



# United Methodist Connections

A newsletter for United Methodists at the University of Indianapolis



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*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.*

## Showers Lectures: Mission in the United Methodist Church

The 2008 Showers Symposium at the University of Indianapolis focused on "The Past, Present, and Future of Christian Mission in the United Methodist Church." More than 100 pastors, lay persons, faculty, staff and students attended the all-day event on March 27, 2008.

## UIndy President Speaks at UM Churches

*President Beverley Pitts spoke at Christ United Methodist Church on January 20<sup>th</sup>, and at McCordsville UMC on March 2.*

## Important Dates

**Wesleyan Connexion Project, 2<sup>nd</sup> session at UIndy**  
June 16-19, 2008

**South Indiana Conference United Methodist Women School of Christian Mission at UIndy**  
July 25, 2008 (Weekend)  
July 26-28 (Weekday)

**Threshold Retreat for First-Year Students at UIndy**  
August 15-17, 2008

**Called to United Knowledge & Vital Piety: Symposium on Christian Higher Education in Indiana**  
*(in collaboration with Anderson University)*  
March 27-28, 2009



*Speakers Dr. Thomas Thangaraj (upper left), Dr. Steven O'Malley (upper right), Dr. Beth Felkner-Jones (bottom left) and Dr. Stephen Graham (bottom right) talk with participants at the Showers Symposium 2008.*



*Below: A mission fair was held along with lunch-time discussions on "Missions & Evangelism", "Missions & Service", "Missions & Interfaith Dialogue", and "Missions & Justice."*



## Meet some of UIndy's United Methodist personalities!

For a list of UIndy faculty and staff associated with the United Methodist Church visit:

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



**Stephanie Kelly** has been a faculty member in the Krannert School of Physical Therapy since 1996. She is currently an Assistant Professor and the Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education. She coordinates the student learning that occurs in the clinical setting and enjoys teaching and working with students, but really enjoys the opportunity to facilitate that bridging of the classroom and clinical setting. Within her ACCE she does a fair amount of traveling, providing workshops

and on-site advising to physical therapy clinicians on how to be better clinical teachers. She is in the final stages of her Ph.D. through Nova Southeastern University and so can frequently be found holing up in the library with the students!

“My family and I attend University Heights United Methodist Church just across Hanna Avenue. We joined that church after becoming familiar with it through the Children's Center. Within the church, I frequently help provide the children's message and serve on a committee to help increase the involvement of young families within the church. My two oldest daughters also sing in the children's choir,” Stephanie says.

We asked Stephanie to give us a random food fact about herself and her favorite hymn. She said, “A random food fact is a tough one, but I guess I would say that I like trying new foods and am willing to try about anything if I know someone, somewhere eats it. I also love chocolate—the darker the better! My favorite hymn is probably *How Great Thou Art*, but since I am a mother I have to say that I love *Jesus Loves the Little Children* as well. What a better world we would live in if people could just remember the simple message from that song!”



**Stant Clark** has worked at the University as the Director of Human Resources since October 2002. He is also an adjunct faculty member in the School for Adult Learning, teaching Human Resource Management classes in the evenings.

He has been an active member of University UMC located on the north side of Indianapolis, since 1976.

At University UMC, Stant is president of the Methodist Men, and a member of the administrative council, usher board, male choir, nominations committee, and youth ministry.

Stant attended Chicago Vocational High School. He graduated from Jackson State College in Jackson, Mississippi, with a degree in Education and a master's degree in Adult Education and Training from Indiana University.

We asked Stant for a random food fact and his favorite hymn. He told us his favorite snack is peanut butter and jelly on Ritz crackers and says, “My favorite hymn is *Sweet Hour of Prayer*, written by William Walford in 1845.”

For a list of UMYL Scholars visit:

<http://vocations.uindy.edu/phase3/youthleaderscholars.php>

See the October 2008 issue for a list of new UMYL Scholars!

## Meet a United Methodist Youth Scholarship Scholar



**Leann Davan** grew up in Covington, Indiana, and attends Benson Chapel UMC. She was a cheerleader, dancer, and 10-year 4-H member, graduating from Covington High School in 2007. She lives with her parents and older brother and is very close with her entire family (which she tells us is pretty big). She worked at the local coffee shop Kuppa Koffee for two years in high school and now during her school breaks. Leann decided to come to UIndy

because it is fairly close to her home and because it is small. She is an elementary education major and going to Sierra Leone on the Spring Term trip.

### Service Pilgrimage to Sierra Leone

In May, Rev. Dr. **L. Lang Brownlee**, co-chaplain at UIndy and 2008 alumna **Laura Steed** led a group of eight students on a service pilgrimage to Sierra Leone as part of Operation Classroom. The group helped to rebuild the library at the UMC-supported Koidu Secondary School. (The library was damaged during the 10-year-plus rebel war, and has been in disuse for this period of time). Watch for details on the upcoming "Sharing Our Story" this fall to hear more about this life-changing experience.



