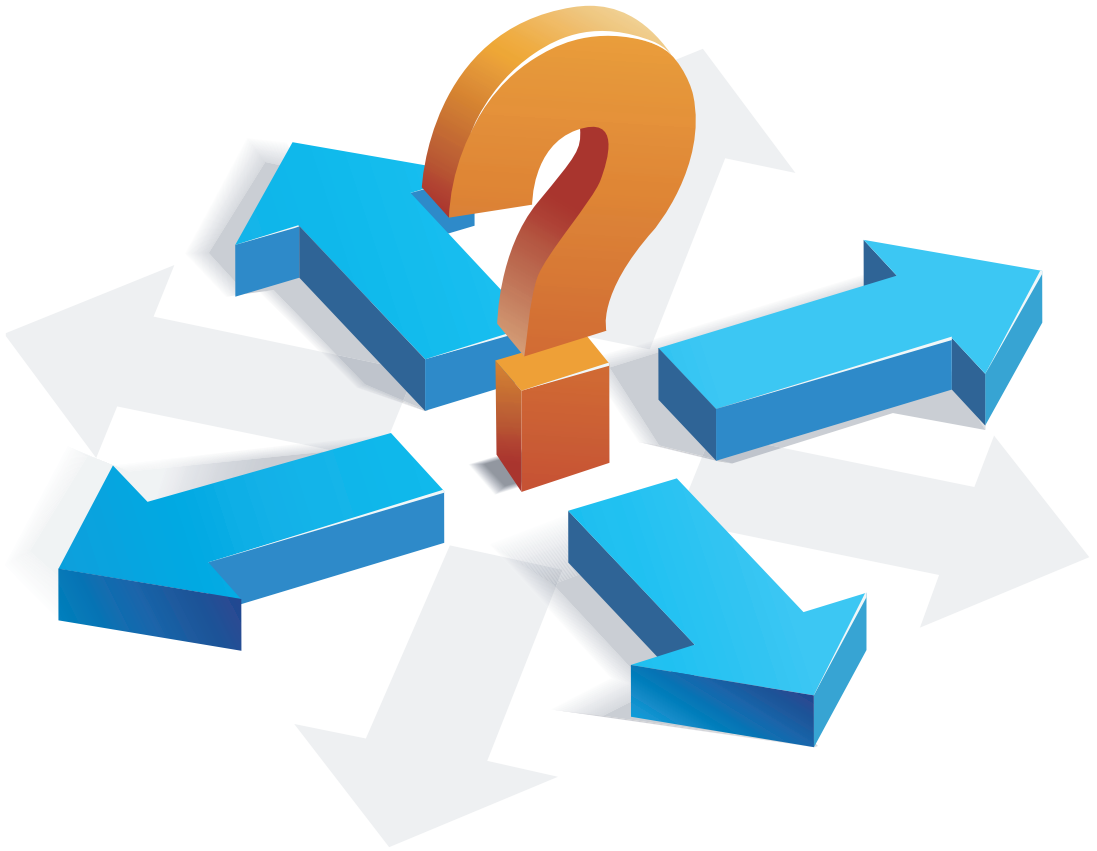


UMM MEN

The magazine of United Methodist Men



A Moment to Decide

A letter from the General Secretary



Good News

This issue has a wide variety of great articles—from first responders, to leadership, to changing your local church. Our goal is to present you with information that will

assist your ministry to men, enrich your role as a Scout leader, and aid your personal walk with Christ. We welcome your suggestions; those can be directed to me or to Rich Peck.

As many of you know, part of my responsibility in this position is to interact with other parts of the general church and with leaders of men's ministries in other denominations and para-church organizations. I am blessed to be in meetings where the wide scope of what we do as United Methodists is illustrated.

For the last eight years I have been helping the UMC understand how our agency works with other parts of our denomination and beyond. So here are some Good News sightings I think will please you and folks at your church.

We continue to invite other men's organizations to the National Gathering through the Denominational Men's Ministry Leadership group and through contacts with Man in the Mirror and the National Coalition of Men's Ministry.

On May 1 and 10, I presented information to new residential bishops and to leaders

of the Council of Bishops. Much of that presentation highlighted the multiple levels of collaboration between agencies, annual conferences and other entities within our UMC family.

Since the 2012 General Conference, there is a renewed and refreshing spirit of cooperation. There is more listening, more reaching out, more celebration, and more mutual support among agencies and among annual conferences.

As clearly stated by Paul, we are all parts of the Body of Christ, and today, I see each of those parts being honored by the whole.

That, my friends, is great news!

We have also received amazing responses from the publication of *Strength for Service to God and Community*. First responders in Boston, West, Texas, and Newtown, Conn., have expressed their appreciation for the recently released book of daily devotions. We may have launched a ministry similar to that begun 60 years ago when the Methodist Publishing House first released *Strength for Service to God and Country* to over one million troops in World War II.

Please continue to pray for the Gathering. Three years of careful preparation appears to be paying off. Registrations are coming in, but many of you are procrastinating. Please register today; invite men—younger and older—to come with you. Make sure an invitation is highlighted in your church, district and at the upcoming annual conference session. We have resources to assist you.

How can we better serve you and the men of your church?

Blessed to be on the journey with you –
Stay in touch.

Gilbert C. Hanke, General Secretary



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UM Men

Summer 2013

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Editor's note: This magazine includes articles from individuals who hold diverse opinions. We hope all articles are thought provoking; they are not necessarily the opinions of the General Commission on UM Men.



Breaking the stereotypes

While we might like to believe that we don't stereotype people, the truth is we all do.

We are likely to stereotype women as softer, weaker and dependent. Only when we meet (and sometimes live with . . . hi Joyce!) strong independent women do we begin to question the accuracy of that stereotype.

We know some African American men who are not athletic, but we continue to embrace the stereotype that they are more athletic than white men.

In this issue of *UM Men* magazine, Bishop Woodie White notes some people stereotype Black men as irresponsible and absent fathers.

Bishop White writes 100 Black Men of America, a national organization with more than 10,000 members, mentor youth in a variety of positive ways—a sure sign of the inaccuracy of stereotyping Black men as absent and uncaring.

Others sometimes stereotype African males as criminals. They ignore the fact that African American males and White American males living in the same area are equally likely to commit crimes.

While *UM Men* organizations include some young men, most people stereotype *UM Men* organizations as groups of older men who get together to eat.

Unfortunately, some groups of *UM Men* accept that mantle.

There is value in older men gathering to eat, discuss, pray, study and wor-

ship. However, if those groups do not find ways to invite younger men to participate in men's ministry, the church will continue to lose members and we will have ignored the great commission to make disciples.

No, we don't need to try to force younger men into our organizations. We do need to introduce opportunities for them to participate in other activities.

In a separate article, Gil Hanke, top staff executive for the Commission on *UM Men*, writes about three weird experiences that reach men in surprising ways. The only thing in common with the three outreach ministries is that they are all inventive. I celebrate the fact there are hundreds of similar "weird" ministries that are reaching beyond the stereotyped meet-and-eat organizations.

While the National Gathering of *UM Men* will continue speeches by nationally celebrated leaders, it will include some break-the-mold activities such as a national basketball tournament, filling plastic packs of dehydrated food for emergency situations in Third World nations, building hand crank carts for people in other nations who have lost the use of their legs, and the more typical bagging of produce for Nashville area food banks. Thirteen workshops will address some popular topics, but they will also tackle seldom discussed topics.

This issue of *UM Men* magazine discusses inaccurate stereotypes and invites you to join in efforts to break the image of *UM Men* as inward-focused groups that do little to address the needs of their communities.

Rich Peck

A moment to decide

By Bishop Woodie W. White

As a young pastor, one of my favorite hymns was, "Once to Every Man and Nation." The text by James Russell Lowell was popular in those days; the words were strong, challenging and affirmative. Sadly, when the current UM Book of Hymns was published in 1989, the hymn was not included because it was too gender specific. The Hymnal Committee felt the verses lacked the inclusive language appropriate for a new generation.

Yet, the hymn would be perfect for an all-male gathering such as anticipated when UM men come together this summer, in the denomination's quadrennial conclave in Nashville. The hymn speaks directly to men, and could inspire and galvanize the national gathering in a way that no other hymn could.

Negative stereotypes

Unfortunately, there are too many negative narratives and descriptions of American males today. We hear them constantly: chauvinist, homophobe, deadbeat, abusive, sexist, and reactionary. In an effort to challenge his political party to be more inclusive, one prominent national politician exclaimed, "We are running out of old, angry, white guys!"

In many African-American communities, the description of Black men as irrespon-

sible, absent fathers, and young Black males as criminals is the all-too-common description of African Americans today.

A disclaimer

I listen to these claims and want to shout a disclaimer. These stereotypes do not describe the men I know! Most of the African American men with whom I am acquainted are responsible fathers and husbands. They are involved in the lives of their children and are frequently involved with children and youth with whom they are not related.

In fact, many participate in organizations like 100 Black Men of America, a national organization with 118 chapters across the nation with more than 10,000 members. These men are engaged with youth in a variety of programs from mentoring, to awarding full four-year college scholarships.

There is, of course, the UM Men sponsorship of thousands of Boy Scout troops in local communities and congregations, the second largest such sponsorship of any church group in the country.

What is significant about both organizations is that they are composed of husbands, fathers, uncles, and other responsible and civic-minded males who rarely receive media attention.



100 Black Men of America is a men's civic organization and service club whose stated goal is to educate and empower African American children and teens.



Boy Scouts attend a UM worship service during the 2010 National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia.

Where are they?

Who then are these males described in such negative terms? Where do they reside? Are any of them after all, UM men, or members of our congregations? I surely hope not! It would certainly be disappointing if that were the case.

Each time I encounter a negative story about some male accused of some heinous act, or read a news account characterizing men in stark negative terms - prejudice, intolerant, and irresponsible, I am grateful for the UMC and especially UM Men in local congregations, annual conferences, and the general church. All these groups are making efforts to cultivate men in positive living, faithful discipleship, and responsible citizenship.


Change the image

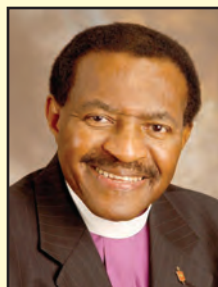
There is a special role and indeed a special responsibility for men in the church and community. I am sure those who gather in Nashville, this summer, as well as those who are a part of thousands of UM congregations across the world are assuming leadership roles. Perhaps, in time, negative male narratives will be turned into positive ones!

