

# The Arbor Vine

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

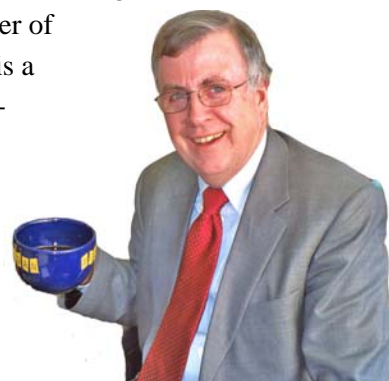
Dear Friends,

As I write these words, it's the week following Easter and I suspect many of you who are reading these words are currently on vacation, traveling near or far and hopefully being renewed for the struggles and challenges of being servant leaders. I trust that all of us had a Lenten season that deepened our faith and renewed both our capacity for, as well as commitment to, a transformational ministry.

My time serving as Dean of the Cabinet is drawing to a close and a new Dean will be elected and announced at our Annual Conference in Adrian later this month. It has been a singular honor to be entrusted to this position of leadership... even as it has meant even more meetings for me, more time away from Mary and more conversations with other leaders in the Conference... and beyond.

At the end of my term as Dean, I will be taking advantage of a Renewal Leave, as provided for in ¶ 425 of the 2008 Book of Discipline. I will be taking off for the entire months of June, July and August for the purpose of renewal and reflection. As a way of living into that time, Mary and I have made reservations for a 16-day trip to visit England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. We will also spend a great deal time up north near our family home near Traverse City... and perhaps see if there is a class that might be especially appropriate for my ministry at my alma mater, The Iliff School of Theology in Denver. There are classes during the summer both on the Denver campus and in Aspen.

From time-to-time, I am asked if I am enjoying being a District Superintendent... and I can honestly report that I am indeed doing so! To be sure, some days are more "fun" or invigorating than others... but is that really different than what you might say? I can certainly attest that being a Superintendent is different than being the "Dean of the 'Sidewalk Cabinet'", as I was for a number of years. But that's another column! Being a Superintendent is a different ministry, calling for some different skills and perspectives, than serving a congregation... but it still involves being faithful to the Gospel... listening carefully to God's "still small voice" (and that of others) ... balancing competing claims for your attention and devotion, multi-tasking and seeking to



- continued -

*Macaulay's Musings*

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

maintain some balance with one's family, calling and being a citizen of the community... and world.

As always, I look forward to hearing any feedback you might offer. I look forward to being with you and seeing many of you in Adrian. May the spirit of the Risen Christ continue to animate your soul and be at the core of who you are and what you do.

Shalom,



Tom Macaulay  
District Superintendent

## The Arbor Vine

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

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



# *Annual Conference starts May 14*

## **Bishop's Seat Cover Project**

Bishop Keaton has asked the Detroit Annual Conference to collect "seat covers" for children and youth throughout the conference. To participate:

Collect new underwear at your church;

Count the packages, pack them neatly, and bring them to annual conference;

Deliver them to the CCOM Ministry Fair Seat Cover display and sign the poster with your church's name and number of seat covers;

Let Rev. Alicea Williams (810-985-8107 or [alwharpist30@yahoo.com](mailto:alwharpist30@yahoo.com)) know if you would like to distribute seat covers to an organization within your district

Please contact the Rev. Alicea Williams (810-985-8107 or [alwharpist30@yahoo.com](mailto:alwharpist30@yahoo.com)) with any questions.

## **Wear Your Camp Shirt Day is May 16**

For those of you at Annual Conference, Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup> has been designated as "Wear Your Camp Shirt Day." Show your support for United Methodist Camps! A limited number of shirts will be available at the hospitality tent for \$5. Even if you are not attending Annual Conference you can join in on the fun and show others you support United Methodist camping!

Remember to print your own materials from the Conference website:  
[www.umc-detconf.org](http://www.umc-detconf.org)

## **Detroit Conference Clergy Spouses**

The Luncheon at Annual Conference, noon to 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. Tickets will not be available at the door, so pick them up at registration.

