

NEXUS

"A Means of Connection"

VISIT THE WEBSITE
www.indymetroumc.org

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April—May 2008

The NEXUS is the newsletter of:

- Indy East District UMC
- Indy West District UMC
- Metro Ministries, Inc.

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Transitioning Neighborhoods Need Transforming Ministries

Metro Ministries & Indianapolis East & West Districts Annual Conference Lunch
by Rev. Douglas Simpson

You are invited to attend Metro Ministries, Inc., Indianapolis East and West Districts luncheon at the South Indiana Annual Conference Friday, June 6, noon. Reservations can be made on your Annual Conference Registration form. Go to the South Indiana Conference website: www.sicumc.org to sign up, or call the Metro Ministries office for more information.

Some people may ask why we do mission projects through Metro Ministries, Inc.. I believe it is because God has called us to a mission to communicate his love through our service and through our lives. It is because we have an authentic love for people, especially those suffering in body and spirit.

There is no pressure, no ulterior motive other than love. Metro Ministries has been faithful to put people in touch with God, who is the source of this unconditional love, and who sent his Son Jesus into the world to

demonstrate it. We have discerned by personal experience the transforming power of the possible through the United Methodist Church.

Time is of the essence. Our world is in a tumultuous state. The world fills our life with time-consuming activities, when we should be finding life in time well-lived. Our Metro landscape is in transition. Urban neighborhoods appear ethnically and socio-economically different now. Our rural neighborhoods are changing psychographically and soon we may be changing to a single Indiana Conference. We are in transition.

Come share lunch with us and let us tell you what we have been doing with the resources you have entrusted to us. Mark Eutsler, Metro Ministries, Inc.'s President of the Board of Directors is our keynote speaker. The theme is: Transitioning Neighborhoods Need Transforming Ministries. We have a vision for our future.

Annual Conference Dates to Remember

Annual Conference registration brochures will be mailed out the first week of April. Until then, be sure to mark these dates on your calendar:

Annual Conference

June 5-7

Memorial Service

Thursday afternoon,
June 5

All Conference dinner

Thursday evening,
June 5

Retiree Recognition

Friday morning,
June 6

Celebration of Ministry

Friday evening,
June 6

District News

Personals

Get Well Wishes and Prayer Concerns to...

- Rev. Nancy Blevins
- Rev. Wayne Patton
- Pauline Jordan, wife of Melvin "Bucky" Jordan
- Pastor Rosie Helms
- Pam Keith, wife of Bill Keith

Our Sympathy to...

- The friends of Rev. Howard Wright
- Rev. Bonnie Plybon, on the death of her mother
- The family of Rev. Ross Wallace (retired)
- The family of Rev. Ronald Thomas (Hope UMC, Columbus District)
- The family of Rev. Henry Gerner (retired)
- Rev. Dr. Norman Campbell, on the death of his mother

Congratulations to...

- Rev. Danny & Amber Walker on the birth of their son, Elijah James, on February 25th (Grandparents—Rev. Vicki & Rick Hobbs)
- Rev. Aaron & Michelle Justus Hobbs on the birth of their daughter, Emma Justus, on February 27th (Grandparents—Rev. Vicki & Rick Hobbs)
- Rev. Adam & Kyla Payne on the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth, on March 10th

Bishop Coyner has announced the following appointment changes in the Indianapolis East and Indianapolis West Districts:

- Scifres, David from no appointment to Noblesville First Assoc. (IE)
- Marchal, Lisa from Attending School to Extension Ministries

National Council of Negro Women Legacy Awards

In 1935 Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, Advisor of Minority Affairs to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, founded the National Council of Negro women. Its purpose was to bring together organizations with similar aims and create a clearinghouse, facilitating networking and coalition-building, and advocating collectively on issues affecting women, families and communities. Three years ago a new section of the National Council of Negro Women was established in Lawrence, Indiana and holds its meetings at the Lawrence United Methodist Church. Founder and current president of the section is Debra Cooper.

