

# The Arbor Vine

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



Dear Friends,

Growing up in Michigan, I often heard the phrase, “When the nation catches a cold (economically), Michigan gets pneumonia.” We can certainly now expand the focus of this phrase to include the world. Recent weeks have seen economic chaos erupt around the globe and its stock markets, resulting in a downturn in profits for many firms, the credit crunch, the continuing and escalation of home foreclosures to name but a few of the arenas to which we can point as a part of our collective dilemma.

## *Macaulay's Musings*

I write you, as clergy and lay leaders of the Ann Arbor District, out of a pastoral concern for you as you lead your congregations. As I write these words, I'm not quite halfway through the Church Conference schedule for this year. Yet most all of the churches have noted how the state of our economy is impacting their ministries, almost all of it negatively. Many are anxious about the current reality, and believing it will likely deteriorate even more before it improves significantly. In such times, it is natural to “circle the wagons” and protect ourselves, resulting in “cutting back” rather than “opening up”.

I understand such tendencies, for they're pretty natural, pretty normal. Yet I'd also point out that through the centuries, the Church has been at its best when life's circumstances pose their greatest challenge to us in the Body of Christ. What are the resources on which we can draw for courage, for faith, for the counter-intuitive response of reaching out in new and creative ways with a word of hope, financial resources that stretch us today in order to help others even closer to “the edge” than you and I and model a faithful way of responding in times of unprecedented need? It seems clear to me that the Connection of our beloved United Methodist Church makes it possible to bear witness to Christ's will for all in such a time as this. How will we respond?

I'm aware these words may be difficult to read... much less make incarnate. Believe me when I say they are not intended to add pressure to your already stressed-out lives. Instead, they are an invitation to engage in some creative problem-solving with colleagues and friends, co-servants of Christ of yours, engage in study of scriptures for a “new” way of looking at the eternal dilemma of responding in new and hopeful ways in a time that feels old, threatening and perhaps more than a bit overwhelming. The answers are neither easy nor automatic. But I believe that with God's help, and our collective imagination, Christ can show us a way... even when there may seem to be no way.

- continued -

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

Let me offer one example for you to consider. The format will vary, depending on the size of your congregation. Given the many people who have lost jobs recently in our state, consider having a “Job Fair” in which companies who are looking for employees may be able to “link” with people who are seeking jobs. You could hold this in your church hall... and then let people know if they are interested that they can adjourn to your sanctuary and have someone pray with them... or they could pray by themselves in silence. Large-membership churches may be able to offer this for their own membership and/or community. Medium-sized congregations might be able to do it... or choose to partner with another congregation in their community (perhaps even do so ecumenically). Small-membership churches may find it helpful to partner with nearby churches (either United Methodist or not). Perhaps you could identify other ways to help.

I trust that you will indeed receive these as words of encouragement and hope as you serve Christ with those whom you serve and explore together how Christ might be encouraging you to minister creatively in such tumultuous times as these. As always, I invite your feedback and response. May the One who called you encourage and empower you this day... and for the days yet to come.

Sincerely,



Tom Macaulay

### Michigan Area Resource Center News

The Michigan Area Resource Center newsletter is now available online at: [www.marc-web.org](http://www.marc-web.org). They have new and useful offerings with each newsletter.

