



United Methodist Connections

A newsletter for United Methodists at the University of Indianapolis



In this edition:

- Religious Life Review
- UMGBHE Review Visit
- Threshold Retreat
- Meet UIndy UM
- UMYL Scholars
- News and Notes

Important Dates

October 1 Appalchia Service Project Info Meeting @ 7:00 p.m., McCleary Chapel

October 2 Sharing My Story Dr. Jonathan Evans, Asst. Prof Philosophy & Religion, @ noon SC013

October 3 Compassionate Acts House of Abraham Build Meet @ 7:30 a.m., bell tower

October 5 Justice League @ 9:00 p.m. SC10

October 7 Holy Communion Meditation Room @ 8:30 p.m. The Peak Men's Spiritual Mentoring @ 9:00 p.m. UIndy Hall B Women's Spiritual Mentoring @ 9:00 p.m. UIndy Hall C

October 18 Compassionate Acts Crop Walk

October 25 Fall Hayride and Campfire Fellowship @ 6:00 p.m. RSVP SC203

November 4 Holy Communion @ 8:30 p.m. Meditation Room The Peak Men's Spiritual Mentoring @ 9:00 p.m. UIndy Hall B Women's Spiritual Mentoring @ 9:00 p.m. UIndy Hall C

November 10 Justice League @ 9:00 p.m. SC103

November 11 Penrod Lectures Eboo Patel Interfaith Youth Core @ 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. UIndy Hall

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 is 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.

“Looking Back, Reaching Out, and Moving Forward”

The Ecumenical & Interfaith Council and the EIP Office are working together this semester to conduct a “religious life review” of co curricular programming associated with the Ecumenical & Interfaith Programs Office that was created in November 2002 at the time that President Israel named Michael Cartwright as founding Dean. There will be sessions at lunch from September 30 through December 9 in which different aspects of religious life at UIndy in the 21st century will be discussed. The “Looking Back, Reaching Out, and Moving Forward” schedule is below.

Sept. 30 **Review of the Ecumenical and Interfaith Vision that informed the creation of the EIP Office in 2002-2003**

Convener: Candy Beitman, Occupational Therapy, College of Health Sciences. Using the “Crossings Mural” design as a focus for conversation, Michael Cartwright will explain how *The Crossings Project* (and more recently PHASE III Vocations Project) grants from the Religion Division of Lilly Endowment, Inc. provided support for restructuring campus ministry on our campus. Recommended Reading: *Crossings Mural booklet*: “Reaching Out, Gathering In, Loving One Another”

Oct. 14 **The Lantz Center: Claiming Our Ecumenical Christian Heritage in the Context of “Education for Service”**

Convener: Livia Hummel, Mathematics Department, College of Arts & Sciences. Using the Lantz Center 10th Anniversary Celebration (Power Point) presentation from April 17, 2009, Jeremiah Gibbs and Cindy Tyree –along with Lantz Center interns Ryan Brock and Julie Bates—will lead a conversation about how the Lantz Center has enriched student engagement with our Christian heritage. Recommended Reading: “If God calls you” Lantz Center brochure, etc.

Oct. 28 **Our Journeys with Persons of Color: Sankofa (BSA, ASA)**

Convener: Mary Ann Shurig, Physical Therapy. Lela Mixon will make a presentation about what we have learned thus far about ministries to and with students of color (both African-American & International) at the University of Indianapolis. Recommended Reading: Bulletin from the 5th Annual Gathering of the African-American Sages

Nov. 12 (Thursday) **Panel Discussion: Interfaith Ventures: 1999-2009**

Convener: Jeff Bryant, Social Work, College of Arts & Sciences. In the wake of Eboo Patel’s visit to our campus to discuss the work of the InterFaith Youth Core, Chaplain Lang Brownlee and an interfaith panel of faculty and staff take the lead in discussing the ways that we have already engaged one another “beyond parish and ghetto” and ways that we *might yet engage* one another. Recommended Reading: *Giving and Receiving Hospitality* booklet about EIP office

Important Dates

November 20 Sharing Our Story, 2009 Taizé Spiritual Pilgrimage @ noon SC013

November 23/24 Compassionate Acts Staff Appreciation 23-make cards @ 9:00 p.m. SC011, 24 serve breakfast @7:00 a.m.

