

Oregon-Idaho United Methodist

The Voice of United Methodism in the Oregon-Idaho Conference

Volume 39, Number 6—November/December 2004

United Methodists from seven churches parade faith, good news, joy, openness

Eugene's annual Celebration Parade offers a perfect opportunity for United Methodists to share their faith with the community

Undaunted by stormy skies, nearly 50 United Methodists from around the greater Eugene-Springfield area came together on Saturday morning, September 18, to march in the annual Eugene Celebration Parade.

The parade, created in 1983 by the City of Eugene to bring the community together for three days of music and fun, is now the largest event in the southern Willamette Valley. It attracts nearly 60,000 people to the varied events that include street performers, face painters, food vendors, a marketplace, a KidZone area for children's activities, a pet parade, sporting events, and much more.

In keeping with the parade's Mardi Gras theme, marchers wore whimsical hats or masks and drooped strings of beads around their necks.

Of the 100 non-profit groups "strutting their stuff," United Methodists were the only mainline denomination represented. Seven churches participated: **Trinity, Coburg, Wesley, and First** from Eugene; **Ebbert Memorial and St. Paul Center** from Springfield; **Junction City UMC** rounded out the spirited team.

Carrying banners proclaiming "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors," the theme of the denomination's public awareness campaign called "Igniting Ministry," marchers stepped along to the music of a six-piece United Methodist band belting out "When the Saints Go Marching In."

"Our planning team thought the parade was a fabulous opportunity for the United Methodist Church to witness to the community," says **the Rev. Jeremy Hajdu-Paulen**, University of Oregon's Wesley Foundation campus minister. "We saw it as a unique way to demonstrate that there are Christians in their neighborhoods who are joyful, who encompass people of all ages and walks of life, and who care about the community and the world." Hajdu-Paulen added, "Judging by the smiles, waves and applause we received, those who came out to enjoy the parade definitely got the message."

Everyone involved agreed that marching in the parade was a great way to witness that United Methodists are joyful, caring and "open"!

— **The Rev. Jeremy Hajdu-Paulen**, Campus Minister
Wesley Foundation at the University of Oregon



Lisa Young and the Rev. John Pitney, both from Eugene First UMC, get into the spirit.



JEREMY HAJDU-PAULEN PHOTOS

These young United Methodists led the way through the streets of Eugene with a message of welcome.

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LINDA SULLIVAN PHOTO

Bishop Bob Hoshibata

“I prefer to approach especially difficult situations looking at the positive side and believing that anything is possible for those who have faith.”

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Thanksgiving is a part of life each day

by Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata

In these opening days of fall, leaves turn and there is a nip in the air. My mind drifts to the cover of a magazine we received recently. A turkey, roasted golden brown, almost bursting with stuffing, and all the trimmings. The magazine, which caters to those who like to eat well, tells us that Thanksgiving as a celebration and feast is almost upon us.

In the church, we know “Thanksgiving” is a part of life each day. Not meant to be simply one day’s feasting and the next three days’ leftovers, Thanksgiving should be a daily component of our prayer and worship lives. The words of the Psalmist emphatically demonstrate this:

“Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.” (*Psa. 111:1-2*)

In congregations around our Annual Conference, words like “stewardship,” and “campaign,” and “pledge” are very evident as churches embark on a yearly asking for support for the budget requirements of 2005. We are finding more and more challenges to raise support for our church budgets today, which include the day-to-day requirements of any organization: water, electricity, gas, paper and supplies, repair and maintenance; as well as the less mundane, more exciting needs: items for worship, choir music, chancel decorations, Sunday school curriculum, guest speakers and special programs.

In our United Methodist churches, there are also askings targeted for support of exciting mission work, spreading the Gospel and making disciples here and abroad. These are just a few of the elements supported by your gifts to your church.

There are two ways we can look at financial askings. We can groan or we can celebrate. I am an eternal optimist. When given any challenging situation, we can either be positive or negative. I prefer to approach especially difficult situations looking at the positive side and believing that anything is possible for those who have faith. My approach to financial concerns is no different.

Faced with the challenge of matching financial requirements with anticipated giving, we have a choice of thinking and acting out of a sense of scarcity or out of a sense of abundance.

Those persons who approach life from a standpoint of “scarcity” tend to measure how much we do not have, or how large the burden is. One who thinks out of scarcity looks at the church budget and asks why costs are so high. Immediately, a scarcity thinker begins to strategize how to cut the budget to meet anticipated income.

On the other hand, those who approach life from the standpoint of “abundance” measure the ministry that becomes possible when the budget is supported fully. The abundance mentality leads a person to strategize how resources might be increased so the church can accomplish its mission and ministry. The abundance thinker asks, “What can we do to make these things happen?” This is the attitude of thanksgiving for God’s blessings in our lives and through our ministries. And often, the abundance thinker comes to a creative solution to the financial challenge.

For most of us, the reality is somewhere between these two ways of thinking. We do need to be aware of the increase in costs and the limited resources that are present in our congregations. On the other hand, we also need to prayerfully consider the ways in which churches are called by God to reach out and touch lives, transforming the world through our gifts of compassion and grace.

There are many opportunities to return our thanks to God. As you hear your churches share their plans for ministry for the future, I hope you will echo the sentiment of the Psalmist and give thanks for all that is ours already through creation and through the gift of Jesus Christ, who invites us to abundant life!

In Christ’s shalom,

Bob Hoshibata

(See an open letter to the Conference from Bishop Hoshibata on page 11.)

Idaho volunteers minister to “men in blue”

Idaho men volunteer in unique program to bring Christ into the state prison

You are standing outside a state prison praying with a few other people before entering the prison to be locked behind bars with criminals. How would you feel?

You know that in a few minutes you will walk through the doors, the doors will close behind you, you will hear the click of the lock. Then you will walk to a room where you will talk with “men in blue,” prisoners, to try to share the love of Christ with them. How do you think you would you feel?

Around the world, more than 20,000 Kairos volunteers know just how it feels. Among them are several people from United Methodist churches in Idaho.

