



The Arbor Vine

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

Appointments for July 1, 2009

(The Cabinet is continuing the Appointment Process)

Brighton: First

New: John Ball

Leaving: Scott Chrostek, going to Church of the Resurrection, Leawood KS

Clayton, Rollin Center

New: Linda Jo Powers

Leaving: Craig Pillow, going to Elkton

Northville: First

New: Stephen D'Angelo, Associate Pastor

Leaving: Lisa Cook, going to Royal Oak

RETIRING

Livington Circuit - Judi Darling

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

The Dean's Report to Annual Conference

Adrian College, May 14, 2009

Bishop Keaton, members and friends of the Detroit Conference, I greet you in the name and spirit of the Risen One, who calls to embody love, hope and justice to a bruised and battered world.

If ever you doubt that God has an "off-the-wall" sense of humor, consider that this long-time dean of the "Sidewalk Cabinet" has been serving as the Dean of the DAC Conference this past year! Yet, the real Good News is that the God we know and love and seek to serve is much more than one with humor... but one of infinite love and an eternal passion to have all that is made transformed by a spirit of hope, mercy and equity so that God's deepest yearning for Creation might become real for one and all.

Christ's body is being called to stretch itself in the midst of an economic tsunami in ways that our nation... and Church... have not witnessed in decades. We do well to bear in mind that as real and pressing as these financial pressures are... and we ignore them at our collective peril... we nevertheless cannot



Macaulay's Musings

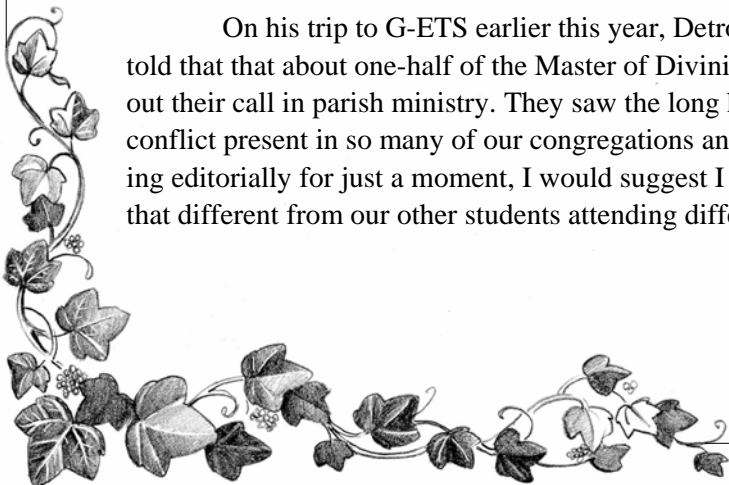
- continued -

afford to let them define who we are or what we do for the cause of Christ in our day. This may well be one of those times when “the bottom line isn’t the ‘bottom line.’” Today’s cultural norm seems to say, “It’s my money, I earned it, so I’m the only one who gets to vote on how I spend it!” Such a point-of-view, of course, is diametrically opposed to Wesley’s “Earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can”... to say nothing of the rich treasury of scripture and what it has to say about wealth and discipleship. It strikes me as imperative that while this economic chaos has struck fear into many Americans’ hearts, it might also be a very, very valuable lesson for us in the United States Church. We are still, let me remind us, far, far better off than many of our sisters and brothers around the globe. Until we grasp, in a very authentic way that we are more than the size of our homes or savings accounts, we will always feel uneasy and anxious. Let me suggest, instead, that we remind ourselves... and assure each other... that the One who calls us is an extravagantly generous God... and if you ever want to come in 2nd place (and who among us doesn’t find that appealing)... try to “outgive God”. Seek to be more generous with gifts than God is.

The economic stresses and anxiety are but part of a larger pattern that we observe as your Cabinet. We live in a time of great anxiety that is so pervasive that I would suggest that no institution is exempt from the dysfunction that this anxiety creates. I can tell you that ... unfortunately... our “acting out” in the Church is alive and well in more places than we wish in the DAC today. Let me illustrate by quoting from Edwin H. Friedman’s [A Failure of Nerve: Leadership in the Age of the Quick Fix](#). I can’t help but note that had I read Friedman earlier in my ministry than I did... and I would urge those who have not read him to perhaps begin with his earlier work, [Generation to Generation](#). ...my ministry would have been helped immeasurably. Listen now to Dr. Friedman.

