



UMM MEN

The magazine of United Methodist Men

**And the
winner is...**

BEST UNIT OF UMM
Christ of the Hills
- 2015 -

A letter from the General Secretary

Celebrating success

Some who look at the content of this issue may accuse us of tooting our own horn. And to that I will proudly answer, "Guilty." One of the joys of my job is that at times I get to see this great church at its best. The work we do in local churches is transformational, amazing, and awesome. I'm not just talking about our work in men's ministry and scouting- I'm talking about all the ministries that make local churches, districts and conferences vital.

Many of us hear reports about all the losses we have as a denomination, and of all the significant issues on which we cannot agree. Please set those reports and articles aside for a time, and feast on great news of growth and of hope.

This is only scratching the surface. Great work is being completed around the world in United Methodist churches, schools, colleges and universities and seminaries. There are some things that all these articles have in common. These folks are being "doers of the word and not hearers only" (James 1:22). These are servant leaders who see a God of abundance rather than scarcity. They see reaching out to the world around the corner or across the ocean as something they are called to do and to be. They are seeking places to serve rather than waiting to be asked.

In addition to these awards and positive stories, let me add one more. To measure our impact on local churches, we closely monitor the number of churches that charter

each year with the commission. You will see that South Carolina led all conferences in the U.S. in the growth of charters, but 27 other conferences also increased in 2014 compared to 2013. In addition, nine other conferences were able to maintain the number of charters in 2014 that they had in 2013.



You will also read an *article about The Class Meeting*, a book by Dr. Kevin Watson that we believe will transform this church in 2015. We are combining easily available technology with this eight-week study which supplies the UMC with the "how" of "making disciples for the transformation of the world."

So if you are tired of hearing how bad we are, take a few minutes to celebrate some places that are really doing well. Take a few minutes and ask, "What are things these groups are doing that we could replicate at our local congregation?" May you be filled with hope and a vision for the future, and be filled with the joy these groups share in serving Jesus Christ.

If you have questions, please feel free to email me at ghanke@gcumm.org or call our office at 866-297-4312. Please sign up for our bi-monthly (every other month) newsletter. It is filled with inspiration and instruction. It is simple—just go to our website www.gcumm.org and on the lower right side of the home page is a white box; fill in your name and email address, click, and you are done!

Make a difference this week.

*Gil Hanke, general secretary
General Commission on UM Men*

**United Methodist Men exists to declare the centrality of Christ
in every man's life.**



contents

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UM Men

Summer 2015

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Editor's note: This magazine includes articles from individuals who hold diverse opinions. We hope all articles are thought provoking; they are not necessarily the opinions of the General Commission on UM Men.



The first annual competition of UM Men organizations gave us a glimpse into scores of life-changing ministries sponsored

by local churches, districts and annual conferences across the United States.

We now know there are thousands of groups of UM Men that deserve to be honored for their ministries.

Your organization may be one of them.

I hope you'll enter the 2016 contest. Watch for details in the fall issue of *UM Men* magazine.

While it makes us uneasy to honor a single group, the story of Christ of the Hills UMC gives us an opportunity to share insights into how one local church is declaring "the centrality of Jesus Christ in every man's life."

Christ of the Hills is just one of hundreds of similar churches that provide opportunities for men to be in ministry. The church helps us understand that this ministry is not limited to a group that meets weekly. The ministry conducted in Hot Springs Village, Ark., includes projects that fund a variety of mission activities, food distributions, a ministry to the homeless, vehicle safety checks, lunch for college students, along with repair and maintenance projects.

The church flipped efforts to increase attendance at a men's meeting with providing several engagement-opportunities for men in both the church and the community.

Those engagements fueled attendance at weekly meetings.

That's the opposite of what happens in some churches that simply try to increase attendance at weekly meetings.

If you think about it, engagement driving attendance is exactly what sparked the first-century church and provided some of its best moments in the following two millennia.

Speaking of UM Men groups that focus on outreach ministries, in 2014, men of the Rockford (Ill.) District provided more than 1.95 million servings of food to the hungry through the Meals for Millions program of the Society of Saint Andrew. Little wonder that this district was named the top district in the United States.

South Carolina Annual Conference also exhibits what can happen when UM men work together to provide life-enriching experiences. More than 800 men gathered at a church that once housed the Gatlin Brothers Theater, and the conference established teaching churches to teach others about ways to expand men's ministry. A team of conference and jurisdictional presidents tapped South Carolina as the best example of a conference engaged in men's ministry.

As you review the actions of these groups of UM Men, and as you consider suggested ways to support your pastor by the Rev. Ed Enstine, I hope you will consider what activities might be added to the ministries at your church, district and conference.

Next year we may be honoring your men's organization as the best in the U.S.

Rich Peck

Arkansas group receives top honors

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

The UM Men organization of Christ of the Hills UMC of Hot Springs Village, Ark., received top honors in the first annual contest to determine the top UM Men organization in the nation.

Dan Ramsey, president of the National Association of Conference Presidents of UM Men, announced the winner at a March 5-8 meeting of conference presidents and prayer advocates.



In December, the monthly UM Men breakfast becomes a Sweetheart Breakfast, which includes gifts for the wives and entertainment.



Two chefs prepare breakfast for a monthly meeting with prayer, devotion and programs.

Fred Gore, president of UM Men at Christ of the Hills UMC in Hot Springs Village and Dr. Walter L. Smith, senior pastor, had planned to attend to receive the award, but they were forced to cancel plans because of poor weather.

Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men, will present a wall plaque and a trophy to Gore, Smith, and 2014 president Wes Koehler during the Arkansas Annual

Conference, scheduled for mid-June when this edition of UM Men is to be mailed.

A committee of conference and jurisdictional UM Men officers selected the top five local church units, the top district unit and the top annual conference. Only chartered groups were eligible to enter.



UM Men sponsor an annual golf tournament with some 120 players. The event is topped off with lunch, prizes, and a putting contest. The event usually raises \$7,000 for mission efforts.



Each year, UM Men sponsor "Three for Free." The event includes a document shredding service, an electronic recycle drop and a vehicle safety check. In 2014, the men checked 38 vehicles, shredded 3,400 pounds of documents and collected two trailer loads of electronics.

Men of Christ of the Hills UMC conduct an annual retreat, sponsor a sweetheart breakfast for wives, and annually raise \$14,000 for various mission efforts.

"Our focus is to support our church mission to "Bring In, Build Up and Reach Out", said Jim Bodge, a leader in the organization.



Homeless people gather outside the Jackson House waiting for Sunday lunches. The effort is supported by several churches including UM Men of Christ of the Hills UMC.

Funds are raised by an annual golf tournament, a church barbecue, assisting UM Women with a super-size garage sale, and recycling aluminum cans and printer cartridges. At Christmas, the men provide food baskets and deliver gifts to 40 families, including 100 children. They also deliver food baskets provided by other groups in their church at Easter and



When there is a need UM Men will step up, whether it is working on the church grounds, setting up a special event, or helping build a Habitat house.



UM Men deliver meals, clothing and Christmas gifts to some 1,000 employees and their families at the Hot Springs Racetrack.



At Christmas time, the men provide food and deliver it along with gifts to 40 families with 100 children.




UM Men spend four days each month working at a distribution center that provides food to families throughout Arkansas.

Thanksgiving and volunteer every month at two local food banks.

This energetic group annually works with the Oaklawn Race Track Chapel to support some 1,000 “backside” race-track workers and their families. A barbecue meal is served to more than 400 workers and meals, gifts and warm clothing are provided at Christmas for the

families. The men also cooperate with several churches to serve Sunday lunches to the homeless and people in need.

Thirty-five members of the group attended “Walk to Emmaus” and, in 2014, the men contributed over 6,000 volunteer hours.

“We truly want to make a difference,” concluded Bodge. 

Additional Winners

Second Place

UM Men of Wylie (Texas) UMC

UM Men engage in a weekly Bible Study, serve as ushers and offer prayers prior to Sunday morning worship services. In 2014, the men repaired the homes of elderly church members and served lunches to children in a nearby trailer park. They grilled hamburgers and hot dogs for those attending a youth talent show. They renovated the church playground, built six handicap ramps, engaged in prison ministry, and led youth mission trips.



Men of Wylie UMC build a handicap ramp—one of six built in 2014.

Third Place

UM Men of Acton UMC in Granbury, Texas

Acton men helped a low-income community recover from a tornado and helped raise \$300,000 to convert a house into a community center. The men sponsor an after-school program, provide tutoring and teach English as a second language. They also host a community Easter egg hunt, “Trunk or Treat” at Halloween, a Thanksgiving meal and a live Nativity scene. Men of this church also make car repairs and annually provide 30,000 pounds of produce for food banks.



The Rev Chris Mesa, pastor of Acton UMC, leads men in a discussion of words that describe God.

Next step

Not feeling energized anymore, and beginning to feel lifeless, a man decided it is time for a complete physical to see if he has something that needs fixing.

When the exam is over, the doctor says, “My friend, things are fairly good—But your blood pressure is higher than it should be. Your cholesterol is above normal. Your blood circulation is mediocre for a man your age. You smoke a pipe, and that is bad. Moreover you are carrying 30 extra pounds.” After the summing up, the doctor asks, “Now do you know what you have to do?”

The man replies, “I sure do. I need to find a fat doctor with a pipe.”



Fourth Place

UM Men of Chandler (Okla.) UMC

Chandler men annually give away more than 100 hot dogs to people at a local food pantry. Over the years they have given away more than 6,000 hot dogs. "We shake hands, encourage and try to get to know the people who are at the food pantry," said UM Men President Richard Covington. The men also provide breakfast for 60 veterans, give "thank-you" dinners to first responders, and serve members of youth work force.



Chandler UMC men serve 300 youth and sponsors at a youth work force.

Fifth Place

UM Men of Natchitoches (La.) UMC

In 2014, Natchitoches UM men presented two \$1,000 scholarships to students at a

state university, sponsored a "clay shoot" to rescue Nepali girls and helped raise \$10,000 for this mission. The men serve meals to the college men's and women's basketball and soccer teams, and hot dogs and chili for young people. They also deliver food for Meals on Wheels recipients, and they sponsored a Stop Hunger Now event that packaged 10,000 meals. 