Kairos Prison Ministry International is a Christian, volunteer, lay-led, ecumenical prison ministry designed for use in state and federal men’s and women’s correctional institutions in the United States and abroad. The strategy of the Kairos program is to select key leaders from among the prison population who have potential to impact their environment with the message of Christ’s love. The leaders are invited to attend a three-day course in Christianity through which they are introduced to the Kairos community.

Through a systematic, structured program, inmates are given the opportunity to experience religious renewal and to accept God’s call of witness and service during their stay in the institution and beyond.

The leaders who accept the call establish small “share and prayer” groups of fellow prisoners. These groups meet weekly to share their lives, grow spiritually, and pray for one another, for other residents and for staff of the facility.

In Idaho, a group is being assembled to conduct a Kairos weekend Nov. 11-14 at the Idaho State Correctional Institution, a medium security facility, just south of Boise. **Jim Essinger, Fruitland UMC**, is the leader for this group. Essinger still needs male volunteers from all faith walks, donations and prayer for the event. If you can help, contact him at 208-405-9394 or rector@idkairos.org.

The November weekend will be the second time Kairos volunteers have held an event at ISCI. At the first weekend in March, Kairos volunteers saw miracles happen. Men who had no faith established relationships with Jesus Christ. They have now taken their new faith into the yard of the prison and are sharing the love of Christ with others.

One “man in blue” named Doug said, “I built up walls and God took the bricks down.” Another, Bill, said, “I saw fellow inmates who felt God had forgotten them melt as the love of Christ changed their hearts of stone to hearts of love and compassion.”

Even if you cannot help the “men in blue” by going into the prisons, you can help. You can pray. You can raise funds. You can write letters to prisoners. If you want to help, contact **Melvin Barnes**, Idaho Kairos State Chairman, at 208-733-7307, info@idkairos.org, or check the website at www.idkairos.org.

— **Melvin Barnes**, Idaho Kairos State Chairman



MELVIN BARNES PHOTO

United Methodist team members from Fruitland UMC, Jim Essinger (far left with head bowed) and his father Don, (center back) pray with the rest of the Kairos team before entering the prison.

The Prison Ministry Action and Study Guide

The Prison Ministry Action and Study Guide features suggestions for congregations to explore ministries with victims, juvenile offenders, legal aid counseling and referral services. The guide lists annual conference prison ministry contacts, general agency contacts and how specifically these agencies can help you. The guide goes beyond United Methodist contacts and lists ecumenical resources and contacts as well. There is a section that includes helpful background information, some history of Methodist involvement in prison ministry, biblical and theological foundations for ministry, a glossary of terms, a flow chart on the U.S. Criminal Justice System, a bibliography, and a list of references to criminal justice and prison ministry/prison reform from the *United Methodist Book of Resolutions* and *The Book of Discipline*.

To get your free *Prison Ministry Action and Study Guide*, contact The General Board of Discipleship at 615-340-7200.

Liz Boerl: A testimony to life

The Rev. Liz Boerl dies of pancreatic cancer six weeks after diagnosis



The Rev. Liz Boerl

“I have the easy part. Those left behind have the hard part.”

— *The Rev. Liz Boerl*

Those who knew her best talk about Liz as a “beloved spirit,” “upbeat,” “vibrant,” “fair,” “compassionate,” and “spirited.” For many in leadership positions in our Conference, meetings and conferences won’t seem quite right because Liz won’t be there asking incisive, sometimes difficult questions.

Many students at Boise State will feel the loss of their “best friend” for years to come.

Her three children’s lives have been changed forever.

Elizabeth D. Boerl, 52, died peacefully on Oct. 5, 2004, her children by her side, just six weeks after receiving a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer that had metastasized.

She was born on Jun. 24, 1952 in Racine, Wisconsin to **David** and **Alice Smith**, the third of five children.

As a child, Liz enjoyed the outdoors and was an avid swimmer. She attended college at Alaska Methodist and Boise State University where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology.

During her years at Boise State, she met her husband, **David C. Boerl**. They were married for 22 years until his death in 1996. Both are survived by their three children **Danita**, **Christopher** and **Darren**.

Liz became a Deacon in Full Connection of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference in 1997. She served as director of the Wesley Foundation at Boise State University. She also chaired the Order of Deacons and later the Board of Ordained Ministries.

Liz helped establish and later taught faith-based mediation and conflict management certificate programs at Boise State.

She was deeply involved in conflict transformation and mediation. She and **Bonnie McOmber** worked together for nine years giving workshops and seminars to clergy and laity in many different settings.

McOmber says, “We were a team before either of us realized it. The thing is, we didn’t work at it. Liz was so remarkable in so many ways. She was supportive, encouraging and inclusive in her approach to everything.”

Thinking back, she goes on, “The only time I’ve ever seen her angry was when someone was being mistreated. She had such a strong sense of justice and was committed to working any situation out peacefully.”

With tears, McOmber sums it up, “She became the sister of my heart and I thank God for being able to be a part of her life. I will miss her.”

Liz also enjoyed many personal activities including jewelry making, reading and traveling abroad. She led a student mission trip to Latvia earlier this year—the 26th country she had visited outside the U.S.

Fazi Mohammadi, one of her Muslim students, said that Liz never once tried to change his mind about his religion. She respected people who were different, respected their beliefs, and was always open and eager to learn from people of different races, religions and sexuality. She was always an outspoken advocate for “outsiders.”

Carolyn Neufeld, administrative assistant for the Eastern District, worked in the office right next to Liz’s for many years. She and Liz became best friends, helped raise each other’s children, supported each other in good times and bad. Carolyn says that when she told Liz, about three weeks before her death, how much she would miss her, Liz said that she had the easy part. “Those left behind,” said Liz, “have the hard part.” There was Liz’s concern for others in a nutshell.

The Conference, her students, her many friends, her co-workers, her family will all miss Liz more than words can say. But what a testimony to life Liz has left in the hearts of all who knew her. Thank you, Liz.

