

THE SNAKE RIVER EDITION

Oregon-Idaho Conference—The United Methodist Church

JUNE 2011

Rev. Kim Fields— Assistant to the Bishop

Phyllis Ross – Administrative Assistant

News from the Assistant to the Bishop



I have been reading a book for the Pastoral Leadership Development Group I am teaching titled *Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism*. It is a good book, but I was especially struck by a paragraph from the author, Martha Grace Reese, in which she shared a highlight from a letter a young lad sent her. The pastor wrote: "I can't believe what it feels like to look into the faces of these children and think that I'll be able to help teach them about Jesus and then baptize them. And the adults are wonderful. They've been so welcoming to Sarah and me. I see these

old ones and want to know their stories. I wonder if I will be a part of their final transition into a full life with God. The thought of summing up their lives in a celebration of life sermon overwhelms me. I know I am to be here, and I am so grateful to God for leading us here."

I read that paragraph and thought, "Wow, the love this young man has for the the people God sent him to serve is so evident. He will do a wonderful job. I wish I could clone his heart and transplant it around the district." Which set me up perfectly for the question Reese asked next; she asked, "What is missing from the man's letter?" What is missing? Read the paragraph again see if you can catch it. The young man obviously loves his church and every age group in it. But note that he never mentions anyone outside his church. He demonstrates no sense of mission. Rather, he sees his mission to be one of chaplaincy, of caring for the members of his church. Now there is nothing wrong with chaplaincy, except that chaplaincy is mostly about helping folk die, whereas the church is called to share a gospel of life. That is why John Wesley appointed pastors to serve communities not just churches.

We know that. When I visit with churches and ask them what sort of pastor they need, virtually every single church tells me "We need a pastor who can reach new people and help our church grow." A pastor cannot do that if their whole focus is on caring for the church members. In order to reach out into their community a pastor needs to be involved in the community meeting new people.

Not that reaching new people is solely the task of the pastor. It is the holy calling of every single person in the church. Why do people visit a church? Interestingly, it is not usually because they're attracted to a fine church building, a slick advertising campaign, or even because they heard how great the pastor's sermons were. Sixty percent of visitors come because someone in the church invited them to come. In fact, the pastor is not even the primary reasons visitors give for staying. The primary reason cited by visitors for returning to church a second, third and fourth time is the people they met – their warmth, love and care. When asked why they returned the pastor came in a distant second.

Which is a good reminder that church is not about the pastor, especially paying pastors to care for members. Oh, we are to care for one another, but only so that we can be equipped to carry out our primary task of reaching out into our community, making disciples for the transformation of the world.

May God bless you all as you step through your doors to reach out in love,

Kim

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION NEWS

The 2011 Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference Session will be held **Thursday, June 16 through Sunday, June 19 at the Salem Conference Center.**

If you are a member of Annual Conference and have not yet indicated that you plan to attend, please do so [online](http://www.umoi.org) at www.umoi.org. Look on the left hand side of the page and you will find the AC logo. At that site, you will see at the top of the page.....ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION RESOURCES. Ready to register for Annual Conference (June 16-19)? Click there to go to the Registration Information page. You do not have to pay at that time and if you do not wish to use a credit card you can mail a check prior to June 10th. You may also call the hotline at 503-226-1530, extension 203. And remember, there is a \$35 late fee after June 1.

Things you won't want to miss!

- * On Thursday evening. ***¡Celebremos! A Celebration of Lay and Clergy Ministries.*** All conference members are encouraged to attend and visitors are also welcome. You may sign up for the dinner with your registration. The cost for the evening is \$19.
- * Friday's Retirement & Commissioning Service at the Salem Conference Center at 7:30 p.m.
- * **The Snake River District breakfast at the Jason Lee Manor on Sat. morning at 7 a.m. Please RSVP if you plan on attending.**
- * On Saturday, June 18, another great leadership training event with Rev. Mike Slaughter.



- * Saturday's Ordination Service at Salem First UMC at 7:30 p.m.
- * The Sunday morning Closing Worship Service will be indoors at the Salem Conference Center.
- * Visitors are welcome and may attend everything except the clergy sessions. There is a \$25 fee for non-registrants to attend the Slaughter training session.
- .

The theme of this year's gathering is ***Boldly Making Disciples of Jesus Christ: Renewed in the Spirit.***, using Ephesians 4:22-24 as our scriptural focus.