Back to that hymn, "Once to Every Man and Nation," can you imagine 4,000 men at Belmont University singing these words?

"Once to every man and nation, comes the moment to decide, in the strife of truth with false-hood, for the good or evil side; some great cause, God's new Messiah, offering each the bloom or blight, and the choice goes by forever, Twixt that darkness and that light.

"By the light of burning martyrs, Christ, thy bleeding feet we track, toiling up new Calvaries ever with the cross that turns not back; new occasions teach new duties, time makes ancient good uncouth; they must upward still and onward, who would keep abreast of truth."

Why that alone would be worth the trip! 



Bishop Woodie W. White serves as the bishop in residence at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta. He was elected to the episcopacy in 1984 while serving as the top staff

executive of the General Commission on Religion and Race. He served as president of the Council of Bishops from 1996 to 1997.

First responders receive copies of new book

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

“I see so much of the bad that goes on in a community—sickness, injuries and death—it’s every day—and it piles up on you.”

That’s what Dan Ramsey, a 30-year veteran of the Houston Police Department, told leaders of UM Men attending a February 28-March 3 meeting in Nashville.

Ramsey, president of the National Association of Conference Presidents (NACP)

of UM Men, underscored the importance of providing a spiritual resource for police officers, fire fighters and other first responders.



responders in the Nashville area will also receive copies of the pocket-size book as the result of a \$10,000 gift from another benefactor.

The new book is patterned after *Strength for Service to God and Country*, a book of daily devotions first published in 1943 for World War II troops. One million copies of the Methodist Publishing House publication were given out between 1943 and 1954. The book was discontinued after the Korean War.

Some 12 years ago, UM Men supported efforts to republish the book with additional devotions. A total of 460,000 copies of the second edition have been distributed, primarily to members of the Armed Services.

In speaking to the need for a book for first responders, Ramsey said, “First responders see the hurt—more so than the average person. I never took it home. My wife and kids couldn’t grasp the reality of what happens on the street. If you stay in that profession for years, it piles up. This book gives me and other first responders the opportunity to hear stories to which they can relate and shows how God can

Copies to Newtown

During a Feb. 28 meeting, the NACP executive committee gave \$1,500 to provide 250 copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community* to first responders in Newtown, Conn., site of the Dec. 14 killing of 28 children and adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

The group also learned that 1,700 first



LW Smith, chair of the Strength for Service Task Force, applauds UM men who have served as first responders. Men attending the National Association of Conference Presidents were the first to receive copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community*, a book patterned after a World War II book of daily meditations.

help them through similar circumstances.”

UM Men have given birth to a non-denominational non-profit Strength for Service organization that will assume responsibility for distributing the historic book for US troops and the new book for first responders. The new organization will also consider the possibility of publishing other books in the future.

To order

Individual copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community* are available from Amazon or Cokesbury (\$11.95 each).

Twenty-five or more copies are available from Eight-Eleven Press (\$7 each) (email request to specialsales@edmondspmg.com).

Groups that want to purchase 1,000 or more copies of the book may have their name and group logo imprinted on the back cover. The cost of that service depends upon the number of books printed: 1,000-4,999 (\$6 per book); 5,000-9,999 copies (\$5 per book) and more than 10,000 copies (\$4 per book).

The books may be delivered to a single address for the benefactor to distribute, or the books can be distributed by the publisher. For example, the books can be distributed to national or regional groups of fire fighters or police officers.



My experie

In *The Sirens of Titan*, Kurt Vonnegut has one of his characters say, “I can think of no more stirring symbol of man’s humanity to man than a fire engine.”

As one who has been a firefighter in volunteer, paid-on-call, and paid positions—as well as a chaplain who has comforted, married, and buried firefighters, I agree with the novelist.

There is no greater service than to lay down one’s life for another.

The dangers firefighters face are myriad; some threaten only the body, others imperil body and soul.

Each day is an unknown. One shift will be spent in the stationhouse with a few responses to false alarms. On the following day, firefighters will spend the entire shift working a four-alarm fire.

A stress-free day followed by a life threatening structure fire is difficult for people to understand much less endure.

My entry into fire service

I was lured into the fire service by three things.

As a boy, I loved the fire chief who lived up the street. I thought he was one of the greatest men I’d ever known. He loved his family, loved his work, and loved our small city. He began his career as a volunteer fireman and became one of the most respected fire chiefs in the state. He helped draft laws regulating fire service in the state, and he helped establish state fire codes and the firefighter academy. After graduating from seminary and moving back to my hometown, he asked me to attend the state academy to become a chaplain and firefighter. I later returned to the academy for advanced training.

As a young preacher I knew I had a lot to learn about my small community, and I knew nothing would integrate me more into a community than community service. When

ence as a first responder

By the Rev. Sky McCracken

you're a firefighter, you catch people at their best and their worst. Those experiences helped educate me about life, about people, and about a community. Having the opportunity to serve the same community in which I grew up gave me an opportunity to give back to people who raised me. The experience blessed me beyond description.

Even after retiring from the fire service, I continue to be aware of the sacrifices so many have made to serve their country in various ways. It is something I am still trying to process.

A DNA of service

My two uncles served in the Army in World War II, and my father served in the Korean War.

Uncle Howard never returned from World War II. He was declared missing in action and a year later he was declared dead. There was no body to bury, no funeral and no memorial service to celebrate his life. That loss became an itch in my father's family that they could never quite scratch.

When the draft began for the Korean conflict, my father, the youngest male of the family, was eligible. His father begged him to find a way to avoid service.

My father, who was a very peaceful and somewhat sheltered man, told me in his later years that he could not bring himself "to get out of serving," for three reasons:

- (1) he couldn't dishonor the service of two of his older brothers,
- (2) it was his duty to his country, and
- (3) he could not stand by while innocents were being slaughtered.

While I did not know these things until much later in my life, it helps explain why I felt pulled into the fire service. Service to my fellow men and women is part of my DNA.



The Rev. Sky McCracken

A way to share

Being a firefighter and a UM minister gave me wonderful opportunities to become acquainted and accepted as a contributing member of the communities in which I served. I was able to share my Christian walk and witness with many folks I otherwise wouldn't have reached. But I also came to a deep understanding of the toll firefighting can take on the body and soul.

Saving a house is a wonderful feeling.

I remember a house fire we were able to contain to two rooms. We quickly extinguished the flames and limited further damage. The family, the insurance company, and neighbors couldn't be complimentary enough. Hugs and handshakes were worth more than any paycheck I received.

Grief and devastation

However, when a family loses a home to a fire, it is akin to a death. Photographs, heirlooms, clothes, books are all gone. Exposed contents of burned cabinets and desks with personal items are a terrible intrusion upon any family.

You see the faces of family members who have lost some or all of what they owned, and you think it could be your own house. You salvage what you can; you get yourself and your equipment rolled up to be back in

service. The job is over, but the scenes and smells continue to replay in your mind.

I could never shower long enough to get the smell of a burned house or building off of me, but I now realize that much of what I smelled was more memory than some soot; it was a scent no shower could wash away. I won't ever try to describe the smells and sights when people cannot escape a burning house. Fatal car accidents are similar. You finish your job and go back to the station or your house, that's when your soul takes its worst hits.

Jackson tornado

In January, 1999, I was serving a church in Jackson, Tenn., when a Sunday tornado killed nine people.

Children and youth were having a regular meeting when the tornado touched down about one-third of a mile from the church.

Once I was sure everyone at the church was ok, I rushed to the decimated subdivision. It was a neighborhood I had driven through many times, but it was no longer recognizable. Heavy electrical line towers rated for 250 mph winds lay twisted on the ground. I heard voices crying out, but I didn't really know where to start.

Another firefighter, a deputy sheriff and an off-duty paramedic joined me within five minutes. They asked me to pray before we began our work. To this day I don't remember what I said. As I looked around I began to understand some of what my uncles and father might have seen when they were at war. It is an image my mind vividly replays.

When the post-traumatic stress debriefing teams met a week later, I wasn't a counselor—I was a participant. It was the most difficult thing I had ever experienced, and I still have dreams about it.

Anyone in the fire service can tell you stories—some of them are funny, outlandish, and worthy of print. Other stories aren't told, because they are too painful, too raw, and too tragic.


One in a thousand

I used to comfort firefighters and paramedics who found themselves at grisly scenes by telling them that there isn't one in a thousand people who could do the work that they do—and God blesses them for it.

And yet, most firefighters that I know could do no other. It's a sense of duty, a sense of call, and a sense of obligation—to protect and give back to a community.

Because of decades of service to fire departments, I now understand my father's thoughts about his service in Korea. When people are hurting and can't help themselves, their only help will come from those who put their own needs and safety aside to risk saving others.

Next time you see a firefighter, a police officer, a paramedic, or anyone in public service, quietly give God thanks for their work and their sacrifice. And publically, bless them—and remind them that they're not only doing work for their community, they're doing the Lord's work and service.

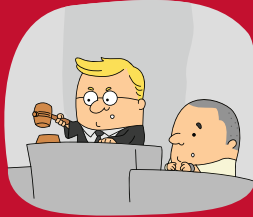
You may also want to consider giving your fire or police departments copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community*, a book of daily devotions designed to provide a spiritual resource for those who give their lives in service of others. 



The Rev. Sky McCracken is superintendent of the Paducah District in the Memphis Annual Conference.

Florida court sets atheist holy day

In Florida, an atheist hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians and Jews and observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days.



After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case dismissed!"

The lawyer immediately stood and objecting to the ruling saying,

"Your honor, How can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others.

"The Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays."

The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do. Your client, counselor, is woefully ignorant."

The lawyer said, "Your Honor, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists."

The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is April Fool's Day.

"Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.' Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that, if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool. Therefore, April 1st is his day.

Court is adjourned."



Future Church Service

PASTOR: Praise the Lord.

CONGREGATION: Hallelujah!

PASTOR: Can we please turn our tablet PC, iPad, cell phone, kindle Bibles to 1 Cor. 13:13. And please switch on your Bluetooth to download the sermon.

PASTOR: Let us pray, committing this week into God's hands. Open your Apps, BBM, Twitter and Facebook and chat with God.

PASTOR: Please have your credit and debit cards ready as we shall now take tithes and offerings. You can log on to the church Wi-Fi using the password Lord909887.

Ushers will circulate mobile card swipe machines among the worshipers.

Those who prefer to make electronic funds transfers are directed to computers and laptops at the rear of the church and those who prefer to use iPads are allowed to flip them open. Those who prefer telephone banking are allowed to take out their cell phones to transfer their contributions to the church bank account.