— *Linda Sullivan*

Primetimers study French culture, church

Group learns about war-time France, Protestant history, church

Five members of **Portland First UMC** were among a group of 40 on a recent Primetimers 12-day trip to the South of France.

Primetimers, under the auspices of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries (GBGM), is a program for mature adults, aged 50 and older, and is sometimes described as a cross between a Volunteer in Mission trip and an Elderhostel.

Using a hotel in Bourg-de-Peage, a small city southeast of Lyon, as a base, the first few days were devoted to learning about the French Resistance during World War II, the history of the Protestant Church in France during the 17th and 18th centuries, and the dispersion of its members, known as Huguenots, throughout the world.

“On our first day,” says Dee Poujade, “we met with two pastors, now in their 80s, who served with the Resistance when they were young. After hearing their stories, and visiting the Resistance Memorial and museum in the beautiful Vercors Mountains, it is easier to understand why France is reluctant to involve itself in another war.”

The group also visited a Benedictine monastery, where they learned how modern-day monks still manage to live a cloistered life of contemplation. The men in the group shared a silent meal with the

monks. “The women, who were not silent,” says Poujade, “were served elsewhere!”

The group then headed further south to Nimes. It was in Nimes that they fulfilled the service aspect of the trip. The travelers gardened, washed windows, helped in the kitchen, and even hauled some coal for the former seminary, now retreat center, in which they were staying.

To further their understanding of the persecution and hardship of Protestants in France, the group visited a number of small museums that brought home the deprivation and suffering of those who kept their faith alive in that time.

They also met with pastors who shared their insights into serving the Protestant Church in France today. The number of people in France who claim Christian affiliation is steadily decreasing and the number of persons who identify themselves as Protestants of any denomination is only about 1.5 percent. There are only six Methodist churches in the whole country; the majority of Protestant churches are either Reformed or Pentecostal.

The trip ended with travelers attending services in Narbonne, close to the Mediterranean coast, dinner at a coastal restaurant, and a visit to Roman aqueducts dating back to 50 A.D. in Avignon.

“We’d encourage anyone interested in travel, learning and service to look into the Primetimers Program,” says Poujade. For information, visit the GBGM website at www.gbgm-umc.org.

— **Dee Poujade**
Portland First UMC



DEE POULJADE PHOTOS

Above: The ancient coliseum in Nimes, France, is considered the best-preserved in the world because it has been in constant use since it was built.

Below, clockwise from left: Dee Poujade, Loren Smith, Tom Foster, Karen Smith and Colleen Foster, all members of Portland First UMC, prepare to wash windows at a retreat center in Nimes, France.

Left: The Musee du Vivarais Protestant (Museum of Protestant Life) was one of several small museums visited by participants in the Primetimers program on the “South of France and Its Christian Heritage.”



Day Camp is for kids of all ages

A time for building important intergenerational relationships



The Rev. Edson Gilmore surprises children by taking a turn on the “Slip ‘n’ Slide.”

At Woodburn UMC, this summer’s Day Camp was an opportunity for children to learn about God and creation through crafts, games and stories. It was also a time for building relationships—among children, between the church and the community, and among different generations who participated. High school youth helped young ones with crafts. Older adults gave guidance to our youth. And all the young at heart played together.

Though the kids seemed to love every minute of the water games, they seemed totally delighted when they were getting their adult “shepherds” wet.

Children danced up and down and squealed with laughter as they pelted adults with water balloons, dumped full buckets of water on their heads, or watched these adults break down and skid head-first on the “Slip ‘n’ Slide.”

The adults were good sports (some even seemed to enjoy this play) and the children sharing the experience thought it was the best thing that could possibly happen.

The children absolutely loved it when **the Rev. Edson Gilmore**, retired pastor who served the Woodburn church several years ago, got a running start, dove head-first down the wet plastic slide, and ended up in the tiny pool.

It is because of caring adults and youth who offer their time and love that the summer Day Camp program will continue building new relationships in the Woodburn community, particularly with Hispanic children and families, and offer programs for learning and growth for kids of all ages!

— **Mira Wood Conklin**, program director, Woodburn UMC



MIRA CONKLIN PHOTOS

The Rev. Edson Gilmore, Julie and kids are sprayed by cold water from water cannons.

We’ve never done it this way before! Fall, winter, spring camp events catalog makes debut!



Camp and Retreat Ministry publicity for fall, winter and spring has never been in a catalog before. This year the new catalogs were mailed out to all Conference churches and ministry settings. We are counting on you to help get them to the folks who need them. If you know people who would be interested in our year-round programs, please make sure they get a catalog. There are many new and continuing programs in the catalog arranged by month: Lewis and Clark events for families and adults at Camp Magruder in January, Choir Camp on President’s Day Weekend (this is the 20th anniversary of this camp), District Youth Weekends, Winter Snow Camps. Registration forms are included in the catalog. Information about summer events will be posted on the camping website at www.gocamping.org as it becomes available. Thanks for your help. What about coming yourself?

— **The Rev. Liza Jean Hoefner**, executive director, Camp and Retreat Ministries

Hillview UMC celebrates 'Serve the Servants Sunday'

Congregation recognizes the folks who spend their lives in service to the community



The Rev. David Thompson, pastor at Hillview UMC, Boise, leads a service of blessing at a neighborhood fire station on September 12.

As people all over the country remembered the fateful date—September 11—this year, the congregation at **Hillview UMC**, Boise, Idaho decided to do something about it. The church organized “Serve the Servants Sunday” on Sept. 12, honoring the people who spend their lives in service to the community. The church offered a special blessing during all worship services to teachers, police officers, health care workers, and fire fighters.

During the 10 a.m. “Catch the Flame” service, worshippers and

members of various Sunday school classes walked next door to one of the Boise fire stations and blessed those who risk their lives for the safety of citizens.

Led by **Pastor David Thompson**—braving rain and wind—members offered prayer and thanks for the dedication of their local fire fighters as well as those who serve in other parts of the country.

