



Briefly

POSITION AVAILABLE,
APPLY IMMEDIATELY

Lambuth University has an opening for **University Chaplain**. This individual will coordinate all Religious Life activities on campus, including a weekly Chapel service. This position reports directly to the President of Lambuth University. The position will be available July 1, 2007. Qualifications: Master of Divinity degree; ordination as Elder in the United Methodist Church or eligibility for same; experience in campus ministry preferred. The successful candidate will be a self-motivated individual with good communication skills and a passion for working with young adults. Please **submit by Feb. 16:** 1. a cover letter, 2. resume, and 3. list of three professional references (including at least one clergy reference). Send to **Hal Freeman**, freeman@lambuth.edu; or mail to Personnel, Lambuth University, 705 Lambuth Blvd., Jackson, TN 38301.

JOHN & MOLLY LIPSCOMB
SCHOLARSHIP FUND AT
MULLINS UMC

Applications for the John & Molly Lipscomb Scholarship Fund are now available through Mullins United Methodist Church. The purpose is to provide tuition for deserving students entering Christian ministry in the Memphis Conference of the United Methodist Church. Applicants must be certified ministerial candidates. To request an application, you may do one of the following:

- Write to: Mullins UMC, 4 North Mendenhall Rd., Memphis, TN 38117-2698.

- Fax your request to: 901-681-0317

- Email your request to: katmullins@bellsouth.net

- Phone: 901-685-8253.

The deadline to submit applications is: April 15.

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Griffin's Chapel rises again

A killer tornado left the people of Griffin's Chapel without a place to worship.

By CATHY FARMER

Ten months ago on April 2, 2006, a killer tornado swept through West Tennessee. The storm carved a 40-mile-long swath of death and destruction and, in the process, damaged beyond repair the sanctuary and fellowship hall of Griffin's Chapel United Methodist Church. All that was left were memories of a church that had been standing on a hilltop three miles outside of Bradford since 1916.

But the congregation refused to bow to the storm and die. As they reminded each other, "The important thing to remember is that a building doesn't make a church. It's the people inside the building that make a church."

With that attitude, is it any wonder that on Sunday, January 28, 2007, 121 people gathered on that same hilltop to dedicate their new debt-free building to the worship of God? As Lamon Kilzer, the choir director, sang during his special presentation for the service, "It Took a Miracle."

"Our insurance and donations from a lot of people and churches made this possible for us," said Joel Branson, chairman of the church's building committee. "I'd hate to start naming individuals, because I'd



On January 28, 2007, only 10 months after an April, 2006 tornado destroyed the church, the congregation at Griffin's Chapel dedicated a new building.

be sure to forget someone," he added. "But we would like to thank everyone who contributed. There were many donations from church members, extended family, and friends throughout the community."

Branson said many of the donations

came from other churches "near and far."

The congregation is especially grateful to the Brownsville District and District Superintendent Cecil Bellew; Grier's Chapel

(Continued on page 8A)

Hopson appointed Area Assistant

Bishop Dick Wills recently announced his appointment of the Rev. Roger Hopson as the Nashville Area Assistant to the Bishop.

"I am honored and humbled by the Bishop's confidence in me," Hopson said. "The Nashville Area has a great legacy related to the role of the Bishop's Assistant. Those who preceded me were great servants who loved the Church and tirelessly worked to assist the Bishop in effectively leading the Area in mission and ministry. It will be

a joy to work with Bishop Wills and the leadership of both conferences as we strive to live out the Great Commission."

Bishop Wills said, "The Rev. Roger Hopson brings a wealth of experience which will be very valuable in helping me be a better episcopal leader. He has people skills which will extend the office of the Bishop in much the same ways the Rev. Barbara Garcia has done for the past eleven years.

"I'm pleased the Rev. Hopson has agreed to come and serve in this important way," Wills added. "We will be better Conferences be-

cause of his willingness to serve in this position."