ANNOUNCEMENT: This week's cell meetings shall be held on the various Facebook group pages where the usual group chatting takes place. Please don't miss out.

Thursday's Bible class will be held live on Skype at 1900hrs GMT.

Please don't miss out. You can follow our pastor on Twitter this weekend for counseling and prayers.

PASTOR: God bless you and have a wonderful week!



God provides — We serve

By Jim Callaway

AUSTIN, Texas—

Ralph Eckwall shows up at Central Presbyterian Church in downtown Austin about 8:20 a.m. He greets me with a welcoming smile and a firm hand shake.

He was Conference UM Men president when I first met him and he will always be the face of that organization to me.

We open the doors and Ralph becomes all business. Chairs have to be moved, tables need to be set up and coffee has to be made.

Paul Diehl, another ex-Conference UM Men president, is the next to arrive and he dives right in. Three other men arrive and the work of readying the closet is quickly done.

At 9:40 we circle up and pray, "The Lord is in the building and it is time to go to work."

Guests arrive about 9:45. They all have vouchers from Austin Resource Center for the Homeless. No paper from the center—no clothes.

Ralph is stationed at the table closest to the door and he gets the first customer. I am amazed at the care and respect these homeless men are given. This is not some come-in-sit-down-and-shut-up organization. This is not-a-take-a-number-and-wait-your-turn government hand-out. Christ is present here working through these men who give their time and compassion to the people of the street.

Each man who comes to the clothes closet has his own style. One man likes orange: orange shirts, orange wind breakers and orange pants if we have them. We don't. He settles for black


corduroy pants and a black and orange Hawaiian shirt. He'll fit right in on game day at UT (that's the University of Texas for you Tennessee fans).

I expected to come into a place where the men of the street are handed a shirt and pants and sent on their way. I'm not even close. Sizes are determined and men

are presented with multiple clothing options.

UM Men treat their guests as customers and equals.

Time and again I hear, "God provides the clothes, we just provide the service."

For a few minutes, men of the street are listened to and served. They are prayed for, cared for and treated as equals. The difference between accepting and respecting is astronomical. UM Men in Austin are changing the world one shirt and one pair of pants at a time. They are showing the face of Jesus Christ. They don't even know that they are heroes, but I do. I hope you see it now too. These are men who truly walk with God. 



From left: Harold Cline, Ferman Hoxie, Marty Donley, Tom Bauer, Paul Diehl, Ralph Eckwall and Don Richardson prepare a clothes closet for underserved people in the Austin area.

Jim Callaway is president of McAllen District UM Men and vice president of Southwest Texas Conference UM Men.

God is a Methodist

In the film “42,” Branch Rickey makes it clear he and Jackie Robinson are both Methodists.

“He’s a Methodist,” says Rickey. “I’m a Methodist. God’s a Methodist.”

In the movie about breaking the color barrier in baseball, Rickey is played by Harrison Ford and Robinson is played by Chadwick Boseman.

The film makes it clear that much of Rickey’s motivation to create opportunities for African American players is derived from his Methodist heritage.

When Robinson asks Rickey if he wants a man who will fight back, Rickey opens up *The Life of Christ*, a 1920 book by Giovanni Papini. He reads Jesus words, “But whoever shall smite thee on the cheek, turn to him the other also.”

“I want a man with the courage not to fight back,” said Rickey.

When the owner of the Philadelphia Phillies threatens to keep his team off the field if Rickey plays Robinson, Rickey tells him that, when he dies and faces judgment before God, saying you kept your team off the field because you didn’t want to play against a Black man was not going to be “sufficient.”

Leader of Methodist Men

What the film does not tell us is that in 1928, Rickey served as vice-president of Methodist Men, while serving as vice-president of the St. Louis Cardinals, Rickey served on the 30-member Board of the Men’s Work Commission. Edgar T. Welch, president of the Welch Grape Juice Company, was president.

Luren Dickenson, lieutenant governor of Michigan and president of the General Conference Laymen’s Association, served

as second vice president. Dickenson went on to serve as governor from 1939-40.


Robinson’s faith

In a 1997 biography of Robinson, Arnold Rampersad tells how the teenager was rescued from the streets by the Rev. Karl Downs, minister of Scott Methodist Church in Pasadena.

Rampersad reports Downs became the channel through which religious faith “finally flowed into Jack’s consciousness and was finally accepted there, (if on revised terms), as he himself reached manhood,

“Faith in God then began to register in him as both a mysterious force, beyond his comprehension, and a pragmatic way to negotiate the world,” said Rampersad.

In a *Wall Street Journal* article, Chris Lamb cites a 1950 interview in which Robinson mentioned kneeling down every night to pray before going to bed.

“It’s the best way to get closer to God,” Robinson said, and then the second baseman added, “and a hard-hit ground ball.” 



Jackie Robinson and Branch Rickey

Become a servant leader

By Jim Boesch

While resistance to change is often an obstacle to sustained growth, positive change can lead us to heart transformation and that transformation can lead us into a renewed discipling environment.

Now is the time to apply the servant-leadership principles of Jesus to the challenges that exist in our home, work and community. In doing this we can also explore our own personal leadership motivations, thinking, behaviors and habits as part of the discipline of leading like Jesus.



This renewal should challenge us to develop our personal next step and long-range plan to be a servant as we integrate true selfless servant leadership into all facets of our leadership activity.

"The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."—Matthew 23:11

Leading like Jesus takes us on a challenging transformational journey. It's a commitment to lead in a different way; possibly vastly different than you have led others in the past or as you have been led by others.

During his mission on earth, Jesus poured his life into training his disciples in the first three leadership arenas: 1) personal leadership; 2) one-on-one leadership, and 3) team leadership. During that process, he equipped them to follow his leadership mandate after his ascension as they moved to the fourth leadership arena of organizational leadership.

Personal leadership

Leadership occurs "anytime you seek to influence the thinking, behavior or development of others." In servant leadership, the development of the competence and commitment of both leader and follower are of equal importance in building a relationship of trust.

So, how do we lead more like Jesus?

First, we begin to live as he lived in all areas of our lives. Not just in church, but also when we are with our families, friends and in our places of work.

Jesus demonstrated that the first step in becoming a leader is to answer the questions "Whose am I?" and "Whom do I follow?"

In Matthew 4, we read that after he was baptized Jesus was led out into the desert for 40 days and Satan tempted him three times. Jesus' response was, "Worship the Lord your God and serve him only." In so many words, he said, "I belong to my Father." The transformation of would-be disciples began after they accepted Jesus' invitation to follow him.

One-on-one leadership

Once the disciples made a commitment to follow him, Jesus was able to transform them into fishers of men while working in the one-on-one leadership arena. Once we

see life from a transformed perspective, we are able to develop a trusting relationship with others.

In this second phase of servant leadership development, Jesus demonstrated this trust with his fledgling disciples. Jesus poured His life into his disciples 24/7 for three years and the result was a foundational trust between leader and follower. Without trust, it is impossible for any organization to function effectively. Trust is essential for two people to work together.

It is important to note that trust will never be achieved or maintained if the first arena of development—personal leadership—has not been addressed. If a person is self-centered rather than other-centered, people will only move toward him or her as long as their own self interests are being met.

Team Leadership

When the ability to develop and sustain trust in one-on-one relationships is applied to the third phase of team and family leadership it produces empowerment and community. Community is “the act of serving and supporting one another and working together for a common goal.” Effective servant leaders at the team level realize that to be good stewards of the energy and efforts of those committed to work with them, they must honor the power of diversity and acknowledge the power that comes from teamwork.

Trust is also a key factor in successful implementation at the team level. Without developing trust at the one-on-one level, empowerment will never happen. Failure to empower is one of the main reasons that teams are ineffective.


In this level, Jesus brought together 12 individuals and developed them as a team. Through his ministry, Jesus fostered trust and support among them to create the sense of community. He knew such trust would be needed to change the world for eternity.

Organizational Leadership

When we complete the first three steps, we are ready to lead organizations, churches or communities. The quality of a leader’s influence at this broader organizational level depends on the outcome of a transformed perspective, trust, empowerment and community that has been attained at the first three levels of the transformational journey.

While Jesus did not technically lead at the organization level during his ministry on earth, He definitely inspired and equipped a team of people to begin to build his church through their acquired leadership skills.

Caution: Too often many “wanna-be” leaders spend their time and energy trying to improve things at the organizational level before ensuring they have adequately addressed their own credibility at personal, one-on-one, and team-leadership levels. Without the personal transformation and trust that result from these first three stages, it is difficult, if not impossible, to lead successfully at the organizational level.

The challenge for us today is to invest the time and effort required to utilize this transformational leadership cycle as our guide to inventory, prioritize and commit to becoming transformed as servant leaders serving God and others in our ministry lives. Then we will be building God’s Kingdom on earth through others in our churches, families and communities. 



Jim Boesch is a deployed staff member of the General Commission on United Methodist Men. This article is adapted from the book Lead Like Jesus: Lessons for Everyone from the Greatest Leadership Role Model of All Time by Kenneth H. Blanchard, Phil Hodges

A man named John

By Roger Wooden

MANCHESTER, Mo. —

Freezing rain was falling on a Christmas Eve as she arrived for the first time at Manchester UMC. She marveled at the man in the orange rain gear that directed her in the parking lot. It was a tough night to be out in the weather. She hoped they paid him well.

On a different day another visitor met that same man with an ever-present smile, at the main entrance. He held the door and greeted everyone as they arrived to worship. That man, John Himpel, was recently selected as the 61st Manchester Man of the Year by his predecessors. This recognition has been a tradition at Manchester UMC since 1955.

Active churchman

As an iceberg, what you see of John is impressive but the greatest mass of his activities is not apparent. His early church involvement included teaching a 5th grade Sunday school class and guiding a 60-member youth group. He was also an integral member of the church's first youth mission trip to Appalachia.

John has been the chair of the Worship Work Area and of the Music Committee, and he participated in the fundraising campaign to acquire a sanctuary organ.

He is a regular participant in the men's Christmas tree lot which annually generates some \$40,000 for scholarship and local ministries. John has also been one of the builders of the bicycle rehab program that has provided more than 3,000 bicycles for young people in the inner city of St. Louis. In most years, John joins riders who bicycle across

Missouri to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity, where he also volunteers his time and skills. John has been a confirmation family leader, a member of the Administrative Board and a part of the Vision Council.

Severe depression

John was born in Lawrence, Kans., shortly after the end of World War II and raised in a rural environment where he attended a two-room schoolhouse with older students.