The displacement of blame on leaders may be even more salient in churches and synagogues than in the political arena. Over the last ten to fifteen years I have witnessed a tremendous increase in the collective reactivity of religious congregations to their ministers, irrespective of gender or belief. As America’s emotional regression has deepened, the clergy of every denomination have been increasingly thrust into a panicky national game of musical chairs, as each minister leaves one disappointed congregation only to be eagerly snatched up by another in the false hope that this new one will be better than the last. The former minister, in the meantime, has now found a new opportunity to be a displacement focus for a congregation that had become disaffected with its previous minister, who is presently about to take the place of the first, the anxiety still unabated and the focused issues still unresolved. The game is not confined to the world of religion, of course, and is played equally well with coaches, CEOs, school superintendents, police chiefs, and place kickers in the National Football League.... (p.80)

On his trip to G-ETS earlier this year, Detroit East Superintendent Duane Miller was told that that about one-half of the Master of Divinity students there were interested in living out their call in parish ministry. They saw the long hours, the low pay and the high degree of conflict present in so many of our congregations and said, in essence, “Why bother?” Speaking editorially for just a moment, I would suggest I am not so sure that G-ETS’ students are that different from our other students attending different seminaries.

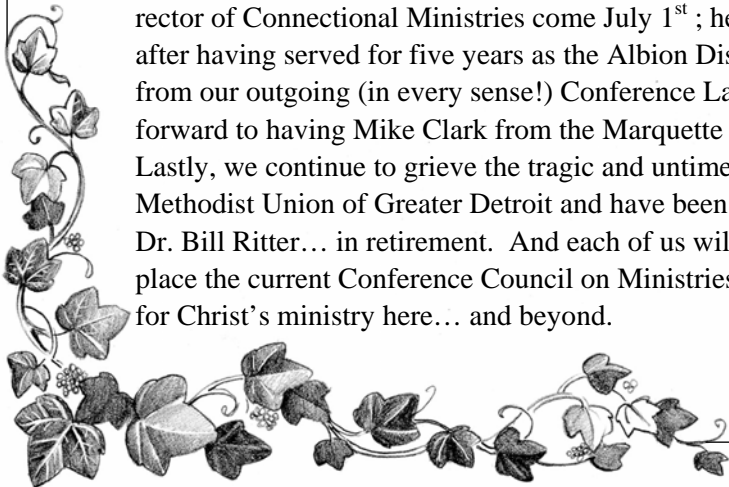


Next, let me offer up the one area in our churches that if I were “King for a day” would be my first change in the behavior of pastors and congregations alike that I would institute. I’m not sure how it started, but “How in heaven’s name” did we ever get the idea that it is better to talk about people instead of talking to people? More disagreements could be resolved, more tension reduced, more understanding and respect for each other could be accomplished if we would talk to the person with whom we have a grievance or concern than talking about that person at the coffee hour, in the town coffee shop or online... or wherever the communication does not take place. Something I have noted over the now 35 years since my first appointment (so much for being a young pastor in the DAC!) is that visitors in our congregations are extraordinarily sensitive to tension in a congregation... much more so than we who have been around forever... and these newcomers are not likely to return to a congregation where tension is thick. Poor communication and a failure to openly and honestly deal with our differences has a profound negative effect on our outreach and evangelism efforts. Most people give more credence to what people do instead of what they say.

The challenge before all of us leaders in the DAC (everyone here in Dawson this evening) is to find the courage and willingness to take risks for dealing openly and with honesty about our differences, working with integrity to not allow our differences to become divisions and to find ways to look for the good (if not the BEST) in each other instead of seeking the “log” in our sister and brother’s eyes.

This has been... and will be a year of significant change on our Cabinet. Change is a constant in our life together in the Church. As we seek to share Christ’s old, old story in new ways for a new day, we will want to bear in mind that what once worked may not work today. We also do well to bear in mind that as we bear witness to the transforming message of hope in the Gospel that we may need to try something more than once. If something doesn’t work at first, try to “tweak” it and try again. Don’t give up after one attempt and throw up your hands in despair and say, “Oh, we’ve tried that before.” Perhaps we can take a page from the zoo curator who wrote a letter: “To whom it may concern, “Please send us two mongeesees for our new zoo.” Before he sent the letter, he thought it didn’t sound right, so he tried again. To whom it may concern, “Please send us two mongooses for our new zoo.” Again, he thought that didn’t sound right, so he tried a third time, “To whom it may concern, Please send us a mongoose for our new zoo... and while you’re at it, send us another one.” Same message, said differently.