— *Cindy Todeschi, director of communications and programs, Hillview UMC, Boise, Idaho*

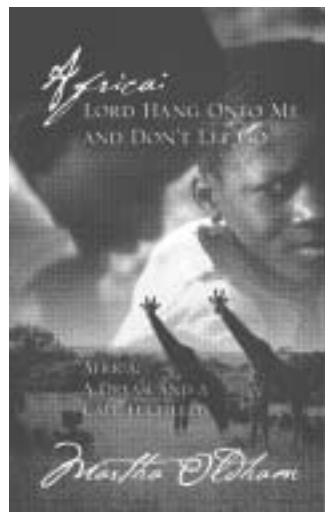
Oldham writes about work in Africa

New book is testimony to a life devoted to service

In her new book, *Africa: Lord Hang Onto Me and Don't Let Go*, Conference missionary **Martha Oldham** tells of her call to the mission field and her experiences in four trips to the African countries of Zaire, Kenya, Ghana, Rwanda and Tanzania.

The book tells the story of how God opened doors for Oldham and stayed close to her even when bullets were flying in refugee camps, about the obstacles and dangers she faced in Africa. It takes readers on a grand adventure in faith, courage and love.

If you would like to purchase a copy of the book, or be in touch with Martha Oldham, you can reach her at 541-677-1385.



Lake Oswego group sews dolls for kids

Dolls go to world's displaced and orphaned children

Marilyn Zeigler, Craft Group coordinator at **Lake Oswego UMC**, brought a new project to her group, sewing cuddly rag dolls for needy, displaced and orphaned children around the world.

The idea came through a dear friend of Zeigler's, **Clara Woodridge**. She asked if the Craft Group would join the project. Members of the group were so enthusiastic they began working on dolls almost immediately, using materials they already had at hand.

ONDY TODESCHI PHOTO



LARRY ZEIGLER PHOTO

Group members (L to R), Lynn Brasfield, Marilyn Zeigler, Jan Rogers, and Marilyn Hunter.

The project originated with **Mary Page Jones** of Wapiti, Wyoming who is happy to share information and patterns. To learn more, go to www.ragdolls2love.org.

Jones' plan is to organize a nationwide program of volunteers to produce dolls. So far the countries that will receive dolls are Iraq, Haiti, Palestine and Israel.

— *Sally Blanchard, newsletter editor, Lake Oswego UMC*

Conference students receive scholarships, loans

Education has always been a high priority for the United Methodist Church. One of the ways the church helps is through student loans and scholarships.

The United Methodist Scholarship and Loan Programs managed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry are churchwide educational services providing loans and scholarships to help supplement the financial needs of today's students. Funding for these scholarships and loans are provided through offerings, wills, annuities, and other designated gifts.

One of the offerings that helps fund the loans and scholarships is United Methodist Student Day. In 1866 a special fund was established for the advanced education of Sunday school children and the educational preparation of persons for the ministry and missionary service. The 1940 General Conference established Methodist Student Day with a churchwide offering. The 1968 Uniting Conference continued this connectional student-aid program to be funded by the United Methodist Student Day offering. Dates for taking the offering have changed through the years. This year United Methodist Student Day occurs on November 28.

Congratulations to the following students who have received scholarships this year from the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Autumn R. Cutting, First United Methodist Church, Hermiston, Oregon

Laurie A. Day, Caldwell United Methodist Church, Caldwell, Idaho

Megan L. Flora, First United Methodist Church, Coos Bay, Oregon

Abbe R. Groh, Dallas United Methodist Church, Dallas, Oregon

Kyle S. Jones, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Idaho Falls, Idaho

David D. King, First United Methodist Church, Salem, Oregon

Bonnie J. Monk, First United Methodist Church, Corvallis, Oregon

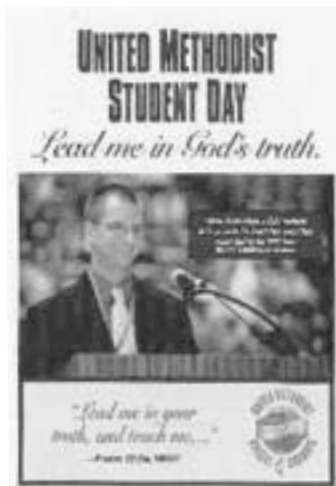
James C. Nathan, First United Methodist Church, Medford, Oregon

Marie C. Sakai, First United Methodist Church, Salem, Oregon

Laura L. Spenner, Trinity United Methodist Church, Salem, Oregon

Laura D. Wagner, Morningside United Methodist Church, Salem, Oregon

Emily M. Wolff, First United Methodist Church, Beaverton, Oregon



United Methodist Student Day November 28, 2004

Help United Methodist students by giving generously to the UM Student Day special offering.

Coos Bay's Stoneburg earns Eagle rank

A 17-year-old Coos Bay UMC member is first in 28 years to earn Eagle rank

A fourth-generation Methodist and member of **Coos Bay UMC** is the first young man in 28 years to earn Boy Scouting's highest rank in the southern Oregon coast church.

Adam C. Stoneburg, son of **Joe** and **Donna Stoneburg**, was awarded his Eagle rank in a candlelight ceremony at the church last spring.

Stoneburg earned seven rank advancements and 25 merit badges in Troop No. 9. He earned the 2003 Frank Sweetwater Award for his Order of the Arrow work and the 2003 Arlie Morton

Award for Senior Patrol Leader of the year for Coos/Curry counties.

Stoneburg is also a four-year honor roll student, played football for two years, cross-country and track for three years, and was a student council member. He is now attending college.

His Eagle Scout project was done for the Oregon Parks Department, consisting of 271 hours of service. He drafted plans, designed and supervised the construction of a guardrail and stairway to control traffic at Sunset Bay State Park.

Conference Leadership Team begins new term with new members

The Conference Leadership Team met for the first time on Sept. 30 under the guidance of Bishop Bob Hoshibata

Displaying a new pair of running shoes given to him by Metro District, **Bishop Bob Hoshibata** began his first meeting of the Conference Leadership Team saying, "We're going to be together for eight years and while that seems like a pretty long time, it's going to go by so quickly. I have a sense of urgency about the time we have to make an impact on this Conference."

