

UM MEN

The magazine of United Methodist Men

**52 ways
to support
your pastor**

Holy Bible

A letter from the General Secretary

Express appreciation to your pastor

This issue suggests several ways in which you can support your pastors. Here are my five contributions on the subject:

1. Pray privately and publicly for your pastor(s). If you are asked to open a meeting with prayer, close a meeting with prayer, to bless a covered dish dinner, or a men's breakfast- include a prayer for the clergy of your church. If you have a prayer list—make sure your pastor is on the list.
2. Don't add to their plate. From a local pastor to a bishop, over 90 percent of the times someone wants "just a minute" of their time, they are asking for something. Here is a better way: If you are excited about men's ministry, make an appointment with your pastor. Ask, "What is your vision for the men of this church and the men of this community?" Listen. Then ask, "How can I and the men of this church help you make that happen?"
3. Host a "District Pastors' Appreciation Dinner." The purpose is to thank them—not to teach them about UM



Men. Do it on a weekday, and include their families—all at no cost. Invite members of their churches who want to show their support. Provide good food, good music and brief speeches that thank them for answering their calls to ministry. Thank them for their leadership and for their partnership. Invite the pastors to remain seated while lay people lay hands on them and pray for them.

4. I have heard pastors say, "No one ever prays for me." Call or text them randomly to tell them you are praying for them at that moment. Ask them about their prayer needs, and add those concerns to your list.
5. Ask your pastors if they want some company on hospital calls, or new member calls, or on any other tasks they are planning. Or go on behalf of the pastor.

Be present, with the clergy of your church. Remember they have needs too.

*Striving to be a servant-
Gil Hanke*

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



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UM Men

Fall 2016

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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.



When I was editor of the *Circuit Rider*, a magazine for UM clergy, I ran a series of “pro-con” articles.

One of the most controversial dialogues

focused on whether clergy should make friends in the churches they served.

Jack Kulp, pastor in Allentown, Pa., at the time, opposed making friends in the church.

He argued that pastors should be friendly to everyone, but close friendships in a parish are dangerous because they exclude all others. He also suggested the itinerancy poses special hazards and heartaches if a pastor makes close friends in the parish and is later reassigned to a different church. Pastors are advised not to return to their former parish unless invited by the new pastor. Jack further suggested that close friends could be named to the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee and be in a position of establishing the salary for the pastor. Finally he notes that close friendships could make counseling awkward or impossible.

Paul Lowder, pastor in Newton, N.C., at the time, argued in favor of making friends in the parish.

“I need friends,” he said. “It is logical to seek friends in my own parish,

partly because of time. They are the most available acquaintances in the community.” He noted there is a danger the friends will see he has weaknesses, but “with clay feet I can still be a minister.” He noted friendships could make counseling difficult, but “who said I had to be capable of counseling everyone in my church?” Finally, Paul argues “I have no right to limit my friendships to those outside my parish.”

I agree with Paul.

Nearly everyone I know understands clergy are imperfect people and they need close friends the same as everyone else. While the itinerancy does discourage pastors from returning to their pulpits after being reassigned, it does not forbid them from contacting old friends. I suspect pastors and former parishioners continue friendships by email, Facebook, phone calls and occasional golf games.

Without close friends ministry can be very lonely, and the question we need to ask is, “If the minister is expected to love the people, who will love the minister?”

The cover article invites you, and other members of your UM Men organization, to find ways to love your minister.

Some of you are now—or will become—close friends with your pastor; others will find alternative ways to care for your pastor. The cover article provides 52 ways.

Rich Peck

52 ways to support your pastor

Physical Dimension

1. Allow the pastor to choose which areas to focus on when improving his/her health and well-being. Do not make recommendations.
2. Provide fruits, vegetables, or other healthy foods as welcome or appreciation gifts instead of baked goods.
3. Encourage the pastor to be physically active and participate in recreational activities appropriate to his/her abilities.
4. Encourage the pastor to care for his/her physical health by resting when overworked and not working when ill.
5. Allow the pastor sufficient time to recover from illness, injury or surgery.
6. Ensure healthy food choices are available at potlucks and other church events.
7. Don't insist the pastor "try everything" at food-related events or push him/her to eat unhealthy foods.
8. Work to correct any parsonage, office or other physical environment problems in a timely manner with input from the pastor.
9. Allow the pastor to take time off for doctor's appointments and preventive screenings.
10. Respect the pastor's privacy regarding personal health issues.
12. Respect your pastor's days off. Contact him/her only for "true emergencies." Discuss in advance what constitutes a "true emergency."
13. Encourage the pastor to take his/her full allotment of vacation time each year and not to return from vacation to perform funerals, whenever possible. Arrange for pastoral care coverage while he/she is on vacation.
14. Recognize that serving as a pastor requires a great deal of emotional energy (e.g., dealing with deaths, conflicts in the church, and multiple demands from members, the district superintendent and others).
15. Be sensitive to more demanding times of Lent and Advent and arrange for additional support from lay members.
16. Respect the pastor's responsibility to keep many issues and information confidential, such as details of member illnesses and financial information.
17. Encourage the pastor to have a coach or counselor outside the church with whom he/she can discuss church and personal issues.
18. Respect the privacy of the pastor and his/her family at home and in the community.
19. Observe "Pastor Appreciation Month" in October.
20. Discuss any conflicts or disagreements with the pastor directly and confidentially. Give him/her the benefit of the doubt and seek reconciliation. Encourage others to do the same.