NEW APPOINTMENTS IN THE SNAKE RIVER DISTRICT

Jody Felton, pastor at Kuna UMC since 2005, will be moving to Nehalem Bay, Oregon. She previously served in Paul, Nyssa/Fruitland, Milton-Freewater and The Dalles and said she will be pleased to be closer to her family.

Rev. Jody will be replaced at Kuna by ***Karen Puckett*** who is moving there from Burley UMC. Rev. Karen and her house rabbits moved to Idaho from New York and while the move was something of a challenge, now loves the high desert and considers herself a 'real westerner'.

Kathy Abend just completed her Master's Degree in Divinity at Garrett Theological Seminary in Chicago and will be senior pastor at Burley UMC. She and her husband have previously lived in Blackfoot.

Jeffery Gibbons-Rickman, in his first church assignment, is replacing ***David Buechler*** and will be serving Gooding, Shoshone and Richfield. He has been attending seminary in Boston. David Buechler is retiring from ministry for the time being to pursue other interests.

Ending Malaria is Focus of Campaign



Read more at www.umc.org

Imagine if we could stamp out malaria . . . if all children had the opportunity to grow to adulthood . . . if we could change millions of lives for generations to come.

Imagine No Malaria is an initiative of the people of The United Methodist Church to raise \$75 million to eliminate malaria deaths in Africa by 2015. In partnership with our brothers and sisters in Africa, the gifts and resources shared through Imagine No Malaria will empower an entire continent to achieve a sustainable victory over the disease. We will accomplish this goal together with a comprehensive approach to fighting malaria that includes improving prevention, education, communication and treatment.

A recent United Methodist News Service article reported that when United Methodist Bishop Thomas Bickerton preached at a Sierra Leone church, 75 of the 700 worshippers brought along empty mosquito bed-net bags from a distribution that took place the day before. "You cared about my body, I can trust you with my soul," said one of the worshippers who greeted him after the service.

Bickerton reported that Sierra Leone Area Bishop John Yambasu received a visit from 15 tribal chiefs who asked him to establish a United Methodist church in each of their villages as the result of a bed-net distribution.

"Evangelism is taking place as a result of this campaign," he declared.

You will have the opportunity to support The Imagine No Malaria campaign at Annual Conference through a special offering, 50% of which will be dedicated to work in Liberia, with which the O-I AC has a special relationship. Bishop John Innes of Liberia will also be our guest at this AC Session.



**“Ring Out With Praise”
2011 Handbell Camp
At Wallowa Lake**

**Registration SAT. NOON – TUES,
JULY 30 – 3-5 P.M. – AUGUST 2, 2011**

All handbell ringers are invited to spend four days in the peaceful setting of the Wallowa Mountains in Eastern Oregon. You will enjoy ringing with new friends, meaningful interactive worship each morning, free time to explore the camp, tasty food, and comfortable accommodations. Registration fee of \$215 includes three nights’ accommodations, all your meals, and a packet of music to take home with you. Plan something “special” (not necessarily handbell related) for Sunday’s Variety Show. We will present a concert for local residents on Monday evening!

Register today to reserve your spot at Handbell Camp! Visit www.gocamping.org to print off a registration form or register online. You may also phone the Conference camping office at 1-800-593-7539 – Ext. 213

**Camp Dean & Director of Music – Dean Mason
541-564-9789, 541-314-5406, judimasn@eoni.com**



WANT TO GO CAMPING AT SAWTOOTH?

(the closest one to our area)

Sawtooth United Methodist Camp is available for use by many nonprofit organizations. Call the central office at 1-800-593-7539, ext 43 (1-800-JWesley x 43) for group rental information, or email us at

sawtooth@gocamping.org for reservation information and availability.

On-site Leadership Training	June 10-12	2011 Sawtooth volunteers
3 Rs for Women	June 12-16	adults
CRAFTy Women in the Woods	June 16-19	adults
Dad and Me Camp	June 17-19	adult and child (K-3)
Grand Camp	June 24-26	grandparents and their grandkids
Mom and Me Camp	June 24-26	adult and child (K-3)

Location:

35 miles north of Fairfield, centrally located for all of southern Idaho. It is about a 3- hour drive from Boise, 2 hours from Twin Falls, and 4 hours from the Pocatello and Idaho Falls area.

