



Briefly

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

•**Part-time Administrative Assistant**, approximately 20 hours per week.

•**Part-time Youth Director**, Sr. High Youth, grades 9-12.

•**Part-time Nursery Worker**, for Sunday mornings.

Contact: Pastor, **Bemis UMC**, 23 N. Massachusetts St., Jackson, TN 38301. Phone 731-422-4997; email: twobirds@aeneas.net.

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Billie Joyce Scott, 65, wife of the **Rev. Glen Scott**, local pastor in the Jackson District, died Thursday, August 10, 2006. Funeral services were held at Reed's Chapel Funeral Home in Decaturville, TN on Saturday, August 12, 2006 with **Mr. Roy Wyatt** and **Mr. Jimmy Wallace** officiating. Burial followed in Savannah Cemetery in Savannah, TN. Survivors include her husband, **Rev. Glen Scott**; daughter, **Tammy Sanders** of Parsons, TN; sons, **Glen** and **Keith Scott** of Bath Springs, TN. Correspondence may be sent to: **Rev. Glen Scott**, 371 Pete Tucker Loop, Bath Springs, TN 38311.

'CLAIM THE NAME':

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

On Feb. 16-18, the Confirmation Retreat "Claim the Name" will be held at Lakeshore Assembly. Leadership will be provided by: **The Revs. Gary Lawson, Wade Cox, Steve Douglas, Sandra Leatherwood, Joey Reed** and **Autura Hampton**. The cost is \$76 per participant (mentors and confirmands with fee covering cost of confirmand's handbook). Prior to the retreat, select a mentor (over 21 years of age) for each participant. Purchase through Cokesbury the book "Claim the Name: Talkpoints for Mentors and Youth" for

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Memphis Conference loses two delegates to General Conference

BY CATHY FARMER

When the 2008 United Methodist General Conference gathers in Fort Worth, Texas on April 23-May 2, there will be two fewer members in the Memphis Annual Conference delegation.

"I've been notified by L. Fitzgerald Reist, Secretary of the General Conference, that the Memphis Conference is to elect only three clergy and three lay delegates," said Dr. Wayne Fesmire, conference secretary. "That's one less clergy and one less lay delegate than we elected for 2004."

General Conference meets every four years, drawing

nearly 1,000 voting delegates from around the world. It is the only body entitled to speak for the United Methodist Church.

Fesmire said the loss of the two delegates is due to a decrease in Memphis Conference membership.

An additional three lay and three clergy delegates will be elected for the 2008 Jurisdictional Conference at Lake Junaluska. These delegates, in the order of their election, will be the reserve delegates to the General Conference.

Certificates of Election will be mailed to annual conference secretaries in January.

Fesmire said, "People who want to be considered for election—get their names on the ballot—need to fill out their applications as soon as possible."

In mid-January, Fesmire will mail Lay application forms to every Charge lay leader; every pastor will receive both Clergy and Lay application forms.

"Once the forms are filled out, both clergy and lay will need to get them certified and signed by their district superintendent," Fesmire said. "Then the district superintendent will forward all applications to me." Fesmire is responsible for preparing the ballots.

Delegates allotted for Southeastern Jurisdiction Annual Conferences are as follows: Alabama-West Florida, 14; Florida, 26; Holston, 14; Kentucky, 14; Memphis, 6; Mississippi, 16; North Alabama, 14; North Carolina, 20; North Georgia, 28; Red Bird Missionary, 2; South Carolina, 20;

South Georgia, 12; Tennessee, 10; Virginia, 30; Western North Carolina, 26.

The total number of delegates representing the Southeastern Jurisdiction is 252. Totals for the other jurisdictions are: North Central, 138; Northeastern, 126; South Central, 148; Western, 40. The total for annual conferences in the United States is 704. For Central Conferences, the total is 272. And for Concordat Churches, the total is 10. The overall number of delegates eligible for General Conference 2008 is 986.

United Methodists gathering for the top legislative assembly in 2008 will meet, symbolically, under a tall, green tree representing "A Future with Hope." •

Memphis First to retain portion of historic walls

Church gives thanks for those who responded so generously with service and gifts

BY SANDRA MATHIAS & REV. MARTHA WAGLEY

Senior Pastor Martha Wagley announced Dec. 4 that Memphis, Tenn.'s First United Methodist Church will begin the process of preserving a portion of its 114-year-old sanctuary that was gutted by fire October 6.

The church has entered into a contract with D. H. Griffin Co. for a process called "controlled demolition" of the four remain-

ing walls. The walls will be taken down to a height of 23 feet for stabilization and safety. Fascia stones and corner limestone will be stored for future use and the remaining stained glass windows will be preserved.