On Sunday, February 17, the Lawrence Section of the National Council of

Negro Women held their annual Black History Month celebration. During the celebration the Lawrence Section of the NCNW gave the Legacy Award to Rev. Paula Young Mayberry and Rev. Joseph T. Johnson. The Legacy Award is given to those who help keep alive the dream of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune and give service to the community. Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona, Florida is part of the legacy of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune and is an United Methodist affiliated school.

For more information about the National Council of Negro Women, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune and Dr. Dorothy I. Height see the NCNW website: www.ncnw.org

Imagine Indiana

The Imagine Indiana Design Team report and summary are now available at the Indiana Area web site (www.inareaumc.org). To view the report, click on the Imagine Indiana logo.



Indiana Area Receives Lilly Endowment Grant to Study Pastors' Finances

Indiana Area United Methodist Bishop Michael J. Coyner announced recently that the Indiana Area of The United Methodist Church has received a \$50,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment to conduct a study of the financial and well-being needs of the state's 1,000 United Methodist pastors.

According to Coyner, the prompting for the study came from the Lilly Endowment who invited several denominations in Indiana to conduct an actual study of pastor's financial needs.

Based on information provided by the United Methodist General Board of Or-

ained Ministry by ministerial candidates, the clergy school debt has been growing larger and larger with many candidates having school debts of \$30,000 or more, not including other indebtedness.

The results of this study could be used to prepare a larger grant request of the Lilly Endowment to develop programs and policies to help pastors and their families. Following a meeting with Lilly Endowment officials on Monday, Coyner said "they are allowing us to broaden our study to learn more about the over-all levels of happiness of our clergy, wellness issues and also financial issues. We are calling this study

"The Well-Lived Pastoral Life."

The study will be conducted by Dr. Matthew Bloom, a professor at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, who specializes in studying professions.

Coyner has sent letters to all active pastors outlining the study and asking for them to participate in the survey. Letters from Bloom will be sent to pastors explaining how to participate in the survey either on-line or by mail. Results from these surveys will be anonymous and will be compiled by Bloom in order to provide the data for development of plans to meet the needs of pastors and their families. – e-HUM

How You Can Help

WHAT IS A PACKING PARTY?

At an Operation Classroom Packing Party, individuals and congregations come together to donate needed items for Operation Classroom partners across the world, and then prepare the items for shipment. With time for prayer, fellowship and service, it is a wonderful mission opportunity for Christians of all ages and experience levels.

WHAT SUPPLIES ARE NEEDED?

Student Supplies: Solar calculators, protractors, metric rulers, spiral notebooks, pens, new or gently used backpacks, educational posters for classrooms

Medical Supplies: First Aid items, children's non-gummy chewable multivitamins

Vocational Supplies: Tools (woodworking, gardening/agricultural, metalworking), home economics supplies (materials for sewing, cooking, etc.)

Scholarship Funds: \$75 per student. Donations of every level are gratefully accepted. For a detailed list of needs, please visit www.operationclassroom.org.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

Contact your local congregation's Operation Classroom or missions coordinator or your district's Operation Classroom coordinators.

Indianapolis West Coordinators

J.D. Miniear
jminiear@comcast.net
 Don & Marilyn Griffith
drdongriffith@aol.com

Indianapolis East Coordinators

Tom Tillett - ttillett@ralis.com
 Mona Morgan - Morggm@aol.com

Indy West Packing Party Report

The Indianapolis West Operation Classroom Packing Party was held at Meridian Street United Methodist on January 13, 2008.

Twenty-five boxes were packed containing 87 YES Kits, 18 elementary Kits, 2 teachers kits along with other classroom supplies. Chapel Hill, Lebanon Centenary, Meridian Street, Southport and Speedway churches were represented.

Flood Relief Efforts in North Indiana

Recovery efforts are underway in northwest Indiana to assist those with flood damage mostly in the Lafayette District.

The Rev. Mary van Wijk, pastor of the Remington UMC, said the disaster response there, known as Disaster Assistance in Northwest Indiana (DANI), needs volunteers interested in assisting trained case managers in the field.

For those wanting to volunteer, contact van Wijk at mevanwijk@hotmail.com or by phone at 219-261-2273 or John Mayfield, case management supervisor, at jmay49@hotmail.com.

