



SOUTHEAST CIRCUIT RIDER

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More Southeast District News



Hurricanes Relief Response



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Ideas

for
Mission & Ministry



On Mission in France

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David's Harp

Our four-year grandson recently came for a visit. He asked at breakfast if he could ride in my blue pick-up and go to my office. When we arrived at the office, he asked me where my church was as his concept of my office was in a church. He did not understand my comment that I did not have a church but instead 101 churches. His confusion is not unlike some looks I get when someone sees my nametag and ask what church I am with and I tell them 101. In spite of not understanding that I did not have just one church our grandson enjoyed the computer and the candy jar.

With good maps and a good sense of direction, I am making my way around the district for charge conferences. I am enjoying the opportunity to share in each conference. I am learning many wonderful things about the variety of ministries that our churches are providing locally.

Along with the celebrations, I am also discerning needs of churches in our district if we are to be effective in ministry. These discoveries will offer guidance for future training opportunities. There are needs that are unique in each ministry setting and needs that are the same for every church whether small, medium, or large.

I am grateful for the gift of hospitality shared each place I go. Charge conferences are scheduled through the middle of December.

In a recent meeting of the Cabinet, concern was voiced with regard to the number of churches in our conference that did not receive any members by 'profession of faith'. In checking 2004 reports from the Southeast District, I learned that 60 of our then 102 churches did not



receive any members in this way. I was surprised by this figure.

What can we do to change these statistics? The issue is more than numbers. The issue challenges us in our work of sharing the Gospel in ways that invite those who do not know Jesus to know him as the center and source of life.

We are challenged in our hospitality – how we invite others into our worshipping communities and welcome them when they come. We are challenged in providing opportunities for those who do not know Jesus to learn about Jesus – small groups, Sunday school classes, Bible studies, etc.

I have added this concern to my prayer list trusting God to help me discern what we as a district can do to move in positive directions in this area.

Mary and I have enjoyed the several opportunities that have been ours in the last month to share in church fund raising dinners (and one breakfast) and bazaars. I have tried to heed the advice of one district superintendent to not try and attend three in one day! It has to do with watching ones weight!

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Hurricane Wilma & Earthquake Disaster: how can you help?

Due to the magnitude of relief efforts required to adequately respond to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, generous donations to UMCOR Advance #982523, Hurricanes 2005, are needed.

Contributions to UMCOR for Pakistan/India/Afghanistan Earthquake relief are also urgently needed. Max Marble, Director of the Office of Creative Ministries, says, "I know our resources are becoming stretched with the tsunami, the hurricanes and now the earthquake in Asia. But the need in Pakistan is beyond what we can imagine, with homes destroyed in cities and isolated villages at a time when the weather is turning very cold. Please give generously to help UMCOR relieve the suffering of millions of men, women and children left homeless." The Advance # is 232000, Pakistan Earthquake.

Donations can be placed in your church's offering plate or checks can be mailed to UMCOR at PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10097. Online donations are accepted at www.methodistrelief.org. One hundred percent of every donation goes to support relief and recovery efforts. Donors who would like their gifts to go to a specific regions or storm response should make a note on their check



Festival of Sharing SEMO/Bootheel 2005 Ingathering

The 2005 Semo-Bootheel Festival of Sharing held on October 8 was a huge blessing to everyone involved! The weather was beautiful, the spirits were high, and the churches and organizations were very generous. Nearly 70 area churches (representing 11 different denominations), 10 organizations and 5 farmers contributed non-cash gifts to the local ingathering. Twenty-two grateful service agencies received the Missouri kits

and the grain supplies.

The value of non-cash gifts received at the local ingathering was \$65,749.11 and the cash gifts totaled \$8,997.84. In addition, churches reported that they sent \$164,993.89 in cash and non-cash gifts directly to agencies that care for those in need. Much of that was sent to hurricane stricken areas.

Courtesy of
The Dexter Connection



Youth Fest

Five hundred and forty eight youth from middle school through high school attended the overnight Youth Fest event at the 2005 Missouri Festival of Sharing in Sedalia on October 15.

Youth arrived on Friday evening for a time of fellowship and worship. On Saturday, they unloaded kits from vehicles, sacked beans and rice, and provided the muscle and energy for many of the Festival activities.

Seminary Student Covenant Partners Needed

One full covenant (\$50 a month for four years) and one partial covenant (\$30 a month for four years) are still needed to fully subscribe all

seminary student support at Ricatla and Cambine seminaries in Mozambique. To become a seminary
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United Methodists Respond to Disasters

A sampling of some of the responses by SE District churches:

Through the generosity of many churches and individuals in Southeast Missouri and Southern Illinois, urgently needed items were taken to Louisiana in September and October reports Susan Holye, pastor at Zion Old Appleton. Within 9 days of Hurricane Katrina, Susan's car, a pickup with a trailer, an 18 passenger church bus and a trailer transported thousands of items including bottled water, nearly 600 health kits and blankets for distribution to disaster victims.

New McKendree gathered over \$7,000 for hurricane relief, reported John Rice, pastor. \$500 was given to the Cape County Health Department for prescription medicines for displaced persons. \$500 was given to the Scott City School District to help finance a team of teachers and counselors heading south with school supplies. A family from Slidell, Louisiana, relocated to the Jackson area. The church provided pastoral and financial assistance and helped them set up housekeeping. The family has since become members of New McKendree and are already involved in activities and ministry.

