



Mississippi Conference

of The United Methodist Church

The Circuit Rider, January 31, 2012

Weekly Update for the Mississippi United Methodist Conference

2012 Lenten Devotional Series: Giving Grace

Deadline for submissions: February 10, 2012. For more information, go to <http://www.mississippi-umc.org/news/detail/2828>.

The Amazing Pace

For more information, go to <http://members.walkingspree.com/register/amazingpacems>.

Mission/Evangelism Summit, Feb. 25 2012

Christ UMC, Jackson, MS

Unhindered :: MYAC 2012, March 2-4, 2012

For more information, go to <http://www.mississippi-umc.org/pages/detail/1226>.

Gleanings

In the Congregation

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. -- Psalm 111:1

Thank you for your support of our shared ministry in 2011 through The United Methodist Church.

Here are some indicators of strength, causes for rejoicing:

- 2011 Mission Shares were up 1.73%
- Clergy Pension Benefits were up 1.01%
- Annual Conference Funding Plan was supported at 85.42%, the highest since 2006
- Starkville led the conference in support at 94.18%
- Brookhaven led the conference in largest increase - 7.6%
- \$17,762,425 total was raised for Mission Shares and Clergy Pension Benefits
- \$ 835,526 was raised for second mile giving
- Support to the General Church was \$2,962.111, an increase of 2.91%
- Annual Conference reserves are up \$88,647



In the congregations of The Mississippi Annual Conference, we are singing the ancient song appointed for worship last Sunday, January 29:

“Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,

*in the company of the upright, in the congregation. . .
Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them...
The Lord has caused wondrous divine work to be remembered;
the Lord is gracious and merciful...
God's praise endures forever!"*

With gratitude for each of you and our partnership in Christ's ministry,
Hope Morgan Ward

News & Announcements

Mission/Evangelism Summit – February 25

This week's thoughts in anticipation of the Summit

In their book *The God of Intimacy and Action*, Dr. Tony Campolo and Dr. Mary Albert Doling strive to push the church to reconnect spirituality with evangelism and mission. It is out of our own connection with God that we are able discern what God is calling us to do in terms of sharing the love of Jesus Christ through Word and deed.

In the third chapter, Dr. Campolo lifts up John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, "as an example of how our spirituality creates zeal not only for evangelism, but for world reform (51)." The Methodist movement has long put an emphasis upon holiness of heart and life. May we seek to recapture this vital connection between our own spiritual journeys and the call to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

On **Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012**, you are invited to join together with Dr. Campolo as The Mississippi Conference's Mission and Evangelism Teams sponsor the 2012 Mission/Evangelism Summit at Christ UMC in Jackson. Registration is \$10 per person which includes a lecture and Q-and-A time with Dr. Campolo, lunch, and an afternoon of worship. Registration may be completed online through the conference website at www.mississippi-umc.org.



Maples Memorial UMC hosts Mission Experience

By Cynthia Laird, Senatobia District Communicator

Photo left to right: Reverend Adam Gordon and Katie Peterson, Parish Director and Deaconess

On Jan. 29, 2012, Maples Memorial UMC was blessed with a visit from Parish Director Katie Peterson, a deaconess serving God's Country Cooperative Parish in the Eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan as a Church and Community Worker with the General Board of Global Ministries (GBOM.) Also, it was a time of celebration as Maples Memorial conducted a service of Sending Forth in Mission for Steve and Lynda Ingersol.

As I entered the church, I was greeted and given a bulletin. When I asked questions about the visiting missionary, I was immediately introduced to Rev. Adam Gordon, associate pastor. Rev. John Sudduth was out of town



due to the death of his mother-in-law. Despite the fact it was just a few minutes before the time for the service to begin, Rev. Gordon graciously took the time to answer my questions, and was even ready to help me locate the information I sought and the meeting place for the missionary presentation. Later, as he preached, I saw in his sermon a parallel between his willingness to help someone draw near to the Lord in worship regardless of any scheduling conflicts it might create, and the scene in Mark 1: 21 – 28 in which Jesus was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum, but still took the time to help a man with a serious problem. The unspoken message I heard was “Here at Maples Memorial, we care about people, their concerns, and their need to worship God”.

