

# THE SNAKE RIVER EDITION

Oregon-Idaho Conference–The United Methodist Church

AUGUST 2011

Rev. Kim Fields– Assistant to the Bishop

Phyllis Ross – Administrative Assistant

## From our A2B



My wife has a saying. At this time of year she regularly tells me, “After the 4<sup>th</sup> of July you turn around once and fall is upon you.” She is right. As I write this it feels like the middle of the summer, but pretty soon we will turn around once and be in the middle of fall programming: Sunday school, choir, youth groups, all the hectic work that is the church. With that in mind, and before your calendars fill, I wanted to give you a taste of what is coming up this fall at the district level. You will be receiving more detailed information on this in the next few weeks, but for now I would like you to have an overview of what is coming.

First, before we move into fall I just wanted you to know that I will be unavailable August 17-28. Lorraine and I are taking a 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary cruise and will be out of touch. However, Phyllis will still be in the district office to take your calls and answer your questions and the A2B for the Western District, Kate Conolly, will handle any emergencies that come up. Her office number is 503-581-3961.

But back to the fall. Some of you have been asking about charge conferences. Like last year, we will be doing charge conferences led by a visiting elder (that is by a neighboring pastor). These will be scheduled at the convenience of the pastor and congregation sometime during October or early November. Expect a packet soon explaining the process and indicating the forms and action items that need to be completed.

In addition, I have informed you on several occasions that the fall district training event, Measuring Our Vitality, will be traveling to your local sub-district in October. We need to find better ways to measure our progress and hold ourselves accountable to our mission. It is still my hope to hold trainings on doing this in October. However, the good and the bad news is that the national church’s call to vitality, which came out recently, is designed to provide local congregations with similar tools for measurement. You can learn more about this at the vital congregations website: <http://umvitalcongregations.org/>. As I said, what they are asking us to do is very similar to what we were already planning on doing, but not exactly the same. We very much do not want to hamper your efforts to make disciples by asking you to double up on goals and measurements and are working hard to simplify and reconcile our work with that of the national church. This may mean a delay in bringing these trainings to you, but rest assured that I will provide plenty of advance notice as we roll the trainings out – hopefully this fall, and if not then then next spring.

Finally, we will be kicking off two Congregational Leadership Development training groups in October. Those taking part in these trainings will meet once a month for six months. They are designed to provide a pastor and five or more lay leaders with training in renewing their congregations and leading them into health and vitality. These will be intensive five hour Saturday trainings that provide entry into our conference’s Vital Church Project. You will be receiving a mailing describing this soon but if you have questions feel free to contact the district office or Steve Ross at [steveross@bendumc.org](mailto:steveross@bendumc.org).

Wow! It is still July and fall is feeling busy already. Still it is good to be about God’s work of making disciples.

Blessings,  
Kim

## DAUGHTER COMPLETES TASK FOR DECEASED CLERGY MEMBER

Short People Need a Tree to Climb, by Don Ian Smith is the fifth book of Meditations from the High Country series by Don Ian Smith. It was complete but unpublished at the time of his death in 2007.

This new release is edited by Don's daughter Heidi and published posthumously by High Country Books.

Short People Need a Tree To Climb offers the same country wisdom and humble faith as the previous four books, By The River Of No Return, WILD Rivers and Mountain Trails, Sagebrush Seed, and The Open Gate, but from an older Don Ian who looks back at a long, fruitful life and forward toward "the end of the race" and the hope of eternal life.

It is available from High Country Books, PO BOX 103, Tendoy, Idaho 83468

For more information you can contact Heidi Smith at [heidi@sagehillcmk.com](mailto:heidi@sagehillcmk.com)

## ONLINE TRAINING FOR NOMINATIONS COMMITTEES

The General Board of Discipleship is offering training for local church Nominations Committees.

The August 4th event is described as, "basic training for church nominations committees who want to find leaders rather than 'fill the lines on the form.'" Your responsibility is to be the voice of God calling people into ministry!"