The Rev. Barbara Garcia, who will be retiring in June, said, "Serving in the Area Episcopal Office has allowed me to know so many persons and see them in ministry in a wide variety of settings. I've seen the Church at work in ways that inspire and build the Kingdom...and also have developed an appreciation for the ministry of administration beyond my imagination! I'm grateful for the patience of three bishops and two wonder-

(Continued on page 4A)



The Rev. Roger Hopson

In 2006, U.M. Neighborhood Centers expanded services, aided 31,000 people

By REBECCA FOOTE

Executive Director, UMNC of Memphis

In 2007, United Methodist Neighborhood Centers of Memphis, Inc. will celebrate 100 years of service! UMNC's annual meeting is set for Sunday, February 25, at 2:00pm at Mullins United Methodist Church.

Neighborhood Centers is an extension of the United Methodist churches of the Memphis Conference. We reach out to those who need help with the spirit and mission to "Love Thy Neighbor."

UMNC ministries include food pantries, day care, after-school activities, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and adult programming, clothes closets and rent/utility assistance. We served over 31,000 people last year.

• UMNC has one large child development center located in the Binghampton neighborhood. Three hundred plus families receive quality day care annually—meeting the highest standards of the Tennessee Depart-

ment of Human Services.

• In 2006, UMNC merged its two day care centers into one large one at the Miriam Center. This merger created room for expansion of other services into the former Susanna Wesley day care site. Possible new ministries include a senior day care center and an Alzheimer's center.

• **Two new UMNC pantries, located at Asbury United Methodist Church and Grace United Methodist Church**, expand our services directly to the McKendree District and increase to six the number of pantries and social service sites offered by UMNC.

• Last year, UMNC developed a program for refugee women (from Sudan and Somalia) and children who live in the Binghampton neighborhood. This special group desperately needs the skills to assimilate successfully into the community: For the 40 refugee women participating in programs and activities each day, we offer ESL classes, job train-

ing, job placement and follow-up. For their 100 children, we provide tutoring and mentoring every day. Incentive closets for women and children, specialized social activities and additional volunteers have aided in the success of this program.

• UMNC is building a playground at the Miriam Child Development Center which is located below the administrative offices at 3000 Walnut Grove Road. A playground is being constructed adjacent to the center with a large fenced area that will provide a safe place for healthy play activities.

• Katrina neighbors continue to come to UMNC. Although many evacuees have returned home, many are still in our community. Their needs range from food and household goods to rent and utility assistance. UMNC networks with other community and Conference ministries to provide needed services.

• Over 400 volunteers assist in many areas at UMNC: food donations and distribution, clerical

duties, sorting clothing, tutoring children, teaching ESL, providing activities for children and rocking babies. Help is always needed!

• **www.umnc.org** is scheduled to be up and running by April. The new website will feature UMNC's rich history, programs, volunteer opportunities and lots of pictures. Donors will have an opportunity to pledge and/or donate online.

• UMNC depends on the generosity of the people of our United Methodist churches to help fill our pantries and provide holiday assistance for families. UMNC coordinated food basket distribution to over 1,200 families during Thanksgiving and Christmas and collected and distributed over 4,300 toys to families during Christmas. When the demand for baskets, toys and clothing exceeded the donations, UMNC filled the gap.

UMNC is grateful to be able to provide all of these services and we thank you for your help and support as we serve in Christ's name! •

Hopson new Area Assistant to the Bishop

(Continued from page 1A)

ful conferences; and for blessing my life for eleven wonderful years! Thanks for the blessings!"

Rev. Garcia added, "I look forward to serving in another setting which fulfills my calling as a deacon which would also allow time to enjoy our grandchildren more!"



Rev. Garcia

Hopson, a native of Savannah, Tenn., is presently Coordinator of Program Ministries for the Memphis Conference. He graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1976, with a B.S. in Education and received his Master of Divinity (with honors) at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, GA in 1985.