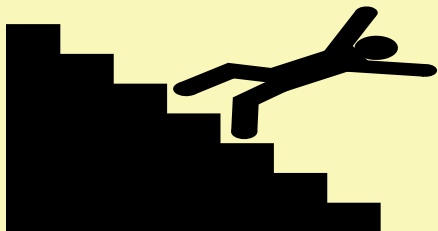


Men of Natchitoches UMC provide 250 hot dogs and chili sausages to participants in a "Trunk-or-Treat" event.

Glad that's over

A United Methodist pastor and a Presbyterian pastor are walking down the stairs when the Presbyterian falls to the bottom.

"I'll bet you're glad to have that over with," said the United Methodist.*



*see John Calvin's doctrine

Good for the money

A man and his young son come out of church. The father complains that the service was too long and boring, and the singing was off-key.

"I thought it was pretty good for a dollar," responds the son.

Give him the money

A little girl becomes restless as the sermon drags on. Finally, she leans over to her mother and whispers, "Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"


UM Men honor Rockford District

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

UM Men of the Rockford (Ill.) District were honored as the top district in the U.S.

Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men, presented the award to Steve Nailor, president of Northern Illinois Annual Conference UM Men, during the meeting of UMM conference presidents.

The district provided more than 1.95 million servings of food to the hungry through the Meals for Millions program of the Society of Saint Andrew.

In 2014, the district raised \$258,000 for this ministry to alleviate hunger in America. 



Men of the Rockford District conduct a dedication service after a year-long effort to raise funds for the Meals for Millions.



Gil Hanke presents award to Steve Nailor.

South Carolina named top conference

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Dan Ramsey, president of the National Association of Conference Presidents of UM Men, and Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men, presented a plaque honoring UM Men of South Carolina as the top annual conference unit of UM Men in the nation.

Herman Lightsey, president of the conference UM Men, received the award during a March 5-8 meeting of UM Men leaders.

UM Men of South Carolina Annual Conference host an annual retreat that traditionally brings about 500 men, but with a huge leap of faith, in 2015, the men moved to Christ UMC, a Myrtle Beach church that formerly housed the Gatlin Brothers Theater. More than 800 people attended that life-changing event.

The conference also sponsors teaching churches that share ideas about expanding ministries to men. 



Gil Hanke presents plaque to Herman Lightsey.



United Methodists gather at Christ UMC, former home of the Gatlin Brothers Theater.

Photo by Matt Brodie

'Yes, but what happened yesterday?'

That's the question Gil Hanke asks Mozambique men

MAPUTO, Mozambique—

Gilbert C. Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on U.M. Men, met February, 2015, with 60 U.M. Men in Mozambique.

Following a time in which men of that southeast African nation told Hanke about their joys and concerns, Hanke said, "My message to men of Mozambique is the same as the message to all men of this great United Methodist Church, 'We need always to grow in Christ. We should be closer to Him today than last week.' I hope you are closer to Christ tonight than you were this morning."

Hanke said that when he asks some men if they are growing in Christ, they often begin, "When I was a little boy . . ."

"I want them to say, 'Let me tell you what Christ did for me yesterday'," said Hanke. "Is your Christ a history lesson, or today's news?"

Sunday celebrations

Hanke was in Mozambique for a meeting of the Connectional Table. On

Sunday, the 59-member organization split into small groups in order to attend worship services in neighboring churches.

"The service I attended was nearly 3-hours long, and the sermon was presented and translated by two pastors who trained together at Africa University," said Hanke. "They were amazing, and would be a blessing to any annual conference or similar gathering."

On Sunday afternoon, bishops and church leaders participated in a welcoming celebration at their hotel.

"Many of the men from the previous day were there," said Hanke. "Near the end of this event the men came up to sing two songs and they insisted I join them. They presented me with a hat and the horn of an antelope which could be used as a musical horn." The men told Hanke the horn is to "call men to Christ."

Post-conference trips

Following the Connectional Table meeting, Hanke and other group



Gil Hanke (left) expresses his appreciation to James Humbane who translated his speech into Portuguese and helped coordinate the trip.



Prior to speaking to the men, Hanke asked them to tell him about their lives and ministries. "Similar to men in the U.S., many men in Mozambique are absent from church," said Hanke. "The group was very interested in how to engage men in other ministries of the church, even if they don't come for worship."

members visited secondary schools, hospitals, a public-health center, churches, the Cambine Theological School, the Hanhane Women's Shelter, and retired Bishop João Somane Machado.

Gary Henderson, a UM Communications staffer who works with Imagine No Malaria, accompanied the group, and members saw many examples of that significant ministry.

"The UMC appears to be a leader in public health," said Hanke.

He also visited mission sites that have been reviewed and supported by his brother, the Rev. Jay Hanke, a retired pastor in the Virginia Conference.


Domestic violence

"There is a large issue of domestic violence in this country," said Hanke. "An entire wing of a hospital is dedicated to victims of domestic violence.

"In this culture, when someone dies, someone must be blamed. There are no 'natural' deaths. In a large majority of cases the blame goes to women; the wife is blamed if the husband dies—the mother if a child dies. That is why there is a center for women who have been abandoned."

Return to Maputo

"On our return to Maputo, Simon Nhari, president of UM Men, and James Humbane, translator, came to the hotel Sunday morning to thank me again for coming and to make sure I had traveled well," Hanke reported.

Following the visit, Humbane sent an e-mail, saying, "Your visit to Mozambique has been so meaningful to the church, and particularly to our men's group. You have lit the candle for us, so we will keep it burning to shine for others." 

Support your pastor

By the Rev. Ed Enstine

Supporting your pastor requires more than offering a handshake and a pat on the back after services.

Clergy are human, and even if they might dress a little different than the crowd on Sunday morning, they will kick back to “normal” sooner than you might think.

Being called by God and appointed shepherd of a flock is a tremendous honor, but no matter how “set aside” your pastor may be, he or she needs to belong to a community and experience healthy relationships.

How well do you know your pastor?

You might exchange pleasantries at the sanctuary door, but there are intentional steps men should take to support their pastors.

Keep in mind, we are all in the Kingdom of God together; but, while you have a permanent church home, UM pastors are pretty certain they will move sooner or later. So, how can you help the new pastor or long-term pastor become part of your community?

Consider the following:

Discover your pastor's passion

Clergy have favorite ministries in and beyond the local church. They long to see God's hand at work in areas that resonate with their souls.

Ask your pastor about a ministry that holds a special place in his or her heart.

Raise funds for initiatives such as Stop Hunger Now, Society of Saint Andrew or Imagine No Malaria. Offer to partner with UM Women to prevent domestic violence.

Scouting, mentoring and leadership programs are available and make a tremendous difference in the lives of



The Rev. Ed Enstine speaks to a meeting of the National Association of Conference Presidents of UM Men

young and old alike.

There is a wealth of resources available at the www.gcumm.org website or discuss possibilities with your district or conference presidents. We also have men's ministry specialists scattered around the country who are available to assist.

Too many people ask clergy to “Get on board and help with XYZ,” whether the pastor is interested or not. If you look closely you may see your pastors' eyes glaze over when someone begins to tell them what they HAVE to do for some project or another. Turn the tables and see a look of caution turn into a smile.

Try saying this, "Hi Pastor, I really needed to hear more about this XYZ ministry you keep mentioning? Immediately a bright light will flood your pastor's mind and a heavenly chorus will sing to Handel's famous tune, "HALLELUIA, THEY HEARD ME; THEY HEARD ME, HALLELUIA!" Most clergypersons have some God-inspired ministry that they long to communicate about and experience with their congregation; it does their heart good to know the message is being received.

Pray

People should pray for their pastor and their sisters and brothers in Christ every day. But, having the pastor pray at the beginning of every pot-luck dinner can get old. Pastors are thrilled when someone else is willing to step up and pray.

Now, don't just jump in front of the pastor and announce, "I got this one!"

Ask ahead of time if it would be all right to pray.

Pastors really enjoy seeing their congregations grow in discipleship and maturity, prayer indicates that growth. A praying church is a strong church and praying is not a monopoly reserved for the paid professional.

Men of your church can organize a prayer team to pray with your pastors and their families before services. I've experienced this in several churches and it makes a tremendous difference in the final moments of preparation on Sunday morning.

Make sure you discuss this with the pastor as some clergy prefer a more isolated routine. Most, however, will welcome the time of corporate prayer.

Gather in the pastor's office or wherever space is available and make sure you invite the women. A five-minute prayer circle with ten people and the Holy Spirit can be a tremendous

blessing.

UM Men may also organize a prayer calendar for the pastor. Arrange for groups of men and woman to be pray for the pastor on specific days of the week and month.

Print up a calendar with names listed so if special circumstances occur during the month the pastor will know who to call on any specific day.

Celebrate with your pastor

Celebrate the milestones and important dates in your pastor's life. Organize a welcome or even a farewell dinner as the case may be. Hold surprise birthday or anniversary parties. Have your men raise a fund to send your clergy and spouse for a few days of respite. Remember them at Christmas with a token of friendship and appreciation, that doesn't always have to be money. A donation to a favorite charity in their name carries as much love as a gift certificate to a book store.

Learn what the language of appreciation is for your pastor. Some may care less about travel or money but covet a few quiet days of peace. Some pastors respond to a "Certificate of Appreciation" to hang on their office wall, while others just want to share in the life of Christian community and hear that they are doing a good job. Get to know what provides the greatest personal satisfaction for them and find a way to honor that in your life together.

Become true friends

How can you build a relationship with someone you see once a week and talk to for a minute per week? The simple answer is, "You can't!"

Take your pastor out for breakfast, lunch or dinner.

Clergy are pretty accomplished at conversation, and when they hear

phases such as: "Got a minute," it will frequently signal trouble is coming. Make sure your pastor understands your invitation isn't for a working meal or a gripe session.

You might want to go to a ball game, a concert, fishing, or take a walk together. Be regular people together once in a while.

Serving as a pastor can be an isolating experience. It is amazing how deferential and "different" people will act around a pastor especially in the church building.