If you'd like to avoid driving the last 30 miles into the camp, send your child on the bus from Fairfield or Jerome to Sawtooth Camp.

The cost for the Sawtooth bus is \$20 for roundtrip & \$15 for one-way. You must be pre-registered through the Camping Office to take the bus. (The bus is available for youth camping events at Sawtooth). Call 1-800-593-7539.

UMCOR is Working as Mississippi River Floods

United Methodist churches in Louisiana participated in a big way in the May14th "Change the World" day of service. More than 210 congregations in Louisiana participated. Louisiana had the highest number of participating congregations of any United Methodist conference. United Methodist churches across the [Louisiana Annual \(regional\) Conference](#) built houses and wheelchair ramps, hosted health fairs and held food drives as they reached out to people living in poverty. Churches also assembled a total of 1,500 cleaning buckets at strategic locations where flooding is anticipated.

An estimated 50 United Methodist churches in the Louisiana Conference are at risk of flooding, said the Rev. Darryl Tate, the conference's director of disaster recovery ministry. The conference staff is in constant contact with those churches and also is sending flood-preparedness information to local churches in at-risk areas, he added.

The newest challenge for UMCOR is follow up after the tornados in Missouri and more funds are needed.

UMCOR is working with annual conferences to respond to communities that have been devastated by [spring storms and flooding](#), but funds are being disbursed faster than they are replenished. Your gift is urgently needed. Donations can be made to [US Spring Storms 2011, UMCOR Emergency Advance #3021326](#) or you can give a check to your local church with UMCOR in the memo line.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Paradise Point Episcopal Summer Camp in McCall, Idaho is seeking responsible and caring leaders who live enthusiastically and care deeply about others. We are looking for staff members who want to impact the lives of youth and who understand the importance of their position in a child's development. For more information, please visit our website at paradisepointcamp.org or call Marty Beck at 345-4440.

2011 available summer camp staff positions:

Waterfront Director: Manages a staff of lifeguards and provides trainings regarding specific open waterfront use. Responsible for participants' safety, equipment and regulations.

Ropes Course Director: Supervises and is responsible for all activities and aspects involved with the High and Low Ropes Course, climbing wall and outdoor rock climbing.

CIT Director: The Counselors-In-Training Director will work closely with the Assistant Director to plan, organize and implement the CIT program which will teach all CIT campers how to work with youth in a camp setting and run activities and programs.

LIT Director: The Leaders-In-Training Director will work with a group of teens in a specialized camp program to help them develop into more responsible, passionate leaders.

Male/Female Counselors: Directly supervises campers and is responsible for the overall management and leadership of a cabin and groups of campers in daily camp activities.

Kitchen Staff: Will be cooking in a commercial sized kitchen for groups as large as 125 people. They will prepare healthy meals for all campers and staff in a resident camp setting.

Lifeguards: Supervises all activities at the waterfront including boating, swimming, island hopping and special events. Responsible for participants' safety, all boating and swimming equipment and enforcing regulations.

Marty Beck
Director of
Camp and Youth Ministry
Paradise Point Episcopal Camp
McCall, Idaho
208-345-4440
mbeck@idahodiocese.org



Snake River District 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.

June 5 Aberdeen

Rev. Davey Lefler
Bonnie Anderson

June 12 American Falls

Rev. Davey Lefler
Bonnie Anderson

June 19 Ashton

Rev. Greg Lindsay
Jim Neubauer

June 26 Amity

Rev. Lisa Payton
George Jolley

*Thank
You*

very much for letting the District Office know of any changes in your church leadership. Please notify us whenever someone resigns an office or position or changes emails, mailing addresses and phone numbers. We would like to keep the data current so that people may receive notices, invitations or news from this office or the conference.

You may reach the Snake River District Office via email at srdumc@qwestoffice.net, telephone 208-385-0598 or by mail at: 717 N. 11th Street Boise, Idaho, 83702 Our FAX number is 208-385-0599.



Just a few weeks remain for churches to save their change (coins and paper) for the gathering of all the funds at Annual Conference for the Bishop's Initiative to Eliminate Hunger. You may visit www.umo.org to download a Change-Hunger-Fast brochure and a calendar of activities to remind you of ways to contribute to the cause.

Information about the Hunger Ministry Grant Program and applications are also on the Conference website.

Where is our A2B?

June 1 PLD

June 2 Cabinet

June 15-19 Annual Conference

June 28-29 Portland