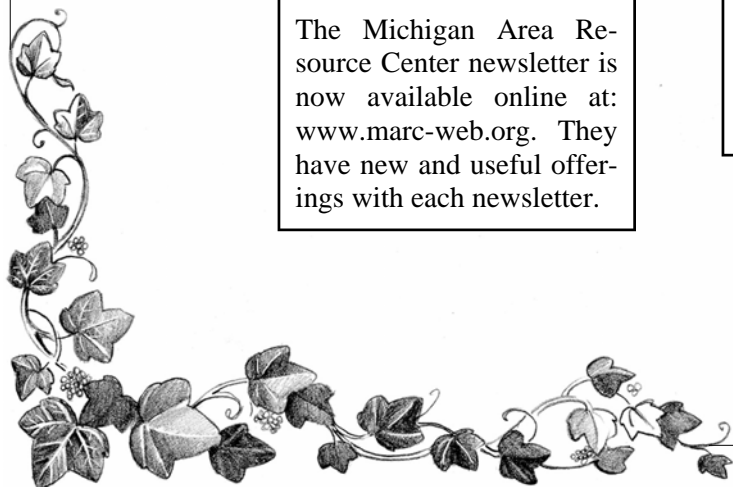
## The Arbor Vine

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

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Jane Pollock, Editor

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



# The November Schedule for the District Superintendent

## During November - 19 Church Conferences

Nov 4	1:00 p.m.	Conference Council on Ministries Personnel Com.
Nov 6	1:00 p.m.	Conference Council on Ministries Personnel Com.
Nov 18	9:30 a.m.	Program Committee
Nov 21	8:30 a.m.	United Methodist Retirement Communities Board
Nov 25	10:00 a.m.	Cabinet Meeting
Nov 27-28		Office Closed

*Tom's personal day is Friday.*

## 2008 Local Church Report

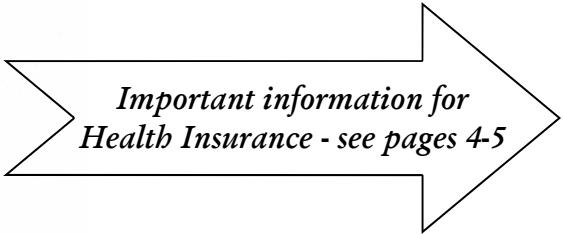
In mid November a letter will be mailed to each congregation concerning the 2008 local church report. At the bottom of this letter will be your username and password for that church's online account at <http://www.eagle.gcfa.org>. Should you not receive this letter by December 1<sup>st</sup> and/or if you need a paper copy of your 2008 local church report, please contact me immediately.

Your conference voucher appears online at: <http://www.umconline.org/detroit>. To log in you will need your GCFA number and your Detroit Conference number preceded by two zeros. (See page 7 for information on the conference voucher.)

Rev. Brent L. Webster  
Conference Statistician

248-851-2330

[pastor.wbumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pastor.wbumc@sbcglobal.net)



*Important information for  
Health Insurance - see pages 4-5*

# Health Insurance Open Enrollment December 2008

Clergy - Are you eligible for conference health insurance, or need to add your spouse or family to your existing policy?

Local churches – Do you plan to provide the conference health insurance benefit for a current employee(s)?

**Open enrollment in The Detroit Annual Conference Group Health Insurance Plan is available only once a year. All applications for open enrollment must be processed during the month of December for an effective date of January 1, 2009.**

Health insurance is available for full time (30 hours) clergy and staff of United Methodist Churches and related agencies. An overview of the conference plan and policy can be found on pages 121-124 of the 2008 Conference Journal. It is essential to understand eligibility requirements, *especially as they relate to clergy disability and retirement.*

Local churches or agencies providing health insurance to their employees through the conference health plan are reminded that local policies cannot supersede established conference policies as indicated on the above pages. (example: A full time employee will be insured on the date of hire and must be enrolled within 30 days of their date of eligibility. Thus, a local church could not institute a three month waiting period before benefits begin, or else the employee must wait until the next open enrollment period.)

## 2009 HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM RATES

Annual health insurance premiums for 2009 will be:

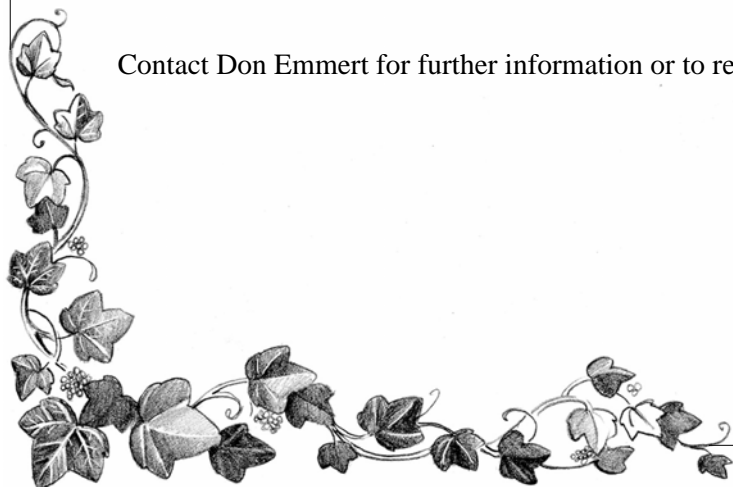
One Person	\$8,880
Two Person	\$17,760
Family	\$20,964

**Premium cost sharing for clergy/conference staff participants ranges from 5%-11% of the total premium based on the participant's salary level. The premium cost sharing chart is available on the annual conference website, through the district offices, or the conference benefits officer.**

Annual premiums for the optional vision coverage will be:

One Person	\$144
Two Person	\$204
Family	\$360

Contact Don Emmert for further information or to request an enrollment packet.