Be authentic and real. Very little of what you do or say will surprise your pastor,

UM Men should do their best to be genuine friends and supporters inside and outside of church.

Clergy need people whom they can trust, confide in and count on to listen.

Clergy need prayer support. They need moral support. They need human contact just like everyone else. They need to have a sense of belonging and community. They cannot be truly healthy in isolation.

Don't allow expectations to cast them as super spiritual or super human and self-sufficient. Allow them to be set apart for God's purposes but not abandoned by the community of believers they serve, especially UM Men.

So, men of the UMC, support your pastors, not just in the confines of church, but in the community. Everyone will benefit and God's Kingdom will increase. 



The Rev. Ed Enstine is president of the Northeast Jurisdiction of United Methodist Men and pastor of Danby Federated Church in Ithaca, N.Y.


Men provide 275 devotional books to police officers

JACKSON, Tenn.—

Following a May breakfast and addresses by two police officers, men of Northside UMC and Aldersgate UMC presented 275 copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community* to members of the Madison County Sheriff Department and the Jackson Police Department.

Jackson Police Captain Tyreece Miller, commander of the Criminal Investigation Division, told the gathering at Northside UMC about the Clergy Assistance Response Effort, a program to help victims of violent crime. Miller is a graduate of Bethel University and a former Marine who has been with the department since 1997.

Also addressing the group was Madison County Chief Deputy John Lewoczko, a 37-year veteran with law-enforcement agencies, including the FBI and the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security.

"Our local peace officers watch over, protect and defend our community day and night. They've chosen their professions knowing there will be times when, without personal regard, they will put themselves in harm's way," said Bob Sharp, president of the Jackson District UM Men. "Handing out these books, especially in conjunction with National Peace Officers Week, is our way of saying thank you for your service to others" 



Bob Sharp (right) presents copies of the books of daily devotion to Chief Deputy Lewoczko (left) and Captain Miller

UM Men make the difference

By the Rev. James Williams

One of the most effective pastors I ever had as a layperson was the Rev. Mary Eskew-Rowell.

She was an amazing preacher and leader and I can still remember many of her sermons and Bible studies from almost 30 years ago.

I actually answered my call under her ministry after she was appointed to start a new church. The boldness with which she led was exciting and when she preached you could hear a pin drop. I was serving as her lay leader and actually enjoying the work I was doing in advertising and marketing which was a goal I had throughout my college years when I began strongly pushing away from a call to ministry.

She scheduled a lunch appointment with me and I happily obliged—thinking we were going to discuss some ministry of the church.

About halfway through our meal, she looked me square in the eyes and said, “James, everyone seems to know you’re called to vocational ministry except for you.”

The rest is history. Over the following year, my life was turned upside down.

I was honored to be asked to preach at her funeral a few years ago. God really used Mary in my life to teach me some things.


I tell you that story because I’ve been thinking about a particular conversation I had with Mary after I answered my call to the ministry.

I asked her what was the one common ingredient she had seen in every growing, vital congregation. She looked at me with a sly grin and

said, “I almost hate to give them credit because of some of the battles I’ve had to go through...but it’s the UM Men. Every church I’ve seen that’s making a difference has a strong UM Men’s ministry.”

I was surprised at her answer. But, she was right. There just seems to be a positive spirit that is created when a group of men in the local church commit to being in consistent ministry and fellowship together.

If you’ll study vital churches across denominations, you will almost always find that there is an exciting men’s ministry in place. This is not to minimize women’s ministry in any way. It’s just that, fortunately, women’s ministry tends to happen more naturally. I know in my appointments I never had to push very much for women to be involved in ministry. Men—well—pulling teeth would be a good analogy.

And the other important thing I have found is selecting people who lead this ministry is crucial. They must have a real heart for this type of work in order for their ministry to bear fruit. 



The Rev. James Williams is superintendent of the Lexington District, a position he has held since June, 2013, following a nine-year appointment to Winchester (Ky.) UMC.

Aim low, boring — Aim high, soaring

By Tom Tozer and Bill Black

Too often many of us choose just to get by . . . to do a ho-hum job or just enough to meet the minimum expectations.

Opting for mediocrity is a sure-fire way not to stand out and not to be singled out for a special achievement.

This time of year, dad, your teenagers may be looking for a summer job or serving as a camp counselor, perhaps even preparing for college. Emphasize to them that no matter what their challenge or pursuit, if they put forth their best effort—reach beyond their grasp—they will never be considered mediocre.

Expect it and you'll get it

Mediocrity. Ugh. Even the word sounds average. Have you ever watched a mediocre show, eaten a mediocre hamburger, received mediocre service? If you have, it took only one lousy experience for you to look for other options. Mediocre quality and service exist only when we expect nothing more—when we don't demand better.

Dad, your expectations of your children should be reasonable but also remain high. And your children's expectations of themselves should reflect those same high standards. If your son or daughter is approaching a milestone in his or her life—college, a new job, the start of a career, a position of leadership, a business venture, a promising new relationship—it is important to make clear that quality stands out in the choices they make, the effort they put forth and the ultimate outcome. If your teenager settles for mediocrity—just enough to slide by—it will stick like glue.

It's everywhere!


Mediocrity surrounds us. The mediocre teacher or professor reads from

the same yellowed notes year after year. The committee meets, hardly anyone attends and nothing gets done. Let's face it. It's quite human to shrug off mediocrity because to improve or change something is too much hassle and will create a fuss or hurt someone's feelings. We think, nobody cares so why should we?

Kick it out of the house, under the bus

Dad, don't accept mediocrity from yourselves or your children. When we take life simply as it is dispensed to us—when we are satisfied with ho-hum people, products and service—we endorse it. Mediocrity thrives and becomes the norm. Can you imagine a worse epitaph than "He lived a mediocre life"?

Expect excellence. Model it for your kids. Set high standards and take aim at them in everything you do as individuals and as a family. When you demand excellence from yourself and refuse to settle for less, your teenagers will follow your example. Face it, our kids have many models to follow out there, and they run the spectrum from good to "OMG". Parents need to be the gold standard.

Reject mediocrity. Strive for excellence. Live it. Give it. Expect it from others. 



Tom Tozer and Bill Black write a syndicated column on fatherhood and are authors of "Dads2Dads: Tools for Raising

Teenagers." They are available for workshops. Contact them at tomandbill@Dads2Dadsllc.com. Like them on Facebook and follow them on Twitter at [Dads2Dadsllc](https://twitter.com/Dads2Dadsllc).



REDLANDS, Calif.—

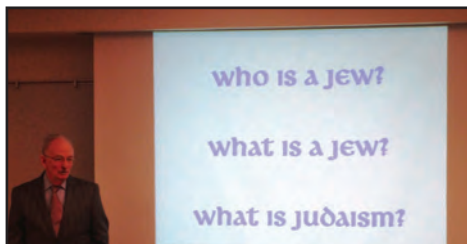
Men learn from different faith communities

UM Men of Redlands UMC are cooperating with the Interfaith Council of Redlands to provide a lecture series in which they learn about other faith communities.

Beginning in 2014, the group hosted speakers from the Roman Catholic

Church, a Jewish synagogue, a Unitarian-Universalist community, and a Mormon church.

“The series not only helped us understand the differences but it has also shown how similar we are in our beliefs,” said Dave Caminiti, president of UM Men.



Rabbi Cohn of the Congregation Emanu El provides an overview of the Jewish faith to men attending a monthly lunch meeting.

CLOVIS, Calif.—

Men auction cakes

For the fifth year, UM Men sponsored a cake auction on Super Bowl Sunday.

The group raised \$580 for a youth mission trip to a Navajo village in New Mexico.



Patrons survey cakes prior to the auction.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—

Church presents 51 PRAY Awards

On Scout Sunday, Mandarin UMC presented 51 young people with PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth) awards.

The church also sponsors a 100-member Cub Scout pack, a 25-member Boy Scout troop along with Daisy, Brownie, and Girl Scout troops.

In 2014, Mandarin UM Men gave a remarkable \$32,000 to a variety of local charities and ministries. Funds are primarily raised through a golf tournament and a 38-year tradition of selling Christmas trees.

Once a month, the men host a brown-bag breakfast that includes devotions, speakers and prayer. Every Wednesday morning the men host a Bible study and a prayer group. Wednesday evenings, they study challenging issues facing men.



Fifty-one youngsters receive PRAY awards on Scout Sunday at Mandarin UMC.

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—

Church honored for scouting ministry

Avondale UMC received the Shepherd Church Charter Recognition for its scouting ministry. The 100-year-old congregation serves as home to a Boy Scout troop and a Cub Scout pack. The troop sells popcorn and sponsors annual chili suppers and pancake breakfasts. Eleven Scouts have achieved the rank of Eagle over the past 15 years.

Beginning in the 1990s, several Girl Scout troops have called Avondale their church home.



Avondale UMC received a Shepherd Church Charter on Scout Sunday.

BELLEVILLE, Ill.—

Troop has 70 Eagles

Sponsored by UM Men of Union UMC, Boy Scout Troop 53 has produced 70 Eagle Scouts.

On Feb. 8, the church celebrated Scout Sunday and Pastor Edward R. Weston welcomed the troop and recognized Scoutmaster Rob Ambrow and Assistant Scoutmaster Jerry Sowders, leaders of the 44-year-old troop.

Troop 53 moved to Union UMC in 1991, and 42 of the 70 Eagle Scouts received their award since the troop has been sponsored by UM Men.

Weston also recognized another 21 Eagle Scouts who are members of the church, but not Troop 53. The oldest Scout—U.S. Air Force Major General (Retired) Jack Griffith—received his Eagle Award in 1944 in Kansas.

“Thanks to UM Men for sponsoring this troop and furthering the scouting ministry in our area,” said Weston.



Eagle Scouts of all ages gather at the front of Union UMC sanctuary on Scout Sunday.

WICHITA, Kan.—

Men tell about their first dates

For the 15th year, men's ministry at Calvary UMC celebrated a "Sweetheart Dinner." Sixty people enjoyed a catered meal and musical entertainment. Couples told the gathering "how we met" and "our first date."

Couples provided details that are seldom heard in church.



