

The Arbor Vine

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



Dear Friends,

Death claimed the life of a dear friend in early September. Her name? Mary Ann Huntington, who was a long-time member of First Church in Lincoln Park, where I served as pastor from 1984-90. Mary Ann was for many, many years a very active and enthusiastic supporter of The United Methodist Women, mission work (both locally and globally) and her congregation. Our family called her “Grandma Mary Ann” because she just adored our daughter Jane,

Macaulay’s Musings

who was but nine months old when we moved to Lincoln Park from Carleton. Every year at Easter, she and her husband, Larry, would buy Jane an Easter dress. They had been blessed with three boys and when the Huntingtons and Macaulays first met, something indescribable yet instantly palpable “clicked”. To this day, we cherish “Grandpa Larry” and “Uncles Dave, Larry and Don”. And we honor her memory and the gift her life was to us... and so many .

At one level, people die every day. The sun still rises in the east and sets in the west, the birds still sing their songs and the seasons continue in their God-ordained course. In another sense, the death of those we love leave a seemingly giant chasm in our lives. We wonder how we’ll go on. We wonder if the birds’ songs will ever again sound so sweet... question if the sunsets will still take our breaths away... wonder if we’ll ever laugh again with such abandon.

Mary Ann juggled many roles: daughter – wife – friend - mom – church member – PEO member – grandma – great-grandma – supporter of missions – encourager of pastors, especially female pastors – community supporter to name just some. All of which leads me to invite us to ask ourselves a few questions; questions that may be unsettling for some of us, yet nevertheless critical questions, I believe.

- * For what do I want to be remembered in my life? What changes, if any, do I need to make for that to be so?
- * What are the top three values in my life? Be honest, now.
- * How is the world better for my time on earth?

- continued -

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

* What is the single most important change I need to make in my life, as I reflect on the Gospel's values?

* What are the questions you would raise?

As we move from summer into fall, as the Church year's pace quickens, as we scurry from meeting to meeting, let me invite each of us leaders in the District and the Conference to reflect on these... or similar... questions. Not to be "bleak", but to examine our lives in the light of Christ's spirit and to take the risk for some temporary pain in order to gain a richer, fuller, more humane, more Christ-like life. May it be so. And as always, feel free to contact me with any questions/comments. May the spirit of Christ continue to bless you and yours for the cause of the Reign of God.

Shalom,



Tom Macaulay

Michigan Area Resource Center News

The Michigan Area Resource Center newsletter is now available online at: 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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Website: www.gbgn-umc.org/annarbordist/

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



The October Schedule for the District Superintendent

October - 16 Church Conferences

Oct 9	8:30 a.m.	District Com. on Ordained Ministry
Oct 14	10:00 a.m.	Cabinet Meetings
Oct 15	9:00 a.m.	Cabinet Meetings
Oct 16	10:00 a.m.	Area Ministry Team
Oct 21	9:30 a.m.	District Board of Missions Executive Com.
Oct 25		UMW Conference in Sault Ste. Marie
Oct 30	7:00 p.m.	Lay Speaking Committee

Tom's personal day is Friday.

Items for Local Church Discussion

Your church has received a packet with the resolutions that were set aside at Annual Conference. You can review and discuss these legislative pieces on the Conference website:

www.umc-detconf.org

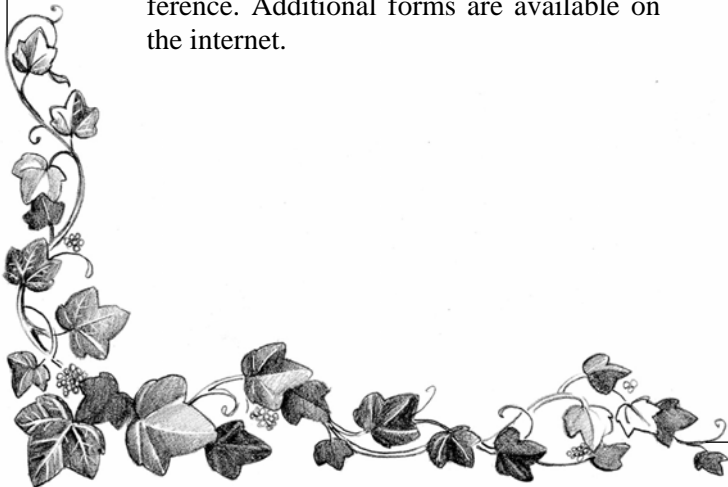
Church Conference forms online

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

www.gbgm-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.



You missed something great

The annual District Conference was held on September 21 in Plymouth. There was a small amount of business, but the rest of the meeting was filled with reports on the awesome mission work being done by people in this District, and mission work being planned for the future.

Mission work at home, in other parts of the country and around the world.

Feeding people, rebuilding homes and churches, supporting the Church in Africa.