# Important Health Insurance Information for Current Participants, Active & Retired

**VISION:** Vision coverage is an optional plan and therefore ***all participants must complete an enrollment form every year in order to enroll or to continue in the vision program.*** In other words, participants in the vision plan during 2008 will not be automatically continued in 2009. Rather, their vision coverage will be terminated December 31, 2008 unless they re-enroll for 2009. An enrollment form will be sent to all current health plan participants from AdminPro in November. Please complete and return the form by December 7, 2008 in order to allow sufficient time for processing. In accordance with our plan agreement the insurance company will no longer process late enrollments, so enrollment requests submitted after the beginning of the year will not be accepted. ***Participants who elect to waive vision coverage are also requested to return the vision form*** indicating their election to waive coverage in order to avoid potential confusion and to provide required documentation for the insurance files. Thank you in advance for your assistance and cooperation.

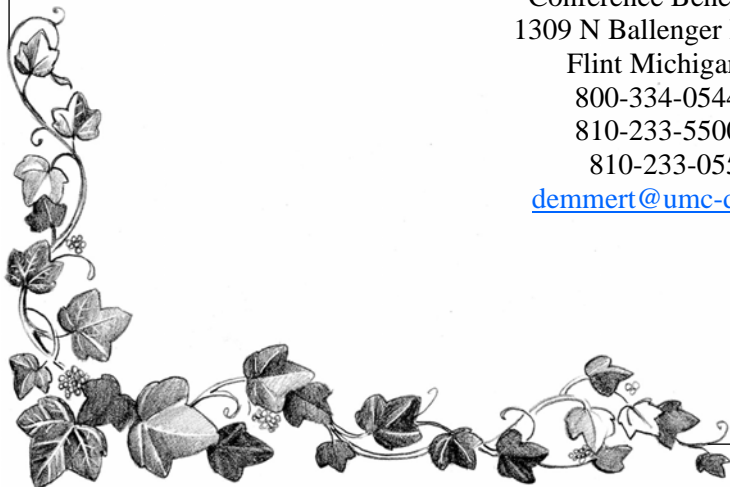
**CHANGES IN FAMILY STATUS:** Any changes in family status during the year (additions, terminations, births, marriage, adoption) must be communicated to the Conference Benefits Officer within 30 days of the date the change occurs. Any delay in notification could have an impact on eligibility.

**FAMILY CONTINUATION:** Insurance companies require proof of college enrollment for all dependents age 19-25 who will continue on a subscriber's plan in 2009. Participants must provide verification (i.e. registration form, billing statement, letter from registrar) indicating the dependent's name and enrollment as a full time student (12 hours) ***for winter semester 2009.*** ***Verification of enrollment for the current year 2008 will not work.*** Participants with dependents in this category should be receiving a letter from the Conference Benefits Officer in November requesting this information as soon as it becomes available. If a request is not received by the end of November, please contact the CBO immediately.

**MEDICARE PRIMARY AT AGE 65:** If you or your spouse are turning age 65 next year, you must supply photocopy(ies) of your Medicare cards to the Conference Benefits Officer in order to accurately process your coordination of benefits. Failure to do so will almost certainly result in a major delay in the proper payment of future claims.

For further information contact:

Rev Donald J Emmert, DAC  
Conference Benefits Officer  
1309 N Ballenger Hwy Suite 1  
Flint Michigan 48504  
800-334-0544 x 353  
810-233-5500 x 353  
810-233-0558 fax  
[demmert@umc-detconf.org](mailto:demmert@umc-detconf.org)



## Join a VIM Team

*This period of economic uncertainty may be just the time to make a concrete contribution to someone else's well being.*

### **Cedar Rapids, Iowa – November**

Tom Darling from the Board of Global Ministries and Pastor Judi Darling from the Livingston Circuit are putting together a VIM Team to go Cedar Rapids, Iowa, from November 16 to 22. Join them. They will work on rebuilding the area after the devastating floods.