DRIVER, Va.—

Church honored for scouting ministry

Beech Grove UMC hosts a Boy Scout troop, a Cub Scout pack, two Girl Scout troops and a Sea Scout ship.

All scouting units participate in clean-up activities in Driver and at the campus of Beech Grove UMC. They also fill stockings for the Salvation Army and fill packets for Stop Hunger Now.

The Sea Scout ship teaches young people about sailing, swimming, snorkeling, scuba diving, motor boating, and fishing. Sea Scouts also participate in an annual "Clean the Bay" day, run a water station for a marathon, sing Christmas carols for patients at a skilled-care facility, and dye Easter eggs for children.

The church received the Shepherd Church Charter Recognition.

CHARLESTON, Ill.—

Church honors Scouts

Wesley UMC celebrated the 15th anniversary of BSA Troop 141 with cake and refreshments following the February

Scout Sunday service at which members of the troop served as greeters, ushers, acolytes, and liturgists.



Members of Troop 141 gather at the front of the sanctuary of Wesley UMC with the pastor, the Rev. Dr. Bob Swickard (center, back row).

XENIA, Ohio—

Men work on mission projects, harvest crops and cook

Men of Faith Community UMC annually receive \$3,000 from a garage sale and they use the money to support several mission efforts.

In 2014, the men also provided 680 volunteer hours, and they gave 1,922 pounds of garden produce to local food pantries.

The men also serve breakfast and wash dishes for the Women's Prayer Breakfast in February and do the same for the Mother/Daughter Banquet in May.



Men of Faith have been working on this house for the past three years.



This is what the house looked like before UM Men repaired, repainted and renovated it.

PARKERSBURG, W.Va.—

Church receives Shepherd Church Charter Recognition

Stout Memorial UMC received Shepherd Church Charter Recognition for sponsoring a Cub Scout pack, a Boy Scout troop, a Girl Scout troop, and a Venturing crew. The church also participates in PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth) studies. Stout Memorial has supported BSA Troop 12 for 58 years. That troop assists Cub Scouts in summer adventures and the Pinewood Derby. Eagle Scout candidates rebuilt a butterfly garden for an elementary school, provided a library for a correctional facility, and improved outdoor facilities for the church's preschool.

Cub Scouts collected toys, entered a float in a parade, and planted flowers around the church.

Girl Scouts annually maintain a memory garden at an animal shelter, prepare cupcakes for the homeless, lead Bingo games at a medical center, and clean up a cemetery in Vienna.



Members of Troop 12 receive the Bishop's Award of Excellence.

DALLAS, Texas —

Minute men tell of men's ministries

UM Men of the Dallas Indian UMC designated the month of September as "Men's Month." Each Sunday, a "minute man" spoke for one minute about a ministry of UM Men. Ministries included: The Upper Room Prayer Line, scouting, and partnering with the pastor in leading men to know Jesus Christ. On the last Sunday, a minute man provided information about the Society of St. Andrew and funds were provided for that ministry through a baked potato meal.



Minute Man Rick Longfox tells about ministries of UM Men at Dallas Indian UMC.

RANCHO CUCAMONGA, Calif.—

Church honors Eagle Scouts

The UMC of Cucamonga has chartered BSA Troop 652 for 37 years.



From left: Daniel Yoon, David Harper, Sean Sedey, and Ethan Lam celebrate increase in Scout ranks. Sean is the son of Scoutmaster Chuck Sedey, who leads the troop in spite of undergoing surgeries and chemo treatments for brain cancer.

"God gave us a special blessing at our Court of Honor, when three Eagles Scouts were awarded their rank," said

the Rev. Eric Schmidt, pastor and charter organization representative.

David Harper achieved the rank a few months earlier.

Schmidt says the 45-member troop participates in the God and Church study of PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth).

SIBLEY, La.—

Men build 200 handicap ramps

Men of Sibley UMC started building home access ramps in 2007 and by 2015 they had built 200 ramps.



Every year, men of Sibley UMC build about 25 handicap ramps.

MONTGOMERY, Texas—

Three decades of selling pecans

In 1985, Mike Landes, treasurer of UM Men of Montgomery UMC, attended a fund-raising class at a men's retreat. One of the leaders suggested selling pecans and Landes found a source in Georgia. "Now the project has grown and we are selling 50 cases a year," says Landes. The men average \$3,000 a year in profits that are given to community projects, mission trips, the UM Committee on Relief, and the Society of St. Andrew.

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS, Ill.—

Fifty-five attend Bishop's Gathering for Scouting

Illinois Area Bishop Jonathan D. Keaton told 55 people from seven districts in the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference that scouting ministries provide "value-added" programs for local churches, and these outreach programs train

"principled leaders," one of the four areas of focus for the UMC.

Bob Chase, conference scouting coordinator, said the March 15 meeting at Christ UMC was based on the Bishop's Dinner for Scouting model, but omitted the dinner.

"Having coordinated two Bishop's Dinners for Scouting in Virginia in the 1990s, I felt that they took too much time, particularly for the bishop and others who traveled more than an hour to attend the program," said Chase.

The event included presentations by a senior Girl Scout, a Venturer, a 4-H leader, and Chase.

"There were many favorable comments about the meeting and its content, and questions about having additional meetings in the future," said Chase.



Representatives of churches in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference listen to presentations and make commitments to expand scouting ministries.

SWANSBORO, N.C.—

Men learn ways to combat domestic violence



Swansboro UM Men President Ray Bihary (right) presents a \$400 check to Junie Christian. The men also gave Christian some of their world-famous, oil-roasted, lightly salted, jumbo peanuts.

Junie Christian, executive director of Onslow County Women's (Crisis) Center, was the guest speaker at a March Swansboro UM Men dinner.

Christian told the men about the ways the center provides emergency help to victims of domestic violence and how the center attempts to reduce the number of violent incidents. He detailed ways men can help break the cycle of violence.

ARLINGTON, Tenn.—

Scouts, other youth prepare more than 100 Easter baskets

Members of Boy Scout Troop 452, chartered by Arlington UMC, accepted a challenge by UM Neighborhood Centers of Memphis to collect Easter baskets for low-income families in the Memphis area.

After securing donations, 20 young people and 11 adults gathered March 22 at Arlington UMC to put candy into 557 plastic eggs and then place the eggs along with coloring books, religious story books, crayons, and pocket tissues into 104 Easter baskets.



Following four hours of assembling baskets, Arlington young people proudly show the results of their work.

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—

Church presents awards to 117 youth

North Cross UMC presented PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth) awards to 117 young people from several denominations. Seven youth received "Four Star" awards for completing all four PRAY awards.

Seven adult leaders received "God and Service" awards.

The program is coordinated by Jeffrey Cook, religious emblems coordinator for the Missouri Conference. A total of 4,126 young people have received awards since August, 1999.



Seven young people in the front row received "Four Star" PRAY awards. They are joined by adult "God and Service" award winners and counselors. Cook is at the far right.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—

Leaders agree to start 13 new scouting units

There will be new scouting units in 13 Arkansas Conference churches as the result of a Bishop's Dinner for Scouting at Pulaski Heights UMC.

Seventy-five people attended the April 15 meeting, coordinated by Bill Byrd, conference scouting coordinator, and hosted by Mackey Yokem, conference director of mission and ministry.

Arkansas Area Bishop Gary Mueller, a Life Scout, encouraged church leaders to make disciples by chartering Scout units.

Will Rockefeller, projects director for U.S. Senator John Boozman (R-Ark.), recalled how his father encouraged him



Will Rockefeller tells Arkansas church leaders that being a Scout is like being a member of a fraternity.

in scouting and that the skills he learned in scouting have lasted a lifetime. He said, even as an adult, his Eagle Scout rank still evokes respect.



Scouts from a troop chartered by Pulaski Heights UMC serve as waiters, and members of the Quapaw Area BSA Council serve as table hosts.

AUSTIN, Texas—

Clothes Closet serves 20,000

In 1999, the Rev. Bill Harris, superintendent of the Austin District, asked Ralph Eckwall, president of Capital District UM Men, if his organization could sponsor a clothes closet for homeless men.



Ralph Eckwall, coordinator of the closet (center right), joins other volunteers in congratulating the 20,000th customer (center left).

Two weeks later—with donations from Crestview UMC, Tarrytown UMC, and St. John's UMC—the closet was organized.

Three members of Crestview UMC—John Carlson, George Griffin, and Lewis Gillette—joined Eckwall and Harris to become the first volunteers to staff the closet.

On April, 27, with the support of the Austin Resource for Homeless, the

Clothes Closet served its 20,000th customer at its fifth home in the Austin Central Presbyterian Church.

The motto of the Capital District sponsors is, "We are the servants—God is the provider."



The day included cake and quarter-pound hamburgers.

GLEN JEAN, W.Va.—

Bishop hosts dinner for scouting

West Virginia Area Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball hosted an April dinner for scouting at the Summit Bechtel Reserve.

Prior to the dinner, some 80 participants, including representatives from 15 churches spent a cold and rainy afternoon touring the permanent site of Boy Scout National Jamborees.

At the dinner, Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball lamented the fact that some churches know little about Scouts who meet in their buildings. She said it is sad that local congregations do not understand the opportunities for outreach to people in their communities through scouting.

The event was funded by the UM Foundation of West Virginia.

The Rev. Greg Godwin, a scouting ministry specialist and coordinator of the dinner, reports eight churches agreed to explore the establishment of Boy Scout units and four signed covenants to explore Girl Scout troops.

"We also have opportunities to establish units with three residential

units of the Burlington UM Family Services,” said Godwin. “There are also opportunities to begin Scout units in McDowell County, one of the poorest places in the U.S., and a church is exploring the possibility of providing a Venturing program to the homeless in Charleston.”



The Rev. Greg Godwin speaks to leaders of West Virginia Conference churches. Photo by Dale Geiger.

COLUMBIA, S.C. —

Bishop issues challenge

Bishop Jonathan Holston urged some 100 men to initiate or expand ministries to men through their local churches.

“I need your help to make a difference in your community, in your local church and in your family,” Holston told an April 11 gathering at Rehoboth UMC. “Stand up with a sense of power to do things in ways that have never been done before.”



Men meet in small groups to discuss qualities that characterize leaders. Photo by Allison Trussell.

