



# MEMPHIS CONFERENCE

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## *Sally Morgenthaler, a well known leader in the 'worship world', to keynote Annual Conference 2009*

By CATHY FARMER

**P**assionate Worship will permeate Annual Conference 2009. From the opening worship service at 7pm on Sunday evening, May 31, to the closing service at 7pm on Tuesday, June 2, conference members will experience new ways of worshipping that re-connect God's work outside the building with what happens inside.

Leading the conference in three innovative worship workshops and worship experiences on Sunday and Monday will be Sally Morgenthaler, a woman who has been a major influence in the worship world for fifteen years.

Best known for her book, *Worship Evangelism*, her current work focuses on worship

as "the work of the people": doable worship innovation and change.

Morgenthaler is also at the forefront of the worship and community connection, bringing the stories of our communities into the experience of God together. She is presently an adjunct professor at Fuller, George Fox, and Asbury seminaries, and speaks at conferences around the country.

As Ms. Morgenthaler said, "Passionate worship comes out of passionate living. New techniques and styles can be critical, but they're only band-aids if worship has become disconnected from the lives we lead everyday.

"How do we re-connect the dots between God's work outside the building with what we do on Sunday? How do we unleash the energy, innovation, and resources that are right under our noses? And how can we celebrate in our own, "neighborhood" voice, singing the song of grace in a way that



**Sally Morgenthaler will lead worship that "flows into the world" at Annual Conference 2009.**

is uniquely ours to sing?"

Those questions will be answered at Annual Conference 2009. The worship experiences are open to all who want to make the worship in their churches more relevant, more connected, and

more passionate.

If you want your church to worship more passionately, plan to make the trip to Jackson to take part in the worship workshops so that you can bring it back to your local church. •

## AC 2009 to consider proposed amendments

By SANDRA BURNETT

Co-leader, Memphis Conference delegation to General Conference 2008

At the 2009 session of the Memphis Annual Conference, members will vote on proposed constitutional amendments for the United Methodist denomination. The 32 proposed amendments were approved by the 2008 United Methodist General Conference, the denomination's top legislative body.

Twenty-three of the amendments center around changing the term "central conference" to "re-

gional conference" and also making it possible to create a regional conference in the United States.

The remaining nine amendments deal with various issues. They include church and conference membership; composition of annual and jurisdictional conferences; inclusiveness of the church; representation for newly created conferences at general, jurisdictional and central or regional conferences; the judicial council; episcopal elections; fiduciary responsibility; and the participation of deacons, associate members, provisional members, and local pas-

tors in the election of delegates to general and jurisdictional conferences.

The amendments will be voted on during the 2009 Memphis Annual Conference session as they are written. They can be debated but not changed.

Our desire is for every delegate to be as informed as possible before voting.

Each delegate is urged to attend the Pre-Conference Briefing for your district where these amendments will be presented and discussed. The dates, times and places of the Pre Conference

Briefings are:

- **Asbury and McKendree Districts**, May 12, St. Paul UMC, 7pm.
- **Dyersburg and Paris Districts**: May 7, Dresden First, 6:30pm
- **Jackson and Brownsville Districts**, May 11, Medina First, 7pm
- **Paducah District**, May 21, Mayfield First, 6:30pm.

*Editor's note: For a more detailed look at the proposed amendments, see "Constitutional Amendments to be voted on by 2009 AC" on page 4A.*

# Constitutional Amendments to be voted on by 2009 AC

By J. RICHARD PECK

**V**oting members of 134 annual conferences around the world will consider 32 amendments to the Constitution of The United Methodist Church as they meet in the coming months. The 62 U.S. annual conferences begin meeting in May.

Voters will be ordained elders and deacons in full connection and all lay members of the conferences. Members may debate a proposed amendment, but they cannot change it. They must vote either for or against an amendment as it stands.

Twenty-three of the 32 amendments result from a 2005-2008 study by the Council of Bishops' Task Force on the Global Nature of the Church.

That report said the denomination's present structure makes it appear to be a U.S. church with appendages in Africa, Asia and Europe. At the same time, the number of United Methodists outside the United States is increasing and may soon be 40 percent.

The Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table approved the task force's report in the spring of 2007 and sent proposed legislation to the 2008 General Conference suggesting that the name of conferences outside the United States be changed from "Central" to "Regional."

General Conference delegates agreed that "regional" more accurately describes what these conferences do: address issues unique to the mission and ministry of conferences in that geographic area. Some also suggested that "central" is too reminiscent of the racially segregated U.S. Central Jurisdiction (1939-1968).

**Amendments 3-5, 7, 10-14, 16, 18, 20, 21 and 23-32 change the name of "central conference" to "regional conference." If approved, the name change takes effect on Jan. 1, 2013.**

None of the amendments will eliminate the jurisdictions in the United States where bishops are elected. The proposed amendments would allow regional conferences in Asia, Africa or Europe the right to establish jurisdictional structures.

The name change will not immediately make the United States into a separate regional conference.

In October 2008, Judicial Council, the Supreme Court of the denomination, ruled "the 2012



Part of the Memphis Conference delegation at GC 2008.

General Conference must enact enabling legislation in order to effect the creation of a regional conference or regional conferences in the United States and implement the amendment."

The 2012 General Conference would not change, but decisions made by that body could alter the design of future regional and international assemblies.

## Study committee chair favors creation of U.S. regional body

Kansas Area Bishop Scott Jones, chair of a Study Committee on the Worldwide Nature of the Church, said that the creation of a U.S. regional body would not change General Conference's authority over all matters distinctly connectional.

"The bishops and Connectional Table have proposed that all matters related to doctrine, Social Principles and ordination standards would continue to be decided by the General Conference and applied worldwide," Jones said. "For example, one part of the church cannot decide in principle not to ordain women. No United Methodist entity can decide to abolish the episcopacy. Our basic ministerial orders of local pastors, deacons and elders apply everywhere. All of the Social Principles are truly worldwide in scope. Because of their controversial nature they must continue to be decided at the worldwide level by General Conference or else our church will split."

Jones notes that non-U.S. bishops unanimously voted in favor of the plan that would allow the most important and unifying decisions to be made by General Confer-

ence. Regional conferences would make other decisions.

Jones says legislation proposes creation by General Conference of one or more regional conferences in the United States.

"This would be of great help for U.S. churches to discuss issues like the hymnal, new church planting, seminaries, the Black College Fund and other issues that are unique to us," said the bishop. "Similar regional issues should be discussed at regional meetings in Africa, Europe and Asia."

The plan envisions that the General Conference would meet first with the regional conferences meeting in the succeeding months of that year.

## World evangelism leader opposes the creation of a U.S. regional conference

The Rev. Eddie Fox, a General Conference delegate and world director of evangelism for the World Methodist Council, says he will vote against the amendments. He believes changing "central" to "regional" is a not substantive change, but he does oppose the creation of a U.S. regional conference.

"In the Appalachian Mountains where I grew up, we did not 'open the gate' until we knew what would be coming through the gate," said Fox. "Why would we change the Constitution as our first action before we do the study?"

"In the 2008 Discipline the functions of the jurisdictional conference and the Central Conference are essentially the same," said Fox. "Another level with its financial cost and added bureaucracy will negatively impact our focus and worldwide

ministry and mission."

Fox, who is also a member of the Connectional Table, says that now is not the time to make this change, as the church is becoming more global. "In 1968, 92 percent of the membership of our church was in the U.S.," he said. "In 2008, 64 percent of the membership is in the U.S.; when we meet in 2012, the ratio could be close to 50 percent. Why take this action now when the growth of our church outside the United States has a positive, needed impact on our life together?"

## Amendment would grant church membership to all who take vows

Proposed **Amendment 1** would clarify that all people are eligible to attend worship services and receive the sacraments by striking the words "without regard to race, color, national origin, status or other economic condition." The Constitution now states that after baptism and taking vows declaring the Christian faith, people may become professing members in any local church. The proposed paragraph adds a clause stating they must also declare their "relationship in Jesus Christ."