John and his mother experienced severe depression in those early years as the result of ever-present violence. This resulted in a personal philosophy that if God provides good boys with "milk and honey," he must be a bad boy.

On several occasions, John tried to cope by running away from home. He lacked self-esteem, and medication had little effect. John's depression ultimately landed him in a nine-week stay in the hospital and delayed his graduation from the University of Kansas.

Battle with Alzheimer's

A key factor of John's ability to survive his depression came when he met Deborah in 1970. They married the following year. It was the same year John began a 21-year career with A. G. Edwards & Co.

While Deborah helped John in the first four years of marriage, the two exchanged roles when Deborah began to show signs of dementia. She had earlier witnessed both her father and her brother fall victim to Alzheimer's disease.

Health regulations at that time did not provide funds or care for Deborah since she was not of retirement age.

John then became a leading proponent of the need to modify our laws. He was one of seven people that formed the Alzheimer's Association and he served on the national board of directors for that organization. His activities found him testifying before Congress about this disease and meeting many of America's most wealthy people in the association's search for funding.

As Deborah's condition reached its inevitable conclusion, John found himself nearly penniless, but he was supported by neighbors and the church community.

He met his second wife, Lois, at a singles program sponsored by Manchester UMC.

John considers himself twice blessed.



John Himpel

Adoption of Russian children

In 1995, the men of Manchester UMC were approached by the Rev. Andrei Pupko, a pastor from Pushkin, Russia, to help initiate a Christian men's group in Russia. The following July, John and Lois joined with Revs. Walter and Ruth Storey and others as they carried a \$1,500 check to Pushkin to help jump-start the program.

While in Pushkin, John helped clean and paint parts of a medical facility. While he was working, he was befriended by Roman, age 9, and Sergei, age 6, a pair of street-wise boys who were housed at the facility. At the conclusion of their stay, Roman hugged John's leg and asked through an interpreter, "Would you take us home with you?"

Two years later, John and Lois completed the adoption process for the two boys and an unexpected two-year-old sister, Vika, who had suffered significant burns to her head.

A new adventure began with three new family members, a language barrier, different cultural backgrounds, and the children's complete lack of understanding about love.

Next year, all three children will have graduated from high school. Sergei is serving with the U. S. Army, including time spent in Afghanistan.

As with all families, there have been highs and lows but John's prior challenges helped prepare him for this special form of fatherhood.

John and Lois are great examples of the philosophy that great accomplishments are not wrought by superhuman people, but rather by ordinary folks persevering through exceptional challenges with a lot of support from God who walks with them.

John is a modest, soft-spoken man but he speaks loudly about God—sometimes he uses words!



Virginia man is a 23-year supporter of men's ministry

Johnnie Draughon spent 16 years running from God

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.—

Johnnie Draughon, a men's ministry specialist and director of Lay Speaking Ministries for the Virginia Annual Conference, has been an EMS (every man shares—evangelism, mission and spiritual life) member for 23 years and a legacy member of UM Men for five years. Legacy members are men who pledge at least \$120 a year (\$10 a month).

"I have been an EMS member since 1990, following my first national conference at Purdue in 1989, and I became a legacy member in 2008," said Draughon, "I pledge by having the money deducted from my checking account. It's a painless way to give.

"I support men's ministry because I have come to believe that if we are going to be successful in, 'making disciples of

Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,' we have to start with men," said Draughon.

Venture into the spiritual wilderness

In the 1960s Draughon said he left home and bought totally into drugs, sex and the rock-and-roll culture. "For about 16 years my goal was to put as much distance between myself and Christians as I possibly could."

That attitude changed 30 years ago when Draughon met Marilyn, his future wife. "Through that relationship I realized that I had read scriptural texts from several religions and occult groups and had been extremely critical of Christians but had never read the Bible," says Draughon.


Breezy trip through the New Testament

"I read through the New Testament in about two weeks and then took nearly two years to struggle through the Old Testament. That was the beginning of an amazing journey of faith, including taking and leading *Disciple* Bible studies, and walking and teaming in the Tidewater Emmaus Community."

Draughon has also been involved in Officer's Christian Fellowship of the USA since 1983. He says that organization of Christian military officers led him to study the Bible.

He has served as president of the local church and district units of UM Men, and he is a member of the Virginia Conference UM Men Board. He is also a regular participant in annual retreats at Blackstone, Va., as a discussion leader, song leader and soloist.

He also attended national men's gatherings in 1989, 2001 and 2005, and he is registered to attend the 2013 conference in Nashville.

In recommending Draughon for the position of men's ministry specialist, Dr. J. Thomas Laney Jr., associate director of the Turner Center, said Draughon's personal faith story "is a compelling one that enables him to reach out to men with a wider variety of backgrounds—even those who have experienced alienation from a church." 




Johnnie Draughon

Renovate or die

Ten ways to focus your church on mission

By the Rev. Robert Farr with Kay Kotan

- 1. It starts with the pastor.** Good leadership is participatory and shared, but the pastor must be willing to lead in order for any vision to be realized.
- 2. Understand your present reality.** Determine factors driving your church.
- 3. Get the basics right.** The basics are defined by Bishop Robert Schnase in *Five Practice of Fruitful Congregations*.
 - 1) Radical hospitality
 - 2) Passionate worship
 - 3) Intentional faith development
 - 4) Risk-taking mission
 - 5) Extravagant generosity
- 4. Create momentum.** Momentum begins with change. Unfortunately, many view change negatively because they remember the associated tension and stress. Start with small visible changes, Practice the basics and preach about change to get change.
- 5. Inspire through experiential worship with life-application preaching.** People are bombarded with information; they want to know, "What am I going to do with this information on Monday and the rest of my week?"
- 6. Think strategies, not programs.** Worship, Sunday school, small groups, and day care programs must align with the vision and mission of the church.
- 7. Secure the right leaders.** Having the right people in the right seats whether they are paid or unpaid is difficult. Recruit and train people who believe in the vision and mission of the church, and place them in supportive positions.
- 8. Disciple members.** Yes, we want everyone to feel welcome. But we need to help people get from being a guest to becoming an authentic follower of Jesus Christ.
- 9. Network, network, network, and then market.** It's time to go out into the mission field by visiting places filled with non-churched people. Learn to engage in authentic conversations that establish relationships. Then make sure your church community is ready for visitors. Another way to make connections within the community is to see who is already using your church building. Scout troops are a wonderful way to reach unchurched people.
- 10. Simplify the structure.** When churches let go of the complicated structures of governing, more time is available for the people to participate in ministry. 



The Rev. Robert Farr is the director of Missouri Conference Center for Congregational Excellence. This article is edited from Renovate or Die by Bob Farr and Kay Kotan ©2011 Abingdon Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Chicago area layman supports men's ministry

Bill Franz protects physical and spiritual environments

VILLA PARK, Ill.—

As an official with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Bill Franz helped protect environments that enable humans, plants and animals to thrive in non-toxic conditions.

As a legacy builder, Franz enables men to grow spiritually without suffering from the spiritually toxic conditions located throughout the American environment.

Nearly 40 years with the EPA

"I really enjoyed the opportunities and challenges at EPA," said Franz. "I learned a great deal while working there, and I also helped preserve some of the beauty and naturalness of the world that was entrusted to us by God."

A 1971 graduate of the University of Illinois in Chicago, Franz began work at the EPA in 1972 and he retired in 2011. During his EPA career, he worked with other federal agencies to make their projects more environmentally acceptable. He also helped restore wetlands and prairie systems in the Midwest.

"During my last 10 to 12 years, I worked on water quality and wetland and habitat restoration in the Upper Mississippi River basin, an area that covers portions of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin," said Franz. "I also worked with a task force to reduce the hypoxic levels in the Gulf of Mexico at the mouth of the Mississippi River." The area is devoid of life due to excess nutrients from agricultural runoff from the Midwest.

Franz also helped Chicago youth gain an understanding of the natural world through "Mighty Acorns," a program initiated by The Nature Conservancy and the Chicago Public Schools.

"We took children from public schools to

Cook County forest preserves during three seasons of the year to see how the natural world changes," said Franz. "We also shared information about native and invasive species and how to engage in restoration projects."



Bill Franz

Support of UM Men

Franz is a long-time legacy builder, a group of men who support men's ministry with annual gifts of at least \$120.

"I just felt this was a way to build on and ensure the future of programs I value greatly, such as feeding the hungry, the Upper Room Prayer Line, youth activities, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Big Brother Big Sisters, and resources that help our military men and women," said Franz. "United Methodist Men are doing the things Christ taught us and in accordance with the three simple rules of John Wesley: 'Do no harm; do good, and stay in love with God.'"

An active member of Calvary UMC in Villa Park, Franz has served as a Sunday school teacher, and he has led youth on four mission trips. He served as an adult staff member at work camps for the past eight years, and he and his wife, Annette, sing in the choir.

Franz serves as president of Calvary UM Men, the prayer advocate for the Elgin District, and local church coordinator of the annual Society of St. Andrew potato drops and gleaning projects. He is also a former district president.

Married for 44 years, Bill and Annette have four adult children and five grandchildren. "In retirement I have just begun a new and what we hope is a meaningful mission," said Franz. "Bubby, our 3-year-old Australian Cattle Dog, has been certified as a therapy dog. We hope to start taking her into hospitals, nursing homes and to schools or libraries for children's reading programs."



Yes, weird works

By Gil Hanke

I am blessed to read about, talk about, and many times participate in special men's ministry events across the connection. Many are traditional events—others defy explanation. Let me highlight three inexplicable events.

Oxford, Miss.

The first event reveals three facts:

We have a great connection, and when it works—WOW.

Great results are achieved when the right people do “the ask.”

Men are incredibly slow to sign up for anything.

The Mississippi Conference wanted to replicate what Bishop James Swanson, their new bishop, had done in the Holston Annual Conference.

“Calling All Men” was scheduled for a Friday night at a UM camp outside of Oxford in northern Mississippi. Several weeks out, only a handful of men had

signed up, but conference leaders were patient and used the connection. They felt better when 50 lay and clergy men signed up, but they kept asking. On the day of the event, 351 folk showed up, a record for the most people fed at one time at the camp.

Bishop Swanson was amazing, and there was great music, and a high level of commitment to grow men's ministry. From a distance, it made no sense to hold an event to restart ministry with, to and for men on a Friday night in February near the northern border of the state.

But, it was spectacular!

Frog Jump, Tenn.

One of the largest gatherings of UM Men in the country occurs on a Tuesday night in April at Frog Jump, Tenn.