You can participate via your own internet connection or, better yet, gather at the church with the committee to watch together. The training will be at 4:30 PM PDT and 5:30 MDT. Register and learn more at [www.gbod.org/committee\\_resources](http://www.gbod.org/committee_resources). Future sessions in August will cover information for local church treasurers and finance committee members.

## STEWARDSHIP RESOURCES FROM ELCA

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America provides stewardship resources to help congregations. A free resource useful across denominations is their "10 Stewardship Principles" flyer, available in English and Spanish at [www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Discipleship/Stewardship/Year-Round-Stewardship-Communication.aspx](http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Discipleship/Stewardship/Year-Round-Stewardship-Communication.aspx)

# exploration 2011

november 11-13 • st. louis, missouri

## passion and possibilities

ordained ministry in the united methodist church

a 3-day event for 18- to 26-year-olds who are exploring a call to ordained ministry in the united methodist church

[www.gbhem.org/exploration](http://www.gbhem.org/exploration)

sponsored by:



Register before September 5 for \$25 off your registration fee using this code

**DISUP**

The Middleton UMC is having a Carnival on August 6<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church. Prizes, games, dunk tank, cup cake walk and lots more. Come over and have fun and give our fund raising a boost. Tickets will be 50 cents each, 12 for \$5 or 25 for \$10.



### NEEDED:

Matching candle lighters.....

(any style)

Will pay a reasonable price  
(or accept a freebie!)

Contact: Jack Bynum

208-467-1087

Nampa Southside Blvd. UMC

## **WHERE IS OUR A2B?**

**August 1-12 District office**

**August 13-14 Camp Sawtooth for Magic Valley Worship at Camp Week**

**August 17-28 Vacation**

**August 29 Magic Valley Colloquy**

**One of the great joys of serving as your A2B is the chance to experience some of the most beautiful parts of God's creation. Here are a few shots from the road taken this last year.**



It's time once again to ask for your help with enrolling and re-enrolling pastors and church leaders so they can receive free subscriptions to *Interpreter* magazine - the denomination's top-rated resource for ministry tips and tools.

We will send the 2012 enrollment forms directly to each church, and they should arrive shortly.



Your support for taking advantage of this subscription opportunity can make a difference. Please encourage every pastor to fill out his or her enrollment forms as soon as they receive them, and to take advantage of the opportunity to equip ten of their leaders with this important "how-to" publication.

Thank you for your help.

Larry Hollon  
General Secretary  
United Methodist Communications



[www.umcom.org](http://www.umcom.org) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Contact Us](#)

United Methodist Communications: 810 12th Ave. S., Nashville, TN 37203

## Intercessory Prayer List

Please offer prayers of intercession for the following churches, clergy, and lay leaders on the dates indicated. Pastors may also name these people during intercessory prayer time at their worship services.

<b>August 7</b>	<b>Chubbuck</b>	<b>Rev. Davey Lefler Karen Smith</b>
<b>August 14</b>	<b>Collister</b>	<b>Rev. David Thompson Clair Imaye</b>
<b>August 21</b>	<b>Crossroads</b>	<b>Rev. Gary Ross Sarah Breeding</b>
<b>August 28</b>	<b>Eagle</b>	<b>Rev. John Grimsted</b>

Please let us know of the happenings in your Church that we can include in our newsletter.

### Snake River District Office

717 N. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Boise, 83702

208-385-0598

[srdumc@qwestoffice.net](mailto:srdumc@qwestoffice.net)

FAX 208-385-0599



August 14, 2011

# Camp Sawtooth Sunday

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES OF THE MAGIC VALLEY  
ARE JOINING TOGETHER FOR A DAY OF  
FUN & WORSHIP AT CAMP SAWTOOTH.

*Kim Fields, our  
Assistant to the  
Bishop will  
present the message.*

*A bus has been arranged to  
transport us to camp for the day. This is a  
school bus, not a motor coach.*

*You may also travel  
by personal car or  
carpool with your friends.*

Lunch will be  
provided by the  
camp staff.