Writing in the March/April 2009 issue of *Good News* magazine, the Rev. Walter B. Fenton, a clergy member in New Jersey, calls this amendment "potentially divisive" and "an indirect attempt by special interest groups to ensure the acceptance and full participation of self-avowed practicing homosexuals in all areas of the life of the church."

Following a 2005 Judicial Council ruling supporting the decision of a pastor in Virginia not to allow a gay man to join his congregation, the Council of Bishops issued a letter stating: "We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons."

## Amendment would extend voting rights

**Amendment 19** would allow all clergy members of annual conferences to vote to elect clergy delegates to general, jurisdictional or central conferences. Only ordained elders and deacons in full connection now vote. This amendment would extend voting privileges to associate members, provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or a Master of Divinity degree and

have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.

The Rev. Mary Ann Moman of the Division of Ordained Ministry of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry said that if this amendment passes, associate members, provisional members and qualifying local pastors would be able to vote for delegates to the 2012 General Conference in spite of the fact that Para. 602 of *The Book of Discipline 2008* states that they are ineligible to vote.

## Other Amendments

**Amendment 2** would require all United Methodist organizations to adopt ethics and conflict-of-interest policies for board members and employees.

**Amendment 6** addresses an issue that followed the 2004 admission of the Cote d'Ivoire Annual Conference to the denomination. The conference has more than 500,000 members, but had only two delegates to the 2008 General Conference. The amendment says that newly established conferences could be represented on a non-proportional basis for two quadrennia.

**Amendment 8** adds the word "gender" to paragraphs declaring the power of General Conference to govern membership of agencies. They would allow the conference to fix conditions, privileges and duties of church membership, which shall, in every case, be without reference to race, gender or status.

**Amendment 9** would ensure that every jurisdictional conference has at least 100 members.

**Amendment 15** would reduce from two to one the number of years a lay person must be a church member before being elected a member of an annual conference. It also eliminates a requirement that they be active participants in church.

**Amendment 17** would reinstate legislation adopted by the 2004 General Conference and subsequently declared unconstitutional by the Judicial Council allowing laity on the committee on investigation to vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.

**Amendment 22** would recognize Bermuda congregations as part of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference.

—The Rev. J. Richard Peck is communications director for the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

## Honor our greatest generation on Golden Cross Sunday

By SELENA H. HENSON

Miss Mary was worried about returning home after the January ice storm knocked out power to the Wesley community where she lived. Mary and the other residents of the two affected communities had been moved into short-term shelters until their power could be restored.

Mary and the others knew the perishable items from their refrigerators and freezers would have to be discarded. They were worried, wondering how they would buy the extra food since it was the end of the month—and the end of their money.

Thankfully, Miss Mary and the others didn't have to wonder how she was going to find the money to eat. The **Golden Cross Senior Resident Fund** was there to help Mary and all the other residents of the two Wesley communities displaced because of the ice storm.

Because of your generous gifts to the Golden Cross Senior Resident Fund and our connections, local grocery stores immediately provided each resident \$25 for a fresh supply of milk, eggs, vegetables, meat, and more to make sure they had enough to eat.

As I sat in my comfortable house the weekend of January 30, 2009 and ate from my over-



Heading to the grocery store during the ice storm.

stocked refrigerator, I was assured that all 77 elderly residents had food as well. This is a direct result of you and your gifts to our ministry.

100 percent of your offerings on Golden Cross Sunday are used to provide for the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of God's older children who call Wesley home. Your donations will be used specifically for rent, food and medical needs as our residents find themselves in emergency situations. Because of you, we are able

to assist with these basic necessities so our residents do not have to choose between rent and food or food and medicine. Other uses of this fund include programs and activities that promote a well balanced life.

On Sunday, May 3, churches across our Annual Conference will be recognizing and celebrating Wesley Senior Ministries, our conference ministry to the elderly, through what is known as **Golden Cross Sunday**. Many churches will be participating

with special communion offerings either during the worship service or during Sunday school.