Dec 1 Justice League @ 9:00 p.m. SC010

Las Posadas/Christmas Tree Lighting TBA

Dec 2 Holy Communion @ 8:30 p.m. Meditation Room
The Peak Men's Spiritual Mentoring @ 9:00 p.m. UIndy Hall B
Women's Spiritual Mentoring @ 9:00 p.m. UIndy Hall C

Dec 3 Advent Service of Lessons and Carols @ 9:00 p.m. McCleary Chapel

Thirty-six freshmen students attended the 2009 Threshold Retreat, a three-day Christian retreat for incoming freshmen. Chaplain **Lang Brownlee** led the retreat along with student leaders **Austin Barcome, Julie Bates (Susanne Wesley Scholar), Scott Blanton, Ryan Brock (UMYL Scholar), Leann Davan (UMYL Scholar), Rebekah Hadley, Clair Lehman** and **Brian Marris**.

“Looking Back, Reaching Out, and Moving Forward” (Cont.)

- Nov. 18 Time TBA *Student Development: Looking Back, Looking Forward*
Convener: Toni Peabody, Social Work, College of Arts & Sciences.
Kory Vitangeli and Dan Stoker will lead a special session for the EIC to discuss what student affairs professionals are learning about how young adult students learn and develop during the college years.
Recommended Reading: Arthur Chickering's "seven vectors" of student development.
- Dec. 9 *Revisiting UIndy's Multilateral Approach Campus Ministry: Does it Stretch? or Will it Break?*
Convener: Beth Kiggins, Instructional Technology, Information Systems.
A panel of faculty sponsors, student leaders and off-campus ministers from Christian Ministries Council will discuss how they work together in the context of their mutual covenant informed by the Code of Ethics.
Recommended Reading: Code of Ethics for Religious Organizations and Participating Ministries
- TBA Wrap Up Session: *Reaching Out and Moving On—Imagining our future together*
Convener: Fengyi Kuo, Occupational Therapy, College of Health Sciences.
Several UIndy faculty, students and staff will present vision statements with proposals and reconsiderations for how we might think about religious life programming at UIndy in the years to come.

United Methodist Church Review Process

“All schools, colleges, and universities related to the United Methodist Church must be approved by the University Senate for listing as affiliated institutions. At least once every 10 years, or more often under special circumstances, each institution is reviewed by the senate with respect to continued listing” (taken from the 2009-2010 Organization, Policies and Guidelines University Senate of the UMC approved January 2007). The review of the University of Indianapolis will take place December 1-3, 2009.

Threshold Retreat 2009



Meet some of UIndy's United Methodist personalities!

List of UIndy faculty and staff associated with the United Methodist Church,

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



Dr. Perry Kea is Associate Professor and Chairperson of the Philosophy and Religion Department. He teaches courses in Biblical Studies, Church History, and ancient Greek. Dr. Kea joined the University of Indianapolis in 1983 following the completion of his graduate work at the University of Virginia. Since 1987 he has been a Fellow of the Westar Institute which sponsors the Jesus Seminar. Because of his commitment to sharing the results of biblical scholarship with the public, Dr. Kea has spoken to numerous church and public groups. He has been a frequent speaker in Westar's Jesus Seminar on the Road programs.

Dr. Kea's wife, Jana, is the youngest daughter of the Rev. Mr. Charles Lane (dec.), a United Methodist elder. Jana, her father and her mother (Catherine) are UIndy graduates.

Dr. Kea and his family are members of North UMC in Indianapolis. He has served on various committees, taught numerous adult education classes, and been a lay delegate to annual conference. Currently, he prepares North's monthly Taizé worship service. And although his athletic skills have diminished, he says, he still captains North's summer softball team.

Dr. Kea enjoys many different hymns; he just wishes he could sing them better!



Ms. (Victoria) Lynn Moran has worked at the University of Indianapolis since 1991. She replaced the retired "university nurse," Bev Sims. "I worked with Bev at Community Hospital East when we both worked in the Pediatric Unit. I loved the stories she would tell about her job at the university, about the students. I told her I wanted her job, so she gave me a call when she retired and I have been at the university since," says Lynn.