Churches wishing to make monetary donations to assist victims of the recent flooding in North Indiana may send funds to: North Indiana Conference UMC, PO Box 869, Marion, IN 46952. Note memo for Flood Relief in North Indiana - account 030401.

Delegates from North Katanga Coming Soon

Eight General Conference delegates from the North Katanga Annual Conference (Democratic Republic of the Congo) will be visiting in South Indiana the two weeks after General Conference. (May 5 - 16)

If your church or cluster is interested in hosting a day or an event, please contact Bob Walters (bwalters@sicumc.org) or Lourdes Gonzalez (Lgonzalez@sicumc.org) at the conference center.

Two RV's are still needed for the road show. The group wants to visit different kinds of churches, UM Health and Welfare communities, UM universities, community ministries, local and state government, industry, and Hoosier tourist sites.

French speaking translators would be helpful. This visit is sponsored by the Kamina Project in conjunction with the North Katanga Partnership. www.kaminaproject.org www.northkatangaumc.org

Upcoming Indianapolis Packing Party Dates

INDIANAPOLIS EAST

April 13, 2008
 Old Bethel UMC
 7995 E. 21st Sreet
 Indianapolis

July 13, 2008
 Emmanuel UMC
 16000 Cumberland Road
 Noblesville

October 12, 2008
 Cumberland UMC
 219 N. Muessing Street
 Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS WEST

May 18, 2008
 Avon UMC
 6850 East US 36
 Avon

July 20, 2008
 Centenary UMC
 910 Fordice Road
 Lebanon

August 24, 2008
 Chapel Hill UMC
 963 N. Girls School Road
 Indianapolis

October 12, 2008
 Speedway UMC
 5065 W. 16th Street
 Indianapolis

December 6, 2008
 Plainfield UMC
 600 Simmons Street
 Plainfield



First Ever Fat Tuesday Pancake Lunch a Huge Success!

In an effort to raise money for Metro Ministries' Community Centers, the Metro Ministries and District Offices staff members rolled up our sleeves for the first ever Fat Tuesday Pancake Lunch on Tuesday, February 5th at Meridian Street UMC.

After preparing hundreds of pancakes and sausage links, we strived to practice "Radical Hospitality" as we served many of you. With toe-tapping New Orleans jazz music playing in the background, conversation and maple syrup flowed around the tables as you all enjoyed the fellowship and food.

Because of your generosity, we were able to collect \$500 for the Metro Ministries' Community Centers! Thank you for coming to this fun event, and giving so freely.

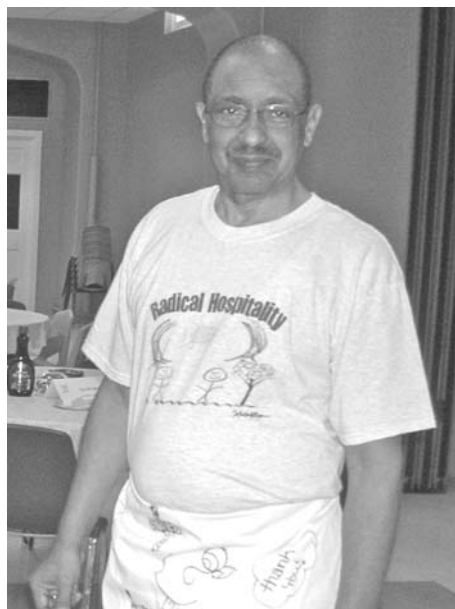
Our thanks also goes to the staff at Meridian Street UMC. The staff members donated some of the supplies, set up tables and chairs, and helped us clean up afterwards.



Lisa Morris, Ned Steele and Pam Voss (above) and Douglas Simpson (below) model the T-shirts featuring Bishop Coyner's artwork.



Bill Keith (above) and Katie Swisher (below) work hard at flipping hundreds of pancakes for the many who came to dine.



Ned Steele and Pam Voss serve pancakes and sausage with a smile!

