



Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata

District Superintendent
The Rev. Katherine Simmons Conolly

The Western Connection

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save these dates

- **Advanced Lay Speaking Class**, Bay City UMC, Feb. 20, 27 & March 6, see pg 5
- **L.E.A.P Youth Event**, Salem FUMC, Feb. 19-20
- **Community FEAST**, Lebanon Hospital, Feb. 20, see page 4
- **WD UMW Every Member Enrichment Event**, Woodburn UMC, Feb. 27
- **Who Was Jason Lee?** Jason Lee UMC, Feb. 28, see page 4
- **MFSA Spring Event**, Portland FUMC, March 6
- **WD UMW Every Member Enrichment Event**, Seaside UMC, March 13
- **O-I Reconciling UMs**, Sweet Home, March 13
- **One Great Hour of Sharing**, March 14, see page 6
- **Western District Renewal Event**, McMinnville, March 19-21, 2010, see page 3
- **Advocacy Workshop**, Morningside UMC, April 10, see page 4.

Dear Friends,

I will have a new job come July 1. As most of the clergy know, I expected this to be the case. I just did not expect it to be **this** job. I fully expected to return to the ministry of local church pastor. The bishop (and God?) had other plans.

As of July 1, I will be appointed to the job of *Assistant to the Bishop assigned to the Western District*. There will be more of this job title to come, as the bishop assigns each of the Assistants a particular specialty to be shared across district lines. I am already envisioning my 8x10 business card!

There is not an official job description yet. However, this was announced as a glimpse of things to come: *A team of excellent leaders will assist the Bishop, coaching pastors and church leaders toward*

health and vitality, equipping them for relevant ministry with, and to, their communities in new ways. These Assistants to the Bishop will hold pastors and churches accountable to living into the vision of healthy, vital congregations.

My friends, I am not sure exactly how this is going to look as we enter our seventh year together. What I do know is this:

- God is with us! I have been so surprised to witness the Holy Spirit in such powerful ways in this job! I have witnessed the Holy Spirit provide the right pastor for the right church; enable many of our congregations to reach out beyond their walls to provide mission and ministry in life-giving ways to the community; inspire clergy and laity to work together in new ways that have led to both numeric and spiritual growth; and

Kate's New Job

provide hope and new energy when the spirits of a congregation were flagging.

- We have a wealth of talent and leadership among the laity and clergy of the Western District. Every one of our congregations has the potential to be a blessing to its community.
- I am very excited to have some more time to partner with and walk alongside the clergy and laity of the district as we look together at what it means to be a healthy, vital congregation in the 21st century. I already have my new favorite book on this – more about this later!

Please know that I am so grateful to God for the continued opportunity to be . . .

In ministry with you,

Kate

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Special points of interest:

- **WD Renewal Event: *Thrive Where You Are Planted***, March 19-21. A wonderful opportunity for every WD church! See page 3
- Events to help you deepen your hunger and advocacy ministries — see page 4
- What WD churches have done to respond to disaster in Haiti — see page 7

Taking Back the Word ‘Evangelism’

“Yes, I have evangelized! And because nothing hideous happened, I’ve been strongly encouraging others to follow suit.”

I’ve been on a personal mission of late. My goal is to become comfortable sharing my own story of Christ in my life. This has been perking in my brain since Rev. Gwen and I attended a Martha Gay Reese workshop a couple years ago. I’ve tried it. Yes, I have evangelized. And because nothing hideous happened, I’ve been strongly encouraging others to follow suit.

At the Western District leadership event earlier this month, we worked with this “sharing our story” idea in the Lay Leader workshop. Most of us had stories void of Hollywood special effects – no burning bushes, no Red Sea parted. But all of us could report what was in our heart. Each story carried the authentic voice of its owner. We also talked about

evangelism as it’s often presented on doorsteps and television. After several minutes of discussion, one awesome Lay Leader proclaimed, “We should take the word “evangelism” back!” Amen to that!

Prior to a Board Of Lay Ministry meeting, Cesie Delve Scheuermann, Conference Lay Leader, shared this writing attributed to Saint Teresa of Avila –

*Christ has no body now on earth but yours,
No hands but yours,
no feet but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which to look out Christ’s compassion to the world;
Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good;*

Yours are the hands with which He is to bless men (and women) now.

Perhaps ours are the voices God will use to spread the love personified by Jesus. Through our stories, others may know the peace and love of walking with the Lord. By knowing our stories, our relationships with each other and the Lord are deepened.