This event is held at Archer's Chapel UMC in the Memphis Conference. The chapel is 70 miles northeast of Memphis, and 121 miles south of Paducah, Ky., next to no major highway or city.

Nevertheless, the Frog Jump event has



Bishop James Swanson, president of the General Commission on UM Men, leads a retreat at Camp Lake Stephens attended by 351 Mississippi Conference men and boys. The evening included entertainment by Eddie Willis and the Liberty UMC Male Choir. Photo courtesy of Tamica Smith-Jeuitt.



Memphis Conference men assemble at Archer's Chapel in Frog Jump, Tenn., to worship and to hear a sermon by Gil Hanke. “They really don't care who is preaching,” said Hanke. “They come just to be together.”

followed the same format for 15 years. Dinner begins at 5 p.m. Seventy-five feet of tables are filled with fried fish, country ham, hushpuppies, side dishes, and desserts. There is a great gospel band, and a speaker.

This little church is packed with over 500 guys. They bring in chairs, men sit in the choir loft, they stand, they sit on the floor in the aisles; the place is packed.

Do they come for the speaker or the music, or the food? No. They come to this unlikely place just to be together to celebrate Jesus Christ.

Kerrville, Texas

The last event came during a Southwest Texas UM Men retreat.

Leaders know that many of the men who attend the retreat are retired or ranchers so they offer several different experiences.



Men from Southwest Texas Conference build a Tee-box for a Frisbee golf course at Mount Wesley prior to breaking into groups for different activities, including a road rally.


On Thursday, the men work at Mount Wesley in the Texas hill country. They complete their work on Friday morning and at noon they split into groups. Some play golf, others enjoy the camp grounds, and the rest participate in a road rally. Pairs of guys leave the camp 10 minutes apart and follow pages of instructions that take them on back roads. It is a combination of following funny directions, solving puzzles, and completing a scavenger hunt.

Now this adventure takes preparation, and Jim Callaway, the man who set this up, has many special gifts. The event created new friends and the activity was not dependent on good weather.

We had a blast.

Your turn

What weird event do you now sponsor? What could you do to bring men together to celebrate a life in Christ?

There is a great history of weird events bringing men to Christ: the Sermon on the Mount, the Feeding of the 5000, and the 11th National Gathering in Nashville. 



Gil Hanke is general secretary of the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

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Thanks from Upper Room Prayer Center

NASHVILLE, Tenn —

UM Men received expressions of appreciation from leaders of the Upper Room Prayer Ministries for financial gifts totaling \$25,185 in 2012. Prayer advocates also brought a total of \$10,000 to their March, 2013, meeting. Migdiel Perez, manager of the prayer line,




Joe Kelley, national prayer advocate, thanks the National Association of Conference Presidents for their support of the Upper Room Prayer Line



Migdiel Perez, manager of the Upper Room Prayer Center, tells conference prayer advocates and conference presidents the Upper Room Prayer Line received nearly 200,000 prayer requests last year and 80,000 people visited its website.

reported that the center received a total of 90,758 prayer requests in the last six months of 2012 (483 per day).

He honored John Croft, president of Alabama West Florida Conference and Chuck Christian, conference prayer advocate, for raising \$3,675 for the ministry, the highest amount in the nation. 

Why I love United Methodist Men


By Bishop Peggy Johnson

My first encounter with UM Men was when I was 14 and I was the director of a children's choir at my home church. The men purchased a set of rhythm instruments for my choir to enhance our program. It was quite encouraging to me at that time. Later in life I learned that the goal of UM Men is to be engaged in discipleship ministries. They organize men for ministry and outreach, especially to men but not limited to men. They support many vital projects:

- Prayer advocacy through the Upper Room Prayer Center
- Youth ministry through Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp-Fire, and 4-H
- Mentoring children

- through Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Feeding the hungry through potato drops, gleaning and support of the Society of St. Andrew and Stop Hunger Now
- Providing hearing aids for children in Haiti through Hope of Hearing
- Bible study
- Prison ministry through Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries
- Athletic ministries
- Ministry to the military and first responders through Strength for Service books
- Support of the children of incarcerated parents through Amachi
- Men's convocation every four years
- Many local units support

additional outreach ministries. Each unit has unique gifts and opportunities specific to its setting.

I wish every church would charter a unit of UM Men. If you have had one in the past that has become inactive, get it started again. We are United Methodists. We have many wonderful programs and support systems to do many good works together. When we do our own thing we cannot be nearly as effective as when we do it together. It's time to re-think United Methodist Men! 



Johnson is bishop of the Philadelphia Area, which includes the Eastern Pennsylvania and the Peninsula-Delaware Conferences.



Across the Nation

MILPITAS, Calif.—

Car wash raises \$200 for Strength for Service

Under the leadership of Peter Tomaszewski, chaplain aide of Troop 163, Scouts hosted a car wash at a local gas station.

“Because of my love for God, and my love of helping my fellow Scouts grow spiritually, I wanted my Life Scout service project to be connected to religion,” said Peter. “Even my aunt showed up because, ‘Hey, this was for a really awesome cause.’ Anyway, the whole troop and I worked extremely hard shining up neighbor’s cars and trucks.

“At the end of the day, we had raised over \$200 to go to *Strength for Service* for the donation of books,” said Peter.



LAS VEGAS, Nevada —

Troop receives Shepherd Church Charter Recognition

On Scout Sunday, Griffith UMC received the Shepherd Church Charter Recognition Award, provided by UM Men.

The church has sponsored Boy Scout Troop 69 for 56 years.



Troop 69 Committee Chair John Lacey talks about the history of the troop and the award.

FORT DRUM, N.Y.—

Chaplain distributes daily devotional books

Captain Stephen Echols, chaplain of the 10th Mountain Infantry Division, distributed copies of Strength for Service to God and Country to troops at Fort Drum in northern New York.

“As an Army chaplain and a clergy member of Southwest Texas Annual Conference, I really appreciate the high quality of the devotions,” said Echols. “My soldiers really get a morale boost when they find out that the book is free to them.”



Battalion Chaplain Stephen Echols (right) gives a copy of Strength for Service to God and Country to a battery commander stationed at Fort Drum, N.Y.

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Youngster fights malaria with M&Ms

Steven Errico, 13, sells M&Ms in two vending machines at the office of UM Communications. Every quarter he collects is donated to “Imagine No Malaria.”



Steven Errico, 13, sells M&Ms to raise money for the Imagine No Malaria campaign. A UMNS photo by Mike DuBose.

In the first three months, two vending machines grossed \$33 derived from 132 handfuls of the tasty treats. After subtracting the cost of M&Ms, the net profit for Imagine No Malaria was \$13.

“I buy the M&Ms because the money goes to Imagine No Malaria,” said

Administrative Assistant Carol Terry. “I also want to reward this young man for doing such a cool thing.”

CLOVIS, Calif.—

Scouts prepare sundaes

Scouts at Memorial UMC gave Scout sundaes on Scout Sunday. On the same day, the church presented three God and Country Awards, two God and Life Awards, and one God and Service Award.



From left: Blake Welborn, Kevin Becker, Cody Patrick, and Avery Martinell, recipients of God and Country and God and Life Awards, serve Scout sundaes to members of Memorial UMC.

ISLAMORADA, Fla.—

Scout leaders receive training

Each year, the Scouting Ministry Office of the General Commission on UM Men conducts a national training session. Previous sessions have been held at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. The 2013 event was held at the Florida Sea Base High Adventure Camp. Additional training will be offered at the National Gathering of UM Men in Nashville.



Twenty-seven Scout leaders receive training at the Florida Sea Base.

JOHN'S CREEK, Ga.—

Men sponsor golf tournament

For the fourth year in a row, UM Men of the North Georgia Conference sponsored a golf tournament at the Rivermont Country Club.

Each participant paid \$125 to participate in a four-person scramble. Teams were presented prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and last place. Prizes were also presented for the longest drive, closest to the pin, and the winner of a putting contest.

DUNCANVILLE, Texas—

Older adults speed date with youth

Josh Fitzpatrick, youth pastor at First UMC in Duncanville, wanted to connect older adults with youth.

He invited senior adults to bring something they cherished to church. They brought letter sweaters, a model of a plane flown in Vietnam, a wood plank of a house built by a great-grandfather, and photographs.

Adults sat on chairs in an outer circle. Teenagers rotated positions in an inner circle, spending three minutes hearing the story from each adult and moving to the next chair when a chime sounded. "Every once in a while in ministry there is a moment when you unexpectedly realize that the ground on which you are standing is holy," said Fitzpatrick. "Seeing the smiles on the faces of the participants, listening to the stories being told, the questions being asked, and the memories being shared, I recognized that the Holy Spirit was moving amongst us."



PALMYRA, N.Y.—

Busy UM Men build shelves, deck and awnings

Ten men from Manchester UMC and First UMC of Palmyra built book shelves for the Open Door Mission in Rochester, N.Y. They also constructed a deck, moved a mother and daughter from Buffalo to Palmyra, installed two window awnings, cleaned second-story gutters, and filled 10 UMCOR flood buckets for home owners in the path of Hurricane Sandy.

The group raised money from pancake breakfasts and received support from Lowe's and Walmart stores.



UM Men of Manchester UMC and First UMC of Palmyra take a break after building a deck for a woman with multiple sclerosis. Front row seated: Phil Smith. Second row: Sue Smith, Tony Zingerella, and Michelle Brown, owner of the new deck. Back row: Jim Maine, Neil Washburn, John Schram, and Bart Barton.

WARRIORS MARK, Pa.—

Cub Scouts bake cookies for elderly

Cub Scouts, in a pack affiliated with Warriors Mark UMC, make cookies and deliver them to the elderly and people confined to their homes.

Cubs also join with Boy Scouts in the semi-annual "Scouting for Food" drive that provides



one ton of canned goods for a local food bank.

The church received a Shepherd Church Charter Recognition for its scouting ministry.

FAIRFAX, Mo.—

Men donate \$27,000 to aid Third World farmers

In 2012, the UM Men's Club of Fairfax donated \$27,000 to the Foods Resource Bank. The funds will support the agricultural programs of 3,400 Third World residents for one year.

To raise funds, farmers sold soybeans, corn, and cattle, and children sold pumpkins.

The Foods Resource Bank allows U.S. farmers to make a lasting impact on hunger and poverty by donating proceeds from community-based growing projects.

ATLANTA, Ga.—

Men host health seminar

UM Men of Central UMC sponsored a series of Saturday seminars to help men improve their lives and relationships. An April 6 seminar featured Dr. Orlando Lopez, a urologist, and another man who successfully dealt with prostate cancer.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—

Scouts clean up church cemetery

Members of Troop 55 raked leaves, trimmed vines and spruced up a cemetery owned by Fountain City UMC.