MONROVIA, LIBERIA —

Bishop urges men to mentor children

Following the installation of conference officers of UM Men, Liberia Bishop John G. Innis urged UM men to mentor children in day care centers, orphanages,

kindergartens and Sunday schools. “Share with the kids the virtues of life that must be imbued in them as future leaders,” said Innis.



Bishop John G. Innis

James Worquea, newly elected president of Liberia UM Men, pledged to invigorate the UMC by feeding the needy, rescuing the sick, and caring for the dying.

NATCHITOCHEs, La.—

Men raise \$10,000 for Nepal

For the past two years, UM Men have sponsored a “Pull Together” clay shooting tournament to support some 300 neglected, marginalized, and at-risk girls and young women in Nepal, especially those forced into early marriage, sold into sex slavery, or abandoned as orphans.

Their needs became greater following an April 25 earthquake that killed more than 8,500 people in the southern Asia nation.

The Father’s Day tournament has raised \$10,000 for efforts by the UM Committee on Relief, and travel expenses for Drs. Mike and Patrice Moulton. In June, the couple delivered solar lanterns to Katmandu and remote villages.



Participants in the skeet shoot include Dr. Patrice Moulton, Nolton Causey, Craig Annis, Dr. Mike Moulton, Colby Marshall, Brendan Marshall, Sonny Evans, and Sid Evans III.

Goal is clear, but we don't know how to get there, says Hanke

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

“UM Men have a clear goal of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, but we haven't a clue about how to achieve that goal.”

That's what Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men, told presidents of annual conference units of UM Men at a March 5-8 meeting here.

“It's as if we wanted to teach people how to swim by providing information on the history of swimming, a list of the best places to swim and a study of swimming techniques without bringing them to a swimming pool,” said Hanke. “You can't create swimmers without getting wet.”

He invited the men to jump into the disciple making pool.

Hanke asked the conference presidents to use modern technology and new terminology to recast a play from a playbook established by John Wesley. Quoting from *The Class Meeting*, a book by Kevin M. Watson, Hanke said early Methodists utilized small group structures

not to study the Bible, but rather to lovingly engage one another in conversations about their souls.

Hanke encouraged leaders of UM Men to use the eight chapters of Watson's book as a way to introduce the

class-meeting to eight men through electronic meetings where men can participate without leaving their homes or offices.

“If 30 of you can find eight people in eight districts to participate in eight

meetings, and if those eight men can each form groups of 10 from 10 churches and if those 10 can form groups of 10, we will reach 26,670 men by Christmas,” said Hanke.

He does not suggest that men use the title of “class meeting.” “Call it a ‘Transformation Group,’ a ‘T-group’ or anything you wish,” said Hanke who participates in three similar groups. He noted that it might seem strange to begin such a group with a book, but the study serves as an effective beginning.

“This process interfaces well with all that we do as a movement,” he said.

“I hope you'll do what Gil asked you to do,” said Tim Bias, top staff executive of Discipleship Ministries. “People are famished to be in loving relations with others and to understand that God is real.”

Bishop James Swanson, president of the General Commission on UM Men, participated in the meeting electronically and also endorsed the process.

The book may be ordered from Amazon.



Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men speaks to the March meeting of the National Association of Conference Presidents.



Upper Room Prayer Line received 273,580 prayer requests

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

In 2014, the Upper Room Living Prayer Center received 273,580 prayer requests. Many of those requests were received and answered by UM Men organizations.

In 2014, UM Men contributed \$20,980, an amount that enabled the ministry to respond to 2,400 prayer requests by e-mail; 39,593 requests at the website and 231,287 by phone.

For the third year in a row, Alabama West Florida Annual Conference was the top contributor to the prayer ministry with gifts totaling \$3,215.

“I can think of no better organization to team with than UM Men,” said Migdiel Perez, manager of the Nashville-based prayer center. “Our Living Prayer Center is successful because you have been an important part of it.”

Perez says the center introduced a “prayer wall” on its website (<http://prayer-center.upperroom.org>), a site that enables people to post prayers and post responses.

Call the prayer center (800/251-2468) (7 a.m.-11 p.m.



Andy Tentoni, president of Mississippi Conference UM Men (left), presents a check to Migdiel Perez, manager of the Upper Room Prayer Line. Joe Kelley, national prayer advocate, expresses his appreciation for the first-time donation from the conference.



Conference prayer advocates gather at the Discipleship Ministries building in Nashville, home of the Upper Room.

Storm limits attendance of conference presidents

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Music City is not known for snow storms, but an 8-inch March 5 snow fall, accompanied by 8°-degree temperatures and icy roads resulted in flight delays, cancellations, and an 8-hour stand-still on interstate highways.

Since Nashville has few snow plows, even some local participants were unable to get out of their unplowed neighborhoods.

Nevertheless, Gil Hanke, top staff executive

of the General Commission on UM Men, arrived at 6:30 a.m. to shovel the entrance and parking lot of the commission office on Music Row.

Discipleship Ministries, the anticipated meeting location of the National Association of Conference Presidents and prayer advocates, closed for the day, so early March 5 meetings were crowded into commission offices until the larger Discipleship meeting room was re-opened for an evening gathering.



Conference presidents happily gather at Discipleship Ministries following too-long adventures over icy roads.

Parchment defines a UM man

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Neil Brown, president of Western North Carolina UM Men, is providing a way for organizations of UM Men to declare what they stand for while raising funds for the UM Men Foundation.

A parchment titled “I am a United Methodist Man” proclaims a UM man is “as sinful as any other man. However, I have been changed forever by the merciful grace of God, grounded in His Word, and attempting, with His help, to live out my faith in the world.”

The statement declares a UM man has a “special concern for the sick, the marginalized and the needy” and he assists “the young through the scouting ministry and honors the military and first responders with copies of *Strength for Service*.”

The statement concludes: “I am a United Methodist Man. God’s call on my life and my obedience to Him makes me a radiating power. Through the faithfulness of my commitment to Him, I become a living symbol, the hands and feet of Jesus, a sign of His kingdom here on earth. I am a United Methodist Man.”

There are only 100 signed copies of the document. Parchment copies are available from Neil Brown (brownneil@bellsouth.net) for a \$50 donation to the UM Men Foundation. The foundation received more than \$1,200 in the first two days following the announcement of the document.



Neil Brown (left) presents the first of 100 numbered copies of “I am a United Methodist Man” to Gil Hanke, general secretary of the General Commission on UM Men. Ed Shytle, president of the UM Men Foundation, joins in the presentation at the March meeting of the National Association of Conference Presidents.

Give away marbles, says pastor

NASHVILLE, Tenn. —

The pastor of McKendree UMC in Nashville invited presidents of conference units of UM Men and conference prayer advocates to give away some marbles.

The Rev. Stephen Handy told men attending a March meeting of the Nashville Association of Conference Presidents how members of his congregation share the love and grace of Jesus Christ by giving away marbles.

Handy says, the marbles remind him to share the Good News of Jesus Christ even when he is not in the mood.

“I wasn’t in the mood for talking following a visit in a hospital, but a young lady walked onto the elevator from the Intensive Care Unit,” said Handy. “I told Jesus I wasn’t in the mood, but he said, ‘Give her a marble.’”

Handy, says he told the woman about the practice at McKendree and gave her a marble. “She really appreciated hearing about the love and grace of Jesus Christ—even in my early defiance of

sharing, God revealed hope,” said Handy.

“Every movement starts with an invitation from God,” said Handy. “The invitation is for us to recognize God’s love and because of God’s love we invite others into relationship with him.”

“After the invitation comes the investment of our time with the invitee. No longer is the invitation enough, UM Men must invest their time through mentoring, going to read in elementary schools, and listening to the stories of others.



The Rev. Stephen Handy speaks at the opening session of the National Association of Conference Presidents and prayer advocates.

Foundation honors John Burlew and James Monroe

During a 2015 meeting of directors of the UMM Men Foundation, President Ed Shytle surprised Jim Monroe and John Burlew with Dale Waymire Awards.

In 2007, Robert Powell, then president of the fund-raising arm, created the award to honor Waymire, the founder and first president of the foundation. He presented the first award to Waymire, and a second one to Gil Hanke, former president of the General Commission on UMM Men now serving as top staff executive of the commission.

Waymire, one of the early advocates for the creation of the commission, died in 2012 at age 82.

Seven years after the first presentations, President Shytle presented Monroe and Burlew with the third and fourth Waymire awards.

Monroe received the award in absentia. He served for many years as the financial adviser to the board.

Burlew received the award for his service as treasurer of the National Association of Conference Presidents (1994-98), president of the Northeastern Jurisdiction of UMM Men (1999-2004), and as a director of the foundation board (1999 to present).

Burlew was a contract Navy ROTC student at Penn State University, and following graduation, he served two years on the USS DeHaven (DD-



Ed Shytle (right), president of the UMM Foundation, and John Burlew.

727), a destroyer based in Yokosuka, Japan.

He worked 23 years for the Carrier Air Conditioning Company in Syracuse, N.Y. In his last position he served as the director of quality assurance. In 1986, he purchased Hemstreet Tool and Die, Inc., a company he still owns and operates.

He became involved with UMM Men, following his 1970 election as lay leader of the Syracuse District. The position included the responsibility to support a men's retreat. "I found such support by the other men who were in attendance, that I knew UMM Men was a place where I belonged," said Burlew.

"I am most proud to be part of an organization that not only serves men around the country, but supports people on mission trips throughout the world," said Burlew.

Twenty-eight conferences increase the number of charters

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Twenty-eight annual conferences increased the number of local church charter organizations in 2014.

South Carolina led the pack with 23 new

charter organizations. In addition, eight annual conferences maintained the same number of charter organizations in 2014 that they had in 2013.

Chartering is the principal source of funds for the world-wide ministries of the General Commission on UMM Men.



Presidents of annual conference that maintained or increased the number of charter organization gather at a March meeting in Nashville.

The UM Men partnership that feeds millions

By Wade Mays

Imagine being part of an organization that has helped feed millions of hungry people since 1998. The accomplishment is real; it is impressive; and it is yours. UM Men, in a partnership with the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA), has been feeding the hungry across the U.S. for the past 17 years.