We are providing bookmarks, offering envelopes and a brief script to be used during church services. If you have not heard from us, please contact Kartha Stires at Wesley Senior Ministries Foundation (901-213-1930).

Offerings can be sent to the Conference Treasurer (marked Golden Cross) or directly to Wesley Senior Ministries Foundation at 1615 Appling Road, Cordova, TN 38016. We are pleased to announce that this offering is now recognized as a Conference Advance Special.

If May 3 is not a good date for your congregation, please choose another Sunday during the year. If you would like a representative to come to your church, please contact Selena Henson at the phone number.

Even though church participation has declined, the overall offering continues to grow and I personally want to thank you for your partnership and trust.

If churches give the same amount as last year and more churches participate, our overall offering will grow. That will enable us to touch even more lives. Our mission is to enhance the daily living and well-being of our 1,700 residents who are scattered across this conference. Help us support our great generation! •

## Paralegals making a difference

By MARK BERRYHILL

Our last free legal clinic was at Friendship United Methodist Church in Millington. We had 43 clients, with 17 attorneys, ten paralegals and one law school student in attendance. Pastor Cynthia Davis and her husband were very excited and prepared well in advance for a successful event. They were incredible hosts. These events are a partnership, and it takes both for a successful event.

Thank you, Pastor, for opening your doors and allowing us to help those in the Millington community.

We also had a surprise visit from Stephanie Scurlock from News Channel 3. She was with us for about an hour and seemed very excited about promoting upcoming free legal clinics. Lisa Kelly and Art Quinn from the Memphis Bar Association were interviewed on camera. Lisa and Art did an incredible job explaining why these are so important for the community.

The next Shelby County event is scheduled for April 4 at the Ben Hooks Library, 3030 Poplar Ave. The April event will have a delayed starting time of 9:30am and the extended ending time will be 12:30pm. •

## Davis brings powerful message to women in prison

God wants to heal you everywhere you hurt!" This was the sermon that the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Davis preached at the Black History Celebration Friday evening, February 27 at the Mark Luttrell Correctional Center in Memphis.

Dr. Davis was invited to preach by the women of Grace Place, a congregation within the prison that hopes to become a United Methodist congregation. Held in the gym and open to all residents of the prison, the program recognized the struggles and achievements of black people throughout our history. The Rev. Diane Harrison is the pastor.

Using the text from Genesis 4:8 where Cain kills his brother Abel, Dr. Davis reminded the women that people have struggled with choices from the very beginning



Dr. Cynthia Davis preaches during Black History Month at the Mark Luttrell Center in Memphis.

and that we all are wounded and battered. She brought us the Gospel, reminding us of the Good News, that God wants to heal us, everywhere we hurt!

Throughout her sermon, as Dr. Davis reminded us of this, the women in the gym could be heard echoing the phrase, "God wants

to heal you, everywhere you hurt!"

Leader of the Memphis Conference Church and Society Action Team which advocates for social justice in the Annual Conference and beyond, Dr. Davis has been a great supporter of Grace Place. As she preached, she used her voice, her gestures and facial

expressions to bring her message. Though some might not have the courage to preach on a text about murder in a family in a prison where many of the people listening actually have been convicted of a murder, it was a powerful message that spoke the Word to a community

that is all too familiar with the painful realities of life.

Encouraging Dr. Davis on the sidelines was her husband, Dr. Sonny Davis, the Interim Director of United Methodist Neighborhood Centers.

Other volunteers present that evening included Judy Stanley, who teaches a money management class for Grace Place, and her husband, Ed, Mary Nell Cook, a member of Christ United Methodist who teaches two exercise classes for Grace Place, and Lindsey Byard and D'Leigh Harvell, members of Millington First United Methodist who volunteer with the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

If you are interested in learning more about Grace Place or would like a speaker to come talk to your church or group, please contact the Rev. Diane Harrison at 901-386-2212 or at graceplacemin@aol.com. •

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## IN MEMORIAM

**Mrs. Rebecca Wilford**, widow of the **Reverend J. D. Wilford**, died Thursday, February 26, 2009 in Charleston, S. C.

Mrs. Wilford's funeral was held at Burnett's Chapel United Methodist Church in Sedalia, KY with the **Reverend Karen Barrineau** officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery in Sedalia, KY.