Nine troop members also restored a garden at the headquarters of the Salvation Army, and the troop set up chairs, tables and tents for a September church picnic attended by 250 people. The troop received the Bishop's Award of Excellence.

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas—

Men provide card ministry

Men of St. John's UMC meet for breakfast, devotions, singing, prayer and fellowship at 6:30 a.m. nearly every

Wednesday.

Shortly after being chartered in 1986, one of the men asked everyone to sign a get-well card. That was the beginning of a ministry that sends cards to church members and others around the world.

Men send birthday wishes, warm welcomes to new members, words of sympathy, and congratulations on anniversaries and graduations.

Cards were originally commercial or generically printed, but in 2001, the newly elected secretary/treasurer, with the help of his granddaughter, created personalized cards for all occasions. Church members now request personalized cards through the church's website.

In 2011 the men sent 1,000 cards; in 2012, the number increased to 1,147.

ESTANCIA, N.M.—

Men operate repair ministry

Jon Shively, president of UM Men of Estancia UMC, says he will help other UM Men organize repair ministries. Since 2008, his organization has repaired roofs, replaced sewer lines, built handicap ramps and replaced windows. Contact him at jshively@csun.edu.

AMBLER, Pa.—

Conference seeks 100 percent charter status

UM Men of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference are encouraging all conference churches to charter as UM Men organizations. The effort is supported by Bishop Peggy Johnson, the district superintendents, Conference Lay Leader Mary White and pastors.

"Bishop Johnson has set aside special time at annual conference to recognize



Ross Brightwell

the ministry of UM Men and all of our churches that have come on board," said Ross Brightwell, president of Eastern Pennsylvania Conference UM Men and leader of the 100-percent effort.

JACKSON, Miss.—

Mississippi Conference men set plans for national gathering



Mississippi Conference men getting ready for the National Gathering include (from left): Pete Smith, president of Anderson UM Men; Jesse Samuels, chaplain Mississippi Conference UM Men; George C. Washington, Aldersgate UMC, past conference president; and Renault Pannell, Aldersgate UMC, past conference president.

HARPER'S FERRY, W.Va.—

UM Men sponsor car-care ministry

UM Men sponsor a Covenant Car Care Ministry the first Saturday of each month. Men provide free oil changes and check wiper blades, washer fluid,



light bulbs, battery terminals, tire pressure, coolant level, brake fluid, and

power steering fluid.

While the men work on cars, women are in the house sharing God's love with the moms and their kids.

If you have access to a garage, three or four men who know cars, and a couple of women who would love to share their faith, you could have a similar ministry, says the <http://www.carcareministry.com> website.

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.—

Active group serves church and community

Men of First UMC landscaped the front and back yards of the district parsonage, prepared a Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner, picked up trash at the district's Grace Park, and provided funds for New Mexico Boys and Girls Ranches. This summer, the group plans to spend a week reworking trails, repairing building and handling routine maintenance jobs at the Sacramento Camps and Conference Center.

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Chaplains train for jamboree

United Methodist clergy volunteering to serve as chaplains during the 2013 National Boy Scout Jamboree in West Virginia met April 15-16 at the Nashville office of the Commission on UM Men to train for the event.



Send news of your men's organization to Rich Peck (rpeck@gcumm.org).

UM Men give nearly \$180,000 to feed hungry people

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

In 2012, UM Men gave \$179,800 to Meals for Millions, a program of the Society of Saint Andrew to feed the hungry.

Wade Mays, national director of Meals for Millions, honored Indiana Conference UM Men for giving the highest amount of money to the society in 2012. The conference provided a whopping \$26,735.

The award was presented during a March 2 meeting of the National Association of Conference Presidents in Nashville.

Northern Illinois Conference was the second highest contributing organization and the winner of the “Bud the Spud Award” for the highest percentage increase over the previous year with gifts totaling \$22,715. The award honors the late Nelson L. “Bud” Curtis, who donned a potato costume to urge men to participate in “potato drops” where thousands of potatoes are bagged for food pantries.

The amount given to Meals for Millions does not include funds provided for shipping pota-



Wade Mays (second from left) presents a plaque to Dave Martin, president of Indiana Conference UM Men, for raising \$26,735, the highest amount raised by any conference for Meals for Millions. John Dockery (left), an Indiana men's ministry specialist, and Ken Hudgins, conference prayer advocate, join in the presentation

atoes and other produce to areas where they were bagged by volunteers for local food pantries.

The financial gifts also do not count scores of gleaning projects sponsored by UM Men in farm fields across America.

'We bought the bus!'

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men, announced that an effort by UM Men to support the mission work of the UMC in Vietnam resulted in additional gifts totaling \$127,900.

Their goal was to provide a 16-passenger bus for the growing church.

His announcement, “We bought the bus!” received loud applause from conference presidents of UM Men, meeting Feb. 28 to March 3 in Nashville.

The UMC in Vietnam has 12,000 church members in 57 congregations. The conference is opening new

churches each week and making new disciples across the once divided nation.

Using the plan in which 20 conferences invited 20 churches to encourage 20 people to give \$20, UM Men were able to exceed the goal amount to purchase this bus for the Vietnam UMC.



Photo by Linda Hedden.

It's not too late to register for the National Gathering

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

The time for the National Gathering is fast approaching and excitement is building, and it's not too late for you to be a part of that July 12-14 gathering at Belmont University in Nashville.

You may register on line (www.ummgathering.org) or by phone (615/340-7145 or 866/297-4313).

Since you are registering later, some workshops may be closed, but with 17 available, there's sure to be a couple of them you would find more than interesting.

Late registration does not alter your ability to build hand-crank carts, prepare dehydrated meal packages or sack farm produce. And you are guaranteed a seat for all plenary sessions

with life-changing sermons and the concert by American Idol finalist Phil Stacey.

Surprise your wife and family with a last-minute vacation to Music City USA.

There's a chance that on-campus housing will not be available, but there are ample opportunities to find rooms at nearby hotels.

There's also a good possibility that if you bring along a couple of other men, there will still be an opening in the 3-on-3 national basketball tournament. Can you imagine the surprised looks you will receive if you come home with a national basketball championship?

Knowing the habits of men, you will not be the only one registering at the last minute. Details of the gathering are available at www.ummgathering.org.

Forty men now serving as ministry specialists

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Four ministry specialist were commissioned during the 2013 meeting of the National Association of Conference Presidents. They now join 36 other men who help local churches expand their ministries to men.

The association commissioned Leo Scholl, Allen Dunham, James A. Frazier, Mike Woodham, and Craig E. Judd as men's ministry specialists. Scholl, Woodham and Judd were commissioned in absentia.

These men received advanced training, passed several tests and completed personal growth plans, and they are now able to help neighboring churches, districts and confer-



James Frazier (left) and Allen Dunham receive certificates from Gil Hanke (right), top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men.

ences.

“We help churches minister to men by addition,” said Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men. “We don't want to curtail the meetings of men who gather weekly or monthly for meals and Bible study. We want to add ministries for men who want to participate in other activities.”



Conference presidents of UM Men and other men's ministry specialists join in prayer for James Frazier and Allen Dunham (center with name tags) following the Nashville commissioning service.

UMM Foundation and men's ministry— an enduring partnership

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

In 1981, 5,400 UM Men attended a national gathering at Purdue University. During that assembly men learned of the formation of a UM Men Foundation to support scouting ministry. Men attending the Purdue conference contributed \$61,000 to begin the fund.

Dale Waymire, president of the National Association of Conference Presidents (1978-81), was elected as the first president of the foundation, and he later drafted the proposal to the 1996 General Conference to create the General Commission on UM Men. He also assured cautious delegates that the foundation would provide economic support if the commission experienced economic difficulties.

It took several years to achieve the \$1 million mark, and then Cal Turner, chairman and chief executive officer of Dollar General, doubled the



Bishop James Swanson, president of the General Commission on UM Men (left), greets Ed Shytle, president of the UM Men Foundation. Over the past 32 years, the two organizations have built a trusting relationship.

amount with a gift of \$1 million. Today, the foundation has assets totaling \$2.24 million. While the foundation continues to support scouting ministry, it also supports the Upper Room Prayer Line, provides New Testaments for Boy Scouts, provides Strength for Service books to first responders in Newtown, Conn., and supports men's ministry specialists.

The foundation has 12 endowment funds, so contributors can specify which fund they wish to support (prayer ministry, scouting, evangelism, and funds such as the Joe Harris Endowment and the Robert and Elene Powell Endowment).

In 2012, the foundation provided \$114,500 for scouting ministry, \$10,000 for Philmont Bibles, and \$7,251 for prayer advocates.

The board reelected Ed Shytle, president of the foundation; Ron Sarver, vice president; Dan Henry, secretary; and Gard Wayt, treasurer.

In Memoriam— TOM HULL

PLANO, Texas—

Thomas Howard Hull Jr. 73, former president of the North Texas Conference UM Men (2001-2004) and former treasurer of the National Association of Conference Presidents (2005-2008), died April 21.

"Tom was a great source of grace and love, and always was supportive of men's ministry and scouting ministry in our great church," said Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men. "He also always showed his support of me personally."

Tom was an active member of First United Methodist Church of Plano and active in the men's group. He was a lay speaker and a participant in the Dallas Emmaus Community.

A graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School in 1958 and Texas A&M University in 1961, Tom built his career in the bearing business working for SKF Industries,

Cottingham Bearing, VNC Bearing and started his own company Hull Bearing Corporation.

Tom enjoyed playing golf, guitar and traveling. He will be remembered by his loving wife, Mary Ann, of 51 years and their children, Kathy (Humberto) Vela, Gay Linn (Ron) McElroy and Tommy 3rd (Rosalie). "Ha Ha" will be dearly missed by his adoring grandchildren Alex, Caroline, Joey, Allie Beth, Maggie and Max. He is survived by his brother Bill (Billy), sister Betty (Bill) Priest, step brother Larry (Marlys) Melton and step sister Kande Gibson.



Virginia and Baltimore-Washington top UMM charts

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

In 2012, Virginia Annual Conference led the nation in the number of chartered UM Men organizations with 295. Western North Carolina was second with 271 and South Carolina was third with 224 chartered groups.

Conferences showing the greatest increase in the number of charters in 2012 over 2011 were North Georgia, Mississippi, Eastern Pennsylvania, and Nebraska.