As the church continues to finalize plans for a new building at 2nd and Poplar in downtown Memphis, this process will allow the congregation the option of eventually incorporating the historic walls in the new sanctuary.

The church and D. H. Griffin Co. will work closely with the City Office of Codes and Enforcements to open a portion of the remaining structure as quickly as possible.

On October 6, without warning, history changed course for First Church. The downtown fires were the news of the day, locally

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Front Row: At the mass choir benefit concert at St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, the Revs. Martha Wagley, Birgitte French and St. Mary Episcopal Cathedral's Rev. Ron Delbene thank the Memphis Fire Department for its heroic effort. Joining the pastors are: Chief Henry Posey, Pvt. Greg Remscheid, Pvt. John Toddy, Dr. Kevin Wooldridge, Pvt. Elwin Ellis, Dr. Dan Jolly, Pvt. Matthew Scroggins, and Lt. Henry Washington.

Calvert City UMC to air TV ads that will coincide with Igniting Ministry Advent flight

Calvert City United Methodist Church just produced two television commercials that will run on Paducah, Ky.'s WPSD-TV, Channel 6, on Saturdays and Sundays during the month of December.

The Rev. Ronnie Peck, senior pastor of the church, talked to the congregation about producing the commercials that tell the community about Calvert City UMC. The church then decided to broadcast those commercials at the same time the national Igniting Ministry spots appear on cable TV.

The commercials feature actual church members giving reasons why they need what Calvert City

UMC has to offer. The ads also stress the importance of remembering the real reason why we celebrate during this important time of year.

There is interest among church members to perhaps follow up the TV campaign with a one-minute spot each morning on local radio to further reinforce the church's presence in its community.

Igniting Ministry's Advent flight is scheduled to run for two weeks beginning December 11. The flight will air a total of 824 commercials on 15 cable networks. The commercial in the Advent rotation is "The Journey" with a seeker message that encourages people to find their own path and share the

journey with others.

"The Journey" commercial carries a strong faith message from a strong faith community, the people of The United Methodist Church.

The spot shows several images of people following a trail of items. They all follow a different trail that catches their attention – yarn, notes, stones, etc. – not knowing exactly why they are following or where they are going.

We are all on a spiritual journey that leads us toward God. As we travel, our paths bring us to others who impact our journey, just as when Jesus told his disciples, "Come, follow me" (Matthew 4:19, NIV) and led them in a way that we follow even now. •



Seminar 'Journey to True Financial Freedom' offered at Christ UMC, January 27

BY ANNE SEILER

MEMPHIS, TN—If one of your New Year's resolutions is get your personal finances in order, the *Journey to True Financial Freedom* Seminar can help you get started in the right direction for the right reasons.

Christ United Methodist Church, 4488 Poplar Ave., is partnering with Crown Financial Ministries to present this all-day seminar on Saturday, January 27.

The seminar leader is Dave Scobey, Crown's National Seminar Liaison. Through his experience with Crown and as an educator for a national non-profit agency that assists individuals with basic financial management and debt reduction, Dave has talked with hundreds of people about how to manage money.

Paul Makris, Business Administrator and Director of

Stewardship and Development at Christ United Methodist Church, said this seminar will benefit people regardless of their income or age because so much of their lives revolve around the use of money.

In addition, money is one of the most common areas of conflict in families today. Conflict often arises because people are handling their finances by the world's system, not God's system.

The seminar will run from 8:30 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. in Seabrook Hall. The cost is \$25 per person, which covers the cost of materials, plus \$5 per person for lunch.

To register, go to the Christ UMC website at <http://www.cumcmemphis.org> or go directly to <http://www.crown.org>. Pre-register by January 20, but registration will be available the day of the event. For more information, call Christ Church at 683-3521. •

Our Call to Hospitality

A Biblical Response to the Challenge of Immigration

February 1-3, 2007

Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center

Co-sponsored by the Southeastern Jurisdiction and the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society



As our society grows increasingly multicultural, we are faced with a broad range of reactions and feelings to both immigration and immigrants, some positive, many negative.

What does the Bible say - and what should our church say - about the challenge of immigration? What can we learn from scripture about those who are the strangers, the aliens, the foreigners, the outcasts? How might we best respond as citizens? As neighbors? As people of faith?