He is a recipient of the Isaac R. Clark Preaching Award, 1983-1984, Crusade Scholar 1984-1985, and a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Rev. Hopson's accomplishments include teaching school at Dyer County High School, 1976-1982, former columnist for Metro Forum newspaper in Jackson, Tennessee. He served as Pastor to Wiley's Chapel, New Hope, and St. Paul United Methodist churches in the Paris District of the Memphis Conference, 1985-1988. He also served as Associate Director of the Memphis Conference Council on Ministries, 1989-1995. He was a delegate to General Conference in Denver, Colorado, 1996; a delegate to World Methodist Conference in Rio de Janeiro, 1996; a delegate to General Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, 2000; 1997 Theologian-in-Residence at the Ministerial Recruitment Institute, East Ohio Conference. He was a conference preacher for the Tennessee Annual Conference, 1999 and Youth Annual Conference Preacher for the Memphis Annual Conference, 2001. The Rev. Hopson was District Superintendent of the Paris District, 1995-2002.

Hopson is married to Dr. Cynthia Bond Hopson, Assistant General Secretary for the Black College Fund and Ethnic Concerns with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. They have two adult children, Dr. Angela Hopson and Marcos Hopson. •

Black History Month resources available as free downloads

The following resources for Black History Month are available on the General Board of Discipleship website as free downloads. Go to: www.gbod.org/worship. Then click Black History Month (February) Resources. The following is a sampling of what's available:

• **Resources for Black History Month: A Brief Bibliography.** This brief bibliography was compiled by Upper Room and General Board of Discipleship staff. It is by no means exhaustive.

• **Multimedia and Electronic Resources for Black History Month.** February is Black History Month.

• **United Methodist Hymnal Resources for Black History Month (February).** February of each year is observed and celebrated as Black History Month. The United Methodist Hymnal (1989) contains many hymns, songs, spirituals, choruses, prayers, litanies, Psalm settings, and other worship resources by African Americans and many resources from Africa.

• **A View of Black History.** February is Black History Month. And

a Texas church has found a unique way to teach kids about African-American history and the civil rights movement. The lessons shine through 53 stained-glass windows.

• **Music Musing #90: Four Great Arrangers of Spirituals**

• **Music Musing #89: "We Shall Overcome"**

• **Index of Music and Prayers of Africa, Africana, and African Americans in *The Faith We Sing***

• **21st Century Africana Liturgy Resources — An Order of Worship for Black History Month**

• **The Great Thanksgiving for Black History Month.** February is Black History Month.

• **21st Century Africana Liturgy.** 21st Century Africana Liturgy attempts to address the ethos, traditions, and innovations of United Methodist worshippers of African descent.

• **African American Family Life Bibliography.** Resolution 57, found in *The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church 2004*, charges the General Board of Discipleship with providing a listing of resources and programs developed to strengthen African American family life.

• **Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century.** Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century is a program designed to assist United Methodist churches with predominantly black congregations become effective in mission and ministry. It does this by linking successful congregational resource centers with congregations that are in search of new ideas and revitalization.

• **Sankofa: A Two-Year Journey into African-American Christian Spirituality.** We are called by God to build an order, a community of believers. We are called to be connected to God and to one another, and to be reconnected to African and African-American spiritual traditions.

• **Resources for Remembering Rosa Parks and Other Prophets.** Rosa Parks was a lifelong Methodist in the AME Church. As the larger family of Methodists, it is appropriate to find ways to remember her in worship, either on the weekend following her death (October 24, 2005), or on All Saints Day (November 1) in a community memorial service, or on the anniversary of her bold witness in Montgome-

ry that led to the beginnings of the Civil Rights Movement (December 1, 1955).