If you care to join me on this “mission possible”, please do! I would love to hear your story of Christ in your life and I’ll gladly share mine. Together, we may reclaim evangelism!

Mary Foote
Western District Lay Leader
mmfoote@verizon.net

“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus”
Philippians 1:3-6

Prayer Calendar

Please support one another as the family of God through intercessory prayer. A letter or a call can be a part of our prayers! It is also appropriate to lift these folks up during worship.

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Pastor & family</u>	<u>Lay Leader</u>
Feb. 8-14	Newberg	Jane Shaffer John Shaffer	Pat Runyon
Feb. 15-21	Oregon City	Gerry Hill Robyn Morrison, Zachary	Marvin McElroy
Feb. 22-28	Englewood — Salem	Roberta Egli Lynn Egli, Joel	Brian Yarnell
March 1-7	Salem First	Dan Pitney Jenny Pitney Robyn Morrison Gerry Hill	Charles Hudkins Mary Ann Robinson

Your comments about the format or content of *The Western Connection* are welcome! Please contact Linda Grund-Clampit, WD Administrative Assistant, 503-581-3969 or office@westerndistrictumc.org, with suggestions or articles. **Deadline for the March issue is February 25.**

The newsletter is also available electronically, just contact Linda as above to request. Thanks!

Thriving Where You are Planted: The Revitalized Church

On **March 19-21st** we will have an opportunity to learn how to revitalize – bring new life – to our congregations!

McMinnville Cooperative Ministry will be hosting **“Thrive Where You’re Planted: Revitalizing Ministry in the None Zone,”** which will also serve as the Western District Renewal Event for 2010.

The Western District Leadership Team is **encouraging all of our Western District churches to send a team of persons** to this event to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. We feel so strongly that this event will benefit any congregation that is willing to seriously engage with it, that – despite limited resources – we are making **\$1,000 available in scholarships**. If your congregation is interested and has people who would attend, but you are stymied by the cost, contact the district office to apply for scholarship funds.

The phrase “none zone” comes from the reality that most people in the Pacific Northwest mark “none” when asked in surveys about their religious preference. Revitalizing ministry in the “none zone” requires a different approach than in other parts of the country. This conference will give you honest and useful information about what revitalization is and how it can happen right here where

you live and serve.

One of the keynote speakers is Patricia O’Connell Killen, professor of American Religions at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, and primary editor of Religion and Public Life in the Pacific Northwest: The None Zone. Other leadership will come from Oregon-Idaho UMC personnel and McMinnville Cooperative Ministries, a ministry



“The conference will focus on the keys to revitalization:

- **Worship**
- **Small groups**
- **Mission/ service**

— all formed in the specific context of each congregation’s community and people.”

that has experienced revitalization by focusing on worship, small groups, and mission.

There will be three plenary sessions and four workshop tracks with three sessions each. A full schedule is available at www.mac-coop.org. The workshop sessions will cover theory, experience, and practical application to your setting.

The four tracks are:

Vitality 101: Planting Seeds

- Learn the basics of awakening your congregation by managing conflict and change, practicing radical hospitality, and connecting with new people groups.

Vitality 201: Living Water (Revitalizing Worship)

- Learn why “indigenous worship”, using the people you already have, is a key in helping your church to thrive. Develop strategies for using local resources in powerful ways.

Vitality 202: Fertile Soil (Revitalizing Relationships)

- Learn how a locally-grown, well-organized small group system makes relationships flourish. Take steps towards developing an intentional relationship-building ministry that is appropriate for your own context.

Vitality 203: Sharing Light (Revitalizing Mission and Service)

- Learn how a strong, externally focused mission and a commitment to service can light a fire in a congregation. Develop techniques for your congregation to dramatically grow mission and service in your community.

Personal coaching will also be available for each congregational group that attends, to send you home with an action plan of meaningful steps toward thriving where you are planted.

The registration fee is \$50 per person, or a group discount of \$40 per person (if participating with 3 or more people from your local church). This includes continental breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday, snacks throughout, and a Banquet on Saturday evening. You can register by going to the McMinnville Cooperative Ministry website, www.mac-coop.org. If you have questions about the event, call **Rev. Steve Ross**, McMinnville Cooperative Ministry, 971-237-2040.

Registrations for this conference will be limited to 200 persons – so discuss this with your church leadership and **sign up soon!** If you need scholarship funds to attend, please contact the Western District Office.