We say farewell to Dr. Andrew Allie of the Flint District... even as we greet and welcome Dr. Eugene Blair. We bid Rev. Peggy Paige adieu to the U.P.... even as we welcome Rev. Bartelt to the Port Huron District. It won’t be long before Rev. John Huhtala turns in his many large binders filled with policies and procedures for a paddle to use with his new kayak as he “sails into retirement”. We are excited about Dr. Jerry DeVine who will be our new Director of Connectional Ministries come July 1st ; he comes from “across the ‘invisible line’” after having served for five years as the Albion District Superintendent. We have just heard from our outgoing (in every sense!) Conference Lay Leader, Cathy Hazen, and are looking forward to having Mike Clark from the Marquette District join us around the Full Cabinet. Lastly, we continue to grieve the tragic and untimely death of Dr. Ken Christler of the United Methodist Union of Greater Detroit and have been blessed by the ministry shared with us by Dr. Bill Ritter... in retirement. And each of us will have an opportunity later this week to replace the current Conference Council on Ministries model with a new one with a new focus for Christ’s ministry here... and beyond.



Other partners in ministry that we on the Cabinet would want to affirm and express our heartfelt gratitude for their witness is the Deacons in our midst. These clergy are also called apart from the ministry of the baptized to be servant leaders and are very, very intentional about linking the Church and the World in their ministries. Congregations and communities alike are enriched by their ministry... as is your Cabinet.

Sisters and brothers, you'll be glad to hear I'm getting ready to "wind it down". Yet before I do so, let me share with you a quote from Bishop Thomas Bickerton of the Western Pennsylvania Conference at a gathering held earlier this year in the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

Frankly, I'm a little worried. The theme for this weekend is, "Be the Change You Want to See". But I have to ask, realistically: Are we ready for the change God wants us to be? You better be careful what you pray for; you might actually get it and when you do, it might not be what you thought it would be.

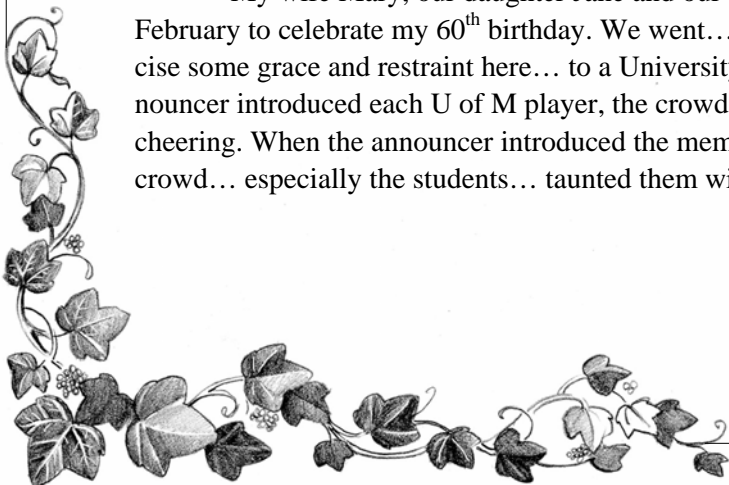
To prepare itself, the church needs to stop limiting God by attempting to control God's Word or putting the Church's potential in a tidy and manageable box. When the Church is truly ready to be the change God wants us to be, it will need to replace the hymnal racks with airbags because God's going to shake us up when we do.

Or, the Bishop speculated, maybe there's another issue. Maybe it's not that we don't know the power of the Word or depth of the possibilities before us; it's that we do know the power of God and we're terrified that God might actually wake up and call our name in the night."

Just one such change might be the way we worship... or do the business of the church... or be the Church. The young Christians in our midst will incarnate in very real and profound ways the Gospel in a different way than do we who are older... but that simply means it will not be the same... it's not a matter of better/worse. I hope that in this coming year... and those that follow... that we will more enthusiastically embrace the ways that God is "doing a new thing" in and through these young followers of Christ.. That we will listen more and defend less... watch more and try to control less... be willing to remember that this is Christ's Church... not yours, not mine, not theirs... but Christ Jesus' body in the world!

Here comes everyone's favorite words when I speak... "In conclusion..."

My wife Mary, our daughter Jane and our son-in-law Chris took me out this past February to celebrate my 60th birthday. We went... and I'm going to ask some of you to exercise some grace and restraint here... to a University of Michigan hockey game. As the announcer introduced each U of M player, the crowd erupted with thunderous applause and cheering. When the announcer introduced the members of the opposing team, the partisan crowd... especially the students... taunted them with a raucous, "Who cares????"