2008 South Indiana Conference Laity Manuscript Contest Announced

Each year the Board of Laity offers the opportunity to all laity of the South Indiana Conference to express thanks and praise God by submitting a sermon manuscript for judging.

This year the theme is "One in Spirit, All in Ministry: In the Spirit of Fellowship." Manuscripts are judged on how well the theme is followed and developed, as well as the use of creative writing techniques.

The author will present the winning manuscript at the Laity Session of the Annual Conference on Thursday, June 12th in Bloomington. Two other manuscripts will be given Honorable Mention.

Manuscripts are to be sent to Ike Williams, Conference Lay Leader, 1515 Cool Creek Drive, Carmel, Indiana 46033-2318. Name, address, phone number, local church name, and district name should be on a cover letter. Manuscripts will be

assigned a number and be judged anonymously by the selection committee. The deadline for entries is April 30, 2008.

The winners and two runners up will be notified by May 21. All entries must be postmarked by April 30. Additional information concerning the contest can be obtained by contacting Bob Pimlott, Columbus District Lay Leader at 812-273-3081 or by e-mail at rpimlott1@verizon.net.

Asian Help Services

317-924-4827
 Fax: 317-924-4209
 Sungboon Baik,
 Executive Director
 baikahs@yahoo.com

Brightwood Community Center

317-546-8200
 Fax: 317-546-8204
 Debra Grady, Executive Director
 Margaret Mayo,
 Administrative Assistant
 brightwood2410@aol.com

East Tenth Children and Youth

317-637-5144
 Jean Casmir Hill,
 Executive Director
 jcasmirhill@east10th.org

Fletcher Place Community Center

317-636-3466
 Fax: (317)636-3467
 Jessi Langlie, Executive Director
 jessi@fletcherplacecc.org
 Web site: www.fletcherplacecc.org

Vida Nueva United Methodist Church & Centro Familiar

David & Stacy Peñalva
 Telephone: 317-638-0796
 davidpenalva@vidanuevaumc.org
 stacypenalva@vidanuevaumc.org
 Web site: www.vidanuevaumc.org

**All Community Centers
 needs are on our website:
 www.indymetroumc.org**

Metro Ministries Offers Summer Youth & Children Grants

Metro Ministries, Inc. is now accepting applications for Summer Youth & Children Programs. The grant application form is now available on the Metro/Districts website www.indymetroumc.org. Local churches planning summer programs for youth and children are asked to complete the application form and return them by April 30, 2008.

In 2007, \$7000 was granted to local church children and youth summer programs.

21st Annual Stansfield Circle Sports Camp for Girls

The 21st Annual Stansfield Circle Sports Camp for Girls has been scheduled for June 9-12 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily. The camp will be held at Park Tudor School (7200 North College Avenue, Indianapolis). The camp benefits Fletcher Place Community Center, Marion County Children's Guardian Home and the Ronald McDonald House.

The purpose of the 21st Annual Sports Camp for Girls is to provide young ladies who have completed the 3rd, 4th or 5th grade the opportunity to be introduced to different sports, improve basic skills and, most importantly, have fun and camaraderie with

other girls. The Camp is staffed by the members of Stansfield Circle, along with professional instructors in basketball, dance, golf, soccer, tennis and volleyball.

In addition to the sport instruction time, crafts, friendship-building and service activities are incorporated during the noon break.

Registrations are accepted through May 12. For more information, call Shannon at 849-5180 or Jill at 577-2540. You may visit our organization's website at www.stansfieldcircle.org.



Vida Nueva United Methodist Church & Centro Familiar have a new website!
 Check it out at: www.vidanuevaumc.org

School of Christian Mission Scheduled for July

The South Indiana Conference School of Christian Mission will be held on the campus of the University of Indianapolis, July 26-Super Saturday Session or July 27-30 Weekday School.

The 2008 Theme is "Living the Sacred." Studies this year are: **Spiritual Growth Study**, "I Believe in Jesus" with Bishop Michael Coyner; **Geographic Study**: "Israel- Palestine" with the Rev. Mary Wilder Cartwright; **Current Issue Study**: "Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival" with the Revs. Dr. P.T. Wilson and Billie Nowabbi; **Young Women's Study**: "Giving Our Hearts

Away: Native American Survival" with Rita Gaither-Gant, Kathy White and Barbara King.