Liberian Partnership Report

Beverly Walker announced the new Bishop's Task Force for the Oregon-Idaho Partnership with Liberia. She explained the task force's plan to raise the \$7,000 for a van for Camphor Mission. She also introduced a new Portland Liberian Fellowship at **Rose City Park UMC**.

Conference Communications

Linda Sullivan reported that press kits about Bishop Hoshibata had gone out. There is now a recorded greeting by the bishop on the homepage of our website. A team to write a Crisis Communications Plan team is being formed.

Camp & Retreat Ministries Team

The Rev. Lee Hunefeld related that new high-cost camps like Creation Vacation, Strength for the Journey, and Camp Hope are not breaking even and that the successful Day Camp Program may have to be cut back or eliminated because of costs of insurance, supplies, etc. Lee asked that churches contact CRMT if they have any support money for day camps.

Strategic Vision Plan

The Rev. Scott Harkness handed out "A Strategic Vision Plan Proposal," and explained that "we are now in the implementation phase of the vision plan." With a few minor changes, CLT approved the plan and gave Harkness the "go ahead" to form a "launch group."

Board of Ordained Ministry

The Rev. Craig Hall Cutting said that BOM is trying to streamline the process

toward ordination. Associate membership is back for local pastors if they complete the Course of Study. There is a class coming up on stress management through the **Northwest House of Theological Studies**.

Ministry Cabinet

The Rev. Jim Fellers said district superintendents have been trying to cover their districts plus Metro. The question was asked when a Metro DS will be appointed. The bishop responded that he didn't know yet, but that the Cabinet is working on it.

Connectional Ministries Convocation

The Connectional Ministries Convocation is scheduled for Nov. 12-13 at **Lake Oswego UMC**.

Fiscal and Administration Circle

Bob Meyers said we should have 75% of apportionments in, but we have 54.8%. The Conference is \$423,000 down. Whatever equalization happens, always takes place in December when 18-22% of receipts come in.

The Rev. Jim Monroe said the Council on Finance and Administration met in August and elected officers: Jim Monroe, chair; **Ted Wimer**, secretary. The work of CFA was divided into four subcommittees: Funding: how we apportion, formulas that make sense, distributing costs; Personnel: adequate staff evaluations, dealing with issues; Budget and Investments: how to monitor throughout year to make decisions as we go; and Interpretation of Shared Ministries: how we interpret and help local churches.

We need to: (1) broaden income streams and (2) rethink the structure of our line of credit. The council is also looking at a director of development who can help discover new sources of income, write grants, etc.

Meyers discussed the need for a better spending plan that gets started in the first three months of the year.

—Linda Sullivan

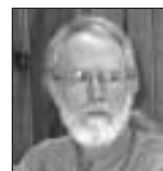
(Read the full minutes at www.umoi.org.)



Lindsey Allen



Joan Collison



Rev. Craig Hall Cutting



Rev. Jim Fellers



Rev. Kim Fields



Rev. Gerry Hill



Bishop Bob Hoshibata



Rev. Lee Hunefeld



Jo Japs



Rev. Jim Monroe



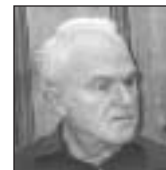
Greg Nelson



Rev. Barbara Nixon



Rev. Debbie Pitney



Tom Wogaman

Oregon pastor works hard for farm worker justice

The Rev. Steve Sprecher was instrumental in the just resolution of a labor dispute and the end of a five-and-a-half-year boycott of the Mt. Olive Pickle Company.

Ramon is a 25-year-old farm worker. As the sun comes up on an August morning, he walks to the fields. He is wearing an old sweatshirt, jeans, work boots and a faded red baseball cap. The air is cool, but he knows the heat and humidity will be merciless by noon. For years Ramon has been picking fruit and vegetables for American farmers as a legal guest worker from Mexico. Today he looks out at acres of lush cucumber vines. He picks up a large bucket. His fingers know the feel of the

handle, the cool prickle of cucumbers, the itchiness of the fields, the weight of the cucumbers in a full bucket, the ache of muscles at the end of the day.

He works hard. He earns 55 to 75 cents for each 33-pound bucket of cucumbers he picks, usually earning considerably less per hour than minimum wage. His annual income is about \$7,500. He has seen friends with serious injuries or illnesses report for work so they won't be labeled "lazy" or "troublemakers."

When evening comes, Ramon will return to the camp. He and several others will eat dinner and sleep in a small building with holes in the roof, outdoor plumbing, a door that doesn't close, screens that don't keep out the insects.

Ramon, and other farm workers, had asked the Mt. Olive Pickle Company in Asheville, North Carolina, for their first raise in 26 years. They were turned down. They had asked for housing without holes in the roof. They were turned down. They had asked for sanitary indoor plumbing. They were turned down again. They asked many times; always they were turned down.

Yet, on Sept. 16, 2004, the workers, represented by the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), representatives from Mt. Olive Pickle Company,

one of the largest pickle producers in the country, and the North Carolina Growers Association, employers of the field workers, signed the largest union contract in North Carolina's history. It guarantees basic rights, improved conditions, higher wages, financial incentives for farmers to provide decent compensation to their workers, health care, grievance procedures and even bereavement leave.

Ramon now has a chance to earn a decent living, live in adequate housing with indoor plumbing, improve his life, and hope for the future.

How did this historic agreement come about?

In the mid 1990s, the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) made initial contact with the field workers in Asheville. As FLOC inspected conditions, they found the workers' complaints mild in comparison to the deplorable, dilapidated housing, overcrowding, and poor sanitation.

In early talks with Mt. Olive Pickle Company, spokespersons claimed that the huge packing plant did not actually employ field workers, so had nothing to say about their pay or working conditions. They claimed those were matters handled by the 1,000 growers supplying produce to the company.