She is survived by one son, **D. Sykes Wilford**, and wife, **Jean**, who live in Charleston, S. C.

Send correspondence to: Mr. D. Sykes Wilford, 43 Legare Street, Charleston, SC 29401.

## CONFERENCE SECRETARY'S NEW PHONE NUMBER

To contact **Dr. John Bonson**, Memphis Conference secretary, call 731-664-8480. The previous number has been cancelled.

## TRINITY UMC CANTATA ON PALM SUNDAY FEATURING CHOIR, ORCHESTRA AND PAINTER JERRY DUNNAM

On Palm Sunday, April 5, at 10:50 a.m., Trinity United Methodist Church, on the corner of Evergreen and Galloway in Midtown Memphis, will offer *The Weeping Tree*, an Easter cantata performed by the Trinity UMC Chancel Choir and members of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra conducted by **Thomas Machen**. Machen is the director of Music Ministries at Trinity UMC and also general director of the Memphis Vocal Arts Ensemble. The event is free and open to the public.

Artist/painter **Jerry Dunnam** (wife of **Dr. Maxie Dunnam**) will provide an added dimension by creating a work of art during the worship service depicting the crucifixion of Christ. Her moving approach to performance art will heighten the expressive reach of this worship experience.

*The Weeping Tree* has been described as "a poignant rendering of the cross that uses beloved hymns, newly composed music, thoughtful narration and simple sacred symbols to create a touching testament of grace."

## MARIE MULLIKIN MINISTERIAL FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for the Marie Mullikin Ministerial Foundation Scholarship are available from St. Stephen United Methodist Church in Memphis. The Marie Mullikin Ministerial Scholarships are awarded annually to qualified individuals who are pursuing an education leading to a career as an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church. Applications must be submitted

## POSITION AVAILABLE:

**Music Director:** Church of 100-120 members. Responsible for adult and children's choir and two worship services. Send resume to Attn: Pastor, 863 W. Forest Ave., Jackson, TN 38301.

by May 1, 2009 for the following academic year. Recipients will be informed of their awards by June 15. For an application or information, contact **Rev. Kim A. Kulow** at St. Stephen UMC, 3981 Macon Rd., Memphis, TN 38122 or call 901-452-5874.

## PARIS DISTRICT TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOP: 'ONE ROOM SUNDAY SCHOOL'

Designed especially for small membership churches, the Paris District Teacher Training Workshop, 'One Room Sunday School', will take place **April 26**, 2-4pm at Bethesda UMC, 175 Bethesda Road (Hwy. 69 S. and Bethesda Rd.), Paris, TN. Call the Paris District Office at 731-642-4811 for more information.

## MARY MUZZALL ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT EFFECTIVE MAY 1

After serving Christ and the Paris District for 27 years as Administrative Assistant, **Mary Muzzall** has announced her retirement effective May 1. A memory scrapbook of notes, letters, photos is being prepared. Submissions may be sent no later than April 1 to **Rev. Dean Emerson**, P.O. Box 277, Camden, TN 38320.

At Mary's request, a small reception is planned for her at the next Paris District Clergy meeting April 23 at 9:00am in Room 101 of Paris First UMC. Contact Mary directly at P.O. Box 28, Paris, TN 38242 or by calling 731.642.9215 before May 1.

## IS YOUR CHURCH HAVING A SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARY?

**Ann Robbins Phillips**, the Memphis Conference historian, needs to know which churches will be celebrating their 100, 125, 150 and 200th anniversaries this year so they can be recognized at Annual Conference. Email the information to Ann at [grandy69@aeneas.net](mailto:grandy69@aeneas.net). Or call the CMT office, 731-664-8480.

## FAITH&HEALTH: MAKING THE CONNECTION

On **April 18, 9am to 1pm**, at Lindenwood Christian Church, 2400 Union Ave., in Memphis, the Pulitzer-Prize-winning playwright **Margaret Edson** will explore the

## DR. PETER KREEFT TO SPEAK AT LAMBUTH APRIL 17-18

Join Lambuth University April 17-18 for the "Defending the Faith" conference with **Dr. Peter Kreeft**.