One C.E.U. will be awarded for this event



Plenary Speakers:

Bishop Timothy W. Whitaker, Florida Annual Conference

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, Northern Illinois Annual Conference

Dr. Joan M. Meruskin, Church World Service Immigration and Refugee Program

Dr. Francisco Canas, Executive Director, National Plan for Hispanic/Latino/a Ministries

Rev. Dr. Clark Jenkins, Pastor, St. Andrew-by-the-Sea UMC, Hilton Head, SC

Register now at: www.umc-gbcs.org/hospitality

Memphis First Church to retain portion of walls

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and nationally.

Emotions ran high as plans to renovate and move forward seemed to go up in smoke. The comforting sight of the six-foot copper cross atop the beautiful clock tower steeple was no more. The sanctuary was a smoldering burned out shell.

The fires of October 6 are now part of the rich history of First Church, perhaps volume three in the history book series.

And yet, in this holiday season, First Church above all gives thanks! We give thanks to the first responders—the Memphis Fire Department and Police. Miraculously, not one life was lost that horrific night. The investigation by the FBI and AFT was performed with sensitivity and speed.

We give thanks to civic leaders, citizens and clergy of every denomination in Memphis, Shelby County and beyond for the outpouring of prayers, words of comfort and support.

We give thanks for the many heartfelt gifts. The puppets handmade by children for our children, the printing services, the hymnals,

the choir robes, the book royalties, meals, letters, calls and emails from far away.

We give thanks to the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, St. Mary's Catholic Church, St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, the Bon Ton Cafe, Bridges and many other organizations that immediately opened their doors offering a place to worship, work and gather. They said, "You have a place of belonging here with us."

We give thanks to church and civic organizations and the numerous choir members across the county who quickly organized benefit concerts and gave generously.

And we give thanks to God, in all circumstances, for what He has given us. We continue to worship, fellowship, and grow as a church. New members have joined, babies and adults have been baptized, and we move forward with hope and a strong commitment to downtown Memphis. As we continue the slow but determined process of finalizing our rebuilding plans, we are bathed in the love and caring of this wonderful community. "First" we give thanks! •

Briefly

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each of your mentors. Have a session with mentors in advance. Organize transportation and encourage leadership to stay for the entire event. Registration begins at 7 pm on Feb. 16. The event is over Sunday, Feb. 18 at 1:30 pm. For information and registration forms: Call Gary Lawson, 731-584-6102 or email him at garydlawsonsr@yahoo.com.

BISHOP'S CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION, MARCH 17

Every Spring, the Bishop sets aside time to be with students who are participating in confirmation. The upcoming Bishop's Confirmation Celebration will be Sat., March 17, at Forest Heights UMC in Jackson. The cost of the 2007 celebration, "Happy Feet: Stepping into Discipleship," is \$10 per youth and includes lunch. Students are asked to bring flip-flops to donate to area homeless shelters, United Methodist Neighborhood Centers and Lakeshore.

CONFIRMATION TRAINING EVENT, JUNE 16, AT COLLIERVILLE UMC

Walt Marcum will provide a conference-wide Confirmation Training Event for pastors, youth leaders and Christian Education directors, June 16, at Collierville UMC. The event is 9 am – 4 pm; the cost is \$20. Scholarships are available. Marcum is an ordained elder in the North Texas Annual Conference. Author of nine books and numerous articles, he's the writer of United Methodist confirmation curriculum. For more info, contact Ms. Kris Konsowitz, 901-853-8383.

PASTORS, SIGN YOUR PEOPLE UP FOR FREE SUBSCRIPTIONS TO INTERPRETER NOW

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Hospice Care: Meeting medical and spiritual needs

By MARY-ALICE TAYLOR
Methodist Healthcare

With a smile on her face and a bright and cheery hello, Susan Schmidt, a hospice nurse with Methodist Hospice, walks into one of the rooms at the Overton Park Home Care Center in Midtown Memphis to visit Taylor Vinson, one of her patients.

Mr. Vinson has been under Hospice care for several months. He looks forward to Schmidt's visits. Besides providing medical care, she always lends a listening ear.

"One of the advantages of my job is I have more time to talk and listen to my patients," says Schmidt. "I can really focus on my patient's spiritual needs."

Hospice involves caring for the whole person, including physical, social, emotional and spiritual care. To provide this care, an interdisciplinary team made up of a social worker, nurse, chaplain, home health aid, and a volunteer work together to provide both physical and supportive care to patients and their families who are faced with a life-limiting illness.

The team meets once a week with the medical director to discuss each patient's care so they can determine if any changes need



Susan Schmidt, RN, a hospice nurse with Methodist Hospice, visits Taylor Vinson at Overton Park Home Care Center.

to be made. Hospice care is provided for patients wherever they live, be it a personal residence, a nursing home or the hospital.