The partnership is called the *Hunger Relief Advocate Initiative*, and it involves two

major efforts where UM Men make a huge difference: *Hunger Relief Advocates* and *Meals for Millions*.

HRAs (Hunger Relief Advocates) are UM men who volunteer some of their time to help feed hungry people in their own annual conference areas. They participate in any of several ways. They may create and enable a gleaning network that brings volunteers into the fields to collect food after the harvest, and then deliver the fruits or vegetables to food pantries. Since the program started, HRAs have collected 33,357,240 pounds of fresh produce, all distributed to the hungry.

HRAs may speak in churches to raise awareness of hunger, and by doing so, lead to development of local anti-hunger programs. And they may speak in their district or conference meetings to raise money for the Meals for Millions program.

Meals for Millions is the UMMen giving program that provides funding for the HRA initiative, and helps the society distribute food to families in need. Through the donations of men's groups and individuals across the country, this program has raised \$3,465,000, enough to support more than 170-million servings of food to the hungry.

Partners in Leadership – Not only

have UMMen and SoSA worked closely together since 1998, they both benefit from the leadership of Gil Hanke. The top staff

executive of UM Men has also been a member of the SoSA Board of Directors since 2008. He served as vice-chair of the board in 2012, and has chaired the board since 2013. Hanke's leadership is greatly appreciated by the society, and it has also helped maintain the close and effective

partnership of the two organizations.

As a member of UMMen, your support and participation is needed. Ideally the Hunger Relief Advocate Initiative will have:

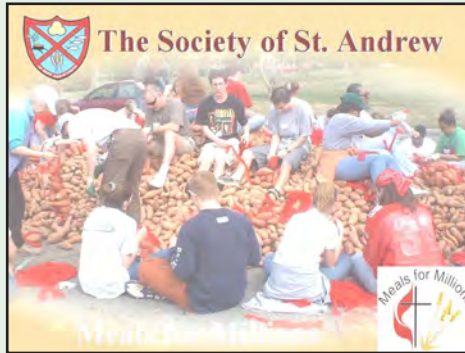
- A part-time UM Men Hunger Relief Advocate in every state
- A volunteer advocate in every district of the UMC
- A spokesman in every local church

Learn more about the Hunger Relief Advocate Initiative and how you can be involved by going to <http://endhunger.org/umm>. On the website you can learn more, and you can contact men who are already in leadership in this initiative. You can also contact the national coordinator, Wade Mays (Wade@EndHunger.org) (800-333-4597).

You may also donate to Meals for Millions at the website.

The Society of St. Andrew originated in Big Island, Virginia in 1979, and now collects food from farms and packing houses across more than 20 states, and distributes fresh fruits and vegetables to food banks and food pantries across the country.

Wade Mays is the national coordinator of the Meals for Millions program of the Society of St. Andrew.



Society of St. Andrew honors Virginia Conference as top contributor

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

UM Men of the Virginia Annual Conference contributed \$21,713 to the Meals for Millions Fund of the Society of St. Andrew, the highest total of all U.S. annual conference organizations.

Wade Mays, national coordinator of the Meals for Millions Fund, listed the top ten contributors to the 17-year-old fund, during a March 7 meeting of conference presidents of UM Men and conference prayer advocates.

Detroit Conference finished a close second with \$20,351. Northern Illinois Conference followed with gifts totaling \$19,171.

Indiana Conference finished fourth with \$18,896; Baltimore/Washington Conference was in fifth place with \$13,842, followed by Missouri Conference with \$12,108.

Susquehanna Conference finished in 7th place with \$9,250 and it was awarded the “Bud the Spud Award” for highest increase from 2013; the conference increased funding by a whopping 311 percent.

North Carolina was in 8th place with \$5,707, followed by Iowa Conference with \$5,205, and Upper New York Conference with \$5,080.

The fund establishes gleaning networks, raises awareness of the extent of hunger in America, and funds hunger relief advocates in 18 annual conferences.

In 2014, hunger relief advocates led 2,320 volunteers into farmer’s fields to pick up 748,000 pounds of produce. Gifts to the Meals for Millions Fund provided another 8.2 million servings of fresh produce to the hungry.



Wade Mays, national coordinator of the Meals for Millions Fund, presents a plaque to Dan Dietze, prayer advocate for the Virginia Conference.

In Memoriam – Del Ketcham

HENDERSONVILLE, N.C.—

Delbert “Del” Ketcham, a former staff member of the General Commission on UM Men, died April 29, following a five-month battle with lung cancer.

Del served as Hunger Relief Advocate in the Nashville office of GCUMM from 2001 to 2007. During that time, he edited “Mission News” in *UM Men* magazine, and led potato drops and gleaning efforts for the Society of St. Andrew.

In Nashville, Del and his wife, Sheila, were members of Edgehill UMC and Del managed the Edgehill Community Garden. His efforts to provide food security for the city resulted in the 2007 creation of Food Security Partners of Middle Tennessee. That organization continues Del’s work today.

In late 2007, Del and Sheila moved from Nashville to Wiscasset, Maine, where he

served as a substitute teacher at the high school, manager of the Margaret Ellis Community Garden, and founder of the Morris Farm Store. He also served on

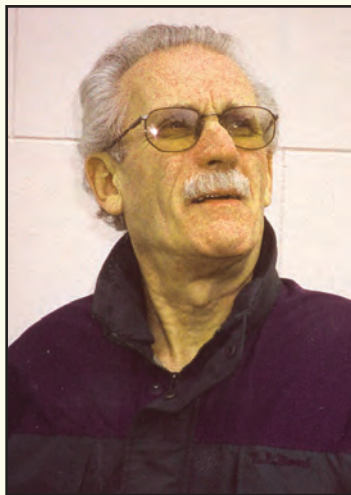
the board of the Wiscasset Public Library and provided backpacks for Wiscasset children. The couple attended East Boothbay UMC and Bath UMC prior to their 2014 move to North Carolina to be near their children and granddaughter.

Del was born in Biddeford, Maine, in 1939 and moved to Weymouth, Mass., in 1947. His famous “green thumb” began in his family’s commercial greenhouses there, where he learned to propagate plants and help in all aspects of the family business, Ketcham Flowers. He was a member of

the Future Farmers of America through the 1950s and won many prizes in local and state fairs and 4-H groups.

Del graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1963 with degrees in biology and education and a minor in political science. He taught junior high students in Grafton and Brockton, Mass., for more than 10 years. In the 1970s, he managed restaurants in Boston and New Orleans. Del owned G&P Expeditors in Quincy, Mass., in the 1980s and 1990s. During these decades, he was an early advocate for community access television in Weymouth, Mass., producing programs and hosting two weekly interview shows that examined local and national issues for the community.

Del is survived by his beloved wife, Sheila deBettencourt; son, Jason Ketcham; step-children, Angie Buxton, Christina Souza, Dan deBettencourt and their spouses; as well as his precious grand-daughter, Aquinnah deBettencourt. He was predeceased by his son Delbert Blois Ketcham.



UM Men honor Nashville fire fighters

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Conference presidents of UM Men and conference prayer advocates took time out from their March 5-8 meetings to deliver copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community* to a local fire department.



L. W. Smith presents Strength for Service books to Captain Pewitt.

L. W. Smith, president of the non-denominational Strength for Service organization, presented books of daily devotions to Stan Pewitt, captain of the station.

Following the event, the men had the opportunity to chat with some of the firefighters prior to a few of them leaving on a fire call.

Wayne Prejean, president of Louisiana Conference UM Men and a 30-year veteran firefighter, had the opportunity to share some of his experiences with younger Nashville firefighters. Prejean served as fire chief from 1972 to 1982, one of the youngest fire chiefs in the nation.



Wayne Prejean, former fire chief, chats with EMT Hooper.

Leaders stay for extra training

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Some 100 men attended a March 5-8 meeting of conference presidents and prayer advocates.

The days were filled with reports, information sessions, a technology seminar, planning meetings, and hands-on-mission projects.

But even after these event-packed days, 31 men stayed in Music City on Sunday afternoon and Monday morning for a 10-hour course on “Understanding Men’s Ministry.”

Jim Boesch and Mark Dehority, deployed staff members of the General Commission on UM Men, led a course based on *No Man Left Behind: How to Build and Sustain a Thriving Men’s Ministry in Your Church*, a book by Patrick Morley, David Delk, and Brett Clemmer, staff executives of Orlando, Fla.-based Man in the Mirror ministries.

“These guys were from every jurisdiction and the interaction was positive and intense,” said Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the commission.

The course is designed to enable participants to help local churches reach all the men wherever they are on their walk with Christ, and move them toward becoming a disciple.



Participants in the Understanding Men’s Ministry training experience take a break from their two-day training session.

Completion of the course is required in order to be accredited as a men’s ministry specialist.

“Since the course is only the first equipping step, the men will be surveyed 60 days after the event to determine the degree to which they feel they have effectively completed the initial implementation of their discipling plan,” said Boesch.

Deployed staffers will provide coaching and mentoring for these leaders as they deepen their relationships with Jesus Christ and as they help neighboring churches expand their ministries to men.

At present 37 men have been certified as men’s ministry specialists and 29 are in the certification process.

Leaders from seven denominations learn to lead like Jesus

OKLAHOMA CITY—

Leaders of men's ministry from seven denominations learned to "Lead like Jesus," during a March 23-25 meeting at the headquarters of the International Pentecostal Holiness Church here.

"Something rather remarkable took place at the meeting," said Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men and coordinator of the event. "Leaders from several very different denominations met, exchanged ideas and materials, prayed and laughed together and all were taught a leadership model taken from the New Testament."

Jim Boesch, a deployed staff member of the commission, led a session on Lead Like Jesus, based on a book of the same title by Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges.