Resources for Your Hunger Ministry



You're Invited to a Community FEAST (Food-Education-Agriculture-Solutions-Together)

A Community Foods Organizing Workshop will be offered at **Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital**, 525 N Santiam Highway in Lebanon, Oregon, **February 20, 2010 from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** Issues such as hunger and nutrition, access to local food, local agriculture and food production, and youth opportunities will be addressed. The presenter for the event will be Sharon Thornberry, Community Resource Developer for

Oregon Food Bank. Lunch will be a local foods meal and the workshop cost is \$10. Please **pre-register at 541-451-6425 or by e-mailing to nkirks@samhealth.org**.

“Justice, Mercy, and Kindness through Advocacy” is a workshop sponsored by the Bishop’s Initiative to Eliminate Hunger offered at **Morningside UMC in Salem** on **April 10**. The Keynote Speaker is Nancy Amidei who has been called a "relentless advocate for changing public policy to better

serve the most vulnerable populations.” Additional participants include: Oregon Food Bank, Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership, Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger, Bread for the World, and the Oregon Center for Public Policy. Save the date and watch for more details to come. **If you have questions, contact either Jonathan Enz at jon-dorinenz@aol.com (541) 676-9224 or Gayle Woods, gaylewoods5964@msn.com.**

Who Was Jason Lee?

On **Sunday, February 28: at 3:00 p.m.**, Rev. Jim Monroe of Woodburn and Ms. Claire Fuller, from the Mission Mill Museum in Salem, will dramatize the story of Jason Lee and the beginnings

of Methodism in Salem. **“Tea and Biscuits” will be served.**

Friends from all Salem Area churches are invited to this event at **Jason Lee**

UMC, 820 Jefferson St. SE, Salem 97301. This is part of Jason Lee UMC’s 2010 Centennial Celebration.

Call 503-364-2844 for more information.



UM Retirement Center Has Openings

Do you know someone in your family, church or community in need of residential assisted care? Is the Salem area an option?

If so, Please suggest they consider the award winning Willson House, a division of the United Methodist Retirement Center. We

presently have several vacancies. See the website, **unitedmethodistretirementcenter.org** or call **503-585-6511** for additional information.

Organ Available

Bay City UMC has a small organ we will donate to any church who wants it and can take it away.

better one and gave us their old one.

Call the Bay City UMC at 503-377-2679 and leave a message or e-mail us at baycityumc@embarqmail.com

if you are interested. Jean Neely, office manager

A local funeral parlor replaced their organ with a

WDCES: Who We Are & What We Do

2010 is underway and I'm trusting that the changes coming in our Annual Conference will help us to better make disciples for Jesus Christ at the local church level.

It is the vision of your Western District Church Extension Society to realize "a healthy congregation in every community, possessing the facilities and having resources that enable God's people to worship, learn, teach, and witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ".

We are well positioned as a Society, along with our District Superintendent, to help congregations explore what it means to be vital and healthy. We look forward to working together in this exciting time. In case you are somewhat new to our ministry, here are some things we do:

- Provide grants and loans to strengthen, support and enhance existing ministries;
- Assist in long range planning and funding for new ministries through active partnerships with member churches;
- Maintain the WDCES Web Site for sharing information, which includes downloadable forms you may use to apply for funding;
- Administer significant funds held by the Society to provide resources for financial support, which we do in accord with denominational guidelines of Socially Responsible Investing;
- Encourage congregations to partner with us by supporting the District Church Extension Asking which makes

financial support available to local ministries.

New Officers have been elected for the WDCES Board of Directors:

President:
Rev. Rand D. Sargent
Vice-President:
Rev. Anne Weld-Martin
Secretary: Marilyn Carr
Treasurer: Ed Luckman

We look forward in 2010 as we enable District churches to meet their visions and dreams.

By Grace Alone,
Rev Rand D. Sargent
WDCES President

More information about what WDCES can do for your congregation is available at www.westerndistrictumc.org. Look for the WDCES link.

It is the vision of your Western District Church Extension Society to realize "a healthy congregation in every community, possessing the facilities and having resources that enable God's people to worship, learn, teach, and witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ".

Lay Speaking Opportunities in Western District

"The Voice of God Is Calling." John Haynes Holmes 1913 hymn, based on Isaiah 6: 8, is as pertinent today as a century ago. However, twenty-first century language may be more direct: How have you been called to serve Christ and others?

Lay Speaking Ministries answers this question with training programs and opportunities open to all members of Oregon-Idaho UM Churches. How does one begin? With a Basic Lay Speaking class called "Learning and Leading". This class allows persons to explore the nature of call as

well as a person's gifts and talents.

