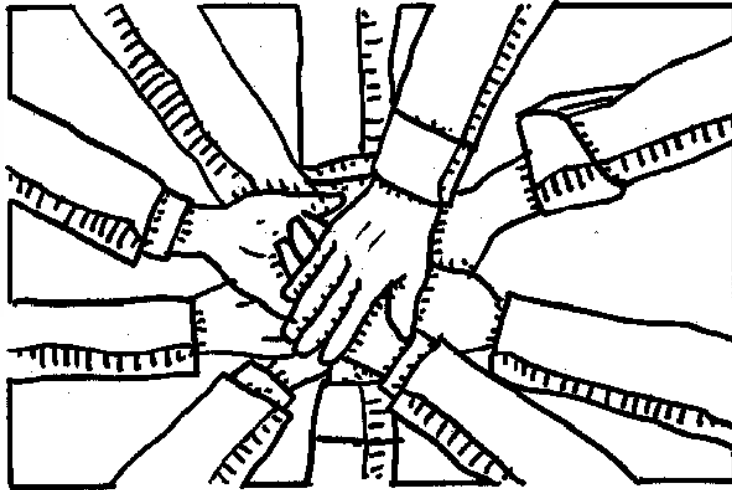


The Arbor Vine

A newsletter for the Ann Arbor District of the United Methodist Church

ANNUAL



CONFERENCE

2009 Detroit Annual Conference Thursday, May 14 to Sunday, May 17

The Conference is online at www.umc-detconf.org

In order to reduce expenses, Annual Conference will not be mailing any of the Conference materials. Everyone must print out their Conference materials from the Conference website, listed above. Registration packets will not be mailed as they were before.

The full schedule, registration information, and voting materials are available on the website. The registration deadline is Friday, April 10.

If you have difficulty printing the forms, please contact your church. If the church has any difficulty contact the District Office. Given the current state of communications, churches are expected to have high speed internet access. In addition, the DAC Parsonage Guidelines state that "Internet access should be provided if the office in the home is the primary office."

The internet is no longer a luxury, or used by only a few people. The internet is the cheapest and most practical mode of communication. Congregation members, especially young people, use email primarily, and they expect to be able to reach their pastor and their church office in that way. The Detroit Annual Conference will be increasing its use of email, and we all need to be able to communicate this way. The budget has propelled us into the future, ready or not!

To have "The Arbor Vine" delivered by email, contact the District Office (page 2).

more from Annual Conference. . .

Harry Denman Award

Nominations are being accepted now for clergy and laity for the 2009 Harry Denman Award. Forms are available at

www.foundationforevangelism.org

Please send completed forms by April 15 to Rev. Ray Wightman, 420 W. Main St., Hudson MI 49247.

Youth Awards

If you know an outstanding youth leader, nominate her or him for the District Youth Leadership Award from CCYM (Conference Council on Youth Ministry). See their website for all the youth news: www.daccym.org.

Detroit Conference Clergy Spouses

The Detroit Conference Clergy Spouse's Association would like to invite all clergy spouses to two up-coming spring events:

1. The Spring Retreat at Lake Huron Retreat Center near Port Huron, April 24th - 26th.
2. The Luncheon at Annual Conference, noon - 1:30 in the Hickman Board Room in the Caine Student Center. Please note that this is a change in location from what was communicated in the recent newsletter. The cost is \$9.37. Reservation deadline is April 10. Tickets will not be available at the door, so pick them up at registration.

For more details on either event, please check the recently mailed DCCSA newsletter or email President, Bonnie Christler @ kbchristler@sbcglobal.net.