Peter Kreeft, Ph.D., is a noted author, authority on C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien, professor of philosophy at Boston College and defender of the Christian faith.

Lambuth's "Defending the Faith" conference will kick off with a special RSVP dinner with Peter Kreeft on Friday, April 17 at 5:30 p.m. in the Wilder Student Union, followed by a Q&A session. The cost is \$30 and reservations by April 9.

At 7 p.m. on Friday, April 17, Kreeft will deliver a keynote lecture entitled, "Why We Should Defend the Faith." The lecture will be held in the R.E. Womack Memorial Chapel and will be followed by a book signing.

Conference events will continue on Saturday, April 18 with two additional lecture sessions. The early session lecture, entitled "Moral Relativism," will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the R.E. Womack Memorial Chapel. A meet and greet session will begin at 8 a.m. in the Wilder Student Union.

A question and answer session with Dr. Kreeft will commence between sessions. The late session lecture entitled, "A Defense of Christ's Resurrection," will begin at 10 a.m. in the R.E. Womack Memorial Chapel.

United Methodist Church ministers seeking continuing education credit may receive a special registration offer to receive credits. Those registered may receive .5 CEU credit for attending all three keynote lectures. An additional .5 CEU credit is available for attending all lectures and reading C.S.

Lewis's *The Abolition of Man*. **Registration for clergy for the kick-off dinner event and all three lectures is \$50; registration for lectures only is \$30.**

For more information or to make reservations, contact **Steven Fonville**, Lambuth Chaplain, at (731) 425-3340, or by email at [fonville@lambuth.edu](mailto:fonville@lambuth.edu). Registration may also be mailed to: Lambuth University, Office of the Chaplain, Box 954, Jackson, TN, 38301 with checks made payable to Lambuth University. For more information on the speaker, Dr. Peter Kreeft, please visit [www.peterkreeft.com](http://www.peterkreeft.com).

**The general public will be admitted free to all lectures, courtesy of the Jane Hyde Scott Center for Christian Studies at Lambuth University.**

convergence of faith, health and the arts through a discussion of her award-winning play *Wit* as the workshops' featured luncheon presenter. Additionally, in a series of interactive workshops, medical professionals, pastors, chaplains, artists and others will share how their disciplines use storytelling and discuss how to work together to best care for the whole person.

A \$10 workshop fee covers materials and lunch. For more information or to register, visit [www.churchhealthcenter.org](http://www.churchhealthcenter.org) or call (901) 261-8833.

On **April 18 at 7pm**, at the Hutchison School, 1740 Ridgeway Road, Wiener Theater, in Memphis, *Faith & Health's* spring session will conclude with *An Evening with Margaret Edson*, which will include a dramatic reading of selections from *Wit* and an interactive dialogue with her about the meaning behind the issues raised in her play. \$10 donation to Methodist Residential Hospice. For reservations or more information, call (901) 516-0500.

## FREE CHOIR ROBES

Piperton United Methodist Church has nearly 50 used cream-colored choir robes in extremely good condition, some with stoles, that they will donate to a church. They no longer need them since they've purchased new ones. Piperton UMC will pay all shipping charges. Contact by email [Dpeters9@gmail.com](mailto:Dpeters9@gmail.com) or cell phone 901-218-1461.

## PARIS DISTRICT SPONSORS WESLEY HERITAGE TOUR OF ENGLAND IN NOVEMBER

The Paris District is sponsoring a nine-day Wesley Heritage Tour of England with departure from Nashville on November 4, 2009. **Dr. Joseph A. Geary**, Superintendent of the District, will host. Educational Opportunities Tours is the operator. The tour is open to all clergy and laity including those outside of the Paris District.

The cost is \$2646.00 which includes roundtrip airfare, week stay in a first class hotel, daily breakfast and dinner, deluxe motorcoaches, guided sight-seeing, entrance fees, study guide, lecture program and two C.E.U.