For more Information: Email President, Bonnie Christler @ [kbchristler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kbchristler@sbcglobal.net).

## **The Haiti Container Project**

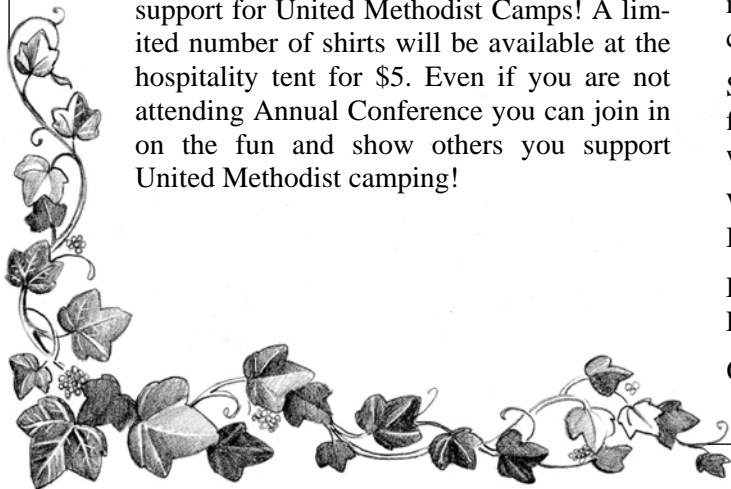
The Annual Conference is again accepting donations for Haiti. The Haiti Container contributions are limited to basic UMCOR kits. We also collect choir and pastor robes, and used eye glasses in a case. These all must be in new or good condition. Your church may also purchase medicine boxes.

See the front page of the Conference website for specific information:  
[www.umc-detconf.org](http://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](mailto:crawford_margier@hotmail.com)



## Have you considered?

A church in another state reports that they are beginning a weekly Open House for the community. They will open their doors for about an hour and a half on Saturday mornings to give their neighbors a chance to come in, look around, and learn a little bit more about the church—about both the historic building and the congregation. Surely this will make it easier for people to come back on Sunday mornings.

## The May Meeting Schedule for the District Superintendent

May 13	9:00 a.m.	Cabinet Meetings
May 14-17		Annual Conference
May 18		Office closed
May 19	9:30 a.m.	Call for Church Conference dates
May 21	9:00 a.m.	One-to-One Meetings
May 25		Office closed
May 26-28	9:00 a.m.	One-to-One Meetings

*Tom's personal day is Friday.*

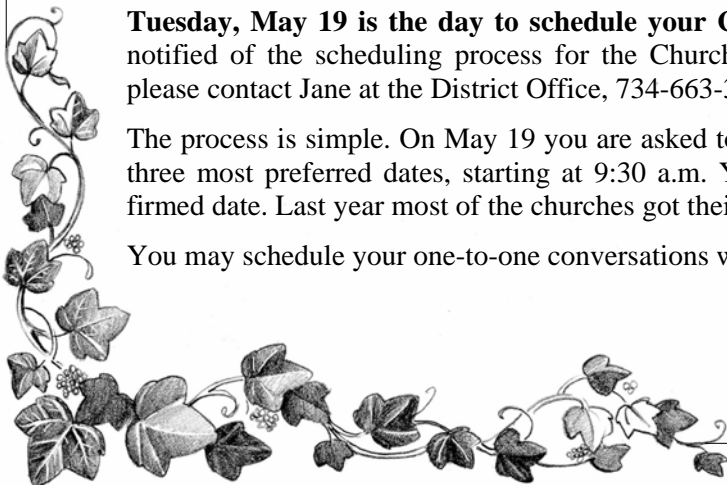
*Tom Macaulay will be away from the office on renewal leave this summer from June 1 to August 31. His last day in the office is May 28.*

## Scheduling Church Conferences

**Tuesday, May 19 is the day to schedule your Church Conference.** All Pastors have been notified of the scheduling process for the Church Conferences. If you have any questions, please contact Jane at the District Office, 734-663-3939.