The Haiti Container Project

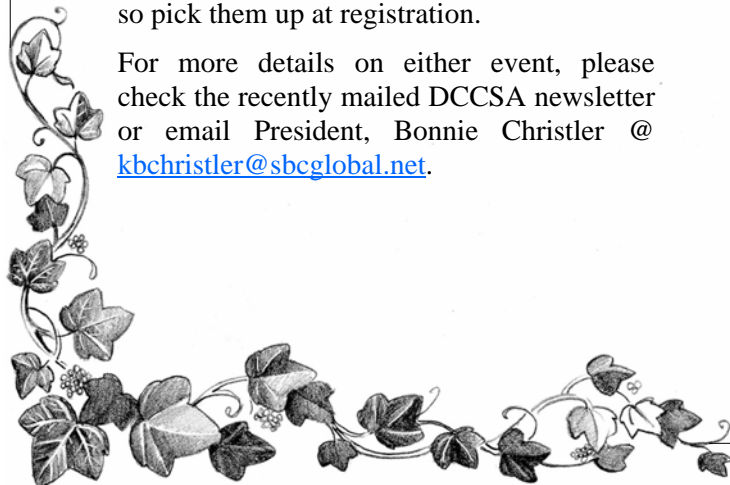
The Annual Conference is again accepting donations for Haiti. The Haiti Container contributions are limited to basic UMCOR kits. We also collect choir and pastor robes, and used eye glasses in a case. These all must be in new or good condition. Your church may also purchase medicine boxes.

See the front page of the Conference website for specific information:
www.umc-detconf.org

With joy and thanksgiving we share God's Bounty.

DAC Hunger/UMCOR
Rev. Dr. Margie R. Crawford

Questions: crawford_margier@hotmail.com



The April Meeting Schedule for the District Superintendent

April 1	9:00 a.m.	Cabinet Meetings
April 2	9:00 a.m.	Cabinet Meetings
April 10		Office closed
April 14	12:00 p.m.	CCOM Personnel Committee
April 27	10:00 a.m.	Cabinet Meetings
April 28	9:00 a.m.	Cabinet Meetings

Tom's personal day is Friday.

Tom Macaulay will be away from the office on renewal leave this summer from June 1 to August 31.

Audited Local Church Reports

Due to budget restrictions, you will not receive a copy of the audited report by mail. Instead, each church/pastor is asked to review their report online at the same website that the data was entered. These reports will be available for review by April 1st. If you have a correction, you must contact Brent Webster by Sunday noon of Annual Conference weekend.

Contact: Rev. Brent L. Webster,
Detroit Conference Statistician
248-851-2330, pastor.wbumc@sbcglobal.net

The Arbor Vine

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Articles are due on the 10th of the month.
Comments and suggestions are welcomed.



Beatrice Gbanga to speak at Saline First

Monday, May 11th, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
Saline First United Methodist Church
1200 N. Ann Arbor St., Saline

Beatrice Gbanga, GBGM missionary stationed in Sierra Leone and Coordinator of Health Projects for the West Africa Central Conference of the UMC, will update us on the health projects happening in the Liberia Annual Conference under the direction of Jemimah Browne, who is being supported by many of our Ann Arbor District UMW units. Everyone who is interested is invited and encouraged to come hear Beatrice! To RSVP, please call 734-429-4730.

Leadership Simulcast

Friday, May 8 at Dexter UMC
\$49 (\$55 at the door)

The Maximum Impact Simulcast is a one-day leadership training event broadcast live from the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta to approximately 500 host sites throughout the nation, including Dexter UMC. Host sites use the event to build relationships in their communities and offer leadership training to their own teams. Speakers include Tony Blair, Jack Nicklaus, and many others.

Take this chance to reward yourself and the key people in your circle, and help us build a stronger and even more effective leadership base in our Conference and District.

Call Rev. Matt Hook (734-426-8480) with any questions.

www.maximumimpact.com/misattend

You're invited...

*to the Spring VIM trip
with the Haiti School
Project April 15-22, 2009*

The team will visit the Jeremie Circuit in Haiti and work on projects at the John Wesley School. They will also tour local mission sites and meet people in various settings. The team will be led by Pat Grainger. If you would like to join the Haiti School Project team as they work and worship with our Haitian partners in mission, contact Curtis Bartz for information and an application. Call (313) 278-4849 or email jbartz@mich.com. Leader Pat Grainger may be contacted at PPGTIPS@aol.com.

...to be part of Operation Classroom in Liberia this summer

This teacher training seminar will spend two weeks in Liberia. Contents and place will depend on those who want to participate. The projected cost per person is between \$3000 and \$3200, depending on the airfare. Contact Carolyn Wagner at the Operation Classroom Office.