'Before Hospice, they were sad and cried...'

Vinson learned about hospice from friends in another nursing home. He says he saw a dramatic change in their lives after they were in hospice care.

"Before Hospice, they were sad and cried a lot," said Vinson. "Afterwards, they were a lot happier. It seems to be more of a religious thing."

The religious component is very important and often brings peace

to patients and their families.

Stacy Slone, a social worker who visits Vinson, helped give him and his family something very special. Vinson kept seeing the image of a house with a white fence and animals out in the yard. He believes this image shows him something of what lies ahead for him.

Slone wrote the story as Vinson told it, found pictures to go with the copy, obtained a grant and had it bound into a book for Vinson and his family members.

Vinson is extremely pleased with all aspects of Methodist Hospice. When it comes to medical care, Schmidt acts as an advocate for Vinson. She keeps a close eye

on his medications and ensures adjustments are made when needed. The multi-disciplinary care he receives has helped stop the phantom pain in his legs.

Vinson describes his hospice care workers as family, a loving group of individuals who deeply care about each other.

"They walk in and my troubles stop. They bring me peace," says Vinson. "If you have a problem, they will help you, talk with you, laugh with you. They take your mind off your troubles."

Anyone diagnosed with a terminal illness is eligible. A physician referral is required. Call Methodist Hospice at 901-516-1600. •

Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Memphis Conference clergy

By RANDY COOPER

As chair of the Order of Elders, I have met with Elders in each district throughout the fall. The first of seven meetings took place in September, with the final one on the last day of November. Added together, the individual district meetings were as well attended as the previous annual plenaries have been.

Each meeting was a time for Christian conversation. Far more importantly, we concluded each district gathering with worship of Word and Table that also included foot-washing.

In recent days I have been re-reading Dietrich Bonhoeffer's extraordinary little book, *Life Together*, as a way of reflecting upon these meetings. Quite frankly, I found myself wondering why we clergy—elders, deacons and local pastors—are not made to read so rich a book together.

Bonhoeffer wrote it in 1938 as a fruit of those precious few years when he led an underground seminary in Finkenwalde for a few dozen pastors who were hoping

to lead the church in a faithful way in Nazi Germany.

We Memphis Conference clergy would do well to consider Bonhoeffer's testimony that the greatest witness Christians could make against Nazism was to gather together in Christ's name.

Bonhoeffer believed that future Christian pastors could best resist Hitler by meeting and living together in order to be trained in the way that led to life. We can say that Bonhoeffer, the Lutheran, knew and practiced a form of "connectionalism" at Finkenwalde.

He knew, as we do, that connectionalism at its heart is nothing more or less than clergy who are trained in a common faithfulness and bound by common covenantal convictions that comprise true friendship.

When apportionments dwindle, when conference ministries diminish, and when appointments go awry, there remains the body of brother and sister clergy whose itinerating ministry knits together the Methodist people.

When we clergy find our faith in one another shaken, we do well to remember Bonhoeffer's coun-

sel that it is "not the experience of brotherhood [*sic*] but solid and certain faith in brotherhood that holds us together.... For Jesus Christ alone is our unity" (39).

We would draw strength as well by recalling those Memphis Conference pastors of previous generations, most now of blessed memory, who recognized the "indispensable duty" (87) we have to one another as the body of clergy in our Conference.

The truly chargeable offense for us Methodist pastors may not be our occasional lukewarm support of conference appointments. Rather, we violate most grievously our covenant when we fail for whatever reason to intercede for one another.

Truth is, the community of faith that Bonhoeffer worked so hard to develop fell to the wayside as the war continued. The seminary at Finkenwalde was closed by the Gestapo. The result was that Bonhoeffer suffered a "lack of a particular Christian community . . . all the way up to his death." (Greg Jones and Steve Fowl, *Reading and Communion: Scripture and*

Ethics in Christian Life, 158)

He "ended up relying not on the shared friendships and practices of Christian community to form his judgments, but on the practices and skills of his cohorts in the resistance and in his family." (*ibid.*)

I hope we all—clergy and laity alike—are able to see through the lens of Bonhoeffer's life what can happen to our Christian witness when practices of faith within our congregations wither.

Still, I believe Bonhoeffer's life abides as a particularly poignant warning to us clergy. If we clergy do not labor together to build up our common life with worship of the Triune God and with practices of friendship, our hearts will be "weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life." (Lk 25:34) The very powers and principalities that are attacking our congregations also besiege us clergy. It is incumbent on us to find ways to help one another "have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man." (v. 36)

How about a discussion of *Life Together* at Annual Conference? •