The authors divide leadership into four domains:

- **Heart** is all about your motivation. Authors ask about your EGO (Are you Edging God Out because of pride and fear? Or, are you Exalting God Only through humility and confidence?) Are you a servant leader or a self-serving leader?
- **Head** deals with your beliefs and theories about leading and motivating others. Servant leaders play two roles: 1) a visionary role that sets the course and the destination and 2) an implementation role.
- **Hands** detail four stages of learning: 1) Novice—just starting out; 2) Apprentice—

in training; 3) Journeyman—capable of working independently; and 4) Master—highly skilled and able to teach others

- **Habits** address the need to renew your daily commitments in order to remain a servant leader through both the "Being Habits" of abiding in God's love, solitude, prayer, scripture and fellowship with an intimate group of companions as well as the "Doing Habits" of expressing God's love, grace, forgiveness, community and encouragement of others.

"I have seen Jim teach this one day encounter before, but this was a different level audience, and one that covered a wide theological spectrum," said Hanke. "Participants were completely engaged and each saw this material as essential for his work in this critical area of need within his denomination."

Built into the training are weekly follow up emails from the publisher to each participant; Boesch will also provide additional coaching.

"During our time together, there was not a harsh word or criticism, not an argument over our very different theologies, only praise and support for each other's efforts in this difficult area of ministry which we all share," said Hanke.

"This content, this cooperation, and this time together was all Kingdom building," said Bill Terry, a leader of the International Pentecostal Holiness Church and host of the event.



From left: Dave Moore, International Pentecostal Holiness Church; George Brow, African Methodist Episcopal Church; Boesch; Hanke; Doug Haugen, Evangelical Lutheran Church; Terry; Tom Groot, Assemblies of God Church; Darrel Billups, National Coalition on Ministry to Men; Jack Hanstein, Episcopal/Anglican Church; and Stephen Bentley, Disciples of Christ Church.

UM Men Awards

Bob Warner

Men honor retired Air Force Colonel
NORMAN, Okla.—

Each year, men of McFarlin Memorial UMC honor a “McFarlin Man of the Year.”

This year, the honor went to Bob Warner, a retired Air Force Colonel who led several building projects at the church.

Following a 30-year career as a pilot, the 19-year church member built two recycle bins for the sanctuary, a U-shape reception desk for the lobby, two kneelers, and a reception desk for the church offices.

Warner also led an effort to raise funds through a miniature golf tournament and a hamburger dinner.

Four February events paid for a new playground, eight flat-screen televisions, an Amish gazebo, and repairs to the church chimes.

Warner also led efforts to repair the mobile home of a disabled veteran, and he helped make a church bathroom handicapped accessible.



Sam Ott (left), president of UM Men of McFarlin Memorial UMC, presents an award to Bob Warner.

Eldon Gracy

French award World War II veteran
SAN ANTONIO, Texas—

It's been 70 years since World War II ended, but France is still grateful to American veterans who defended their nation during that war.

Eldon Gracy, a UM Legacy Builder from

Caldwell, Kans., was one of those honored. He was named a “Knight of the Legion of Honor” by a French official at a November service in San Antonio, Texas.

“Thanks to your courage, and to our American friends and allies, France has been living in peace for the past six decades,” said Consul General Vincent Floreani. “You saved us and we will never forget.”

The award was established by Napoleon Bonaparte.

Gracy enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1944 at age 18. He served with the 87th Infantry, a unit that fought Germans in France from Le Havre to the Saar Valley. He also participated in the “Ardennes Offensive” in Germany, better known as the “Battle of the Bulge.”

Paul Steele.

Men pay tribute to mission leader
VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.—

Men of Community UMC presented Paul Steele with a Life Member Award following his service as co-chair of the Building Committee and the Outreach Ministries Committee.

He served on three UM Committee on Relief trips to help Biloxi, Miss., residents recover from Hurricane Katrina. And, in 2008, he was co-leader of a team that provided fresh water to residents of Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

Following a 2010 earthquake in Chile, he



Eldon Gracy participates in a San Antonio ceremony where France named him a “Knight of the Legion of Honor.”



Paul Steele

helped rebuild an agricultural school in Angol.

Steele has also gone on 10 mission trips with the Appalachia Service Project, and he has worked with Mattaponi Indians in Virginia. He also worked at a Stop Hunger Now packing event, and he helped provide meals for the homeless.

He serves the congregation as a Stephen minister and head usher.

Garry Crull *Coach honored for serving men and youth* ROCKFORD, Ill.—

Grace UMC presented Garry Crull with a Life Membership Award for his contributions to the men's unit and the church.

Crull coordinates all church lawn mowing, serves as the chair of Stewardship Committee, and leads two men's studies. He also served on the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, the Church Council, and the Finance Committee.

While serving as the football coach at Iowa-Grant High School in Wisconsin, Crull coached five teams that were undefeated in conference play; six teams became conference champions. One of his teams became a state champion and two teams finished second in state.

He was a five-time district coach of the year, and, in 1977, the Wisconsin High School Football Coaches Association named him the "Wisconsin High School Coach of the Year."

In 1992, he served as head coach of the Shrine South All Star Team, a team that included his son, Jeff.

In 2007 he was named to the Indianapolis-based National Hall of Fame for High School Coaches.

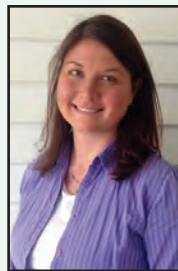


From Left: Roger Ellis; the Rev. Pam Rossmiller, pastor; Crull; Larry Christensen; Steve Nailor, president UM Men of Northern Illinois Conference; and Will Aldritt, president of UM Men of Grace UMC. All men are life members of UM Men.

The Rev. Ashley McGuire *Pastor receives Susanna Wesley Award* ST. FRANCISVILLE, La.—

Men of St. Francisville UMC presented their pastor, the Rev. Ashley McGuire, with a Susanna Wesley Award of Excellence.

McGuire received her B.S. degree in engineering from Duke University in 2003. In 2006, after three years of teaching at the local science center and working at Shriner's Hospital, she answered the call to ministry. In 2009, she graduated with a M.Div. degree from Perkins School of Theology. She served as a student local pastor at Bethel UMC, the associate pastor at First UMC, Bossier, and was appointed pastor of St. Francisville UMC in June, 2014.



The Rev. Ashley McGuire

The Rev. Lynn Jackson, Ronnie Green, Ben Roe, Curtis Gay, and the Rev. Steven Goodier *District presents five Life Membership Awards* DENVER, Colo.—

Bob Phillips, president of the Metropolitan District Stout Hearted Men's Ministry, presented Life Membership Awards to five church leaders.

Recipients included: the Rev. Lynn Jackson, pastor of Scott UMC; Ronnie Green, president of UM Men of Scott UMC; Ben Roe, a member of Arvada UMC and the District Executive Board; Curtis Gay, co-lay leader of the Metropolitan District; and the Rev. Steven Goodier, superintendent of the Metropolitan



The Rev. Steven Goodier



The Rev. Lynn Jackson

District and honorary president of Stout Hearted Men's Ministry.

The awards were presented at the sixth annual UM Men gathering at Scout UMC in January.

Charles Johnson and Mel Guss *Two leaders inducted into John Wesley Society*

SWANSBORO, N.C.—

Very few people are selected to be fellows in the John Wesley Society, so it is very unusual to see two people from the same church receive John Wesley Awards on the same day.

At the 8:30 a.m. service of Swansboro UMC,



From left: Ray Bihary, president of Swansboro UM Men; Johnson; Gunter, and Cizerle.



From left: Bihary, Gunter, Guss; and Cizerle.

Pastor Ed Gunter announced that leaders of UM Men would make a special presentation.

After explaining that only a few bishops, UM leaders and two U.S. presidents have been inducted into the society, Frank Cizerle, secretary of UM Men, invited Charles Johnson to come to the front of the sanctuary where he was presented with a John Wesley Society plaque and lapel pin. Cizerle said Johnson has “cooked for probably everyone in the sanctuary at one event or another.”

He also noted Johnson's role as the chief engineer for building handicap ramps and past chair of the Board of Trustees and Finance Committee.

At the 11 a.m. service, Cizerle invited Mel Guss to leave the choir loft in order to be inducted into the society.

Guss serves as chair of the peanut sales ministry, coordinator of the church's disaster preparedness and recovery ministry, and a member of the handicap ramp construction team. He is the former chair of the Board of Trustees and the Finance Committee, and is a current member of the UM Men board.

Peter Jordan Rutledge *Former chair of church council named life member*

MT. HOLLY, N.C.—

Peter Jordan Rutledge received a Life Membership Award for his service as chair of the Church Council and chair of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee.

He currently serves as secretary of the UM Men organization, teaches Sunday school, and cooks breakfasts for UM Men meetings.

He also participates in a ministry to shut-ins, serves as host of a church booth at community events, and led a week-long mission trip with the Carolina Cross Connection.

David Hilton *A 'driving force'*

PECATONICA, Ill.—

Men of Pecatonica UMC presented David Hilton with a Life Membership Award for his service as secretary/treasurer of UM Men, and for his service on the district.

“David has been a driving force in the men's club, offering leadership, guidance, and support in all activities,” said Mark Kleparski, president.



David Hilton prepares pancakes for Pecatonica UM Men.

New award introduced to Scouts in Cote d'Ivoire

ABIDJAN, CÔTE D'IVOIRE—

Tyrone LaValley, a scouting ministry specialist and a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries, is introducing a new scouting award to the 18,000 children and youth enrolled in UM schools in this West African nation.

In cooperation with Bishop Benjamin Boni, LaValley has created a discipleship award to be known as Le Prix du Cheminement (Pathways Award) with three journeys: 1) a spiritual-formation journey, 2) an evangelism journey, and 3) a mission-engagement journey.

Adults may also earn a Scouting Ministry Specialist Award.

"The youth will learn about the Wesleyan perspective of the Christian faith and work together as missionaries in their own country," said LaValley. "They will distribute treated mosquito nets to combat Malaria, provide water filters for villages, and provide information about preventing the spread of Ebola."

Beginning in June, LaValley expects his wife, Cheryl, will be commissioned as a missionary to provide pedagogical techniques



Ty LaValley and Sahali Marie Louise Ycossie, national coordinator for the Messengers of Peace Program in Cote d'Ivoire, combine hands to make the sign of the "messengers of peace dove."

and classroom-management skills to teachers. She will also teach English to Cote d'Ivoire pastors and assist in the development of Sunday school curriculum for conference churches.

UM Men may provide salary support for LaValley through the Advance #3022028.