And all presented with simplicity and modesty.

If you want to develop more mission awareness in your church, come to this meeting next year and watch these models of generosity and commitment.

New Chairperson for DCOM

At the District Annual Meeting, James Walker was appointed to be the new chairperson of the District Council on Ministries. Jim is the pastor at Belleville: First United Methodist Church. Contact him at 734-697-9288 with your ideas, suggestions, and volunteer help.

Web Site Workshop

Saturday, Nov. 1, 9:00-3:00

Mt. Pleasant First UMC

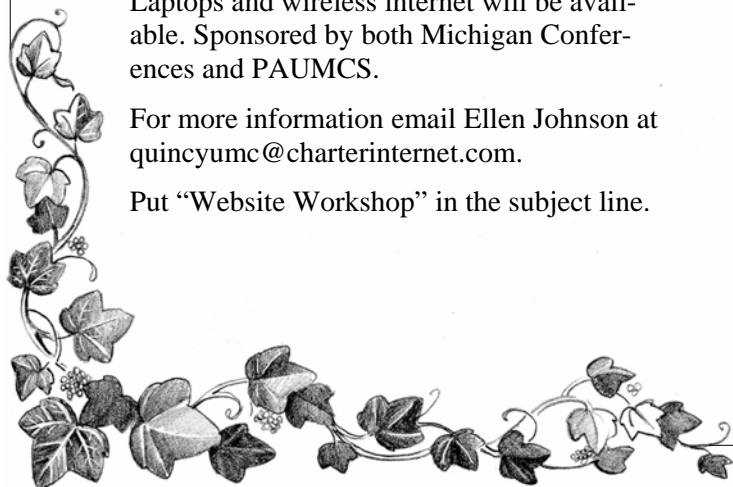
\$40 per person includes lunch

Learn how to create and maintain a website from Cheryl Hemerle, from General Conference United Methodist Communications.

Laptops and wireless internet will be available. Sponsored by both Michigan Conferences and PAUMCS.

For more information email Ellen Johnson at quincyumc@charterinternet.com.

Put "Website Workshop" in the subject line.



A Message from the Conference Statistician

Financial reports online

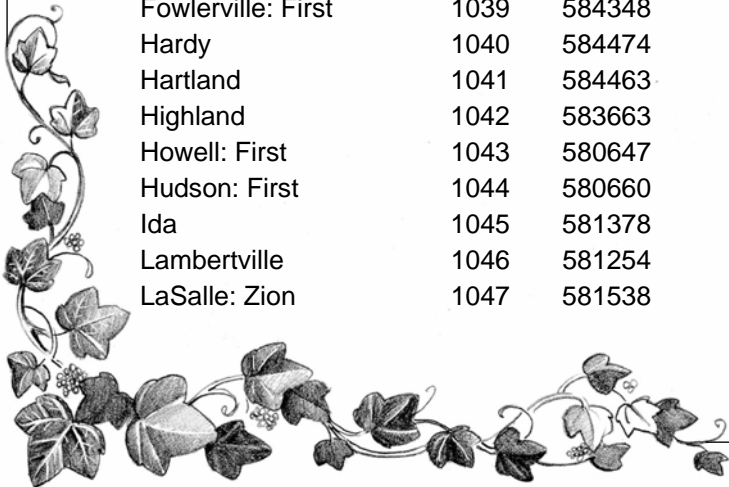
YOUR CONFERENCE VOUCHER IS ONLINE:

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



United Methodist Women Detroit Conference Annual Meeting

Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan October 24-25, 2008

UMW chartered trip includes:

Round trip transportation on deluxe highway Quad motor coach, escort, 2 meals* (1 lunch, 1 breakfast), 1 night accommodation and transfers, great Christian fellowship and fall beauty in northern Michigan.

\$125.00 Double - \$115.00 Triple - \$195.00 Single

Join the fun and fellowship as we travel by charter coach to Sault Ste. Marie, MI to the Detroit Conference Annual Meeting at Central United Methodist Church.

The 2008 theme is "CALLED INTO GOD'S MISSION: SHARING OUR GIFTS."

Our speaker will be Glory E. Dharmaraj, a native of Sri Lanka. She is director of spiritual formation and mission theology for the Women's Division of the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries.