"Leading and Learning" will be offered soon at a local Western District church near you. Look for Session I at the coast, and in the Salem area. Session II will be offered at Hillsboro UMC, bringing students from around the district together. **Western District Director of Lay Speaking Ministries, Susan Jensen**, is working on the details. She may be reached at: susan2.jensen2@verizon.net

Advanced course, "Lay

Speakers Grow Spiritually" will be offered in Tillamook County **February 20,27 and March 6, from noon to 4:00, at Bay City UMC.** Contact **Jean Neely** for textbooks and the initial assignment. Jean may be reached by email: jn183826chi@embarqmail.com. Registration must be received by February 13. Class costs \$25.00.

Other Advanced courses, "Cultivating Christian Community" and "From Your Heart to Theirs" are being considered for later this Spring.



Global Ministries Has New Chief Executive

You didn't choose me! I chose you. — John 15:16

This scripture seems an appropriate way to begin this news article, everything that follows are excerpts from an article written by Elliott Wright released January 13, 2010.

“The General Board of Global Ministries has elected Thomas Kemper of Germany as its new Chief Executive. He is the first General Secretary of a United Methodist general agency who is from outside the United States. *‘Thomas Kemper is uniquely qualified and gifted for this position,’* said Bishop Bruce R. Ough, president of Global Ministries. *‘His global perspective, missionary experience, sound Wesleyan theology, broad ecumenical involvement, and passion for Christ’s mission will*

benefit the General board of Global Ministries and the entire United Methodist Church as we advance our commitment to be a truly global movement.’

“The Global Ministries’ executive committee elected Kemper on January 13 via a telephone conference call that included prayer for the organization and for the people of Haiti in the wake of the devastating earthquake. Even as the committee met, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, a unit of the mission agency, was organizing emergency relief assistance for Haiti.

“*‘Thomas Kemper lives the true Wesleyan values of personal and social holiness and is an inspiring person,’* said Bishop Rosemarie Wenner of Germany. *‘he reminds us of our Methodist identity: we*

are a mission movement, combining evangelism and social work.’

“Kemper considers it imperative for the mission agency to hold mercy and piety together and to **‘help local churches around the globe to feel and see themselves as part of a worldwide family, and to overcome the boundaries of culture, race, and denomination in the name of Jesus Christ.’**”

I added the bold type to his words because they speak so powerfully to me.

Love,

Gloria

Gloria Jones
Western District Mission
Secretary
503-325-1396,
glojo38@q.com

Missionary Available to Local Churches

Katherine Parker, a General Board of Global Ministries Missionary, will be visiting the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference in November.

Katherine is a young biologist and she has combined her strong faith with her education to serve the Methodist mission in Cambodia.

She is currently assigned to the Community Health and Agricultural Development program.

Katherine's most recent contribution to her blog (bokashi.blogspot.com) expresses her thoughts on ways to support young women in Cambodia so that they do not fall victim to

human trafficking.

Katherine would love to speak with congregational groups when she is visiting next fall. For a copy of her bio, to schedule a visit, or for information on how you can be in a covenant relationship with Katherine, contact **Gloria Jones at glojo38@q.com.**

One Great Hour of Sharing
March 14, 2010

When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing this spring, your gift will help cover The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)'s cost of doing business and allow them to keep the promise that 100 percent of every other contribution made to a specific UMCOR project will be spent on that project and not on administrative costs.

Order your free offering envelopes or posters by calling 888-346-3862. Check the UMCOR website, www.umcor.org, for worship materials in support of this important offering. Gifts to this fund can be made all-year long.

2009 Taxes and Giving to Haiti —People who give to charities providing earthquake relief in Haiti can claim the donations on their tax return for 2009. Only cash contributions made to these charities after Jan. 11, 2010, and before March 1, 2010, are eligible. This includes contributions made by text message, check, credit card or debit card. The new law only applies to cash (as opposed to property) contributions. The contributions must be made specifically for the relief of victims in areas affected by the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti. Taxpayers can deduct these contributions on either their 2009 or 2010 returns, but not both. UMs can make their donations through their local congregation, designating them for "Haiti Emergency," or on-line at www.umcorhaiti.org. For complete information about claiming a deduction, see www.irs.gov.

District Churches Respond to Need in Haiti

The first thing that United Methodists in the Western District did upon hearing of the devastating earthquake in Haiti was to pray.