This school is designed for mission committee members, lay leaders, pastors, United Methodist Women members, young women, youth and children.

Activities will include: Mission studies, worship, music, UMW officer update, mission update, mission education resources, videos, hands-on mission project, fellowship and banquet.

For more information check out the "Southwind" newsletter by logging onto: www.qbgm-umc.org/sicmw/

Around the Districts

Lawrence UMC Camp

Are you looking for a safe Christian summer camp for your child? Lawrence Summer Kids' Camp at Lawrence United Methodist Church, 5200 N. Shadeland in Indy, is the place for you! Session I runs June 2 through June 27 (4 weeks) and Session II runs June 30 through July 25 (closed July 4).

Each 4-week camp session is \$300 per child per session. Session III is a one-week camp from July 28 through August 1 for \$100 per child. Camp hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Extended care is also available from 6:30-8:00 a.m. and/or 4:30-6:00 p.m. for an additional \$80 per session per child for Sessions I & II and \$20 per child for Session III. These fees include 2 to 3 field trips per week including swimming every Friday. Children must bring their lunch with a drink and 2 snacks are provided.

Let us help you give your children a summer experience they will remember forever. Check us out at www.lskc94blinkz.com. Contact Vicky at 549-4312 for questions and to request a registration packet.

Smith Valley Mission Trip

Dr. Joe Bottorff of Smith Valley UMC, Greenwood, IN will be leading a group of Lay Missioners to Caragenta, Colombia, South America, July 19-26, and there is room for more participants. Cost is \$1495 with a \$150 deposit required at the time of reservation.

Our focus on this trip is medical, women's prison, children's ministries and support of vocational youth education. Contact Pastor Joe for more details at 317-432-6706.



Calendar of Events

April 12, 2008	<u>Lay Speakers/Servants School</u> at Center UMC in Indianapolis
April 13, 2008	<u>Indy East Operation Classroom Packing Party</u> at Old Bethel UMC
April 14-15, 2008	<u>"Our Life Together"</u> Clergy Retreat at St. Luke's UMC
April 17-19, 2008	<u>PAUMCS Annual Conference</u> , Dayton, Ohio
April 23-May 2, 2008	<u>UMC General Conference</u> , Dallas, Texas
May 18, 2008	<u>Indy West Operation Classroom Packing Party</u> at Avon UMC
June 5-7, 2008	<u>South Indiana Annual Conference</u> , Bloomington, IN
June 6, 2008	<u>Metro Ministries / Indianapolis East & West Districts Luncheon</u> at Annual Conference
June 15-20, 2008	<u>South Indiana "Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation"</u>
June 19-22, 2008	<u>UMW Midwest Regional School</u>
July 4, 7, 2008	<u>Office Closed</u> for Independence Day Holiday
July 11, 2008	<u>Metro Auxiliary Celebration</u> at Brightwood Community Center
July 13, 2008	<u>Indy East Operation Classroom Packing Party</u> at Emmanuel UMC in Noblesville
July 15-19, 2008	<u>North Central Jurisdictional Conference</u> , Grand Rapids, MI
July 20, 2008	<u>Indy West Operation Classroom Packing Party</u> at Centenary UMC
July 26-30, 2008	<u>South Indiana School of Christian Mission</u>
August 23, 2008	<u>Metro Auxiliary Vida Nueva Fiesta</u> at Vida Nueva
August 24, 2008	<u>Indy West Operation Classroom Packing Party</u> at Chapel Hill UMC
October 4, 2008	<u>Special Session Annual Conference</u> , State Fairgrounds
October 12, 2008	<u>Indy East Operation Classroom Packing Party</u> at Cumberland UMC
October 12, 2008	<u>Indy West Operation Classroom Packing Party</u> at Speedway UMC
October 13-15, 2008	<u>Convocation for Pastors</u> , Columbus, IN
October 17, 2008	<u>Brightwood Annual Dinner</u> at North United Methodist Church
October 17-18, 2008	<u>UMW Conference</u>
November 6, 2008	<u>Fletcher Place Annual Dinner</u> at Fletcher Place
November 6-7, 2008	<u>Training Event for Pastors of Larger & Full Time Churches</u> with Kennon Callahan
November 8-9, 2008	<u>Celebrating Small Strong Churches</u> with Kennon Callahan
November 15, 2008	<u>UMW District Leadership Event</u>
November 20, 2008	<u>Metro Ministries Annual Meeting</u> at Broadway UMC
December 6, 2008	<u>Indy West Operation Classroom Packing Party</u> at Plainfield UMC
December 12, 2008	<u>Metro Auxiliary Christmas Celebration</u> at Fletcher Place
December 24-Jan 4, 2009	<u>Office Closed</u>
February 3-12, 2009	<u>Bishop Coyner's Holy Land Pilgrimage</u>