After several years of trying to negotiate improvements with Mt. Olive Pickle

UMNS-BILL NORTON PHOTO



Signing documents ending the boycott of Mt. Olive Pickle Company are (left to right seated) Baldemar Velasquez, Farm Labor Organizing Committee president; Stan Eury, director of the North Carolina Growers Association; and Bill Brian, president of Mt. Olive Pickle Company. Standing between Velasquez and Eury is The Most Reverend F. Joseph Gossman, the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh, and between Eury and Brian is The Rev. Bob Edgar, general secretary, National Council of Churches.

Company and growers, FLOC called for a consumer boycott as a last resort. The boycott began Mar. 17, 1999.

More than 300 organizations joined the boycott over the next five and a half years. Those organizations included the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, the AFL-CIO, the Catholic Bishops of Raleigh and of dioceses in other parts of the country, the National Council of Churches, the United Church of Christ, Black Workers for Justice, the National Farm Worker Ministry, and many other labor unions, churches, community and student organizations. Many grocery stores also honored the boycott. In the end, the boycott worked.

What does all this have to do with us?

“This is an excellent example of what can happen when the church brings its principles to bear in the public arena,” says **the Rev. Steven J. Sprecher**. Sprecher chairs the Peace with Justice Work Area of the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society (GBCS). He is also the senior pastor at **Lake Oswego UMC** and former assistant to the bishop for the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.

Sprecher has worked for the last four years to help break the impasse between Mt. Olive Pickle and FLOC, including attempts at mediation and close work with the North Carolina Annual Conference. He will continue to be involved as GBCS monitors implementation of the agreement that covers an estimated 8,500 workers on about 1,000 farms.

After four years of work with both parties, GBCS reluctantly endorsed the boycott and, at General Conference this year, asked the United Methodist Church to do so as well. The resolution passed in May.

“The owner of Mt. Olive Pickle is a United Methodist,” says Sprecher, “as are many of the growers in North Carolina.” He goes on, “The involvement of the United Methodist church was an important factor in getting this issue resolved, bringing to bear the church’s long-standing support for labor justice and collective bargaining based on biblical principles of justice.”

“I am thrilled to see this historic agreement,” Sprecher says, “It represents the church at its best. Here you have United Methodists at the general church and annual conference levels working with United Methodist business owners and labor organizers to bring God’s biblical call for justice into the pragmatic world of markets and politics.”

— **Linda Sullivan**, Director of Communications



The Rev. Steven J. Sprecher chairs the Peace with Justice Work Area of the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society.

An open letter from Bishop Hoshibata to the Annual Conference

Dear Members and Friends of the Annual Conference:

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

The last several weeks have been challenging for our family. As many of you know, my mother-in-law passed away on September 23 in Hawaii where she lived. To honor her, Greta, our son Blake and I flew to Hawaii to be with the family. I was honored to preside at her funeral service.

In our time of sadness, we received many, many cards, email messages, and spoken words of understanding and sympathy. Words have conveyed your condolences and your assurance that you were holding us in prayer. We felt your prayers and garnered strength from them even in the midst of sadness and loss. Although we had been part of our Annual Conference family for less than a month, you generously shared your love with our family.

Greta joins me in expressing our deepest appreciation for your support in our time of sadness.

In Christ’s shalom,

Bishop Bob Hoshibata

We United Methodists are gifted with the Spirit

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (*Heb. 11:1*)

[God's grace] is fully embodied in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is experienced in the ongoing creation of a new people by the Holy Spirit. (*The Book of Discipline, ¶121*)

United Methodists have been gifted with the Spirit. Although it is important to keep our faith story alive, it is perhaps of greater importance that we keep in step with the Holy Spirit.

Isn't it fascinating that over 200 years ago **John Wesley** expressed his concern that Methodism would have the form of religion without the power? It's almost as if he were worried that the Methodist movement would slowly mutate into the institutional church he was trying to revive.

It happens when we try to run the race without looking to Jesus. If we try to run the race set before us without focusing on the "pioneer and perfecter of our faith," we're going to get detoured by things that don't really matter that much—like rearranging structures, and obsessing over property, and panicking about meeting budgets.

Living in the Spirit gives us a different set of priorities and a different point of view. It's not about **us** at all, but about helping draw out the Holy Spirit that God has planted in every human being. This truth begs for our attention.

This is the gospel as Methodists know it. The gospel we know starts with honesty. We all fall short of the glory of God. All of us are sinners. Human nature, by nature, is self-focused and self-serving. For Wesley and his people the whole notion of salvation made no sense without the assumption that human beings are in fundamental need of it.

But the gospel as we know it does not write off human beings as hopeless and helpless. Wesley took the approach of grace as revealed in Scripture. The God he clung to, the God we worship, is a God of love who wants to be in relationship with all. In each human soul, implanted by God to work against our sinful nature, is the Holy Spirit. That Spirit is given to everyone—not just good people or religious people, but everyone. That Spirit of God, working in us and on us to draw us closer to the divine, to conquer our impulse to selfishness, to connect us to Christ with a faith that has "assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen."

But according to the gospel as we have known it, human beings must be awakened to God's grace before we can be delivered from ourselves and transformed by love into love. That was the greatest ambition of the Methodists. That was the hope that pushed them on—human beings awakened and renewed by the gift of salvation lovingly offered by God through Christ. In the dawning of this awareness new Christians are born, disciples are called, apostles are sent, and we run with perseverance the race set before us.

Freed through repentance, birthed from above, Methodists made themselves available to the Spirit by practicing the "means of grace"—Bible study, prayer, fasting, worship, Christian conferencing and service. These were not used as the means **to God**, but the means by which **God got to us** and caught us and filled us.

Grace by grace, day by day, we hold onto the hope of the Holy Spirit taking more of our hearts and defining us. We believe that the very power of God's grace enables us to love as truly as God loves, to love as fully as God loves, to love as perfectly as God loves. Methodists call this "Christian perfection." It gets no better than this: God-shaped love in a Christ-formed heart. It's possible, Methodists have insisted. It's the race we run with perseverance.