Starting as a BSN, Lynn knew the students would benefit if she was a Nurse Practitioner, so she graduated from the University of Indianapolis NP program (master's level) in 2000. "My daughter was also here and I wanted to graduate at least by the time she did, as I was just taking one class at a time while working. I graduated in 2000; she graduated from UIndy in 2001," Lynn says.

Lynn not only has to keep up with current medical treatments but also with the student lingo and customs to be effective with advice she gives. Lynn asks God to guide her every day in her practice. "I also thank Him every day and take time to notice something beautiful every day, no matter how small or insignificant it may be. It helps me to center myself and keep focused on my purpose in this life," she says. Lynn began attending University Heights United Methodist Church when her son, Blake, began daycare at 8 months old through Kindergarten. Blake and Lynn help out in the Toddler Room and enjoy the Celebration service. Blake and Lynn joined the Celebration Service at church because they so loved the music put on by the Nawrocki family.

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

First Year

*Ian Brastauskas
Mackenzie Cain
Amber Dorrel
Gabriella Newton*

Sophomore

*Christopher Hartley
Kelly Jamison
Samantha Searls
Allison Spenner*

Junior

*Leann Davan
Katie Gainey
Aubree Tuell
Amanda Tying*

Senior

*Ryan Brock
Benton Cartledge
Suzanne Juncker*

Meet a United Methodist Youth Scholarship Scholar



Christopher Hartley is a graduate of Huntington North High School and a sophomore Graphic Design and Photography double major from Roanoke, Indiana. Seminary UMC in Roanoke is his home church but during the school year he attends the Journey UMC.

This past summer, Chris worked for Impact 2818 at Epworth Forest during the first year of "ThatThing." He helped prepare the auditorium for worship services and ran the projector screens during the services.

On campus, he plays piano for the worship band. Chris is the Photographer and Graphic Designer for the Deliverance Project. In the Peak, he is a sherpa mentor and also works in the Ecumenical and Interfaith Office designing posters and flyers for upcoming events. He is an RA in New Hall.

"During my free time, I enjoy bowling and playing Ultimate Frisbee with friends," he explains.

News and Notes

Casey Madsen, UIndy student, was selected as vice chair of the steering committee to lead the jurisdiction in empowering young people as world-changing disciples of Jesus Christ at the recent UM North Central Jurisdiction Division on Ministries with Youth People Convocation and Legislative Assembly.

A book of United Methodist perspectives about Christian mission, "Exploring Christian Mission Beyond Christendom," edited by **Michael G. Cartwright** with contributors **Steven O'Malley, Radcliffe Ganda, Stephen Graham, Michael Cartwright, Thoms Thangaraj, Greg Clapper, Beth Felker Jones** and **Scott Kisker**, is now available through the University of Indianapolis Press.



Rev. **Jeremiah W. S. Gibbs** has been named the interim chaplain and Director of the Lantz Center for Christian Vocations and Formation for the academic year 2009-2010. Jeremiah is a graduate of Eureka College (2005) and Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary (2007) and he is preparing to take qualifying exams for the Ph.D. in Theology and Ethics at Garrett.

Following high school, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve (1996-2003). While he is a licensed minister of a Pentecostal denomination, Jeremiah also has made it his purpose to learn about the liturgical traditions of Roman Catholicism and the Greek Orthodox Church. He is quite familiar with various historic Protestant and evangelical groups. Jeremiah brings many gifts to the work that he will be doing alongside University Chaplain Lang Brownlee. He is the author of several articles including the piece "Explain Yourself: Making Belief Intelligible" in *The Christian Century* (September 23, 2008) co-authored with Jason Byassee. Jeremiah's blog explores various topics including the relationship between liturgy, aesthetics and ethics as well as the prospects for the "emerging church" movement. Jeremiah is married to the Rev. Jenifer Stuelpe Gibbs, who is Associate Pastor of First United Methodist Church in Bloomington, Indiana. Jeremiah and Jen live in Bloomington.