THIRD ANNUAL A.B.C. GOLF OPEN

Join us for the third annual A.B.C. (Avon, Bethel, Calvary) Fellowship Golf Open! This year's event will be held on Saturday, June 21st, and will begin at 8:30 a.m. All golfers of all skill levels are invited to attend.

There will be fellowship on the course at the awards ceremony, and lunch will follow in the clubhouse. The entry fee is \$75 per golfer, and includes 18 holes with cart and lunch. All golfers are welcome.

Sponsors are still needed! If you or your company are interested in sponsoring a hole, please contact Mike Torrance at 317-509-3530 or michaelgt@midprofluidpower.com. The registration packet is available online at www.indymetroumc.org.

If you are interested in attending this great event, please register soon to assist those who are planning the event.

Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation

The South Indiana UMC Conference and The Presbytery of Ohio Valley will be joining together in offering a "Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation" at Waycross Retreat Center in Morgantown, Indiana from June 15th to June 20, 2008.

The faculty will be Sister Kathleen Flood, OP and Glandion Carney. Sister Kathleen is the Executive Director of Stillpoint, a contemplative prayer retreat in Nashville, Tennessee, and a well known presenter at retreats and academies for laity and clergy. Glandion is a member of the Renovare' Ministry Team and Chaplain for the Legal Society. He is highly recommended by many of the ministers in the area.

The theme of the academy, "God of Grace...God of Glory", will be discussed by the faculty and in small groups during the five days. This will be also a time for silence and reflection by the participants.

If interested, please contact Barbara Hale, MA - SF & E at 317-696-6747 or e-mail at: bhale1020@msn.com.

Are you interested in receiving the NEXUS newsletter by e-mail instead of postal mail? If so, let us know!

Contact Katie Swisher at kswisher@indymetroumc.org to let us know your preference.



Advance Flyer Notice

LAY SPEAKERS/SERVANTS SCHOOL

Indianapolis East & West Districts of the United Methodist Church

Spring 2008

April 12, 2008 — 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Center United Methodist Church
5445 Bluff Road
Indianapolis, Indiana

AT THE CHURCH SITE: 317-784-1101

Child Care Provided by Pre-registration only

BASIC COURSES

Basic A

LEADERS

*Steve Hadley, Certified Lay Speaker, Center United Methodist Church, Indianapolis

Basic B

*Rev. Len Devaisher, Assoc. Pastor, Center United Methodist Church, Indianapolis

ADVANCED COURSES

Prayer

LEADER: *Dr. Malcolm Herring, Certified Lay Speaker, Zionsville United Methodist Church, Zionsville

Youth Ministry

LEADER: *Pamela Gilbert, Indy West Youth Coordinator, Trinity United Methodist Church, Crawfordsville

Church Community Outreach

LEADER: *Rev. Chad Abbott, Pastor, Lockerbie Central United Methodist Church, Indianapolis

Sermon Preparation

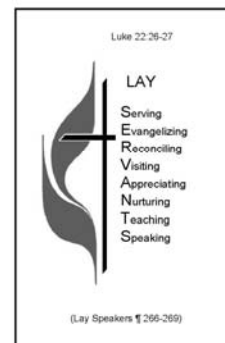
LEADER: *Dr. C. Mac Hamon, Pastor, Castleton United Methodist Church, Indianapolis

Diversity—A New Perspective

LEADER: *Rev. Sharon White, Assoc. Council Director, South Indiana Conference, Bloomington

* The Courses are set— all *Leaders have yet to be confirmed

Watch for information on the WEB SITE: www.indymetroumc.org
For more information contact Indianapolis Districts Office (317-924-4140).
Classes may close if insufficient registrants.