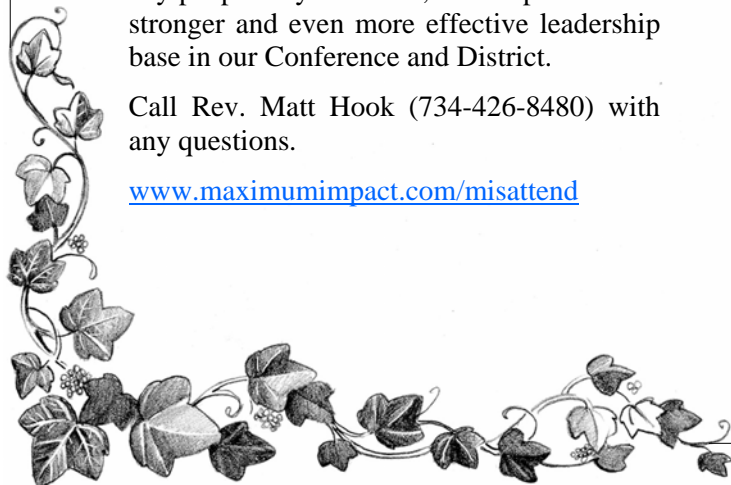
765-436-2805 or ccwagner@hotmail.com

Confirmands' Rally

Saturday, April 4, 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

A time for youth to come together for fellowship and worship with others who are preparing for confirmation. Bishop Keaton will also attend. There is more information at the Conference website:

www.umc-detconf.org



Four Areas Of Focus Online Course

Explore how The United Methodist Church is focusing on four key areas of ministry in this free, self-directed online course from United Methodist Communications.

The Four Areas of Focus express the vision and yearnings of the people of The United Methodist Church. These areas of ministry focus the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by:

- Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world.
- Creating new places for new people and revitalizing existing congregations.
- Engaging in ministry with the poor.
- Combating the diseases of poverty by improving health globally.

To take the course, please visit moodle.umcom.org and select "Four Areas of Focus" under the United Methodist Basics category.

Haiti Needs You

Teacher Salary Support needed at Haitian Methodist Schools

Teachers in Methodist run schools in Haiti are way behind on salary compensation for the year 2008.

- In some circuits, teachers have not been paid anything for the 2008 school year.
- Others have been given only half their compensation.
- They continue to work because of their dedication to the children and their faith in God.

If you wish to contribute to this support of teacher salary, send funds to:
UMCOR Advance 3019695
"Haiti-Teacher Salary Priority" in the memo area of your check

This information comes from the Michigan Area Task Force.

Curtis Bartz

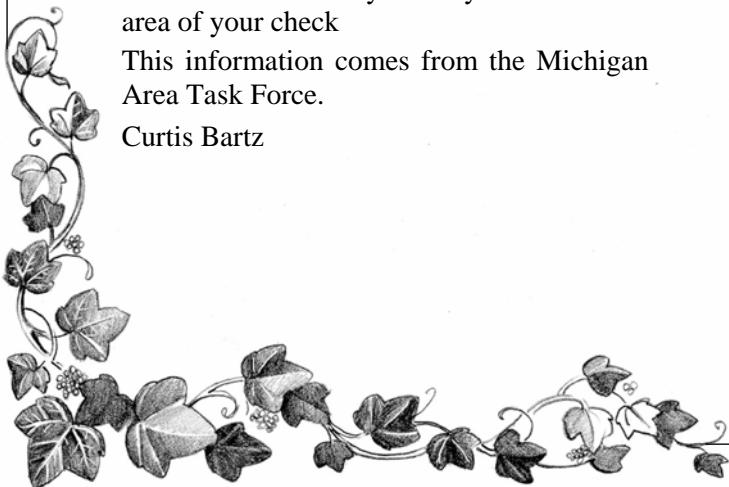
First Pastorate Program

The First Pastorate Program is required for all who are serving their first appointment in the Detroit Annual Conference. It is held at the Lake Huron Retreat Center on April 28 & 29. For more information contact:

lakehuronretreat@umccamps.org.

Samaritan Counseling Center of SE Michigan

Remember that Samaritan Counseling Center presents a rich series of workshops that are well worth your attention. They include marriage preparation (using the new Prepare/Enrich process), lay caregivers, grief, and alcohol awareness. Find the details at www.samaritancounselingmichigan.com.



Michigan Area Resource Center News

The Michigan Area Resource Center newsletter is available online at: www.marc-web.org. MARC is a music and audiovisual lending library. They have new and useful offerings with each newsletter, and have 3300 video titles overall, plus sheet music and other resources.