Call Tom Darling at 248-348-9039 for more information.

### **Dulac, Louisiana – March**

FUMC Birmingham will be going back to Dulac, LA March 21-28, 2009 and would like to invite members of churches in the Detroit Conference to accompany us. Our team will be limited to 20 people. Please contact Mary Peterson at 248-258-2807 or at [mlp4776@yahoo.com](mailto:mlp4776@yahoo.com) for more information.

## Planned Giving School

This seminar is presented by the Planned Giving Resource Center of the General Board of Discipleship in Orlando Florida on January 19-22. Along with the appeal of the location and time, the goal of the school is to provide inexpensive but intensive training in this specialized field.

The School is aimed at pastors and finance laity as well as presidents of institutions such as colleges and health and welfare ministries. Renard Kolasa and Wayne Barrett are among the presenters.

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

## Come to the Well: A Retreat for Women

November 7-9

Lake Huron Retreat Center

Take time to renew, review, refresh, rejoice, re-create, re-connect, and revitalize. There is more information and a registration form:

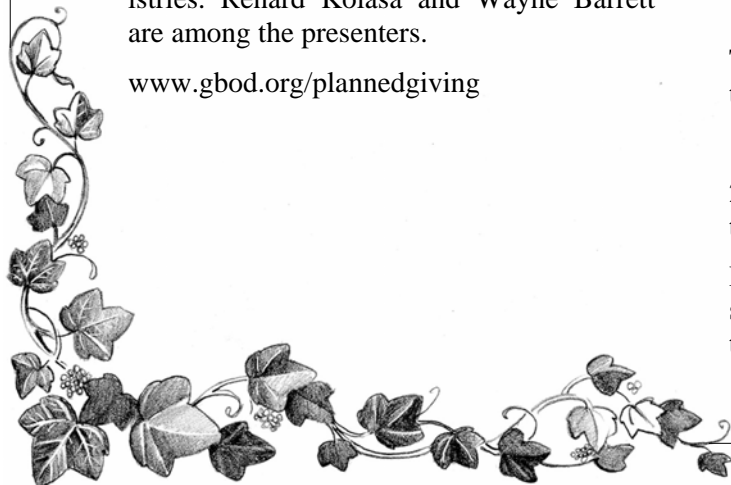
<http://lakehuronretreat.org/womensretreat.htm>.

## Conference Positions

The Detroit Area Conference has openings for two important positions:

- 1) Director of Connectional Ministries
- 2) Associate Council Director for Communications

If you have an interest in either of these positions, please request a job description from the District Office.



# Financial Reports Available Online

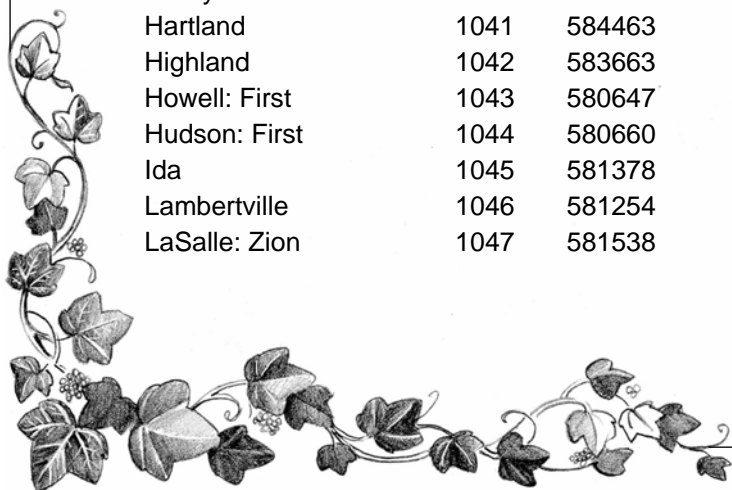
YOUR CONFERENCE VOUCHER IS ONLINE:

By going to the internet site <http://www.umconline.org/detroit> you can view your expanded conference voucher for the most recent month as well as the previous five years.

Your username is your GCFA number (see below).