Bloomington Announces Iglesia Metodista Hispana

The Bloomington District of the United Methodist Church is pleased to announce the creation of a New Faith Community, "Iglesia Metodista Hispana," a Spanish-speaking congregation that will embrace the growing Hispanic population in Monroe and surrounding counties.

The new congregation began meeting on Sunday, March 16th and continues to meet every Sunday thereafter at the facilities of the South Indiana Conference Center of the United Methodist Church at 1520 Liberty Drive in Bloomington.

Along with regular Worship Services and pastoral care, future plans include Christian Education and Christian Counseling in harmony with the Hispanic/Latino cultural traits

and worship style.

Dr. Ramon Tristani, a native of Puerto Rico, has been selected to lead the new congregation and serve as its first pastor. His experience includes more than 25 years in the pastoral and evangelistic ministries, including radio and television broadcasts.

All Spanish speaking persons from all nationalities and upbringings are invited to attend the services and join the Lord's family that will be raising His banner in Bloomington.

For more information please contact Mrs. Jessica Lindsey at the Bloomington District United Methodist Church Office at 800-919-8161 or 812-339-1445. She may also be contacted by email at bladmin@sicumc.org.

Bishop Coyner to Host Holy Land Pilgrimage

Bishop Michael Coyner invites you to join him on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2009. Working with Educational Opportunities this ten-day trip to Israel will be February 3-12, 2009.

This trip of a lifetime includes walking the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem, a boat ride and devotions on the Sea of Galilee, and a devotional time on the Mount of Beatitudes.

Pastors can earn a trip by recruiting others to travel with them. Brochures are being printed and will be available by late summer.

For more information, contact Norm Nellis at normgumc@aim.com or 765-447-4152 or Neal Partain at 812-275-8995.

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APRIL—MAY 2008

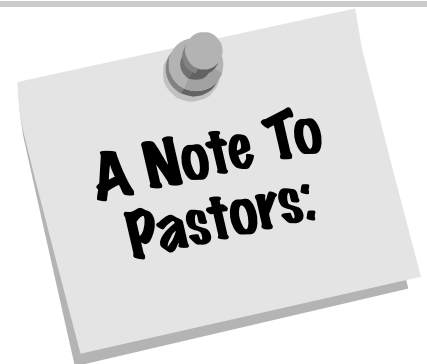
Bits & Pieces

PAUMCS Annual Conference

An event for local church United Methodist Church Secretaries & Administrative Assistants, Episcopal & District Administrative Assistants

The PAUMCS (Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries) annual conference will be held in Dayton, Ohio, April 17-19, 2008. PAUMCS annual conferences provide many professional continuing education opportunities.

Registrations are still being accepted for this amazing event! The registration form is located on our website home page: www.indymetroumc.org. For more information about PAUMCS visit www.paumcs.org.



If you have PPRC or Trustee Chairs who weren't listed in your church's leadership directory, please let us know as soon as possible. You will also need to contact us if you have changes in your lay members and alternates to annual conference.

Indianapolis East pastors should contact Katie Swisher at kswisher@indymetroumc.org.

Indianapolis West pastors should contact Pam Voss at pvoss@indymetroumc.org.

Is your church looking for summer mission opportunities in the Indianapolis area??

This is the time of the year when Mission Committees are determining how they can help this summer. Don't forget that Helping Hands is quite active in the mission field. This group has several local projects in which your Church could be involved. These projects are repairing homes of the elderly and the handicapped. For more information, please call John Buswell on 317-253-9596 or send an E-mail to jabuswell@sbcglobal.net.

The Indianapolis East & West Districts and Metro Ministries offices will be closed April 16-18.