EMS members

An EMS (evangelism, mission and spiritual life) member is a man who has pledged \$45 to support men's ministries each year.

Baltimore-Washington Conference leads the nation in number of EMS members with 376; Louisiana has 257, and Missouri has 161.

Conferences showing the biggest increase in EMS member over last year are Tennessee, New York, Wisconsin, Oklahoma Indian, Rocky Mountain, South Carolina, and Eastern Pennsylvania.

Legacy members

Legacy members are men who annually give at least \$120 (\$10 a month). Most of these men pay their pledges by bank draft. It's a painless way to give. Most men never miss the money when it is automatically withdrawn from their credit card or checking account.

A total of 1,058 of the EMS members are Legacy Builders who have annually pledged at least \$120 to support men's ministry.

In addition, there are 10 members of the Circuit Rider Society, a group of UM men who pledge at least \$1,500 annually to support the ministry.



From left: Ross Brightwell, president of Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, Ingram Howard, president of Tennessee Conference, Herman Lightsey, president of South Carolina Conference, and Royston Bailey, president of New York Conference, receive expressions of appreciation for having the largest increase in the number of EMS members.

Members of the Circuit Rider Society

John Dowell, Dan Henry, Larry Coppock, Robert Cate, Curtis Brisbon, Gil Hanke, Paul Diehl, Greg Papajohn, Sonny Evans and John Machonis, Jr.

In Memoriam— KEITH BRAY

TOPEKA, Kan.—

Keith Bray, 90, A World War II veteran and former prayer advocate for Kansas East Annual Conference UM Men, died March 15.

With a master's degree from Wichita State University, he was a school administrator retiring from the School Department of Hillsboro, Kan. "A member of Silver Lake (Kan.) UMC,

he served as a BSA executive for the Sojadi District. He was an active advocate for the Upper Room Prayer Line and attended several national gatherings of UM Men.

He is survived by his wife, Thelma, five children, 17 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

UM Men Awards

Howard Zimmerman

Got a job? Howard is your man

NORMAN, Okla.—Men of McFarlin Memorial UMC presented a life membership to Howard Zimmerman following years of service to the church and community.

He helps the financial secretary process church receipts, and he delivers food for the church's food pantry.

Zimmerman assembled cribs, built computer tables and erected a playground for the McFarlin Day Care Center. He also helped build a reception area and remodeled a restroom at the church. He routinely replaces air-conditioner filters, mows, cleans gutters, paints and shovels snow at the church.

In addition to work on Habitat for Humanity homes, he repaired the home of a disabled veteran, participated in UM Men gleaning efforts and helped gather, shell and sell pecans to raise funds for a local women's ministry.

Andrew Kissell

Virginia Conference district presents life membership

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.—In January, men of the Elizabeth River District presented their president, Andrew Kissell, with a life membership.

The lay leader of Community UMC in Virginia Beach and chair of the church's Creation Care Ministry, Kissell said, "All the years I'd been practicing environmental engineering as a professional we never had an environmental stewardship ministry at our church. I've served on lots of church committees, as a pack leader for Cub Scouts and as a volunteer for my kid's marching band, the PTA, and Habitat for Humanity. I've organized bell-ringers for the Salvation Army for years. But, nothing has been more exciting for me than starting this



Andrew Kissell

new green-church initiative with like-minded brothers and sisters at Community UMC."

Kissell has completed Wesleyan Building Brothers training and plans to bring his wife, Julie, and two of his five children to Nashville for the 11th National Gathering of UM Men.

Bob Kelly

Northern Illinois presents John Wesley Award

ROCKFORD, Ill.—Northern Illinois UM Men inducted Bob Kelly, a World War II veteran, into the Society of John Wesley.



Gil Hanke, general secretary of the General Commission on UM Men; Steve Nailor, president of Northern Illinois Conference UM Men; Bob Kelly, a fellow in the John Wesley Society; and Dave Holland, president of Rockford District UM Men.

A former member of Inglewood UMC, South Shore UMC, First Methodist of Naperville, and Edison Park UMC, Kelly is now a member of Aldersgate UMC in the Rockford District.

He is past president of the Financial Management Association, a division of the Illinois Manufacturing Association.

"You might think of Bob Kelly as a Man's man," said Steve Nailor, conference president. "His ancestors came from Britain's Isle of Man."

Kelly is president emeritus of the North America Manx Association.

In more than two decades at Edison Park UMC, he served on the Finance Committee, the Administrative Board and the Staff-Parish Relations Committee. He also served as president of Edison Park UM Men and was active in Chicago-Northwestern District UM Men activities.

Kelly also helped establish an endowment fund for the Northern Illinois Conference UM Men.

Duane Dorsch

Supporter of Heart Havens presented life membership

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.—Duane Dorsch, a Nebraska native and U.S. Navy veteran, received a life membership from UM Men at Community UMC.

Dorsch helps with repairs and yard work at two district Heart Havens Homes that care for adults with disabilities.

Dorsch is a member of the Elizabeth River District Men's choir and Wesley Building Brothers. He also participates in Emmaus and UM Men retreats.



Duane Dorsch

Jim Hoffower

Navy veteran named life member

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.—UM Men of Community UMC named Jim Hoffower a life member. A 33-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, Hoffower, says that as a young adult, he drifted from his underpinnings in the Christian faith.

Following the death of his mother, he yearned to grow closer to his Savior. He will tell you that his walk has been challenging, but he credits God with molding his life.

Hoffower has served as chair of the Church Council and president of the UM Men organization

A first-generation member of Wesley Building Brothers, he serves as lay leader and participates in a jail ministry. He describes his Emmaus walk as “amazing.”

Married to Paula for 42 years, the couple has three adult children and six grandchildren.

The Rev. Jack Mannschreck

Men honor pastor

TROY, Mich.—Men of Big Beaver UMC presented their pastor, the Rev. Jack Mannschreck, with a life membership in UM



The Rev. Jack Mannschreck, fourth from left, leads a study group during a mission trip to Haiti.

Men during a September worship service.

“Jack has been our pastor for the last ten years, said Clayton Osburn, lay leader. “During that time he has shown leadership in all areas of ministry, but in particular with the men and youth of our church.

“From leading our annual retreats or Bible study and working beside us, his support has always been there,” said Osburn, treasurer of UM Men. “Jack is always looking for ways to move the men and the church forward, so we can involve more people in the mission and ministries of the church.”

The Rev. Richard D. Winn Sr.

Ben Hill Church inducts pastor into John Wesley Society

ATLANTA, Ga.—Ben Hill UMC inducted their pastor, the Rev. Richard D. Winn, Sr., into the John Wesley Society.

After graduating from Southern Illinois University and Gammon Theological Seminary, Pastor Winn served Maple Park UMC in Chicago. In 1979, he transferred to the North Georgia Conference where he served the Bowen UMC, Clifton UMC, Hoosier Memorial UMC and Warren Memorial UMC.

For four consecutive years, Winn has served as a speaker at Rock Eagle UM Men's Retreat.



Rev. Richard D. Winn, Sr.

Bob Warner and Larry Apel
Men honor two leaders

CARY, N.C.—Men of First UMC named Bob Warner, vice-president of finance for UM Men, and Larry Apel, former president of UM Men, as life members.

Warner serves as volunteer photographer for the group and produces a monthly newsletter. He also serves as financial secretary of the church and operates the sanctuary sound board.

Apel now serves as vice president of communications and coordinator of an annual celebration that recognizes the contributions of veterans. He also helps plan the annual golf tournament, serves as an usher and is a leader of youth ministry.

Larry Coppock
Staff executive named Big Brother of the Year

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Larry Coppock, director of scouting and youth-serving ministries for the General Commission on UM Men, was named Big

Brother of the Year by the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization of Middle Tennessee. Coppock leads a national effort to recruit and train men to participate in the Amachi program that matches men with children of incarcerated adults.



Calvin, the little brother of Larry Coppock, holds a certificate from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee naming Coppock as Big Brother of the Year. The award was presented by Diane Fry (left), a staff executive with the organization, and Howard Gentry (right), mayor of Springfield, Tenn.

GCUMM by the numbers in 2013

- 14** annual conferences maintained or increased the number of chartered organizations
- 17** annual conferences maintained or increased the number of EMS members (Every Man Shares in Evangelism, Mission and Spiritual Life).
- 40** men now serve as men's ministry specialists
- 100** churches began Letters from Dad program thanks to a donor who provided free \$400 leadership kits.
- 210** men and women now serve as scouting ministry specialists
- 1,500** copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community* were given to first responders in Boston, Mass., Newtown, Conn., West, Texas, and Nashville, Tenn.
- \$25,185** raised by UM Men for the Upper Room Prayer Center
- \$35,000** raised by UM Men to purchase a bus for UM mission work in Vietnam
- \$179,800** raised by UM Men for Meals for Millions
- 470,000** copies of *Strength for Service to God and Country* were distributed, primarily to U.S. service men and women.

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General Commission on United Methodist**



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More than 200 scouting ministry specialists serve churches

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Larry Coppock, director of scouting ministry, told the National Association of Conference Presidents there are now 205 scouting ministry specialists helping neighboring churches expand their ministries through youth-serving organizations.

The UMC is the second largest sponsor of the Boy Scouts with 363,876 Scouts in 10,868 units chartered by 6,700 UM churches.



Larry Coppock tells conference presidents about plans for the 2013 National BSA Jamboree in West Virginia.

Scouting ministry training available at gathering

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

UM Men attending the National Gathering in Nashville may attend a 3-hour scouting ministry training event on Friday afternoon, July 12, the opening day of the conference.

Prior to the workshop, the Board of Directors of the National Association of UM Scouters will hold their annual meeting at 10 a.m. The group will also host a luncheon to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the association. Mark Hazelwood, executive director of Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY), will be the keynote speaker.

The Friday afternoon workshop will be led by Larry Coppock, director of scouting and youth serving agencies for the General Commission on UM Men. The 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. workshop is designed for local church, district and conference scouting coordinators. Topics will include mentoring programs and community outreach strategies. Scouting



Reginald Grant, former NFL defensive back, will lead a workshop on mentoring during the National Gathering of UM Men.

ministry specialists and those wishing to become involved in that ministry will also find the workshop helpful. Other Scout leaders will serve as resource people for the workshop.

Men who are interested in scouting may also attend a workshop on effective mentoring led by Reginald Grant, a high school English teacher and former defensive back for the New York Jets.

Men interested in finding new techniques to attract younger men may want to consider attending a workshop led by Greg Arnold, a deployed staff member of the General Commission on UM Men.