Ty LaValley (center) joins other Scouts in Cote d'Ivoire.

Scout leaders invited to 2016 training event

MOUNT HOPE, W.Va.—

The Summit Bechtel Reserve, home of the BSA National Jamboree, will be the site of a June 19-25, 2016, UM Scouting Ministry Training.

Scout leaders, chartered organization representatives, youth leaders and pastors are encouraged to put the 6-day event on their 2016 calendar. The week will be packed with information about ways to expand scouting ministry in the UMC along with optional high-adventure activities like canoeing, zip lines, and hiking.



The Summit Bechtel Reserve served as the site of the 2013 National Jamboree and will also host the 2017 Jamboree.

Bill Byrd, a scouting ministry specialist from Little Rock, Ark., and scouting coordinator for the South Central Jurisdiction, will be the course director.

Susan Lawyer, a scouting ministry specialist from Houston, Texas, will be the assistant director.

Participant fee for 2016 has yet to be finalized, but the anticipated cost will range between \$525 and \$545.

For more information and to secure an invitation, please contact: Marc Stowe, mstowe@gcum.org.

Boy Scouts expand STEM program

IRVING, Texas—

BSA Chief Scout Executive Wayne Brock announced April 15 that Boy Scouts of America will expand programs that encourage young people to consider careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

“As one of the leading youth-serving organizations, we have a responsibility to provide young people with new, relevant, and fresh programs and experiences that will have long-lasting impact on their lives,” said Brock. “Today’s youth crave hands-on learning experiences and STEM Scouts fill that need while honoring scouting’s proven and impactful values and ideals.”

BSA launched STEM Scouts pilot program in 2014 in Knoxville, Tenn., giving boys and girls a new way to learn about STEM outside of the classroom. The pilot program helped 400 students who previously struggled in these areas to improve their understanding.

The announcement extends the STEM program to 12 new areas:

Capitol Area Council, Austin, Texas; Pathway to Adventure, Chicago, Ill.; Circle Ten Council, Dallas; Denver Area Council; Connecticut Rivers Council, East Hartford; Sam Houston Area Council, Houston, Texas; Crossroads of America Council, Indianapolis; Middle Tennessee Council, Nashville; Greater St. Louis Area Council; Catalina Council, Tucson, Ariz.; Garden

State Council, Westampton, N. J.; and Samoset Council, Weston, Wis.

Camporee in Tucson

Three days after the April 15 announcement by Brock, Arizona Scouts participated in a day-long STEM

Camporee at the Double V Scout Ranch in Tucson. The event was sponsored by the Old Pueblo District of the Catalina Council.

A total of 430 innovative Scouts selected two of the four areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (one in the morning and one in the afternoon). In addition, patrols participated in a popsicle-bridge competition, a cardboard boat race, a patrol cook off and astronomy activities.



The addition of weights to Popsicle bridges determined the winning Scout team. The winning “flat bridge design” withstood 75 pounds before collapsing. Photo by Doug Wright.

Scouting Awards

Dave Steward *Church honors business leader and chair of BSA Council*

LADUE, Mo.—

Salem UMC presented Dave Steward, chair of the BSA Council for the Greater St. Louis Area, with a Silver Torch Award.

Steward has also served on the executive committees of the BSA Central Region and the National BSA Board.



Larry Coppock (right), national director of scouting ministries, presents a Silver Torch Award to Dave Steward and his wife, Thelma.

He is the founder and chairman of the board of the 25-year-old World Wide Technology, a global company with 2,400 employees and an annual revenue of \$6 billion.

A 2014 member of the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Steward was awarded honorary doctorates by Harris Stowe State University (2002) and Lindenwood University (2010). *Ebony* magazine named him as one of 100 most influential Black Americans, and *Success* magazine named him the 14th best American entrepreneur.

When Steward was a member of Union Memorial UMC, the pastor asked him to start a Sunday school class for business people. He called the study, “Doing Business

by the Book.” The lessons later resulted in the publication of *Doing Business by the Good Book—52 Lessons on Success Straight from the Bible*.

Nick Hiratsuka *Scout tackles cyberbullying*

TUSCON, Ariz.—

On Scout Sunday, the Rev Sharon Ragland, pastor of St. Mark’s UMC, honored Nick Hiratsuka, a member of Scout Troop 229, for his Eagle Scout project to help young people combat cyberbullying.



The Rev. Sharon Ragland, pastor of St. Mark’s UMC, and Douglas Wright, scouting coordinator of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference, congratulate Nick Hiratsuka for his Eagle Scout project.

Noah Pelfrey *Scout leads effort to package 30,000 meals*

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, Ohio—

Church of the Saviour presented Noah Pelfrey with a Good Samaritan Award following his successful effort to coordinate the packaging of 30,864 dehydrated meals through Stop Hunger Now. Each meal serves six children.

Noah raised \$9,495 to pay for the ingredients and the shipping costs. The October effort involved 232 volunteers.



Noah Pelfrey stands by several boxes of dehydrated meals ready to ship to emergency sites around the world.

Michael Hood, Lily Miller, Lynn Cox and Dana Depew

Troop honors four adults

BARNWELL, S.C.—

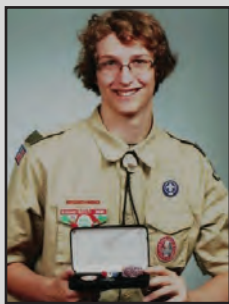
Boy Scout Troop 392, chartered by Barnwell UMC, presented Cross and Flame Awards to four Scout leaders.



Troop 392 presents Cross and Flame Awards to (from left): the Rev. Michael Hood, pastor of Barnwell UMC and a Cub Scout den leader; Lily Miller, chair of the Troop Committee; Lynn Cox, coordinator of community service projects and a Philmont trek adviser; and Dana Depew, an educator who helps Eagle candidates achieve merit badges and a Philmont trek adviser.

Ian Burgess-Linden

Two churches honor Scout leader



Ian Burgess-Linden

AVON, N.J. —

Avon UMC presented Ian Burgess-Linden with a Good Samaritan Award, and Ballard UMC presented him with a Cross and Flame Award.

Ian is a member of Avon UMC and the church was the site of his Eagle project.

Ballard UMC is the charter organization for Cub Scout Pack 75, where Ian serves as assistant cubmaster.

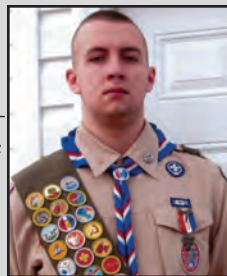
For his Eagle project, Ian created a prayer garden with biblical passages painted on tiles. The garden includes two benches and a large cross.

Luke Fields Scout builds storage area

KINGSPORT, Tenn.—

Yes, it's still a storage building, but the new 12x16-foot structure doubles the size of the original storage shed and its beauty makes Kendricks Creek UMC more attractive. Luke Field raised \$3,500 and recruited 62 volunteers who provided 1,520 volunteer hours to construct the building.

The church presented the high school junior with a Good Samaritan Award and the UM Women's Special Mission Recognition Award.



Luke Fields



Luke Fields solicited funds, established plans, and recruited volunteers to build a storage area with loft and steeple to match the church building.

Scott Nolan Church honors Scout leader:

WOODSTOCK, Ga.—

Bascomb UMC presented Scott Nolan with a Cross and Flame Award for 22 years of service in scouting at the local-troop and district levels.

He currently serves as the chartered organization representative of Troop 641 to Bascomb UMC.



Scott Nolan participates in a mission project.

Tony Arnold
Scout executive honors scoutmaster

LADUE, Mo. —
Salem UMC presented a Cross and Flame Award to Tony Arnold, scoutmaster since 2011 of Troop 17.

More than 100 Scouts have attained the rank of Eagle during the 98-year history of the troop.



Larry Coppock, staff executive of scouting ministries, presents a Cross and Flame Award to Tony Arnold.

Bob Ludekens
Veteran Scout receives Torch Award

VISALIA, Calif.—
Bob Ludekens became a Boy Scout at the age of 12. At age 15, he became the patrol leader when his predecessor was sent to serve in World War II. At age 18, he became an assistant scoutmaster.



Bob Ludekens

Now, 84, Ludekens continues in scouting and recruits youngsters and adults to join him. The Sequoia Council BSA Ludekens Service Center is named in his honor.

When asked about his favorite memory, he recalls a 1947 trip to the World Scout Jamboree in Moisson, France. He says they camped where German Field Marshal trained his troops during the war.

Ludekens graduated from the University of California in 1954 and was hired by BSA to be in charge of 100 Scout units in Los Angeles.

In 1955, he led a Boy Scout show at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

In 1962, he started Troop 317 at Visalia UMC, a troop he still serves.

Joseph H. Santisteban
Masons honor Scout leader

WINTHROP HARBOR, Ill.—
The Grand Master of Masons of Illinois presented Joseph H. Santisteban with the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award.

The award honors members of a Masonic Lodge who provide dedicated service to the Boy Scouts.

Santisteban has been a Scout leader since 1979, and he has held numerous positions at the unit, district, and council levels. He currently serves as a unit commissioner, a member of the District Committee, a Spanish interpreter and an instructor at the Lord Baden Powell University of Scouting. He is a liturgist and a member at North Prairie UMC.



Joseph H. Santisteban

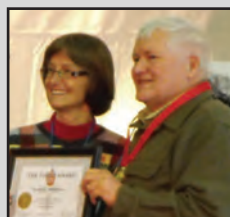
Gary Maffioli and John Lacaria
Bishop honors assistant and Catholic Scout leader

GLEN JEAN, W.Va.—
West Virginia Area Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball presented Torch Awards to the Rev. Dr. John Lacaria and Gary Maffioli. Awards were presented at an April gathering at the Summit Bechtel Reserve.



Bishop Steiner Ball presents a Torch Award to Dr. John Lacaria

Lacaria, director of connectional ministry and assistant to the Bishop, serves as scouting coordinator for Cross Lanes UMC, and Maffioli, a Roman Catholic, serves on the Conference Scouting Ministry Committee and helps with a UM scouting event held every September in Weston.



Bishop Steiner Ball presents a Torch Award to Gary Maffioli



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