• **The Making of a Prophet — Celebrating the Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.**

• **For Rosa Parks, Sing Praises.** Words: Edith Sinclair Downing, 2004. Recommended Tune: MUNICH 76 76D, adapt. Felix Mendelssohn, 1847, *Nuevermehrtes Meiningsches Gesanbuch*, 1693

• **A Ray of Hope for Those Oppressed (Sojourner Truth).** Words: Edith Sinclair Downing, 2005. Recommended Tune: GERMANY (LM), att. Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827), Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

• **Remembering Coretta King.** *Dedicated to the memory of Coretta Scott King, April 27, 1927*—Words: Edith Sinclair Downing, 2006

• **We Honor Harriet Tubman.** Words: Edith Sinclair Downing, 2005. Recommended Tune: MUNICH, 76 76 D, *Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693, harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1847

• **African American History Month Daily Devotions 2007** by Bishop Woodie White. •

Every five seconds, a child dies from hunger

By GARY MORSE

Chair, World Hunger and Poverty Task Force, Memphis Conference

Contrary to what you may believe, the problem of hunger has not been solved. In fact, by the time you finish reading this article, at least 40 children will have died from hunger-related causes.

As Christians, you are called to help the people in this world who cannot help themselves. Their survival is literally dependent upon people like us—the people of the Memphis Annual Conference.

We are asking for your commitment to support the work being done to reduce hunger around the world and in our own neighborhoods. You can help by making the 2007 Lenten World Hunger Offering a success.

Money raised through the Lenten World Hunger Offering will be distributed to:

•**The United Methodist Committee on Relief's World Hunger/Poverty fund.** This fund provides emergency relief for people suffering through famines while also teaching farmers new methods to increase yield, dig wells, and plant seedlings.

•**Heifer Project International.** This ministry sends farm animals to families in the Third World, helping them to help themselves.

•**Society of St. Andrew.** This ministry gleanes vegetables that would otherwise be discarded and transports them to food banks.

•**Reelfoot Rural Ministry.** This Memphis Conference ministry offers food assistance to thousands.

•**U.M. Neighborhood Centers.** This ministry provides food to the needy in the Memphis area.

•**Hunters for the Hungry.** Supported chiefly by the men of the Memphis Conference, this ministry pays for the processing of wild game which is then

transported by volunteers to local food banks.

•**District Projects.** This portion of the offering is distributed to local church and district food programs by the District Superintendents.

Pastors and Mission Chairs of local churches should have received a Lenten World Hunger Offering packet containing the following:

- poster
- list of suggestions for a successful campaign
- Lenten World Hunger Calendar that encourages us to count our blessings
- list of the projects underwritten by the offering
- bulletin insert loaded with facts about hunger.

Did you know, for example, that each year, 40 million people die from hunger-related causes? This is equivalent to more than 300 jumbo jet crashes a day—



with no survivors!

Did you know that every day more than 16,000 children die of hunger-related causes?

Your World Hunger and Poverty Task Force hopes that your church will set a date to receive the Lenten World Hunger Offering. Many local churches are already planning to mount an active campaign to raise money for those who are hungry. Will yours?

As Jesus said in Matthew 25:35, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." •

Asbury District offers workshop on Premarital Counseling, February 22

On Thursday, February 22, from 9am to 3:30pm., Bartlett United Methodist Church, 5676 Stage Road will host *Healthy Start, Healthy Marriage: A Pastor's Guide to Premarital Counseling*. This workshop will provide a **practical premarital counseling model for pastors** and other church care providers that is clinically effective and spiritually nourishing.

Traditionally, premarital pastoral counseling has focused on the theological meaning and values of marriage such as fidelity and covenant. Therapeutic models have focused more on psychological compatibility and skill-building—such as communication and conflict management.

Since Tennessee law provides a fee exemption for couples who complete four hours of premarital counseling, more and more pastors are being asked to provide this service.

Dr. Ron Johnson, Director of the Bartlett UMC Counseling Center, will direct the event. The cost for the workshop is \$30, which includes all materials and a light lunch. 0.5 CEU is available to full participants. **Registration is due by February 16**

Please register by sending your name, contact information and registration fee to Raleigh United Methodist Church, 3295 Powers Road, Memphis, Tennessee 38128-3621. Make your check payable to Raleigh United Methodist Church and mark it for "Counseling Workshop." Further information is available from the Rev. Rick Pinkston, (901)386-9320. •

Commencement ceremonies May 6 at Lambuth University

On May 6 at 1:00 p.m. on the lawn of its historic quadrangle, Lambuth University will graduate the Class of 2007, the school's 159th graduating class. This year's commencement speaker will be Dr. Marion V. Creekmore, Jr.

