



United Methodist Connections

A newsletter for United Methodists at the University of Indianapolis



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Important Dates

4th Annual African American Sages

February 22, 2008
Jearlyn Steele will be honored as this year's Guest Sage, Ransburg Auditorium, 7:30 pm

Gospel Choir Extravaganza

February 23, 2008
Clinic 10:00am-3:00pm
Concert featuring Jearlyn Steele and Billy Steele with the Voices of Worship Gospel Choir 7:30 pm
Christel DeHaan Fine Arts Center

Wesleyan Connexion Project, 2nd session at UIndy

June 16-19, 2008

UIndy President Speaks at UM Churches

Current: President Pitts spoke at Christ United Methodist Church on January 20th

Upcoming: McCordsville UMC on March 2.

Through this e-newsletter, the Office of Ecumenical and Interfaith Programs at UIndy highlights the activities and achievements of faculty, staff and students affiliated with the United Methodist Church. This e-newsletter will be published three times a year in October, February, and June. If you have items that you would like to share please contact Cindy Tyree at 317-788-2106 or ctyree @uindy.edu.

Announcing the 2008 Showers Lectures Symposium*

“Christian Missions in the United Methodist Church: Past, Present and Future”

**Thursday
March 27, 2008 9:00 a.m. -
4:15 p.m.**

The 2008 Showers Lectures will be on “Christian Missions in the United Methodist Church: Past, Present and Future.” The morning session will begin with **Dr. J. Steven O’Malley** ‘64, Asbury Theological Seminary presenting "Mission and the Quest for a Homeland: The Legacy of the Evangelical United Brethren" with response by **Mr. Radcliffe Ganda**, UMYL Scholar, UIndy Class of 2010 from Sierra Leone. **Dr. Steven Graham**, Professor of History & Political Science, UIndy, will follow Dr. O’Malley, presenting "Evangelism Without Apology: E. Stanley Jones and the Totalitarian Kingdom of God" with response by **Dr. Michael G. Cartwright**, Dean of Ecumenical and Interfaith Programs, University of Indianapolis.

At midday, there will be a mission fair in the lower level of Schwitzer Student Center and four lunch-time discussion groups: Mission & Service, Mission & Justice, Mission & Service, and Mission & Interfaith Dialogue.

The afternoon session will begin with **Dr. Thomas Thangaraj** (Church of South India), Assoc. Professor of Christian Mission at Candler School of Theology (Emory Univ.), presenting “Affection Without Attachment: A Theology of Mission for the 21st Century” with response by **Dr. Greg Clapper**, Professor of Philosophy & Religion, at UIndy. The final presentation will be by **Dr. Beth Felker Jones**, Assistant Professor of Theology, Huntington University, on “Not Bootstraps Theology: Grace and Holiness Mission” with response by **Dr. Scott Kisker**, Logan Chair in of Evangelism and Wesley Studies at Wesley Theological Seminary.

For more information please click on the Web site below. Please contact Cindy Tyree at ctyree@uindy.edu or 788-2106 to make your reservation.

<http://eip.uindy.edu/publications/showers.pdf>

**The Showers Lectures are made possible through the generosity of the late Dr. J. Balmer Showers, a bishop of the Evangelical United Brethren Church. Bishop Showers established the annual lecture series with an endowment gift to the University of Indianapolis in the spring of 1962.*

Meet some of UIndy's United Methodist personalities!

The following Web site lists UIndy faculty and staff who are connected with the United Methodist Church

<http://eip.uindy.edu/umconnections.php>

If your name is not on this list and you would like for it to be, please notify Cindy Tyree, ctyree@uindy.edu



Ms. **Rebecca Cartledge** is an instructor of Nursing at the University. She has worked at the University for one year in a full-time capacity and four years as an adjunct.