Above is the Sierra Leone Service Pilgrimage team right after they were presented West African clothing (made in Kenema, Sierra Leone) by Operation Classroom Country Coordinator Saffa Koroma. Along with the piece of clothing, (colored through the use of cola nuts), each participant was presented with a small, beautiful wood sculpture to take back home as a token of their time with the people of Sierra Leone. Front row: Sara Werling, Lindsay Bricksens, Angela Johnson, Michelle Stephens, Lauren Bailey. Back row: OC Driver Abu, Hannah Snyder, Laura Steed, Abby Winebrenner, OC Country Coordinator Saffa Koroma, Leann Davan, Lang Brownlee, and OC Driver Paul.

To share the story about service pilgrimage to Sierra Leone (at right) and to invite financial contributions for materials for the project, Lang spoke at University Heights UMC, Gas City UMC, the Hancock County United Methodist Men's Lenten breakfast, Danville First UMC, and the Missions Committee at Roberts Park UMC. Participants in this year's UIndy Showers Symposium, Franklin Grace UMC, Trinity Park UMC, the Lion's Club of Speedway, Danville High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Our Lady of Grace Monastery, and members of the UIndy Class of 1950 also contributed generously to the 'materials' cost' for the project at Koidu. Many other contributed as well.

For more information on Operation Classroom (see story at right) visit:

<http://www.gbmg-umc.org/operationclassroom/>





## News and Notes

In November, Dean **Michael Cartwright** presented a paper on "The Business of the Church-Related University: Education for Service" at the Christianity & Academia Consultation of the American Academy of Religion Meeting in San Diego. This presentation was taken from a set of six essays \* that Cartwright has written about the mission and identity of the University of Indianapolis that looks at different eras in the University's history. Each essay looks at the intersection of religious affiliation, institutional mission, and business endeavor in relation to particular understandings of a "liberal education" curriculum.

In January Cartwright presented a paper on the topic of "United Methodist Ecclesiology" at a conference held at Southern Methodist University in celebration of the centennial birth of Albert C. Outler, a renowned United Methodist scholar, ecumenist, and churchman.

In April, Cartwright presented a set of lectures to the Indiana United Methodist Historical Society at its annual meeting at the United Methodist Children's Home in Lebanon: "Our Social Creed Revisited: The Methodist Social Creed of 1908 and the Struggle for Social Justice" and "The Struggle for Justice Continues: From 'Our Social Creed' to the 'New Social Creed'" of 2008.

In May, Cartwright led a retreat for clergy and laity on the topic of "A Wesleyan Rule of Life for Spiritual Formation" at Olmsted Adult Retreat Center in Ludlow, Pennsylvania.

\*Please note: An excerpt of another essay in "*The Business of the University Revisited*" series will be published in the summer issue of the journal *Methodist History*. "The Founding of Indiana Central University: Another Chapter in the History of United Brethren Higher Education" is about the work of Rev. Dr. J.T. Roberts (1858—1927) and Rev. Alva L. Button Roberts (1872—1950). Alva Roberts' picture is on the cover!

Rev. Dr. **L. Lang Brownlee**, co-chaplain, travels to Tampere, Finland, to make a presentation at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Conference of University and College Chaplains, Campus Ministers and Religious Professionals, June 30—July 4, 2008. Entitled *Walking the Walk of Faith: The Practice of Pilgrimage Lighting the Way in Campus Ministry*, Lang's paper will suggest that the use of Christian pilgrimage connects university students to a deeper sense of the "walk" of faith. Pilgrimage opportunities for growth in spiritual and vocational formation, social justice awareness, and Christian service commitments are powerful means of enabling students to gain insight into their self-identity, their values, and their intentions for their lives. Lang will use recent McCleary Chapel Ministry pilgrimages to Taizé, France, Little Rock, Arkansas, and Koidu, Sierra Leone, to illustrate his appreciation for the value of the practice of pilgrimage. Lang's wife, Jeanne, will accompany him on this trip to Finland.

Sr. **Jennifer Horner** traveled to England (May 22—June 8) where plans call for visiting City Road Chapel in London and other sites associated with the life and ministry of John Wesley.

Ms. **Cindy Tyree**, Office Manager, will begin the South Indiana Conference Three-Year Covenant Community for Spiritual Formation in August. "The covenant community will be a fellowship of clergy and laity, men and women, with special concern for ethnic diversity. The goal is to form a community for intentional spiritual growth which will reflect the true nature of the Church."

In the next issue of *UM Connections* look for articles on:

**PEAK**—  
program focused on men and spirituality

**Peer Mentoring**—  
training of students to act as Christian mentors for incoming freshmen