Dr. Creekmore is the distinguished visiting Professor of History and Political Science at Emory University in Atlanta. From 1993 to 2000, he served as the first vice Provost of International Affairs at Emory.

Dr. Creekmore held the position of Program Director of the Carter Center in Atlanta from 1993 to 1996, and he also served as the first Director of the Clause M. Halle Institute for Global Learning from its establishment in late 1997 until 2000. During his tenure, and in collaboration with the International Affairs Council, an official set of recommendations for Emory's internationalization, "Internationalizing Emory: A Strategy for Leadership in Global Education," was developed.

A career diplomat from 1965-1993, Dr. Creekmore was the U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Republic of Maldives from November 1980 to September 1992. Other overseas postings included South Africa, Ghana, Germany and In-

dia. In New Delhi, he held the position of Deputy Chief of Mission.

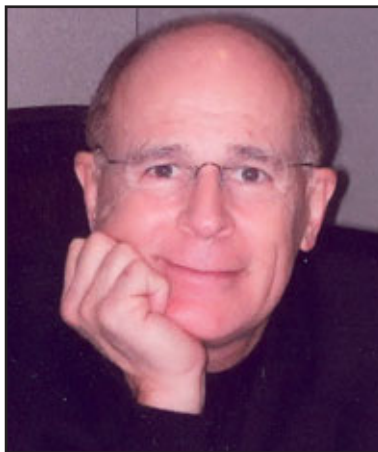
Ambassador Creekmore's policy assignments in the State Department in Washington included Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations Affairs, Deputy Director of the Secretary of State's Policy Planning Staff, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, and Deputy Afghan Coordinator.

A native of Tennessee, Dr. Creekmore received a B.A. degree from Vanderbilt University and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Tulane University. He is married and has two daughters and four grandchildren.

Dr. Creekmore is the author of *A Moment of Crisis* (2006), which he wrote with the cooperation of President Jimmy Carter. In the book, he tells the story of President Carter's dramatic intervention in the 1994 North Korean nuclear crisis and shows how Carter prevented what Carter had determined to be an almost certain war.

Baccalaureate Service will be at 10:00 a.m., May 6

Bishop Richard J. Wills, Jr. will deliver the sermon at the Baccalaureate Service to be held at 10:00 a.m. on May 6 in the R.E.



Bishop Dick Wills will deliver the sermon at the Baccalaureate Service, May 6.

Womack Memorial Chapel of Lambuth.

Richard "Dick" Wills was born in Texas on August 3, 1942. He graduated from Florida Southern University in 1964 with a B.S. in psychology and received his M. Div. from Candler School of Theology, Emory University in 1967. He was granted an honorary doctorate from both Bethune-Cookman College and Florida Southern College.

Wills accepted Christ and felt the call to be a pastor while in the seventh grade in South Houston, Texas. His family moved to Miami in 1956.

He was ordained in the Florida Annual Conference as a deacon in 1965 and as an elder in 1969. For 18 years Wills served as senior pastor of Christ Church United Methodist in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

It was while serving at Christ Church that a friend suggested he attend the World Methodist Evangelism Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa. This was the beginning of a spiritual renewal in his life that deeply affected his life and leadership in the church.

Bishop Wills was first elected as a delegate to the General Conference in 1988 and then to successive General Conferences from 1992 to 2004. Twice he was elected head of the conference delegation. In 2004, the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference elected him to the episcopacy.

In 2000, Wills wrote the book, *Waking to God's Dream*. In his free time he loves riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle.