Dexter UMC has adopted the Clanton Chapel UMC & Mission Center in Dulac, Louisiana. During the next year the church will be collecting relief funds and items as well as planning an onsite mission opportunity.

Paula Moore, Naylor UMC, will be going to Beaumont, Texas, on Nov. 13. Items she will be taking include: bedding, pillows, kitchen utensils, pots & pans, towels, new underclothing, etc. For more information or to send items, contact Paula at pmoore@semo.net or 573-772-9224.



Jim Mills, SE District Disaster Relief Coordinator, clears debris in Gulfport, Mississippi.



Team of First Responders
Laurel, Mississippi

David's Harp (continued from page 1)

Did you know that even a fund raising event can become a way to invite people to come on Sunday or to another church event?

Congratulations to Commerce: St. Paul on their 180th celebration; Cape Girardeau: Grace on their 150th celebration; Illmo on their 100th celebration; Gordonville: Zion on the consecration of their new

Disciple Center; Marble Hill on the dedication of their building; New McKendree in the opening of their South campus worship center; and Chaffee in the beginning of a Saturday night worship service.

Rev. David D. Norbury is District Superintendent of the Southeast District, Missouri Conference



District Christmas Party

The Annual Clergy and Spouse Christmas Party will be held at First United Methodist Church in Sikeston on **Dec. 2**. Gathering will begin at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. **Mark your calendars now.** Invitations will be arriving by mail shortly.



The Mission Society
For United Methodists



My name is Dondee. I am a member of LaCroix United Methodist Church, under the leadership of Pastor Ron Watts. I am also an appointed missionary with the Mission Society for United Methodist.

God has blessed me with the call to share the gospel with Muslims. Islam is spreading rapidly through Europe, and Paris has the largest population of Muslims in all of Europe. There is an urgent need for people to stand boldly and represent Christ in France.

Since 2001, God has been preparing me for this task. I have spent over fifteen months in Paris these past four years, and I have received counsel from wise mentors. Now the time has come for me to be faithful to my calling and start my five-year term of ministry in France.

I am required to raise 5-years of support before I leave. I am hoping to leave in January 2006. Please consider being part of this opportunity to reach Muslims in France. I am available to share with your congregation on these topics: my testimony, and my vision. I can be reached at (573) 335-2087.

Together Serving our Lord, Dondee Nations

For more information go to www.msum.org or contact me for updates and newsletters at gobeyondtheveil@yahoo.com

VIM Team Leader Training

Max Marble, Director of the Office of Creative Ministries, reports that 150 people were trained recently as Volunteers in Mission team leaders for Katrina/Rita disaster response teams. Another training will be offered Nov. 19 at Mt. Vernon UMC. The training session will provide training for disaster response teams and regular national and international VIM teams. For more information, including the registration form visit www.umocm.com. The registration deadline is Nov. 17.



First UMC-Kennett is looking for a new church van. If your church has recently been through the process of purchasing a van, please share information you think might be helpful to Gary Carter at gary.1stumc@clgw.net

Ministry and Mission Ideas

from across the District

Youth Worship

First United Methodist Church in Sikeston kicked off its new youth worship service, Edge Worship, on Sunday evening, October 23, with a three week series created to help students personally connect with God.

Within Reach is the title of the series. Using personal stories and biblical examples, the series outlines ways for students to effectively connect with God.

Each Sunday evening begins

with open fellowship from 6-6:30 p.m. Worship is from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. Discussion and closing follow from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m.

For more information contact James Henry, Director of Youth Ministries, at 573-471-3283 or jameshenry@elevate360.com.

Noisy Offerings

On the fifth Sundays throughout the year, Bernie UMC takes a special collection of loose change. Collections in 2005 have provided assistance to two families with health and care concerns, purchased school supplies and other school related items for students in the Bernie schools. The final two collections

have been designated for Hispanic Ministry.

Children's Prayer Partners

On October 16, the congregation at First United Methodist Church in Poplar Bluff celebrated the 117 children (ages birth - 6th grade) who are members of their church family. Many members are taking serious the promise made when children are baptised by praying for a specific child.

When you do what you can,
God will do what you can't.

Seminary Covenant Partner (continued from Page 1)

student covenant partner (church, group or individual), contact Carol Kreamer, Mozambique Initiative Coordinator, at 636-271-4455 or cpkreamer@fclass.net.

Fall Events in the District

Santa's Soup & Sandwich

Saturday, Nov. 5

Sponsored by Trinity UMW

Trinity UMC

Hwy 34 halfway between

Piedmont & Patterson, MO

573-223-4571

joekiser@semo.net

Five Church Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, Nov. 12

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church

500 N Main

Poplar Bluff, MO

573-785-1439

Crafts, Flea Market, Lunch

Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, Nov. 12

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Maple UMC

2441 Jean Ann Drive

Cape Girardeau, MO

573-335-6890

Crafts, Baked Goods, "New to You"

UMW Craft Show

Saturday, Nov. 5

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Lake Wappapello UMC

Lake Wappapello, MO

For information

call Charlie Hoove

573-222-8670

Opera & Hors D'Oeuvres

Saturday, Nov. 12

7:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church

500 N Main

Poplar Bluff, MO

573-785-1439

Tickets \$5.00

Chili Day / Bazaar

Thursday, Nov. 17

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.; 4-6 p.m.

Malden UMC

Park & Beckwith Sts.

Malden, MO

573-785-1439

Soup/chili, Crafts, Baked goods