Among the places visited will be the Asbury House in Birmingham, New Room and Charles Wesley House in Bristol, John Wesley's City Road Chapel in London, Old Rectory and St. Andrews Church in Epworth, Coventry Cathedral in Coventry and St. Mary de Crypt in Gloucester. We will also visit Stratford-upon-Avon and Oxford as well as Worcester and Bath. In London we'll see Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral.

A brochure detailing the trip is available by calling the Paris District Office at 731.642.9215 or email [parisdist@bellsouth.net](mailto:parisdist@bellsouth.net).

## BASIC PREPARATION COURSE: FAITH COMMUNITY NURSING - AT JACKSON FIRST UMC

The Community Health Ministry of the Catholic Diocese of

Memphis, Union University School of Nursing and St. Francis Hospital will be providing a basic preparation course for nurses who want to be involved in faith community nursing. The course is based on the curriculum developed by the International Parish Nurse Resource Center. The course consists of 30 contact hours over four days. The program will be offered at Jackson First United Methodist Church; 203 S. Church Street on April 24,25 and May 1 and 2. The course fee is \$150 which includes materials, resources, certificate, Parish Nurse pin and contact hours. For information and to register, contact **Alma Abuelouf**: 901-373-1224 or E-mail [alma.abuelouf@cc.cdom.org](mailto:alma.abuelouf@cc.cdom.org). or **Melanie Matthews** at 731-661-5200 or E-mail [mmatthew@uu.edu](mailto:mmatthew@uu.edu).

## JOHN AND MOLLY LIPSCOMB SCHOLARSHIP FUND- DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS APRIL 15

Applications for the John and Molly Lipscomb Scholarship Fund are now available through Mullins United Methodist Church. The purpose of the fund is to provide funding for deserving students entering Christian ministry in the Memphis Conference. Preference will be given to Mullins members. Applicants must be certified ministerial candidates. To request an application, write to Mullins UMC, 4 N.Mendenhall Rd., Memphis, TN 38117-2698 or call 901-685-8253. Deadline for applications is April 15. •

# Youth will talk mission in the midst of crisis

After witnessing extreme poverty in Mexico, 17-year-old Maribeth Russell from Collierville United Methodist Church in Collierville, TN says she now realizes the economic disparity abroad.

"Mexico was such an eye opening experience for me. I knew that poverty existed but I don't think it's something you fully comprehend until you see it first hand. I will never forget the look on the mothers' and children's faces in the village. The trip gave me a new perspective on how privileged we truly are and what I value."

On June 28, Russell will be joined by approximately 750 of her peers from all over the southern region at the Youth In Missions gathering at Lake Junaluska Retreat and Conference Center. The meeting will end July 2.

Youth In Missions has grown to be a leading venue for youth and young adults to learn from and share with today's most influential leaders in missions and social justice. It features workshops and seminars for college students, and enhances participants' experiences through on-site hands-on mission opportunities.

This year's theme "Let Go: Take Root," will encourage youth

to let go of material things and take root in the word of God. Leadership includes Grammy and multiple Dove awards-winning artists Mark Stuart and Will McGinniss of Audio Adrenaline, teenage humanitarian Austin Gutwein of Hoops of Hope, speaker Rev. Rhonda VanDyke Colby, City of Opportunity, International Justice Ministries, Pray With Africa and house band Eddie Willis and the Narrow Path.

Austin Gutwein started the world's largest free throw shoot-a-thon, Hoops for Hope. It's a student-led movement to care for children orphaned by HIV/AIDS. Participants have raised funds to care for 100 orphans, build a school, a medical lab and counseling center in Zambia.

With 18 number one singles under their belt, Audio Adrenaline will have plenty to sing about at their concert at Steward Auditorium on Monday, June 29, at 9pm. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Hands and Feet Project, an orphanage in Haiti sponsored by the band.

Tickets can be purchased for \$15 in advance by e-mail ([kkonsowitz@colliervilleumc.org](mailto:kkonsowitz@colliervilleumc.org)) or at the door. For information, visit [www.youthinmissions.com](http://www.youthinmissions.com) or e-mail [kkonsowitz@colliervilleumc.org](mailto:kkonsowitz@colliervilleumc.org).