**Reservations for attending must be made by July 24th  
by contacting your church or [tffumc@gmail.com](mailto:tffumc@gmail.com)**

Bus Schedule: (get on the bus closest to your home)

- 7:15 a.m. Jerome UMC
- 7:45 a.m. Twin Falls First UMC
- 8:45 a.m. Wendell UMC
- 3:30 p.m. Leave Camp Sawtooth



*Worship will be held locally for those who do not come to Camp Sawtooth. Watch for details.*

Many of your churches are growing and tending gardens as a part of your Outreach Program.

We would love to include photos from your efforts as you work and reap your rewards. So if your church is growing a garden, send some digital photos to [srdumc@qwestoffice.net](mailto:srdumc@qwestoffice.net) and we will include them in the September newsletter.



**Is God calling you?**

**Let us tell you  
about a mustard  
seed opportunity!**

For more  
information contact:

Turella Woods at:  
Turella@umio.org

Cost: \$100.00  
Lunch is included and  
provided

**Our Planting Network  
Design Team**

John Grimsted, Eagle UMC  
[jgrimsted@gmail.com](mailto:jgrimsted@gmail.com)

Wendi Homan, Kuna UMC  
[whoman@cableone.net](mailto:whoman@cableone.net)

Lisa Payton, Amity UMC  
[LisaPayton@man.com](mailto:LisaPayton@man.com)

Cathy Peterson, Meridian  
UMC  
[csp0824@cableone.net](mailto:csp0824@cableone.net)

# Lay Missionary Planting Network

The United Methodist Church

Starting  
September 17th, 2011

*open hearts  
open minds  
open doors*



## *People reaching people*

What if your church had a handful of trained lay people who were equipped to create a *new worship service*, a *satellite church*, or even a *new faith community*? What if your church had an opportunity to reach out to your family and friends who were spiritual but not religious?

The "what if" is blossoming into reality with the UMC Planting Network. This training walks with people who are discerning God's call to be harvest hands and to live out that call. Our ultimate goal is to equip lay persons with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to plant new faith communities. These could be new worship services, satellite churches, or launching a new church plant. It could even included looking at what your church is doing now in order to recreate your congregation.

This training takes place over 10 sessions held monthly on Saturdays starting this September and ending in May 2012. Each session is 6 hours in length. The Treasure Valley training will begin on September 17th, 2011 at the Meridian UMC from 9 AM to 3 PM.





# 24th Annual Transformations Prayer Retreat

*“Be Transformed by the Renewal of Your Mind”*

*Romans 12:2*

*“September 18  
through  
September 23, 2011  
Suttle Lake Camp*

## **Schedule Includes:**

Daily worship in a variety of styles, including the Sacrament of Communion.

Personal discretionary time for such activities as prayer and meditation, walks, devotional reading, or private meetings with retreat leaders.

Evening presentations and opportunity for dialogue and fellowship.

## **Retreat Leaders:**

Pastor Michael Powell

Morningside UMC

Pastor Kate Simmons Conolly

Assistant to the Bishop, Western District

*Quiet  
Personal  
Prayer  
Renewal*

## **Registration Information:**

Cost: \$325

On-line registration or downloadable forms are available at [gocamping.org](http://gocamping.org). Complete catalogs are available from your local United Methodist Church.

***For More Information: contact Geneva Cook, Camp Registrar at 1-800-593-7539, ext 213 or at [Geneva@umoi.org](mailto:Geneva@umoi.org).***

## **Purpose:**

This retreat is designed to provide a relaxed and worshipful atmosphere punctuated by the rhythm of daily sacrament, prayer, meditation and evening programs. Using various scriptures, the retreat will focus on God's restorative Grace that embraces us in Sabbath.

Due to the nature of this retreat and our limited facilities, parents are requested not to bring children. Those registering should plan on attending the entire week.