After the service, a group of us gathered for a chili luncheon and a time of learning about Peterson’s mission work. She serves seven churches in a 2500 square mile parish. It’s interesting to know that she lives in Paradise (Michigan), and works in God’s Country (Cooperative Parish). The Upper Peninsula is a beautiful but rugged part of the country, with a sparse population. The seven small churches have mission and outreach projects such as the pastries, a type of beef potpie, which were originally made for miners, but are now a favorite of tourists. Other projects include teens working on mission teams to build wheelchair ramps, steps and decks, doing drywall work, putting shingles on houses, doing yard work, wrapping shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, and sharing the love of Jesus. Some teens become involved in the work to be helpful to others, and in the process come to know the Lord. One teen group, consisting of five girls, did yard work, painting, and learned to build steps. They then moved logs that were being donated to a family needing firewood. Peterson’s summer photographer is a boy in the fifth grade who wanted to be a member of a mission project team, but could not because he is not within the required age limit. He assumed his duties as photographer while in the third grade.

Currently the mission is in need of money for gas cards and outreach ministry. They could also use a truck equalizer hitch and a bender break. If churches would like to donate other items to the mission, they always need basics such as toilet paper, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, and laundry soap.

Peterson will be in the Memphis Conference all this week, and at the UMW meeting scheduled for Independence UMC in Coldwater, Mississippi on Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. If you would like to learn more about this ministry or contribute to this ministry, you may contact her by at (906) 492-3680 or email to ktpete@gmail.com. Also, you may send donations to GCCP (God’s Country Cooperative Parish), 110 W. Harrie St., Newberry, MI 49868. The parish website is: www.gbgn-umc.org/gccp/.

Mississippi Conference UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat is March 2

United Methodist Women’s Spiritual Growth Retreat is scheduled for March 2 - 3 at Camp Wesley Pines in Gallman. The theme is “Grounded in Love - Moved to Action” led by Rev. Rwth Ashton, an ordained elder who currently serves as Chaplain at Millsaps College. The first 96 persons who register will be housed in Durr Wise. Others will be in cabins. Bring your Bible, towels, sheets, pillow, blanket, personal items and snacks to share. Registration for the entire retreat is \$45, including meals. To attend the Saturday sessions and eat lunch the registration fee is \$20. To attend the sessions only without meals the registration fee is \$10. Deadline for registration is February 10, 2012. Make your check payable to Mississippi Conference UMW and mail to Cindy Mason, 100 Overlook Drive, Brandon, MS 39042 with your name, address,



telephone numbers, church name, district name and your email address.

Ken Sizemore to be Featured at Edwards Street

Edwards Street Fellowship Center will hold a Benefit Concert with “The Old Folkie” Ken Sizemore, featuring classic, folk and pop music of the 50s, 60s, and 70s, on Saturday, February 25, 2012 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the University Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 3200 Arlington Loop in Hattiesburg. Attendance is free; however a love offering will be taken and refreshments will be available for sale.

Candler School of Theology Offers Training Conference

• Spring Conference – “The Singing Church: Current Practices and Emerging Trends in Congregational Song”

March 19-21 | Cannon Chapel

Registration required

A renowned group of ecumenical scholars and musicians will lead this exploration of the emerging practices, leadership skills, and repertoires of congregational song. The conference will include worship, a hymn festival and workshops about topics such as reinterpreting traditional worship-song, planning worship for multicultural communities and writing hymns for modern congregations. Conference registration includes attendance at “An Evening with John Bell” on March 20. To register, visit <http://tinyurl.com/singingchurch>.