A President's Reception will be held in the Jack Morris Ballroom of the Wilder College Union following the service to honor the Class of 2007 and the Class of 1957. Members of the Class of 1957 will be inducted into the fifty-year club during the Commencement Ceremonies. •

Bishop Ntambo elected Senator

Bishop Ntambo Nkulu Ntanda, a United Methodist bishop in the Democratic Republic of Congo, has been elected to that country's senate. The Memphis Conference is in partnership with the North Katanga Conference, Bishop Ntambo's Episcopal Area.

Ntambo, 59, has been bishop since 1996 and was active in the peace process in his region. He also serves as chancellor of United Methodist-related Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe. •

Briefly

LENTEN SERIES IN PADUCAH TO FOCUS ON HEALING

Every Sunday during the 2007 Lenten Season, the Healing Parish of Paducah will be hosting a series of programs and services entitled *CALLED TO CARE: Our Covenant of Healing*. The purpose of these events is to inspire, equip and empower the members of our churches and community to be more caring in our Christian witness. The following programs or services will begin at 6 p.m.:

Sunday, Feb. 25: A Covenant Service in the Wesley Tradition at Fountain Avenue UMC

Sunday, March 4: Hospital Etiquette and Caring for the Sick at Broadway UMC (Leadership: Laura Jane Huyck, Preston Figge, Mark Chapman, and Wendy Blakely)

Sunday, March 11: Care and Ministry with the Grieving at Northside UMC (Leadership: Sherry Bone, John Barker and Evie Beal)

Sunday, March 18: Care and Ministry with the Aging at St. Luke Aldersgate UMC (Leadership: Dennis Neenan, Pam McDaniel and Alan Truell)

Sunday, March 25: A Service of Prayer and Healing at Arcadia UMC (Leadership: Carol Bradford, Parish Nurses)

Sunday, April 1: Service of Song - Lenten Anthems and Readings at Broadway UMC

The Healing Parish of Paducah is a cooperative effort of Arcadia, Broadway, Fountain Avenue, Northside and St. Luke Aldersgate United Methodist churches. The clergy leadership of these churches are seeking to combine their efforts to serve as a Healing Parish for the Paducah area. The 2007 Lenten Series is the first of many programs and services that are being planned.

TORNADOES KILL 20 IN FLORIDA

The Lady Lake area in Central Florida was struck early Feb. 2 by violent thunderstorms that spawned tornadoes causing sufficient damage for a state of emergency to be declared in four counties. The storms killed at least 20 and sent hundreds to hospitals seeking treatment. UMCOR is in contact with the Storm Recovery Center for the Florida Conference as they assess the situation. UMCOR is sending emergency grants to the area to help with recovery efforts. The Florida Conference website notes that offers of assistance for survivors are pouring in from areas surrounding those affected. •

Wide spectrum of events at Lambuth U.**DR. LUTHER SMITH TO EXPLORE THE SPIRITUALITY OF HOWARD THURMAN, FAMOUS THEOLOGIAN**

The public is invited to hear **Dr. Luther E. Smith**, Professor of Church and Community at Candler School of Theology, speak on *Building Community on Common Ground: Exploring the Spirituality of Howard Thurman*.

Dr. Smith will be at Lambuth University's R. E. Womack Memorial Chapel on Sunday, **February 25**, at 6:00pm. His topic for this free event is: *Community Beyond Our Dreams*.

Professor Smith's current research focuses on the role of congregations in public health issues, a sacramental understanding of hope, and an ethical perspective on black church financing.

His publications include: *Intimacy and Mission: Intentional Community as Crucible for Radical Discipleship* (1994); *Howard Thurman: The Mystic as Prophet* (1981).

LAMBUTH UNIVERSITY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Lambuth University has a newly renovated Sports Hall of Fame in the Athletic Center on campus. The Hall will be dedicated Saturday, **February 17**, at 4:00pm. The public is invited to come for

the full afternoon starting with the Women's Basketball Game at 2:00pm and stay for the Men's Basketball Game directly after the ceremony at 4:15pm. The events will be held in the Athletic Center.