Maybe that's a good question on which I might end. "Who cares..."

... that peace and justice are still far too elusive in our world?

... that too many of God's children are malnourished, orphaned as a result of war, disease, poverty, exploitation?

... that too many followers of Christ care more about "me, my and mine" instead of the "least, lost and last"?

... that so many care more about their church buildings than outreach and mission being carried out in Christ's name?

... that for many UM Christians their political and social views "trump" the way they see the faith... instead of vice versa?

... that for too many the name of Christ is known as a "curse word" instead of the Redeemer of the world?

... Fill in your own (In the silence of your hearts and minds)

Ask people what their "Who cares?" is that will address back in own ministry?

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

Has your address or email changed in the last year?

Contact the District Office with any changes so your listing will be correct when people try to find you in the 2010 District Directory.

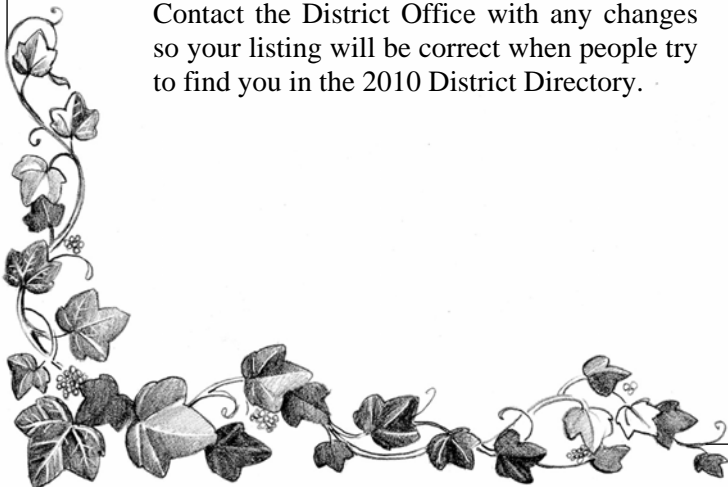
The Arbor Vine

is published monthly by the Ann Arbor District Office of The United Methodist Church.

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Website: www.gbgn-umc.org/annarbordist/

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



Church Conference Dates

	Date	Time	S/PPRC			
Adrian: First	Wed Nov 4	7:30	6:45	Lulu	Wed Dec 16	7:30 6:45
Amen Korean	Sat Oct 24	10:00	9:15	Macon	Sat Sep 19	10:00 9:15
Ann Arbor: Calvary	Wed Oct 21	7:30	6:45	Manchester	Wed Oct 28	7:30 6:45
Ann Arbor: First	Tue Dec 15	7:30	6:45	Manchester: Sharon	Sat Dec 12	10:00 9:15
Ann Arbor: Korean	Thu Oct 22	7:30	6:45	Milan: Marble	Mon Oct 5	7:30 6:45
Ann Arbor: West	Mon Nov 30	7:30	6:45	Milford	Sat Oct 3	10:00 6:45
Azalia, London	Sun Nov 8	1:00	12:15	Morenci	Mon Sep 28	7:30 6:45
Belleville: First	Mon Nov 9	7:30	6:45	New Hudson	Mon Oct 26	7:30 6:45
Blissfield: Emmanuel	Wed Sep 23	7:30	6:45	North Lake	Sun Oct 18	1:00 12:15
Blissfield: First	Wed Oct 7	7:30	6:45	Northville: First	Mon Oct 12	7:30 6:45
Brighton: First	Tue Nov 17	7:30	6:45	Novi	Tue Sep 15	7:30 6:45
Britton: Grace	Wed Oct 14	7:30	6:45	Oak Grove	Sat Nov 7	10:00 9:15
Canton: Cherry Hill	Thu Oct 1	7:30	6:45	Petersburg	Sun Nov 8	7:30 6:45
Canton: Friendship	Tue Oct 13	7:30	6:45	Pinckney: Arise	Tue Nov 10	7:30 6:45
Chelsea: First	Sat Dec 5	10:00	9:15	Plymouth: First	Thu Nov 12	7:30 6:45
Clayton, Rollin	Thu Sep 24	7:30	6:45	Salem Grove	Sun Oct 18	4:00 3:15
Clinton	Sun Oct 25	4:00	3:15	Saline: First	Sun Nov 15	7:30 6:45
Commerce	Mon Nov 16	7:30	6:45	South Lyon: First	Wed Nov 18	7:30 6:45
Deerfield, Wellsville	Sun Oct 25	7:30	6:45	Springville	Thu Oct 15	7:30 6:45
Denton: Faith	Tue Oct 6	7:30	6:45	Stony Creek	Tue Oct 27	7:30 6:45
Dexter	Sat Dec 19	10:00	9:15	Tecumseh	Sun Oct 25	1:00 12:15
Dixboro	Wed Dec 9	7:30	6:45	Walled Lake	Tue Dec 8	7:30 6:45
Dundee	Sun Nov 8	4:00	3:15	Weston	Mon Sep 14	7:30 6:45
Erie	Mon Dec 14	7:30	6:45	Whitmore Lake:	Sun Oct 18	7:30 6:45
Fowlerville: First	Sat Oct 17	10:00	9:15	Ypsilanti: First	Sun Nov 15	4:00 3:15
Hardy	Sun Oct 4	10:30	8:45	Ypsilanti: St. Matthew's	Sun Nov 15	1:00 12:15
Hartland	Thu Nov 5	7:30	6:45			
Highland	Mon Dec 7	7:30	6:45			
Howell: First	Thu Nov 19	7:30	6:45			
Hudson: First	Mon Nov 2	7:30	6:45			
Ida, Samaria: Grace	Tue Nov 3	7:30	6:45			
Lambertville	Mon Nov 23	7:30	6:45			
LaSalle: Zion	Wed Sep 16	7:30	6:45			
Lincoln Community	Sat Nov 14	10:00	9:15			
Liv Cir: Plainfield, Trinity	Sat Oct 31	10:00	9:15			