Your password is your Detroit Conference church number preceded by two zeros. For example, the church number for West Bloomfield UMC is 3060. The password is 003060.

Church	DAC #	GCFA	Church	DAC #	GCFA
Adrian: First	1010	580204	Lincoln Community	1082	582214
Ann Arbor: First	1013	580225	London	1018	580784
Ann Arbor: Korean	1015	580215	Lulu	1072	581232
Ann Arbor: West Side	1016	580248	Macon	1050	580795
Azalia	1017	580578	Manchester	1051	580807
Belleville: First	1019	580261	Manchester: Sharon	1052	581573
Blissfield: Emmanuel	1020	580317	Milan: Marble Memorial	1053	580820
Blissfield: First	1021	580283	Milford	1054	584645
Brighton: First	1022	580306	Morenci	1059	580886
Britton: Grace	1023	581126	New Hudson	1060	580988
Canton: Cherry Hill	1027	580498	North Lake	1061	581004
Canton: Friendship	1127	580476	Northville: First	1062	581026
Chelsea: First	1026	580363	Novi	1063	581048
Clayton	1028	580385	Oak Grove	1064	584747
Clinton	1030	580408	Petersburg	1033	580512
Commerce	1031	583721	Pinckney: Arise	1139	580853
Deerfield	1032	580465	Plainfield	1048	580816
Denton: Faith	1034	580487	Plymouth: First	1066	581083
Dexter	1035	580523	Rollin Center	1029	581163
Dixboro	1036	580545	Salem Grove	1069	581208
Dundee	1037	580567	Saline: First	1070	581221
Erie	1038	581130	Samaria: Grace	1071	581243
Fowlerville: First	1039	584348	South Lyon: First	1073	581265
Hardy	1040	584474	Springville	1075	581287
Hartland	1041	584463	Stony Creek	1074	581323
Highland	1042	583663	Tecumseh	1076	581345
Howell: First	1043	580647	Trinity	1049	580773
Hudson: First	1044	580660	Walled Lake	1077	585183
Ida	1045	581378	Wellsville	1024	581447
Lambertville	1046	581254	Weston	1079	581482
LaSalle: Zion	1047	581538	Whitmore Lake: Wesley	1080	581527
			Ypsilanti: First	1081	581607
			Ypsilanti: St. Matthew's	1083	580556



# Connectional Grants awarded Sept. 21

## Brighton

“On behalf of the congregation of First United Methodist Church of Brighton, thank you for the \$500 Connectional Church Grant. The money has been applied toward the cost of needed parsonage repairs, which include roof, drywall and electrical repairs.

We join you in celebrating the gift of United Methodist Connectionalism. It is a source of strength of our local congregations and a testimony that we serve together as Christ’s body, the church.

God’s Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Sherry Parker

## Highland

Thank you so much for your consideration and generosity with our grant request. The Highland UMC I.T. Team is excited about your contribution to our “Server” project, and we are praying for God’s continued provision knowing He can do all things. May God bless you all even more than you bless others.

Yours in Christ,

Karie Saunders

## Church Conference forms online

This year all the Church Conference forms you need are available for download on the District website:

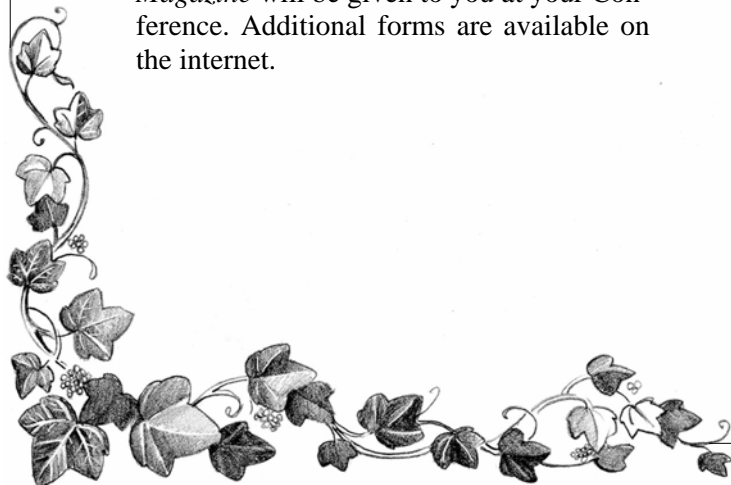
[www.gbmg-umc.org/annarbordist](http://www.gbmg-umc.org/annarbordist)

Do you need help with this? Call Jane at the District Office: 734-663-3939.