LINDA SULLIVAN PHOTO

The Rev. Scott Harkness

*"Grace by grace,
day by day,
we hold onto
the hope of
the Holy Spirit
taking more
of our hearts
and defining us."*

We are gifted with the Spirit. May that Spirit more completely claim us for without it we are truly a dead sect, having the form of religion but without the power. If our churches are going to concentrate on anything, let it first be this. Energy flows from being plugged into the power source and we can't give what we don't have.

You talk about "igniting ministries"! The truth is, no matter how much money we throw at it, no matter how slick this national campaign may be and no matter how effective the advertising is, our ministries will not be ignited unless we are in step with God's Spirit, as were our forebears in the faith.

—*The Rev. Scott Harkness*
Director of Connectional Ministries

*“Our ministries
 will not be
 ignited unless
 we are in
 step with
 God’s Spirit.”*

In the July/August and September/October issues of *The United Methodist*, you will find the first and second segments in this series about our mission. You can find them on the Conference website at www.umoi.org: click on “OIUM Newsletter” under “Conference News” in the left-hand column of the homepage.

In upcoming issues of *The United Methodist*, look for other segments of this commentary about the mission of the Church:

◆ **The Summons**

What United Methodists are discovering today is that we are at our best when we are serving.

◆ **The Conclusion**

Picture the United Methodist Church a hundred years from now. What will it look like?

Because you care...others can be cared for

She held a staff member's hand and said, "Thank you for letting me live in this beautiful home." There was a short pause, and then she said, "I love it here." Again, the pause. And then, "I love all of you." These words came from the deathbed of a tough 99-year-old Dutch woman who didn't often share her emotions. Her voice was very soft as she struggled for breath.

For the next few days staff took turns sitting with her, praying with her, and bringing her the beautiful flowers she loved so much. Her four children and her husband had preceded her in death and she had outlived most of her friends. Three days later she joined them. We all hoped it was a wonderful, joyful reunion.

This is the work of the **United Methodist Retirement Center**, a local mission of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference. Because you cared, we were able to be there for this wonderful lady, who in addition to outliving her family and friends, had outlived her resources and was able to remain in her home through the generosity of the David Karr Benevolent Care Fund.

Please contact the United Methodist Retirement Center at 503-585-6511 or umrc@teleport.com for additional information about this mission or about the Benevolent Care Fund.

—*Susan J. Hunter*, executive director
United Methodist Retirement Center
 1625 Center Street, NE, Salem, OR 97301

Echoes from the Archives

A series of articles taken from the records in the Oregon and Idaho archives

by **Don Knepp**, co-archivist

There are several books in the archives that tell about the wives of Jason Lee. I am indebted to **Jason Lee, Prophet of the New Oregon**, by Cornelius J. Brosman, Ph.D. (MacMillan Co., 1932), **The Oregon Mission** by James W. Bashford, (Abandon Press), and **Life and Letters of Mrs. Jason Lee** by Teresa Gay (Metropolitan Press). The last two books are not dated.

The Board of Missions played many roles in the life of **Jason Lee**. One role was that of matchmaker. **Anna Maria Pittman** was their chosen volunteer.

Anna, the oldest of 13 children, was born in New York City on Sept. 24, 1803. Her parents were people of means and they provided her with an excellent education. During her teen years she became deeply interested in the church and its workings. At 25 she joined the church and quickly gave evidence of her deep piety. She became interested in the missionary movement and soon wanted to devote herself to the conversion of the Indians.

She contacted the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church and offered her life to the conversion of souls, in particular, in Canada. There were no openings for Canadian service at that time. The establishment in Oregon attracted her interest.

There were several reasons why Jason Lee requested married missionaries. Men doing domestic chores used up time that could be better used to establish the mission. They believed the presence of Christian women would provide a positive influence for the native women. The missionaries also requested a doctor. At the time the nearest doctor was **John McLoughlin**. The six-day round trip between Fort Vancouver and the mission used much valuable time. The Mission Board soon advertised for applicants.

On Jan. 6, 1836, the Mission

Board considered the various applicants. It is recorded, "After the reading of the letters conversation ensued on the most suitable persons to be selected, when on motion of **Brother Kennedy**, Miss Pittman of New York was chosen as a Teacher for the Oregon Mission." She was now nearly 33 years old.

July 1836, the Hamilton sailed for Oregon with fresh reinforcements for the Oregon mission. **Dr. Elijah P. White** led the party. Besides Anna Maria Pittman several other women were on board including **Miss Susan Dowling** (soon to be **Mrs. Cyrus Shepard**) and **Mrs. White**.

In May of 1837 the party arrived at Fort Vancouver. Several days later Lee arrived. McLoughlin introduced the various arrivals to Jason Lee, purposely reserving Anna until the last. All eyes were turned to them as they met. "A light blush rose to her cheek, and a slight trepidation, which added to the charm of her manner, was all the evidence that she was conscious to any peculiarity in her position. That Mr. Lee was pleased, could be easily discovered from the complaisance of his bearing, and the trouble he took to render himself agreeable."

The party set off by canoe for the Oregon Mission on the afternoon of May 25. They would spend three days on the trip. Anna records only, "I went with Mr. J. L. in his canoe." Soon the journey of 22,000 miles would be over.

Jason Lee had been informed by the Missionary Society that they



Anna Maria Pittman Lee

had selected Miss Pittman as a suitable woman for his wife. Miss Pittman was discretely told that the Society would not be offended if she married Jason Lee. The canoe trip presented a time when they could get to know each other. The Mission Board's matchmaking was a success. Six weeks later, on Jul. 16, 1837, Miss Pittman became Anna Maria Lee. **Daniel Lee** performed the ceremony. Next Jason Lee united Susan Downing and Cyrus Shepard. Later that day Jason Lee united **Charles J. Roe** and **Nancy McKay**. These were the first Christian marriages performed in the Oregon Territory. Hudson Bay Company performed only civil marriages because there were no clergy assigned to the post.