She attends Christ United Methodist Church on the southside of Indianapolis. At Christ UMC, Becca is on the health ministry team, a certified lay speaker, and is involved with Youth Council, VBS and Ichthus. She has been on youth mission trips to Reynosa, Mexico, and Naptown (Indianapolis youth mission). She attended Franklin Community High School in Franklin, Indiana. Her undergraduate degree is from Indiana University

and she has a MSN in Nursing Education from the University of Indianapolis. Just for fun we asked Becca to give us a random "food fact" about herself and to name her favorite hymn. Becca told us she loves white chocolate, and her favorite hymn is "For I Know Whom I Have Believed."



Mr. **Jay Sibley** has worked at the University since 1977. He is Director of Mechanical Services. He was recently honored for thirty years of service to the University. We asked Jay what was the best part about working at a UM school and his response was "seeing how Jesus Christ is working in the lives of some of the people here."

Jay is a member of Rosedale Hills United Methodist Church. He has attended this church since he was a student at the University. He has been on numerous trips with

the church, including two youth trips to Myrtle Beach, SC, mission trips in Indianapolis and to Nashville, Tennessee, three to Red Bird Mission in Beverly, Kentucky, and two to New Orleans. He presently serves on the Staff Parish Relations Committee at the church.

Since 1991 he has been a Boy Scout leader at the Beech Grove United Methodist Church and presently serves as troop chaplain.

Jay graduated from Logansport High School in 1971 before serving 3 ½ years in the Army. The GI bill provided the opportunity for him to attend Indiana Central University (University of Indianapolis). He received an associate's degree in 1979 and a bachelor's degree in 1999 from the University.

Another just-for-fun question "Tell us about your first pet." Jay's first pet was a mixed-breed dog his parents got for him when he was a year old and the dog lived until Jay was in high school. Jay had a difficult time picking a hymn, but says that, "It is hard to beat *Amazing Grace*."

The following students are the current recipients of the United Methodist Youth Leader Scholarships.

First Year:

Leann Davan

Katie Gainey

Chelsea Hixon

Aubree Tuell

Amanda Tyring

Sophomores:

Ryan Brock

Benton Cartledge

Danielle Diehl

Radcliffe Ganda

Suzanne Juncker

Juniors:

Hilary Foltz

Ryan Nelson

Chris Stephens

Seniors:

Ben Freeman

Lyndsay Davies

Laura Steed

Meet a United Methodist Youth Scholarship scholar



Ryan Brock is a sophomore UMYL Scholar. Ryan's home church is Church of the Four Seasons UMC. He has been involved for years with the Methodist Church by counseling in Impact 28:18 (camping ministries that make disciples for Jesus Christ by creating short-term communities in which persons experience the Christian faith), working on Chrysalis flights (retreats for high school youth), leading worship in various settings and working with youth.

While at UIndy, Ryan has been blessed with the opportunity to travel to Louisville, KY; Jacksonville, FL, Hattiesburg, MS; and Paris and Taizé, France, for conventions, missions trips and pilgrimages. Ryan is the Chapel Steward of Worship at the University. He organizes students to put on worship services in our chapel. He is a United Methodist Youth Leader Scholar and works with the youth group at Southport United Methodist church on Sundays. He takes part in Bible studies on campus.

He was born in Wiesbaden, Hessen, Germany on an Air Force base. His parents and Ryan moved back to the U.S. a few months after his birth.

Ryan's favorite hymn is "Come Thou Font." Ryan's first real job was working in a small movie theater in Crown Point, IN, his home town. The screen was built in the 1930's. Ryan served concessions and cleaned at the theatre.

Fletcher Place Community Center

The Fletcher Place Community Center* <http://www.fletcherplacecc.org/> held its 10th annual dinner November 1, 2007. Ms. Toni Peabody, Instructor of Social Work, and Kati Jones, a UIndy graduate who also did her internship with Fletcher Place, were the guest speakers during the event. The University of Indianapolis has been involved in a partnership with Fletcher Place Community Center for years, and hundreds of University students have benefited from this partnership. Ms. Peabody stated, "It is important to make a difference in someone's life. Together we have worked to be partners, to be *equals*. We both support and enhance Fletcher Place services and fulfill our University motto, "Education for Service."