Five subscription forms for *Interpreter Magazine* will be given to you at your Conference. Additional forms are available on the internet.

## November Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 Jerry Parker
- 4 Susan Clemmer
- 5 Ross Speiran
- 5 Erin & Steve Khang
- 6 Faye McKinstry
- 7 Terrie & John Mehl
- 8 Mike Norton
- 10 Charlotte Simmons
- 11 Aaron Kesson
- 12 William Smith
- 12 Sandra Olsen
- 13 Florence Hammar
- 14 Sherry Parker
- 17 Tom Darling
- 18 Shawn & Barbara Lewis-Lakin
- 21 Barbra Franks
- 23 Ann Jacobs
- 24 Judith DeGraw
- 28 Karen & Al Bamsey
- 28 Sang Chun



# Upcoming Workshops, Seminars, & Trips

*that are not mentioned elsewhere in The Vine*

November 8, 3:30-8:00 p.m.

*Conference Council on Youth Ministries—Fall Rally*

Flint Calvary UMC, 2111 Flushing Rd., Flint MI

Contact: Laurie de la Garza 906-428-4623 or laurie.kdlg@sbcglobal.net

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November 8

*Hearts Strangely Warmed—Rekindling the Call to Make Disciples for Christ*

Sponsored by the Detroit Conference Board of Discipleship

Swartz Creek United Methodist church, 7400 Miller Rd, Swartz Creek

Registration: Rev. Lynn Hasley, 248-646-1200, lhasley@fumcbirmingham.org

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November 13-14

*Rethinking Evangelicalism—Roundtable 2008*

Sandberg Leadership Center of Ashland Seminary; Contact: Renae Osborne 419-289-5323

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November 22

*Benefit Concert for Samaritan Counseling Center of SE Michigan*

7:00 pm dessert; 8:00 pm show

Scott Wilkinson, Michael King and the Motor City Horns

First United Methodist Church Birmingham, 1589 W. Maple Rd.

Information: [www.samaritancounselingmichigan.com](http://www.samaritancounselingmichigan.com) or 248-474-4701

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January 6-7, 2009

(Fort Wayne, IN) or Jan 9-10, 2009 (Rochester MN)

*Two Coins for Justice - Urban and Rural Workshops relating to Poverty*

Keynote Speaker: Sonnye Dixon, advocate for justice, peace and reconciliation

Contact: Rev. Katherine Riley, 740-667-3351, revkriley@yahoo.com

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January 6-9

*Leading in the Wesleyan Way*

Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Nashville TN

Speakers: Bishop Robert Schnase, Mike Slaughter, Karen Greenwaldt, and more

Information: [www.CongressOnEvangelism.org](http://www.CongressOnEvangelism.org) or 828-454-6814

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May 8, 2009

*Maximum Impact Simulcast*

Motivational speakers include Jack Nicklaus, Tony Blair

Contact: Matt Hook, matt@dexterumc.org Video clip on [www.injoy.com/mis](http://www.injoy.com/mis)

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# A Mission Trip to New York City

Sponsored by Ann Arbor District United Methodist Women

***Tuesday, May 26 to Sunday, May 31, 2009***

This travel/learning experience will include:

- ❖ A day at the General Board of Global Ministries
- ❖ Staying at the Alma Matthews House, Greenwich Village
- ❖ Tour of the United Nations Building
- ❖ 6 hour seminar at the UMC Center at the UN
- ❖ Visits to churches - see mission outreach in the city
- ❖ Riding subways and buses, walking the streets of NY
- ❖ Includes some tourist and historical highlights
- ❖ Joe and Joanne Perez, excellent guides to the city
- ❖ Sunday worship at Riverside Church

**Cost: \$800** – includes airfare from Detroit to LaGuardia Airport, taxi from and to LaGuardia, ground transportation, housing, breakfasts and 5 other meals, entry fees, a Lincoln Center event, gratuities for guides and speakers. It is recommended that each participant bring along \$130 to \$150 to cover other meals and incidentals.