MARC is offering half price on memberships if your church has not had a membership in the last five years. Contact them at marc@wmcumc.org or on their website for more information.

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Gloria Downing
- 2 Jim & Susan Walker
- 5 Amy Mayo-Moyle
- 6 Jackie Holdsworth
- 7 June Westgate
- 10 Jan Harris
- 11 Theresa Cochran
- 11 June Smith
- 19 Annamary DeWitt
- 19 Annamary & Bishop Jesse R DeWitt
- 23 Loretta Job
- 24 Carol Abbott-Ness & Lance Ness
- 27 Diana Smith
- 27 Tracy & Jerry Hunter

Help Them Find You

Over 280,000 people visit the UM church search webpage every month. United Methodist Communications has expanded their website to include space for more information about the ministries and activities of every church.

There will be an advertising surge in May to invite people to visit

www.10thousanddoors.org

Within 10thousanddoors people will find the church search site that is shared with UMC.org. It is called Find-A-Church.org.

The Find-A-Church program includes 35,000 United Methodist Churches. Your church should be included, with information that will interest newcomers.

Go to Find-A-Church.org to check the information about your church and to add more current news.

This is free advertising that reaches anyone with a computer.

www.Find-A-Church.org

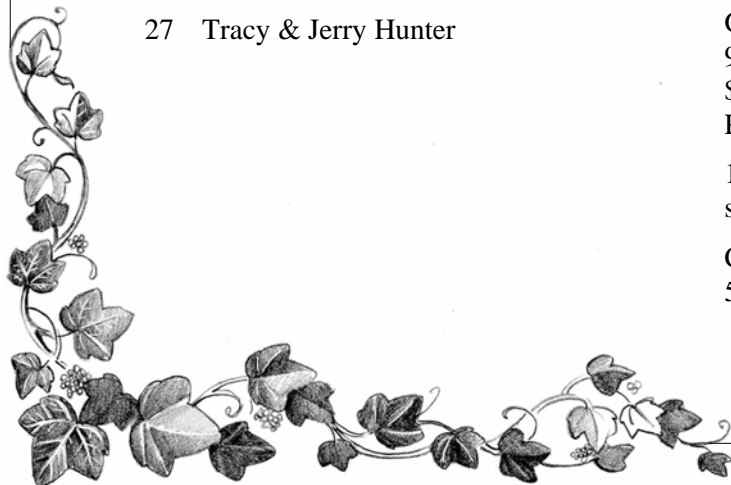
Scrapbooking & Crafting at Britton

Saturday, April 4, 9:00 to 9:00

Grace United Methodist Church
9250 E. Monroe/M50, Britton
\$25 full day, \$15 half day
Plus a "Scrap Meet"

12 hours of Scrapbooking/craft time, 4 feet of space, lunch, dinner, and craft help

Contact Grace for more information at
517-451-8280



Upcoming Workshops, Seminars, & Trips *that are not mentioned elsewhere in The Vine*

April 20-25

A River Deep and Wide: Christian Spiritual Practices

Scarritt-Bennett Center, Nashville

“In a world of increasing multicultural diversity, how shall the Church respond?”

Information: www.upperroom.org/river

April 23-25

Dynamic Worship Encounter

A highly recommended worship symposium in Pasadena CA

Pastors and spouses attend free

Information: www.worshipsymposium.com

April 30

Burning Bush peer learning group for large membership churches

Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Nashville TN

From GBOD, revitalizing congregations

Registration: www.gbod.org/du Information: mmcdonald@gbod.org

May 4-8

Mediation Skills Training for Church Leaders

in Maumee, Ohio by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center

Later: “Family Emotional Process” and “Leading Change through Self-Differentiation”

Information: www.LMPeaceCenter.org

June 21-27 and July 12-18

Young Leaders Initiative: It's Time for Motown!

Youth mission work in the City of Detroit

Information: info@youngleadersinitiative.org

July 29 - August 2

School for Congregational Development

Jointly sponsored by the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship and the General Board of Global Ministries, in Chicago, renewing congregations

Information: www.scdumc.org

August 1-6

Garrett Evangelical Congregational Leaders Institute

featuring Dr. Walter Brueggemann, one week on Michigan's Little Traverse Bay for \$275 renewal and study for pastors and other leaders, especially for Local Pastors

Contact: Marge Eckhardt, meckhardt@garrett.edu



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