Traveling to Mexico on a mission trip opened Maribeth Russell's eyes to poverty.

## Collierville rummage sale raises money for missions

By LIBBY PERRY

The youth group and parents at Collierville United Methodist Church are gearing up to both raise and save money through their upcoming Annual Youth Rummage Sale. The event, scheduled for April 4 from 8am to 2 pm, is a major fund-raiser for the teens at CUMC, which allows the youth to serve in mission trips across the country.

During these tough economic times, the sale has become a min-

istry of its own according to CUMC Youth Director Kris Konsowitz. From picking up and delivering donated rummage to pricing these items, the youth as well as their families get to experience first-hand the effects of helping someone in need by providing affordable goods for area bargain hunters.

The day of the sale, senior high youth and parents work all day to raise enough money to send workers to service projects and mission trips like Mountain Top, Youth in

Missions Week at Lake Junaluska, Big Stuff, and Hogar Montana.

Every year the whole community benefits from the far-reaching effects of this one day sale. "This year, it's even more important for us to help our neighbors and raise money for these service projects through the rummage sale," says Konsowitz. "We've all had to tighten our belts lately. Hopefully, the sale will help stretch our dollars and serve our community at the same time."

## EXPLORATION an opportunity to explore God's call

The Memphis Conference Board of Ordained Ministry is fully supporting EXPLORATION 2009 which is scheduled for Nov. 13-15 in Dallas, Texas. EXPLORATION addresses The United Methodist Church's need for young clergy by offering youth and young adults who feel God's call a chance to explore that call.

The Memphis Conference will be coordinating an effort to provide transportation and publicity. A recent report noted that over 70% of our current active clergy will be eligible to retire by 2013. That's right! Just four years from now. An EXPLORATION Task Force will be meeting soon to hammer out the details. In the

meantime, pencil this event into the consciousness of the young men and women who may be hearing a call to ministry in your community.

"Today more than ever, the denomination needs to sponsor events that invite, train, and support young people as they answer their call to ordained ministry," said the Rev. Meg Lassiat, director of Student Ministries, Vocation, and Enlistment at the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, which sponsors EXPLORATION.

"In the past three years, we have seen a growth in the numbers and percentage of young adult clergy in the UMC. Last fall,

The Lewis Center for Church Leadership released the 2008 Clergy Age Trends Report that shows for the first time this century the percentage of young elders has risen to greater than 5 percent. The report said the percentage of young adult elders was 5.21 percent and the percentage of young adult deacons had risen to 7.69 percent," Lassiat said.

"These statistics show a positive trend since this data was first reported in 2005, and the increase helps to demonstrate the importance of events and ministries that encourage youth and young adults to consider ordained ministry as a profession," Lassiat said.

The national event is for high

school seniors through young adults aged 24 who are considering a call to ordained ministry as a deacon or elder in The United Methodist Church.

"By attending EXPLORATION, youth and young adults will have the opportunity to explore a variety of ways to serve in ordained ministry," Lassiat said.

She added that efforts are being made to communicate regularly with annual conferences so clergy and other leaders will have the opportunity to support their young people and encourage them in their discernment for ministry.

The Rev. Tyrone Gordon, Dr. William B. Lawrence, Bishop Sally Dyck, and the Rev. Motoe

Yamada will be the keynote speakers for the event. Participants will also have the chance to talk with admissions staff from the 13 United Methodist schools of theology, attend workshops, and take part in small group discussions.

For more information, or to register for EXPLORATION, please visit [www.gbhem.org/exploration](http://www.gbhem.org/exploration) or [www.explorecalling.org](http://www.explorecalling.org).

**For more information on local plans to attend EXPLORATION, contact Dr. David Comperry, [revdcomperry@comcast.net](mailto:revdcomperry@comcast.net) or Rev. Gary D. Lawson, Sr., [gary@lakeshoreuma.com](mailto:gary@lakeshoreuma.com)**