The process is simple. On May 19 you are asked to call or email the District Office with your three most preferred dates, starting at 9:30 a.m. You will be contacted later with your confirmed date. Last year most of the churches got their first or second choice.

You may schedule your one-to-one conversations with the District Superintendent at any time.



## 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.

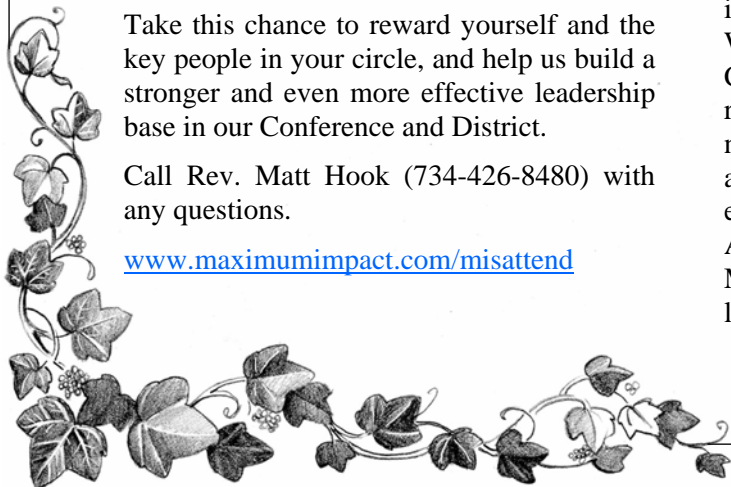
[www.maximumimpact.com/misattend](http://www.maximumimpact.com/misattend)

## New Minister to Handicapped, Elderly, and Infirm

Belleville First United Methodist Church is pleased to announce that Sandra Cannaday-Fransioli has accepted the position of Minister to the Handicapped, Elderly, and Infirm, which is jointly funded by the Ann Arbor District and Belleville FUMC. This ministry was established in 1953 by the first United Methodist ordained paraplegic pastor. Today, the primary focus of this ministry is to serve the elderly who are in 18 local residential care facilities. Typically, each month, five chapel services are conducted, and over 100 residents are individually visited. Also, those residents in hospice—who are either United Methodist or who have no religious affiliation and wish spiritual care—receive individual attention. If you have any questions about this vital ministry, feel free to contact Sandra at Belleville FUMC 734-697-9288.

## Special Liberia Task Force Meeting

**Thursday, May 28, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the Milan Marble Memorial UMC** in the fellowship hall. A soup and sandwich supper will be served by our hosts at the Milan Church, Jim and Nancy Nagel. We will be honored to have a guest speaker—Beatrice Gbanga, GBGM missionary currently serving as the Health Projects Coordinator in West Africa, including the Liberia Annual Conference. She is originally from Liberia. Please take advantage of this opportunity to meet Beatrice, if you haven't already, as she will be itinerating around our conference during the month of May and will be at Annual Conference. Please R.S.V.P. by Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> to Laura Speiran at Saline UMC—734-429-4730.



# 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](http://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.

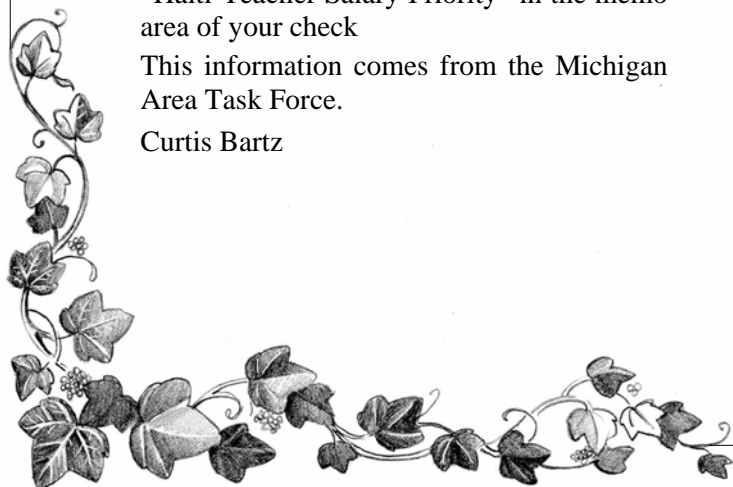
Curtis Bartz

## West Side Records a Music CD

More than 100 people from West Side UMC have professionally recorded a music CD. It includes our Praise Band, Bell Choir, Adult choir, Children's choir, Sunday School Children, Youth Choir, and all congregational song, solos, duets, several instruments including; English horn, French horn, flute, drums, guitars, marimba, piano and recorder.