**Registration Deadline: December 1, 2008    Registration Deposit \$200**

Attention pastors: This N.Y.C. Mission Discovery Trip is eligible for Continuing Education Units and Continuing Education Funding. Pastors (under assignment) contact Rev. Janet Petty (248) 356-1020.

*Additional information available from:*

Nona and the Rev. David Church  
917 Dewey Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
Telephone 734-998-4798

Joanne and the Rev. Dr. Joseph A. Perez  
1330 Trenton Road  
Adrian, MI 49221-1359  
Telephone: 517-263-1807  
Cell phone: 517-902-3655917

*Last year's trip was very successful, with visits to the food pantry at St. Paul and St. Andrew (250 people fed each day), the UN Peace Center, the General Board of Global Ministries, plus entertainment and much more.*



## REGISTRATION FORM

Mail \$200 deposit with registration form by December 1, 2008  
To: Shirley Ehnis, Treasurer, 1137 Michigan Ave., Adrian, MI 49221  
Telephone: 517-263-0057 (after 6:00 P.M.)  
Make out checks to: Ann Arbor District United Methodist Women  
(No refunds, substitutions only)

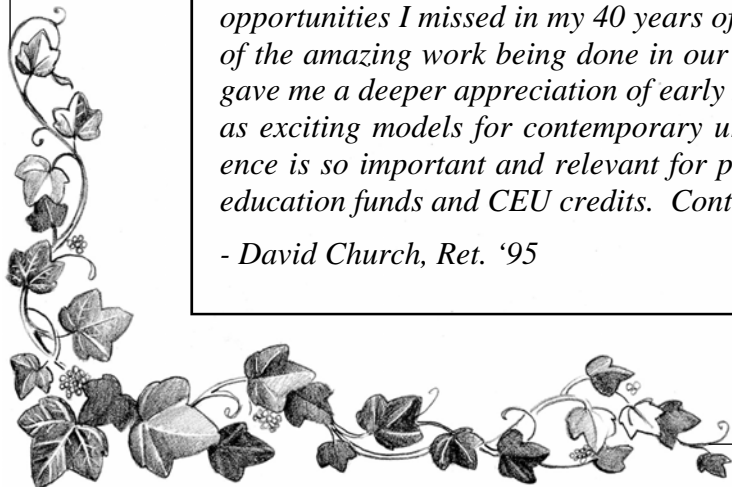
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Local church \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_  
Single Room yes no Or Double Room yes no  
Room mate \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Health Needs \_\_\_\_\_  
In case of emergency please notify \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is the registration fee of \$200 Year of Birth 19\_\_\_\_  
If my registration is not in the first 23,  
please add my name to the Waiting List. Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

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Important Dates: Before December 1 .....\$200  
February 1 .....\$200  
March 1 .....\$200  
May 1 .....\$200

### A Retired Pastor's Reflections on the New York Mission Trip

*I wish I'd had this New York experience early in my ministry. What a difference it would have made in my efforts to interpret United Methodist work at home and abroad to the churches I served. The experience also revealed my vast ignorance of the General Board of Global Ministries, especially the creative and courageous work of the Women's Division. I regret the many opportunities I missed in my 40 years of ministry to inform my congregations of the amazing work being done in our name with our money. The trip also gave me a deeper appreciation of early Methodist history in America, as well as exciting models for contemporary urban ministry. This learning experience is so important and relevant for pastors that it qualifies for continuing education funds and CEU credits. Contact Rev. Janet Petty for details.*

*- David Church, Ret. '95*



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Ann Arbor MI 48103

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**The Arbor Vine**

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**– Attention Youth Leaders –**

CHRYSALIS 2009 IS COMING...  
GIRLS FLIGHT Feb. 20-22. . . .BOYS FLIGHT Mar. 6-8

Do you want your youth to experience a weekend of lively faith growth?  
Chrysalis offers spiritual renewal to young people  
through a three-day experience.

To learn more, check out the National Video on-line at

<http://www.upperroom.org/chrysalis>

For a visit to your youth group contact  
Jeff Poiner 248-624-7261 or Don Phillips 810-513-9142

For more information contact Vicky Metters 248-858-2236

Registrations for Chrysalis of Southeast Michigan:  
<http://www.emmaussem.org/Chrysalis1.htm>

**ACT NOW...REGISTRATION IS LIMITED**