## SAVE THE DATE.....

for the Oregon-Idaho Leadership Institute – **March 8 and 9, 2012**, at First United Methodist Church, Boise, Idaho. Whether you are a pastor, lay staff member, or volunteer leader, plan to attend for ministry-specific workshops, dynamic speakers and the opportunity to energize and enhance your ministry. Guest speakers include Sue Nilson Kibbey and Eric Geiger. For more information and registration go to: [www.cathedraloftherockies.org](http://www.cathedraloftherockies.org)

## JOHN NILSEN CONCERT

Kuna UMC will host a concert by John Nilsen on August 27 and 7:00 p.m. John is a pianist, guitarist, songwriter and recording artist. He is one of the most successful performing artists in the Pacific Northwest. He was born in Seattle and resides in Oregon. His performance has music for everyone – spiritual, classical, folk, jazz, etc. His talent his broad repertoire allows him to select music to suit the audience. No tickets are required and a love offering will be taken after the performance.

## WHITNEY UMC NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

August 2, 2011

Fellowship, fun, live music, games, bouncy house, food, police and firemen, ministry





## Take Step 2—HQ—and Save \$

The HealthQuotient (HQ) is Step 2 of your HealthFlex "Three Steps to Better Wellness." *Taking the HQ between August 1 and September 30, 2011 will save you money on 2012 health care costs.*

### How to Save \$\* (HealthFlex Active Plans Only)

Complete the HQ **between August 1 and September 30, 2011** to save on your 2012 medical plan deductible: **save \$250** (individual deductible) or **save \$500** (family deductible with spouse in a HealthFlex active plan).

### Important Details

- You must complete the HQ **August 1–September 30, 2011** to save on your deductible. Taking the HQ before August 1 will not qualify; you will need to take it again.
- If you have a spouse in a HealthFlex active plan, *you and your spouse must each complete the HQ to save money.*



Even if you missed Step 1 (Blueprint for Wellness), you can still do the HQ Step 2 and save money.

### Take the HQ Online

Go to [www.gbophb.org](http://www.gbophb.org); click on "HealthFlex/WebMD" and enter your username and password. Then choose "HealthQuotient" in the **Get Started** column.

### More Information

Find more information online at [www.gbophb.org](http://www.gbophb.org); click on "HealthFlex/WebMD" and look for *HealthFlex 2011 Incentives—Frequently Asked Questions*.

### Need Help with the HQ?

Contact WebMD at **1-866-302-5742**.

### After the HQ

- ✓ **Step 3: Take Action**  
to reduce your risks



### Your Privacy Is Valued

Your church, annual conference, employer, HealthFlex, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits and your insurance carrier cannot see your HQ answers. Depending on your results, you may be contacted by a WebMD health coach. WebMD and its health coaches are bound by federal HIPAA privacy laws.

### HQ At a Glance

- **New timeframe! August 1 to September 30, 2011**
- **Active plan only** (not for Medicare companion plan)
- **Spouses in HealthFlex active plans must take the HQ, too**
- Save in 2012: **\$250** individual deductible or **\$500** family deductible
- **HQ evaluates health risks** for heart disease, diabetes, arthritis and more.

*Important: Participants and spouses in HealthFlex active plans who do not complete the HQ August 1 to September 30, 2011 will have a higher medical plan deductible in 2012. The primary participant and the spouse (if in HealthFlex active plan) must each complete the HQ to avoid this higher deductible.*



GENERAL BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS  
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Caring For Those Who Serve

4256/070511

Dear Friends,

It seemed fitting to have a time of coming together on 9/11 for hope and healing... it is a day that cries out for an interfaith presence, for working together and creating bridges. And so we have been working with many faith communities to plan such an event...

### "Healing Our Future"

September 11, 6pm at Temple Ahavath Beth Israel

Sharing gratitude & conversation over a light Mediterranean (vegetarian) meal with some opportunities to learn from each other and simply enjoy the possibilities.

We would hope to have at least four members from each house of worship. Seating is for 200.

\* **Please RSVP** \* by Sunday, September 4.

to Barbara Nixon, Hillview United Methodist Church: 375-0392

Email: Barbara Nixon [revbabs2000@gmail.com](mailto:revbabs2000@gmail.com)