The music CD idea was developed by Mary Marzec from a sermon given by Pastor Tracy. and was supported not only by the Christian Education Endowment Fund but by all the committees and council of the church.

"Tales of Wonder: A Musical Storytelling by West Side United Methodist Church" is for sale and can be purchased for \$15 through Mary Marzec, Director of Discipleship, at 734-663-4164. you can also go to our website [www.westside-umc.org](http://www.westside-umc.org) to learn more about the CD, the company that recorded it and to see pictures of many of the people and groups involved.



## Joanne Liles Golf Scramble

This annual fundraiser for camp scholarships will be held at the Fenton Farms Gold Club on Friday June 5. Tee off is at 9:00 a.m. Registrations are due by May 26. Sponsorships are available. Contact Jon Lawrence at 810-266-4511 or myerslake@umccamps.org.

## May 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

## 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](http://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](http://www.Find-A-Church.org)

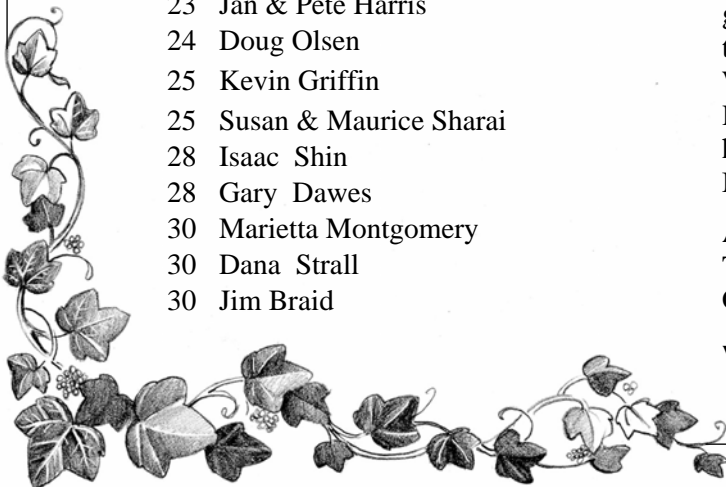
## Spiritual Leaders Conference

**From GBOD -  
"Mystery in a Nutshell: Sharing in  
God's Glory"**

As leaders in the United Methodist Church, we long to participate more in sharing in God's glory. But it is embarrassingly easy to get so involved in everyday tasks themselves that we forget the mystery of Christ in us. We forget what our work is really about. How can we deepen our own discernment of how to live as spiritual leaders in the United Methodist Church?

August 17-20  
The Retreat Center in Plymouth MI  
Cost: \$395 per person

[www.gbod.org/spiritualleaders/](http://www.gbod.org/spiritualleaders/)



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

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](http://www.LMPeaceCenter.org)

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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](mailto:info@youngleadersinitiative.org)

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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](mailto:sbeard@umd.umich.edu)

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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](http://www.scdumc.org)

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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](mailto:meckhardt@garrett.edu)

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August 17-20

## *Leading the Middle Sized Church*

To examine the increasing demands of the 100-350 attendance church

Information: [sejumc.org](http://sejumc.org)

