Church and Society and Bunny Wolfe, IGRC Mission and Outreach Coordinator.

"Terry and I have had several fruitful conversations and it is my hope this will be the beginning of more partnerships between our two denominations," Lolling said.

One of several area of potential partnership discussed was in the area of social justice.

ELCA representatives attended the

IGRC Social Justice Summit on March 26 at the United Methodist Center in Springfield and the first ever joint meeting of the two social action groups followed the summit.

One of the first areas of agreement was to create a joint committee between the two denominations. A second area of joint effort was for United Methodists to join the Lutheran Rally Day on April 21 at the State Capitol – the same day that a rally by the Responsible Budget Coalition drew an estimated crowd of 15,000 people.

At this first historic meeting, Dan Schwick from Lutheran Social Services of Illinois and Lutheran Advocacy of Illinois and Palmer, discussed Lutheran Day and other possible joint activities for the newly-formed joint committee.

Much of the impetus for these joint discussions came when the ELCA approved a full communion agreement with The United Methodist Church at its August 2009 General Assembly. The United Methodist General Conference approved the full communion agreement in May 2008.

Deaths

Continued from page 2

serving several congregations, the SIU-E Wesley Foundation, was a former Conference Council on Ministries Director, East St. Louis District Superintendent and served several years as Director and Vice President of Church Relations for McKendree College prior to his retirement in 1995. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to his wife, Betty Treat at 1002 Sawmill Run, Moro, IL 62067-1212.

Positions

Continued from page 2

of the choirs; averages 6 hours per week primarily on Sunday mornings for nine months of the year. A degree in music or music education with experience working with children is preferred. To learn more about the position and FUMC, please visit our website at www.fumcpeoria.org, email employment@fumcpeoria.org or contact Dr. Bob Phillips at 309-673-3641 ext.114. Applications will be received until the position is filled. Applications review will begin May 24.

Apportionments at 19.95%

Conference apportionment remittances finished the first quarter of 2010 at 19.95 percent. Payments to the Clergy Support and Administration apportionment (CS/A) and Benevolences and Connectional Ministries apportionment (B/CM) are shown on pages 10 to 14 of this issue of *The Current*.

Churches on target for paying 100 percent for the year would have paid 25 percent after the first three months.