More information is on the website: www.gb-gm-umc.org/detcumw/AMBusTrip08.pdf

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

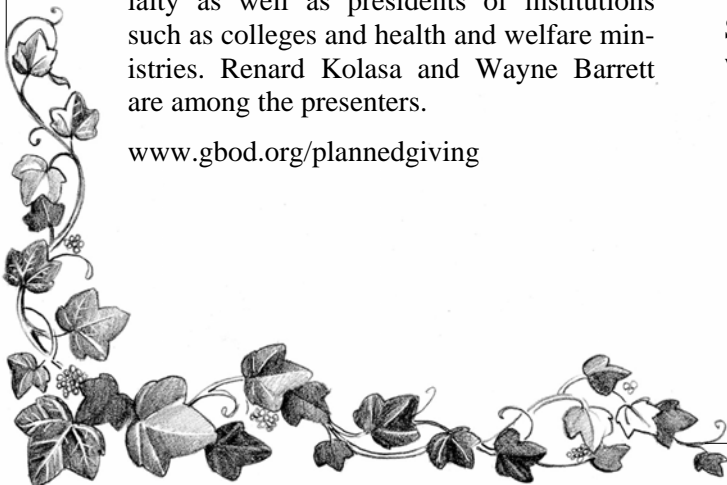
Substance Abuse Training

The General Board of Global ministries is sponsoring a two part training on substance abuse at Arlington Heights UMC in Arlington Heights IL.

The first part of the training is for Leaders, and will be held on Thursday, Oct. 30. It is followed by Team Training on March 27-28.

Deadline for registration is October 17.

See their website for more information at www.umspasrv.org.



Help for Depression

In October, Samaritan Counseling Services, an outpatient mental health clinic partnering with area congregations to provide quality, faith-sensitive psychotherapy, is offering free depression screenings.

Depression can affect the whole body and impact others around you. Symptoms may be as a result of an imbalance of brain chemicals that help nerve cells control mood and communicate with other bodily systems. Contributing factors may include stress or loss, medication changes, medical illnesses, as well as certain personality traits and genetic factors. If you are feeling persistently sad, anxious, empty, or have feelings of hopelessness or pessimism, have lost interest or pleasure in ordinary activities, have decreased energy, trouble concentrating or making decisions, experience restlessness or irritability, trouble with sleeping or eating, and/or thoughts of suicide, you may be clinically depressed. Help is available. Call 734-677-0609, x 0 for a screening appointment and to explore treatment options.

Leadership Grants

Are you or someone else you know looking for grants for leadership development? If so, you may want to check out the new process and information on grants from the Foundation on Evangelism at www.foundationforevangelism.org/grants. Proposals need to fit within their definition of evangelism which is “to help all persons experience God’s transforming love through Jesus Christ”.

Correction for the District Directory

Please make an additional correction to your District Directory for a retired clergy person in our district, and member of Dixboro Church:

Martha Bell
4298 Hillside
Ann Arbor MI 48105
734-213-0443

Multimedia Blues?

Does multimedia worship sound complicated? Does your church want to expand its media options but is not sure how to do it?

1) Consultation

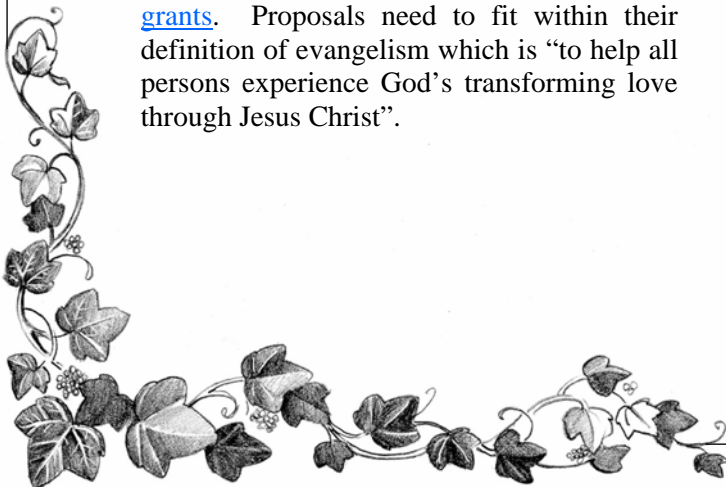
Dennis Just, an experience technology worker and also a member of the District Board of Missions is willing to consult with churches on their technology needs, including multimedia development.

2) Seminar

A two-day seminar on Creative Worship Technology and Designing Worship Images will be held at the Millville UMC on November 7 and 8. Len Wilson and Jason Moore are teaching professional design techniques in a team model. Information is on their website: www.midnightoilproductions.com.

3) Free PowerPoint

You may remember Rev. Dorothy Okray, recently retired pastor from the Morenci church. She has developed a new website at <http://churchpowerpoint.com>. This website offers good quality ecumenical, lectionary based PowerPoint presentations for worship services without charge. Try out this generous and useful ministry.



October Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Bonnie Frey
- 1 Jerry Hunter
- 1 Virnelle & Charles Cookingham
- 2 Deane Wyllys
- 2 Doris White
- 4 Allen Lewis
- 6 Robert Huffman
- 7 King Hanna
- 8 Craig Pillow
- 12 James Cochran
- 13 Kathy Groff
- 13 Robert Long & Joy Barrett
- 15 Lisa Cook
- 17 Sandy Tannery
- 17 Steve Buck
- 19 Pamela Kail
- 19 Kim Momany
- 19 Jane Johnston
- 20 Karla & Doug Paterson
- 20 Dale & Beth Titus
- 21 Loretta & Larry Job
- 22 Dave Wichert
- 22 Pamela Kummer
- 23 Gil Miller
- 25 Chuck Jacobs
- 25 Karla Paterson
- 25 Maria & Aaron Kesson
- 26 Joyce & Edward Weiss
- 28 Susan Hurst
- 29 Larry Wik
- 30 Mark Smith

Liberia Consultation

Operation Classroom, an arm of the UMC that sends educational materials to Liberia and Sierra Leone, is hosting a "Consultation on Liberia" on Friday, October 31st, 2008 at the Troy First United Methodist Church, 6363 Livernois Rd., Troy, MI48098-1598, ph. 248-879-6363.

This annual event is usually held in Indiana, so we are thrilled that it is so close! There is also a Consultation on Sierra Leone on Thursday, October 30th. Please save the date.

More information regarding start and end times, lunch arrangements, etc. will be forthcoming (last year it was 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.). The bishops of Liberia and Sierra Leone are expected to attend, as well as other significant leaders from their conferences.

If you are considering attending, and are not familiar with Operation Classroom, I encourage you to visit their website (www.operationclassroom.org) and learn about what they do. Much of the consultation is hearing reports from different leaders of projects, and it helps if you know what they are talking about ahead of time.

For more information, please contact Laura Speiran, Ann Arbor District Liberia Task Force Chairperson

Come to the Well: A Retreat for Women

November 7-9 at the 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 at <http://lakehuronretreat.org/womensretreat.htm>.



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

Wednesday, Oct 8

The Spiritual Life of Children Living with Serious Illness

Robert Coles, MD; Kellogg Center, MSU; <http://chmfamilymedicaine.msu.edu>

Thursday, October 16

Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times

An evening with Peter Steinke, author

Trinity Lutheran Church, 1400 W. Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor

\$15 before Oct. 15, \$20 at the door; Register: 734-677-0609

Monday, October 20

“Living the Sacred” - UMC Mission School of the North

Gaylord UMC, registration deadline Oct. 13

Contact: Linda Andersen, Garrett Seminary, 1-800-SEMINARY

November 13-14

Rethinking Evangelicalism—Roundtable 2008

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

November 13-23, 2008

Cruise into History

11-day Cruise with Bishop Jonathan Keaton; Contact: Rev. Ann Emerson at 810-327-6272

Jan 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, lead pastor at Hobson UMC in Nashville, and vocal advocate for justice, peace and reconciliation

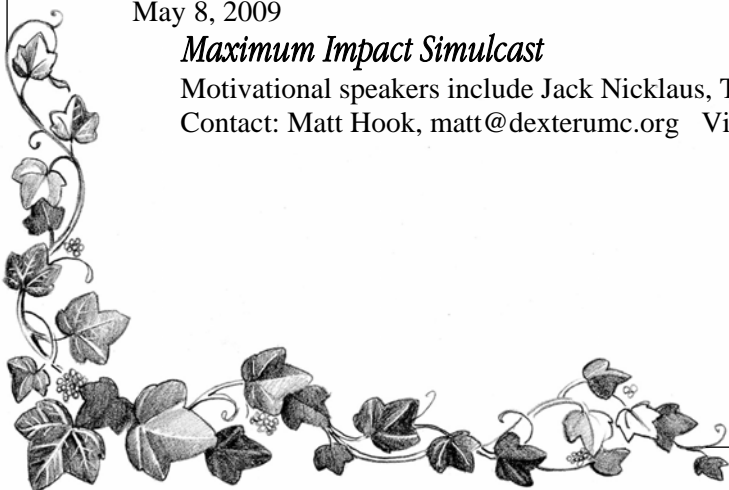
Contact: Rev. Katherine Riley, 740-667-3351, revkriley@yahoo.com

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



Come Join Us Again for
The Haiti
Dinner Buffet

Saturday, October 18, 2008, 5:30 p.m.

Program:
Valerie Mossman-Celestin,
U.S. project coordinator for
“Haitian Artisans for Peace International”

First United Methodist Church - Ypsilanti
209 Washtenaw, Corner of Washington

Directions: 1-94 to Ypsilanti exit 183, north on Huron St.
to Washtenaw (2 blocks north of Mich. Ave.), left 2 blocks to the church

Authentic Haitian dishes
Homemade Desserts

A benefit for
The Haiti School Project

Sponsored by
The Michigan Area Haiti Task Force and
First United Methodist Church of Ypsilanti

Donation: \$20 Children: 11 and under \$8

For information and tickets call: Curtis Bartz 313-278-4849



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