The second thing they did was start to give. First UMC in Salem, the largest congregation in our district, had collected over \$6,500 within two weeks after the earthquake. West Salem, one of the smallest congregations in our district, had 25 persons in worship the Sunday following the earthquake and collected over \$300 for the need at that time.

Some churches simply passed the offering plate. Amity UMC held a potato bake that welcomed community members who saw the opportunity in the newspaper. They raised \$575. Canby UMC raised \$1990 in two Sundays. This included \$95 in proceeds from the Youth Coffee Bar during Fellowship Time. All our congregations are recording an astounding outpouring of generosity. The amount received by the Conference Office up to Feb 3rd for the Haiti Emergency from Western District churches is \$29,679.12!

Most of the giving is going to **The United Methodist Committee on Relief's fund for Haiti: Advance #418325.** But some is going as well to organizations and persons connected to our congregations and communities, such as Medical Teams International (an

administrator of which is a member of Mt. Home UMC) and a woman in Amity who has made several trips to Haiti and whose trips have been supported by Sheridan UMC in the past.

Other personal connections include the son of a member of Mt. Home UMC, a young Marine who was headed to Afghanistan but was re-routed to Haiti, and a member of Carus UMC, Betty Fish-Ferguson, who is a Reserve Navy Nurse and was called up to help with medical care aboard a US Navy ship off the coast of Haiti.

The Mid and Senior High youth program at Salem FUMC focused on the theological, biblical, and socio-political implications of the earthquake in Haiti and then sent an email appeal to members to bring items so that the youth could respond to the needs of the people of Haiti by assembling health kits. They assembled 40 kits that first week and expected to complete another 48 the following week.

Forest Grove UMC has a goal of completing 300 health kits for Haiti. The passion of one couple is energizing the entire congregation. They enlisted the middle-school youth group to assemble kits, and organized an all-church kit party one Sunday. Sheridan UMW is working on 30 Health Kits; they had just finished 30 Birthing Kits for

Haiti in December. Canby UMC's Adult Sunday School Class is assembling health kits and plans to assemble school kits for Haiti as their VBS mission project this summer. Many other congregations are working on health kits also.

Many persons in our Western District congregations are feeling called to travel to Haiti as members of Volunteers in Mission (VIM) teams as soon as possible. The Methodist Church in Haiti is completing an assessment of the damage and communities impacted by the earthquake, and will prioritize areas for relief and rehabilitation in partnership with UMCOR. Teams of UM VIMs will be integral in the long-term recovery of the church and communities in Haiti, and opportunities will be available to help in meaningful ways once the assessments are done and the initial emergency response and recovery phase is completed.

You can read a full letter from the President of the Methodist Church in Haiti on this topic at www.umcor.org. In the meantime, interested persons can be in touch with our **Western District VIM coordinators, Chuck and Betty Pritchard, b2c2_2@verizon.net or 503-359-9340.**

For inspiring details about how our efforts are helping right now in Haiti, see the UMCOR website, www.umcor.org.

"On behalf of the Methodist Church in Haiti and the Haitian people, we thank you. Thank you all for your outpouring of love, support and Christian brotherhood in our great hour of need. Haiti has suffered a great tragedy, and to rebuild, recover and strengthen, it will take us all.

"You have kept us in your prayers and we are grateful. You have sent donations through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). We thank you for your generosity. You have expressed your selfless interest in volunteering your time to come to Haiti to help with the recovery effort and we look forward to welcoming you."

**— Rev. Gesner Paul,
President of the
Eglise Méthodiste**

The United Methodist Church—Western District
Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference
In ministry from Astoria to Jefferson

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**Western District Renewal Event
“Thrive Where You are Planted”
March 19-21, 2010**

See page 3 inside!

Annual Conference 2010

A new venue and some new opportunities



The invitation to members of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, **June 10-13, 2010** is going out soon. We will be gathering at the Salem Convention Center rather than Willamette University this year. We will save money and have some more comfortable facilities! See an article about the move at www.umo.org.

Preparations for June's gathering are already well

under way. Lay members will have two workshop opportunities, and the Board of Lay Ministry wants to know if you have something you'd like to share with the laity of Oregon-Idaho. **Applications to offer a workshop** are available online, www.umo.org. They are due by **March 15th**. Feel free to contact **Cesie Delve Scheuermann, Conference Lay Leader**, cscheuer@willamette.edu with any questions.

There will be another Rejuvenate event for youth and young adults in conjunction with Annual Conference this year, and an opportunity for some leadership training for anyone from your local church (not only members of Annual Conference). Watch for more details in the March newsletter!