There are 15 other possible workshops for Scout leaders to consider.

For further information and to register, visit the website (www.ummgathering.org) or call (866) 297-4313.

Iowa meteorologist serves as scouting ministry specialist

WALCOTT, Iowa—

Ted Stimach, 65, a 45-year veteran Scout leader and a retired meteorologist with the National Weather Service, is serving as a scouting ministry specialist for Calvary UMC.

An Eagle Scout, Stimach received a BSA doctor of commissioner science degree, and he currently serves as counselor for God and Country awards, lay leader for Calvary UMC, and a lay member of the Iowa Annual Conference. He jokes that he was “hi-jacked” into taking on increased responsibility.

“Really, I was glad to accept the scouting ministry position,” said Stimach.

He has served a Cub Scout pack and an Explorer troop in the Illowa Council for Scouts in Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois. Prior to his service in Iowa, he served troops in Kansas, Utah, and Wisconsin.

Stimach has also served as a Venturing trainer, a Philmont Scout Ranch leader, a High-Adventure leader, chair of the National Eagle Scout Chapter, chair of the District Scout Outdoor Program, and an instructor in the College of Commissioner Science. He has received a Silver Beaver Award, District Award of Merit, and commissioner and scoutmaster awards.

The active churchman also served as district camping coordinator, a member of the Board of Camps, Conferences and Retreat Ministries for

both Iowa and Wisconsin Annual Conferences, and he is a life member of the National Association of UM Scouters.

He has served his local church as a member of the Finance Committee, Stewardship Committee, Board of Trustees, and Worship Committee. He has also served as a Sunday school teacher.

A graduate of the University of Kansas and the Army Meteorology School, Stimach served the National Weather Service in South Dakota, Wisconsin and Iowa for 29 years, retiring in 2003. He now serves as a part-time program aide for the Illowa Scout Council.

He serves the Walcott community as a staff member of the Walcott School Fun Day, the Festival of Trees of the Quad Cities, and the Walcott Community Park Food Shack. He presented slide programs on the weather to several community organizations in Iowa, Wisconsin and South Dakota. And he has served in several positions with the American Legion at the post, county, district and state levels. He was nominated as the Iowa American Legion Boy Scouter of the Year and Cub Scouter of the Year.

Stimach’s daughter, Abigail, appears to be following in her father’s footsteps; the junior at Millersville (Pa.) University is studying meteorology. Son, Timothy, is a freshman majoring in pharmacy at the University of Pittsburgh.

Boy Scouts establish new policy

GRAPEVINE, Texas—

The Boy Scouts of America approved a new policy to accept gay Scouts. The policy begins Jan. 1, 2014, and will not change the relationship between the Commission on UM Men and the BSA.

The May 23 action taken by voting delegates to the annual membership meeting is the result of a requested rule change by BSA executives.

The commission did not have a vote in this matter, nor did other faith groups that serve as chartering organizations of the BSA. The change in membership standards was initiated by BSA.

“It is our hope and prayer that future membership-standard considerations will begin with BSA’s Religious Relationship Task Force,”

said the commission. The task force is composed of representatives from various faith groups that represent 70 percent of BSA units and 62 percent of its membership.

The commission will continue to support various ministries to young people through local congregations, including BSA, Girl Scouts of the USA, Camp Fire USA, 4-H and Big Brothers Big Sisters. All of these civic youth-serving agencies provide enrichment experiences and opportunities for leadership development. Through these ministries, local UM churches are able to welcome families into their buildings and their ministries.

Scouting Awards

Alec Goff

Scout receives Eagle rank and PRAY award

LUTZ, Fla.—Alec Goff received a God and Life Award and the rank of Eagle at a February service at Van Dyke UMC. God and Life is the last of four awards presented by the St. Louis-based Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY).



Karstendiek, a scouting ministry specialist at Van Dyke UMC, presents a God and Life Award to Alec Goff.

Julie Giles, Van Dyke director of children's ministry, said Alec was the inspiration for their annual Scout/Youth Religious Awards Camp. Over the past eight years, young people attending that camp received a total of 500 PRAY awards.

Alec served on a team ministering to children in the inner-city of Tampa. He helped prepare boxes for Operation Christmas Child; he participated in Van Dyke special-needs ministries, and he worked on Habitat for Humanity homes.

Robert W. Wilkerson

Church honors 62-year scouting volunteer

EDEN, N.C.—Leaksville UMC presented Robert W. Wilkerson, 87, with a Torch

Award for 62-years of service as a Scout leader.

From 1950 to 1959, he served as a scoutmaster. He served as chair of the Troop Committee from 1960 to 1975, and he was a member of the committee from 1975 to the present.

In addition, Wilkerson served as chairman of the Board of Trustees. In that position, he devised a plan to build an elevator for the three-story church. Consultants had told trustees the church could only accommodate an exterior shaft and the elevator could only serve two floors. However, Wilkerson, a mechanical engineer, designed an interior elevator shaft that now serves all three floors.

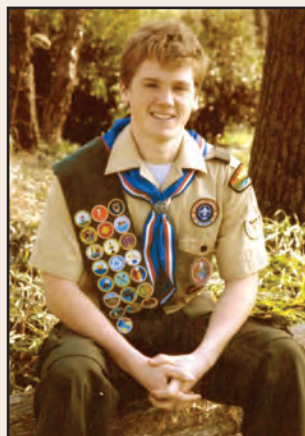
"Bob is held in the highest esteem by members of his church and the greater Eden community," said the Rev. Danny B. Leonard, pastor of Pine Grove UMC in Kernersville, N.C., and former pastor of Leaksville UMC.

Rhys Bowen-Tanton

Scout constructs prayer garden

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—For his Eagle project, Rhys Bowen-Tanton raised \$2,500 and recruited and supervised more than 30 volunteers who worked 300 hours to construct a prayer garden for an East End UMC park.

Built in an undeveloped area of the park, the prayer



Rhys Bowen-Tanton

garden features a 19th century-brick patio, two weatherproof benches, and extensive landscaping.

The park is enjoyed by neighbors and the church uses the area for a Kids' Fest during the annual Nashville Tomato Arts Festival, attended by 28,000 people in 2012.

East End UMC presented Rhys with a Good Samaritan Award.

Andrew Johnson **Boy Scout enhances grounds of a county building**

MCDONOUGH, Ga.—Bethel UM

Men presented Andrew Johnson with a Good Samaritan Award.

For his Eagle project, the junior at Ola High School planted trees, shrubs and flowers around the George Alexander Probate Court Building.

The honor student is an offensive lineman on the Ola football team and a member of the Order of the Arrow.



Andrew Johnson

Channing Zucker **Conference honors 60-year Scout veteran**

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.—The Virginia Annual Conference presented a Torch Award to Channing Zucker for more than 60 years in scouting.



Channing Zucker

After achieving the rank of Eagle in 1954, Zucker received the Silver Beaver Award and assumed leadership roles in scouting. He now serves as charter organization

representative and scouting ministries coordinator for Pack 417, Troop 417, and three Girl Scout troops sponsored by St. Andrew's UMC. The retired Navy captain also serves as chairman of the Church Council and treasurer of St. Andrew's UM Men.

Rob Charlton and David Moore **UM Men receive Cross and Flame Awards**

OXFORD, Mich.—UM Men presented Cross and Flame Awards to Rob Charlton and David Moore for exceptional service to the scouting program.

Charlton is an Eagle Scout and has been involved in the scouting program most of his life. He served as a merit-badge counselor, committee member, den leader, scouting-ministry specialist and scoutmaster.



Oxford (Mich.) UMC scouting coordinator David Moore (left) and Rob Charlton, Lake Orion UMC scouting coordinator, celebrate their Cross and Flame Awards.

Moore entered scouting when his oldest son became a Tiger Cub. He has since served as assistant den leader, committee chairperson, troop chaplain, and charter organization representative.

Both men have served as counselors for Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY) programs. A "God and Me" program taught by Charlton introduced Moore and his family to Jesus Christ.

Charlton knows firsthand how scouting ministry is a valuable outreach ministry for the church.

South Carolina church honors six leaders

BARNWELL, S.C.—Barnwell UMC presented Cross and Flame Awards to six Scout leaders during a February Scout Sunday service.

Thelma Baxter was recognized for 25 years of service to the 25-year-old BSA Troop 392. Rhett Richardson contributes to the troop's outdoor program. Jesus Ortiz served as assistant scoutmaster and a cubmaster. Jake Keele was instrumental in obtaining a Scout hut located on church property. Bill Thompson serves as the scoutmaster, and Lee Richardson is a leader of Scout Sunday services.

Scouts attending the service received Scouting Ministry Sunday patches provided by the National Association of UM Scouters.



Barnwell UMC presents Cross and Flame Awards to: (from left) Jesus Ortiz, Rhett Richardson, Bill Thompson, Thelma Baxter, Jake Keele and Lee Richardson.

Jon Rhodes

Scout builds homes for Mexican families

MCKINLEYVILLE, Calif.—Joyful Healer UMC presented a Good Samaritan Award to

Jon Rhodes for spending three spring vacations building homes for Mexican families living close to the U.S. border. Jon also played music at the end of each work day for tired workers.

An active member of



BSA Troop 180, Jon also cleans up vacant lots and parks, works in an animal shelter, serves meals to the homeless, and volunteers for blood banks.

Joe Hall, Ben Hall and Jared Muncy St. Luke's UMC honors three Scouts

MIDLAND, Texas—St. Luke's UMC presented Good Samaritan Awards to three Scouts whose Eagle projects enhanced nature centers.

Joe Hall constructed shelter boxes for migratory bees at the Sibley Nature Center. Ben Hall constructed an outdoor classroom at the same nature center, and Jared Muncy led Troop 160 of St. Luke's UMC in building debris-control gates and bat shelters at the Jenna Welch Nature Study Center. The church also presented Cross and Flame Awards to Mona Michaelis, James Riggan, John Geib, and Gary Wood

Elwin Spray

Hawaii church gives Silver Torch Award

KANEOHE, Hawaii—Kahaluu UMC presented a Silver Torch Award to Elwin Spray, chair of the National BSA Community Relationships Task Force.

A scouting ministry specialist, Spray is the district scouting coordinator, and he has served on the faculty of the Philmont Training

School. He was also a member of the exhibit staff at the 2010 National Scout Jamboree.

The Eagle Scout has served his local church as charter organization representative for the last 20 years, and he is a lay member of the California Pacific Annual Conference.

A Wood Badge graduate, Spray has earned the Silver Beaver and Distinguished Commissioner Award.





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