*Toni Peabody, UIndy Instructor of Social Work (left)
Rev. Jessi Langlie, Executive Director, Fletcher Place (center)
Katie Jones, Social Work (right)*

***The Fletcher Place** Community Center (see story at right) is a faith-based mission agency serving the southeast side of Indianapolis for 134 years. It began at the Fletcher Place Methodist Episcopal Church in 1872 as their mission committee worked to help the new immigrants in the area. They have always worked to help families and the homeless meet their basic needs and work towards self-sufficiency.

News and Notes

Lent Book Discussions

Michael Cartwright, Dean, invites faculty, staff, and students who are interested in reading a book during the Christian season of Lent to join him for "Breakfast and a Book" on Friday mornings at 7:30 a. m. in Trustees Dining Room. The book that Cartwright has chosen to read is *Power & Passion: Six Characters in Search of Resurrection* written by Samuel Wells. Call 788-2106 if interested in participating.

University Heights United Methodist Church is offering a book discussion group about the book "Behold the Lamb." 12-1 pm Wednesdays beginning February 6 through March 12. The book discussion group will also be offered on Sundays from 10-11 am beginning Sunday February 10 through March 16. If you are interested in participating, please call the church office at 787-5347.

Lauren Hacker, May 2005 UIndy graduate with a BA in Pre-Theology and Youth Ministry, was awarded the LIFE (Lacy Institute for Ecumenism) Scholarship for 2007. Lauren is in the Master of Divinity Program at CTS.

Service Pilgrimage to Sierre Leone

Rev. Dr. L. Lang Brownlee, UIndy Chaplain and Director of Youth Ministry, will be leading a group of students on a spring term service pilgrimage to Sierre Leone in May. The UIndy team will be flying to Freetown, Sierra Leone, and then making its way overland to the interior city of Koidu, where they will work in light construction projects in connection with a well-established ministry called 'Operation Classroom.' See <http://www.gbgm-umc.org/operationclassroom/> for more details.

At Koidu, the team is scheduled to rebuild the shelving and other items for the interior of a secondary school library, work on its windows and roof, and paint the interior of the structure. This library has been in shambles since the recent civil war, and the school has been without a library for over a decade.

In the future, the chaplains plan to alternate this pilgrimage of service with a spiritual pilgrimage to Taizé, France during spring term at the university. For more information contact Lang Brownlee at 788-3382 (lbrownlee@uindy.edu).



The "Isaiah Child" Carving

Please stop by the EIP Office (SC203) to see the wood carving depicting a youth in the hand of God. These carvings are the work of Liberian artists, using local woods including mahogany. They are referred to as "Isaiah Child" carvings.

The concept is from Isaiah, chapter 49, verses 15 and 16, where God speaks reassuringly, saying "I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.." (NIV). And earlier in the chapter Isaiah declares, "..In the shadow of his hand he hid me..."(verse 2).

The carving is a beautiful reminder of God's constant care of His children, and it is reassuring to see the serenity and trust in the youth's facial expression. We, too, can always put our trust in God, and experience peace knowing we are surrounded by His present.

Operation Classroom is making these carvings available for purchase. Prices vary, according to size and quality of artistic workmanship. All funds from these sales go to WATTS—Operation Classroom's trauma counseling program to enable Liberian and Sierra Leonean youth to overcome the trauma caused by war, and to learn ways to resolve conflict without fighting. Visit this link for ordering information: <http://www.gbgm-umc.org/operationclassroom/>

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For more information contact Cindy Tyree at ctyree@uindy.edu or (317) 788-2106

To be removed from this list please e-mail ctyree@uindy.edu.