LUNCH WITH THE PROS

The Lambuth University School of Business and Economics continues its Lunch with the Pros program on Wednesday, **February 21**. Bring a bag lunch to the Jack Morris Ballroom in the Wilder Student Union at 12:15pm to participate in a discussion with **Janna Hellums**, Executive Director of the McNairy County Economic Development Commission and the Selmer/McNairy County Industrial Development Board. This free event is open to the public.

Prior to her current position, Hellums was the Executive Director of the Manchester Area Chamber of Commerce and the Manchester Industrial Development Board for five years. She is an alumna of Lambuth with a double major, Business Administration and Business Management and Marketing. She furthered her studies at the University of Texas at San Antonio where she earned a Master's of Business Administration in Inter-

national Business.

You can pick up a bag lunch at the Lambuth Dining Hall or the Eagle's Nest Bistro, both located in the Lambuth Wilder Student Union. For information, contact Cyndi Hill at 731-425-3214 or email hill@lambuth.edu.

WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM

The Lambuth University Women's Soccer Team balanced their efforts on the soccer field with stellar performances in the classroom. Some of the team members went above and beyond in the classroom.

- Of the 18 members of the team, 15 had a Fall GPA of 3.0 or above.
- Nine of the girls made Deans list
- Seven of the ladies made the Transouth Academic All-Conference team
- The TEAM received the NSCAA Team academic award 2005-06 (Team GPA above 3.0)
- Raena Bryant was awarded the NSCAA Scholar Athlete All-South Region 2006 & NAIA Scholar Athlete All-American 2006.

The Lambuth Women's Soccer Team did not reach the heights Coach Simon Duffy had hoped,

but he is extremely proud of how his team excelled in academics.

BACH LANDSCAPE ART ON DISPLAY MONTH OF FEBRUARY

The works of Stephen Bach will be on display the entire month of February in Varnell-Jones Hall. Bach paints contemporary landscapes.



Stephen Bach

Bach was raised in Orlando. He studied painting and illustration at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn before working as an illustrator. In 1985 he was asked to create a mural for one of the first three Olive Garden Restaurants. By 1999, he had painted over 1,500 murals in nearly 500 of their restaurants.

"Painting the landscape had always been a goal of mine and though I didn't know how I was going to live from it, the time had come to pursue it," Bach said.

He began showing his paintings in outdoor shows in Florida, soon venturing to other parts of the country. His work is often described as soothing or serene and he focuses on the ordinary rather than the visually extravagant. •

Griffin's Chapel rises again

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United Methodist; Bakers Chapel United Methodist in Evansville, Indiana; Davis Chapel; Olive Branch UMC; Bethel Baptist Church; Hopewell Cumberland Presbyterian; Oliver's Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian; Parsons First UMC; and Milan First United Methodist.

The total cost to demolish the old church and fellowship hall, prepare the site, construct the new church building, repair and re-seat the damaged stained glass windows, and install new pews was \$273,000.00.

Fortunately, donations totaling \$46,129.33 and the church's insurance settlement of \$218,709.37 paid for nearly everything.

A cold wind was whipping from the north on January 28 as the congregation gathered to celebrate their first worship service in the new building. But the sun was shining brightly on the cross overhead.

The Rev. Cecil Bellew led the service of dedication, saying,



Above: Construction began on Griffin's Chapel's new building August 1, 2006, just months after a tornado destroyed the old one. Right: Colby Roberson joined the church on Jan. 28, following the Service of Dedication.

"God gave this site to your ancestors, and to those who follow you... You've invested in the future, the days which are to come."

The future was visibly present as Colby Roberson came forward to be received as a new member of the church.

His grandmother, Frankie

Crockett, beamed happily as she wrapped him in a hug. Colby's parents Gina and Patrick Roberson, his grandparents, Gale and Frankie Crockett and Bobby and Nancy Roberson are all members of the church.

Despite the tornado, Griffin's Chapel has a future. •



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