• National Institute in Church Finance and Administration

June 4-June 29 | Candler School of Theology

Registration required

During the month of June, Candler School of Theology will offer the National Institute in Church Finance and Administration (NICFA) training course in business administration for church administrators, financial secretaries, volunteers and clergy. NICFA consists of four weeks of seminars that can be taken in any order. Satisfactory completion of the seminars and a final project allows participants to apply for certification as a Church Business Administrator (CBA) through the National Association of Church Business Administration (NACBA) and the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) in cooperation with the United Methodist Association of Church Business Administrators (UMACBA). Other denominations may offer certification as well. For more information: <http://tinyurl.com/NICFA2012>.

Seminar IIA, June 4–8: Legal & Tax Matters; Theology & Ethics of Church Administration; Christian Perspective & Theology of Church

Seminar IIB, June 11–15: Strategic Planning; Financial Management; Stewardship of Self & Self Care

Seminar IA, June 18–22: Property Management; Theology of Stewardship, Information Management, Communication and Marketing, United Methodist Polity and Theology

Seminar IB, June 25–29: Personnel/Human Resource Management; Office Management, Staff Development, Congregational Leadership

• Youth Theological Initiative Summer Academy

July 7-28 | Candler School of Theology

Application required

The Youth Theological Initiative (YTI) Summer Academy gathers rising high school juniors and seniors from around the world for an intensive, three-week experience of Christian theological education.

Applications are due March 1, 2012. Details at <http://yti.emory.edu>.

Cares and Concerns

Mrs. Audrey Thornhill, mother of Rev. Bobby Thornhill (BRO- Centreville & White's Chapel), passed away January 30, 2012. The funeral will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2012 at Sandy Hook UMC. Please be in prayer for the Thornhills during this difficult time of grieving.

Rev. and Mrs. Eddie Willis, New Albany District, announce the birth of baby **Laurin Adele Willis**, 7.5 lbs, 19 inches, at 7:33 p.m. Jan. 30, 2012. We rejoice with Eddie and Allyson and baby Laurin's siblings (3).

Employment Opportunities Across the Conference

First United Methodist Church of Greenville is seeking a Director of Program Ministries full or part time. This position will have oversight of all program areas to develop, organize and put into practice a program of ministry that attracts, instructs, and develops persons to live as Christian disciples. Applicants should be enthusiastic, willing to work as a team member, possess administrative skills, and be willing to share their faith. Salary is negotiable based upon applicant's experience. Send your résumé to: Rev. Brad Hodges by emailing to 1fumc@suddenlinkmail.com or First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 459, Greenville MS 38701.

Photo File

Senatobia District Mission Team Builds Ramp

Ed Flynn helps Mrs. Gwen Kizer up her ramp for the first time. Mrs. Kizer lives in Horn Lake and a member of Catholic Church. Our Methodists In Action mission team built this 20-foot ramp in five hours.



Lay Speaking Schools

Greenwood District

Feb. 3-4, 2012 | St. John's UMC

Registration \$15 per person

Info: 662-825-1961

Seashore District

Feb. 24-25, 2012 | Seashore Assembly, Biloxi

Registration \$50 per person

Info: 228-604-2300

Meridian District

March 3, 2012 begins at 7:30 a.m. | College Park UMC

Basic and Advanced Courses

Registration \$30 per person

Info: sara@meridianumc.org

Dates to Remember

Confirmation Retreat 2012

February 3 - 5, 2012

Camp Wesley Pines

RIM Council Reading Day

February 16, 2012 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

MS Conference Office

RIM Council Meeting

February 17, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

MS Conference Office

Evangelism/Mission Summit

February 25, 2012

MYAC

March 2-3, 2012

Christ UMC, Jackson, MS

BOM Interviews

March 5- 7, 2012

Parkway Hills UMC, Madison, MS

BOM Spring Meeting

March 6 - 7, 2012

Parkway Hills UMC, Madison, MS

Get Connected

Sign up now for The Circuit Rider at www.mississippi-umc.org and click on "Sign up for newsletter here."