In the summer of 1838 Jason Lee was called back east. He was traveling when on Jun. 23, 1837, Anna Maria gave birth to a boy. The infant died two days later. The next morning at 6 a.m. Anna Maria Lee died of complications of childbirth. She was 35 years of age.

News of the Connection—at home and around the world

News from United Methodist News Service of interest to United Methodists in Oregon and Idaho

Women's Hall of Fame to honor two United Methodists in 2005

U.S. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., and Betty Bumpers, former first lady of Arkansas, two United Methodists, are among 10 women being inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 2005. The National Women's Hall of Fame is a not-for-profit organization that sponsors educational activities, special exhibits and events designed to increase public awareness of the diverse contributions that women make to society.

'Igniting Ministry' training goes online in October

Basic training in the UMC's welcoming and television ministry will be accessible to nearly every congregation because of "Igniting Ministry 101," a new online course launched Oct. 11, and will continue through mid-November. It is being offered by UM Communications, which manages the Igniting Ministry program. The registration fee is \$12 per student, and enrollment is open at <http://www.training.umcom.org>.

UM Publishing House ends year with "sales miss" revenue loss

The UM Publishing House ended its 2004 fiscal year with a net operating revenue loss of more than \$700,000 due to a "sales miss" of more than \$6 million. Sales of big-ticket items, such as sanctuary appointments, apparel/ vestments and signs, were down \$1.6 million, continuing a trend that has seen sales drop \$2 million since 2002. Other sales items that came in under budget were Hero Quest, 2004's Vacation Bible School curriculum, Exploring Faith and PowerXpress—both children's curricula—and Cokesbury specialty imprint.

Habitat founder to receive World Methodist Peace Award

Millard Fuller, president and founder of Habitat for Humanity International, will receive the 2004 World Methodist

Peace Award from the World Methodist Council. The award will be presented to Fuller on Dec. 8 at Glenn Memorial UMC at Emory University in Atlanta. "In bringing together persons regardless of their religious preference or background to work side by side to eliminate poverty housing, Habitat for Humanity International promotes peace, reconciliation and justice," said the Rev. George Freeman, top executive of the World Methodist Council.

USA and Caribbean: UMCOR on the job in hurricane recovery

The UM Committee on Relief continues its urgent call for flood buckets, the supplies volunteers use to clean up post-hurricane debris and water. Specifications are online at <http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/print/kits/>. Monetary gifts enable specially trained disaster workers to minister in hard-hit areas, provide direct assistance such as rent payments, and underwrite purchase of building supplies. Donations can be made in several ways to UMCOR's appeal, "Hurricanes 2004," Advance #982410. Online, donors can go to www.MethodistRelief.org. Checks written to UMCOR can be placed in church offering plates or mailed directly to UMCOR, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 330, New York, N.Y. 10115. Donations by credit card can be made by calling, toll free, 1-800-554-8583.

UMs petition over property case



The California-Nevada Annual Conference is petitioning the California Supreme Court to review the four-year-old disputed property case involving St. Luke's UMC in Fresno. The petition filed Sept. 22 requested the court review a recent decision by the 5th District Court of Appeals in Fresno that found that St. Luke's UMC property in Fresno is not covered by a trust in favor of the general denomination of the UMC. A ruling in August reversed the original 2002 court decision that local church trustees violated both the *UM Book of Discipline* and California law by refusing to hold the church property "in trust" for the denomination.

Same-sex ceremony complaint against Oliveto dismissed

A complaint against a UM pastor for performing a gay marriage ceremony in a church sanctuary has been dismissed by Bishop Beverly Shamana of the California-Nevada Conference. The Rev. Karen Oliveto officiated at a Feb. 15 ceremony for Bethany UMC parishioners Bill Hinson and Dan Johnson after they received a marriage license at San Francisco City Hall. The bishop's statement said: "The complaint has been resolved in a manner consistent with the *2000 Book of Discipline*.... The goal...is reconciliation and resolution, and this goal has been achieved."

Required U.S. Postal Forms

We are required to print this "Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation" once a year.

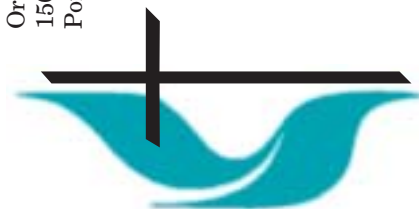



Conference website continues to expand to serve you



Periodicals

Oregon-Idaho United Methodist
1505 SW 18th Avenue
Portland OR 97201-2599



The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference

"Being an Invitational Church with Open Hearts, Open Minds and Open Doors"

Something new has been added

UMOI Message Boards—Join us!

Our website community continues to grow and here's a feature many of you have been requesting—UMOI Message Boards. Post your ideas, questions, holiday bazaars, classified ads, and more. Look for the animated graphic on the homepage at www.umi.net, click on the image.

The Message Boards support local churches by providing a searchable, interactive tool for navigating your collective knowledge—a thriving garden of experience and innovation. As members join in discussion, we hope to amplify the support and inspiration that you currently give each other by making your conversations available to others with related needs or solutions. We've been expanding the site in other ways too:

- ❖ Search the Media Center library and read about new items. Soon, you will be able to order online as well.
- ❖ Read about the Bishop's Task Force on the Partnership with Liberia. Click first on "Bishop Hoshibata" under "Leadership," then on "Partnership with Liberia."
- ❖ Plus...
Our new bishop has an online audio message for you.
The 2004 Journal will be online again this year.
The district pages continue to grow.
And the site directory is currently being renovated.

We'll continue to grow the Message Boards—and the website—according to your ideas so keep them coming! We appreciate the time you take to let us know how we can serve our community better.

— **Ruthie Macha**, Conference webmaster

Put these dates on your calendar now!

2005 Schools of Christian Mission

July 13-17, 2005

Northwest Nazarene University
Nampa, Idaho

July 27-31, 2005

Willamette University
Salem, Oregon