Keep up with Camp

Subscribe to the newsletter for the Camp and Retreat Ministries by sending an email to

jthomas@umccamps.org

There is so much to do at DAC camps, and so many ways to become involved—available all year round!

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Gail & Tom Burdette
- 1 Joseph & Kathy Groff
- 3 Lois & Fred Finzer
- 6 Melanie Carey
- 12 Roy C Forsyth
- 12 Beverly & Roy C Forsyth
- 16 Diana & Mark Smith
- 16 Judy Braid
- 18 Al Bamsey
- 18 Anne Hanna
- 19 Diane Griffin
- 19 Ken Host
- 19 Barbara & Gary Dawes
- 20 Janet Smith
- 20 Cathy & Tom Freeman
- 21 Janet & Dave Wichert
- 22 Sandra Miller
- 22 Kevin & Diane Griffin
- 23 Jaqueline Holdsworth
- 23 Jan & Pete Harris
- 24 Doug Olsen
- 25 Kevin Griffin
- 25 Susan & Maurice Sharai
- 28 Isaac Shin
- 28 Gary Dawes
- 30 Marietta Montgomery
- 30 Dana Strall
- 30 Jim Braid

Worship Arts Camp for Teens

August 3-7, 5:00-9:00 pm each night

For youth entering grades 6-12, \$30 each
Final performance on August 7

Worship band, theater, group songs, public speaking, storytelling, sound board, guitar class, web design, dance, and more!

Hosted by West Side UMC
900 S. Seventh St., Ann Arbor

Contact: Jesse Steed at 734-663-4164 or
jsted@westside-umc.org

Opportunities for Service

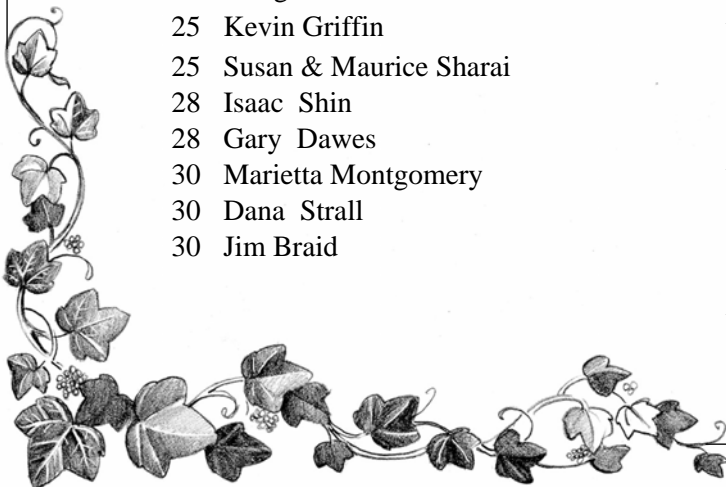
UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION UMVIM

- ✓ **HURRICANE CLEANUP CALLING YOU?**
- ✓ **TOO FAR AWAY?**
- ✓ **THINK ABOUT A MORE LOCAL TRIP!**

We in the Midwest are notorious for helping many of the folks in other parts of the country and world with their disaster clean-up needs. But remember—we have a lot to do right here! Right now! This spring has been wet and windy in several conferences! Volunteer your time, even for a day!