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October 23-24

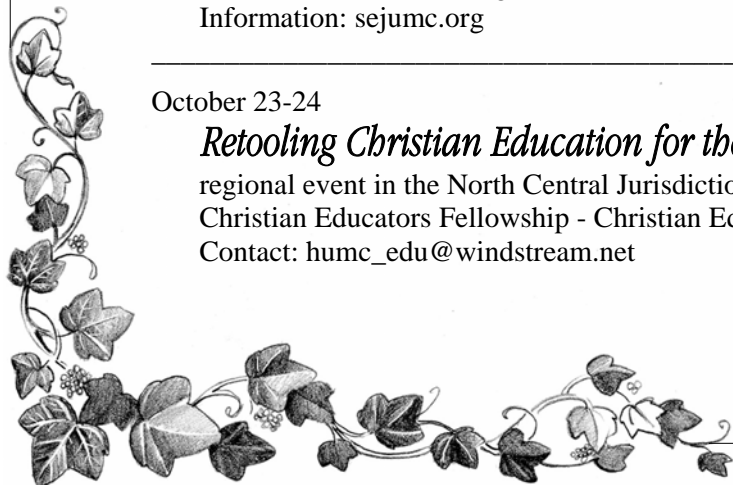
## *Retooling Christian Education for the 21st Century*

regional event in the North Central Jurisdiction in Columbus Ohio

Christian Educators Fellowship - Christian Education and Formation

Contact: [humc\\_edu@windstream.net](mailto:humc_edu@windstream.net)

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## Building Health Ministry Capacity

Save the date: Wednesday, June 10

The purpose of the Michigan Faith-Based Health Association is to equip churches and faith organizations to build capacity, train leadership, and develop strategic networking relationships to meet the health needs of children and families. They are presenting a conference on Wednesday, June 10, at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History.

[www.mihealthtools.org](http://www.mihealthtools.org)

## Lombard Mennonite Peace Center's 2009-2010 programs

These programs are designed to deepen one's grounding in family systems thinking. The program is also attended by a number of non-clergy people who function in various leadership capacities in church systems. Offerings include:

*Clergy Clinic in Family Emotional Process*

*Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders*

*Here I Stand: Leading Change Through Self-Differentiation*

For those who may be interested in deepening their understandings in conflict transformation and mediation skills or how leaders can manage self in a more differentiated manner in the midst of congregational anxieties.

## Possible Problems for Wireless Microphones

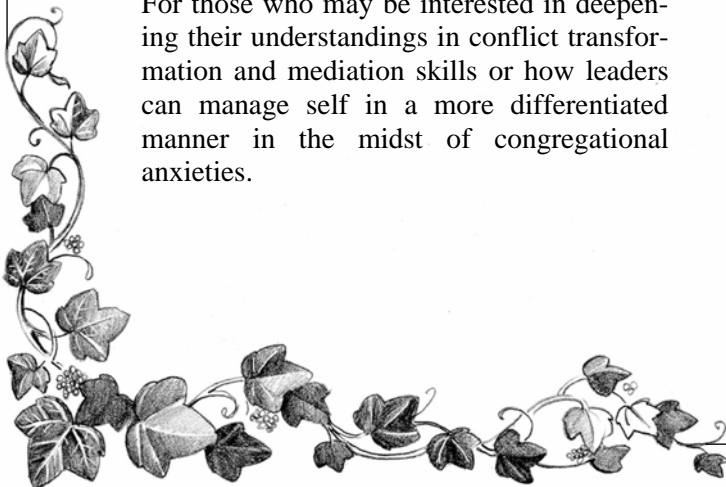
The digital television transition may affect your church's wireless microphone systems. According to the FCC, users of wireless microphone systems that operate in the 700 MHz (TV ch 52-69) band must cease all use of these systems beginning June 12, 2009. The change to digital televisions broadcasting has caused the FCC to reassign the UHF 700 MHz band used by some wireless microphone systems. This means that wireless microphone system users in the 700 MHz band are legally required to stop using their systems on June 12. See the Notice of Proposed Rule-making and Order (24 pages) "[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edoc\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-08-188A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edoc_public/attachmatch/FCC-08-188A1.pdf)."

Your wireless system manufacturer may be offering their customers a trade-in and trade-up wireless promotion.

## 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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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](mailto:pastor.wbumc@sbcglobal.net)



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