Four North Central Conferences have immediate needs:

- ◆ **ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS**
(Pete Ryan, pete@csnowire.net, 618-771-0366)
- ◆ **INDIANA**
(Lannie Stecher, pastorlannie@yahoo.com, 765-318-8344) need long term recovery teams
- ◆ **THE DAKOTAS**
(Eastern North Dakota, Joan Buchhop, jbuchhop@lssnd.org, Vol Hotline 1-800-366-9841)
- ◆ **IOWA** has enough volunteer for right now...(check back later in the summer with Becky Wood, Director of StormRecovery, becky.wood@iaumc.org)



Ann Arbor District Board of Missions and Church Extension
APPLICATION FOR CONNECTIONAL CHURCH GRANT

Connectional Church Grants are intended to assist local congregations in the Ann Arbor District in a program, ministry, or project that the church would find difficult, if not impossible, to do without assistance. Greater weight will be placed on projects and programs that go beyond the church's present budgetary needs. Grants are given both for new and innovative programs.

Connectional Church Grants will be awarded at the Ann Arbor District Board of Missions and Church Extension annual meeting ;

Tuesday, September 22, 2009 , 6:00 p.m. at Ypsilanti First 209 Washtenaw Ave. Ypsilanti

Grants are determined by those churches that apply. Send this completed form to **Connectional Church** c/o Dennis Just: 3280 Byron Rd. Howell, MI 48855 **No later than September 2, 2009.** If your request is granted **We urge you to have someone in attendance at annual meeting** to receive check. Attach any additional sheets if necessary.

Church _____ Phone _____
Address _____ Email _____

Contact Person _____ Home Phone _____
Daytime Phone _____ Email _____

Description of project _____

Desired goals of project _____

Proposed total cost \$ _____ **Projected date for use of project** _____

List anticipated sources	Funding
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

Indicate last year support in:

Detroit Conference apportionment	\$ _____	_____ %
Ministry Jubilee	\$ _____	_____ %
District Board of Missions and Church Extension	\$ _____	_____ %

Request was adopted by administrative board/church council Date _____

Signed _____
pastor

Signed _____
administrative board/church council chairperson

Upcoming Workshops, Seminars, & Trips

that are not mentioned elsewhere in The Vine

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

June 22-27

Worldviews: A Seminar on American Religious Diversity

University of Michigan-Dearborn

A six-day experience based seminar on the beliefs and practices of several religions

Information: Sharie Beard, sbeard@umd.umich.edu

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

October 23-24

Retooling Christian Education for the 21st Century

regional event in the North Central Jurisdiction in Columbus Ohio

Christian Educators Fellowship - Christian Education and Formation

Contact: humc_edu@windstream.net

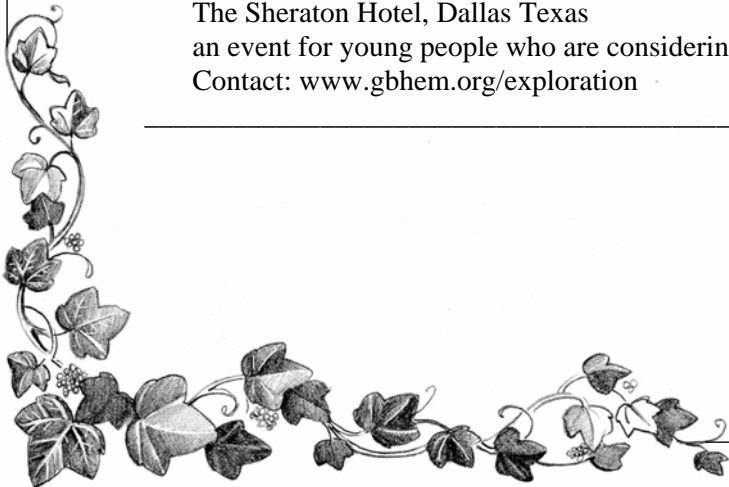
November 13-15

Exploration 2009

The Sheraton Hotel, Dallas Texas

an event for young people who are considering a call to ordained ministry in the UMC

Contact: www.gbhem.org/exploration



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