Emotional Dimension

11. Encourage the pastor to schedule two days off each week.




21. Support the pastor in establishing congregational expectations for his/her time, talents and priorities.
22. Work with the pastor to identify which church programs and activities truly require the pastor's presence and which might be equally guided by lay leaders; manage congregational expectations accordingly.
23. Recognize that Sunday is a work day.
24. Allow time for the pastor to take regular spiritual retreats.
25. Encourage the pastor to include prayer/reflection as a part of daily work-time, letting others know calls/e-mails will not be answered during this time except for emergencies.
26. Recognize that the pastor is also on a spiritual journey and will not have "all the answers."
27. Pray for the pastor, spouse and family. Ask if the pastor would welcome a group of UM Men to pray with him/her before worship services.
28. Discuss theological differences in a respectful manner. Recognize that Christians can come to somewhat different understandings depending on their backgrounds, life situations, and God's unique work in their lives.
29. Encourage the pastor to take a renewal time (several weeks for renewal and/or study) every few years, particularly before or after very demanding times, such as a building campaign, relocation, or other major church endeavor.
30. Encourage the pastor to meet periodically with a trained spiritual director.
31. Share with the pastor how his/her ministry has strengthened your own relationship with Christ.
32. Support the pastor in practicing spiritual disciplines in a way that fits his/her personal relationship with Christ.

Spiritual Dimension

Social Dimension

33. Encourage the pastor to socialize with others outside the church "family" with whom he/she can "step outside" the pastoral role for a period of time.
34. Understand that "social" events with church members (although fun for everyone) are not always truly social events for the pastor who can be

- pulled into the pastoral role at any time.
35. Respect the pastor's time set aside to spend with others.
 36. Support the pastor in "getting out-of-town" regularly, particularly when serving in a small town, in order to engage in activities outside the church's direct mission field.
 37. Encourage the pastor's participation in an accountability/support group and allow him/her time during the work week to participate.
 38. Invite the pastor and his/her spouse/family to civic and community functions where he/she can meet others in the community.
 39. Welcome the pastor's spouse and family as a part of the congregation and community without unrealistic expectations or demands, such as expecting the pastor's children to always be perfectly-behaved or expecting the spouse to be an "unpaid staff member."
 40. Encourage the pastor to engage in hobbies and enjoyable recreational activities outside the church setting.
 41. Avoid scheduling church meetings or activities requiring the pastor's presence more than two nights a week.
 42. If your pastor is single, do not try to "set him/her up" with a member of the congregation or a member's relatives. Respect his/her privacy in dating relationships.
45. Ensure that all pension, insurance and any other benefit payments are made when due. Delayed payments may result in loss of earnings or put important benefits at risk of cancellation.
 46. Recognize that pastors who are recent seminary graduates may have significant student loan debt that must be repaid; many continue to have significant debt later in their careers as well.
 47. Understand that the pastor's spouse may also work to support the family financially in order to reach long-term goals, such as sending children to college and retirement.
 48. Budget adequate funds to cover the costs of the pastor's continuing education.
 49. Ensure adequate funds are budgeted to cover the costs of the pastor's attendance at annual conference or other clergy meetings.
 50. Be aware of the unique tax laws that apply to United Methodist clergy. Work with the pastor to structure his/her compensation package in a way that best fits his/her family and/or life situation.
 51. Be sure the pastor is aware of ways to make personal contributions toward his/her retirement and to utilize the financial planning resources available through the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, now Wespath.
 52. Confirm your congregation supports the Ministerial Education Fund apportionment and other conference-level funds supporting clergy education and scholarships. 

Financial Dimension

43. Compensate the pastor fairly according to his/her experience, education and effectiveness.
44. Provide all paychecks and reimbursements to the pastor on schedule. Never ask the pastor to wait for his/her paycheck or reimbursement

This information is provided by Wespath benefits and Investments.

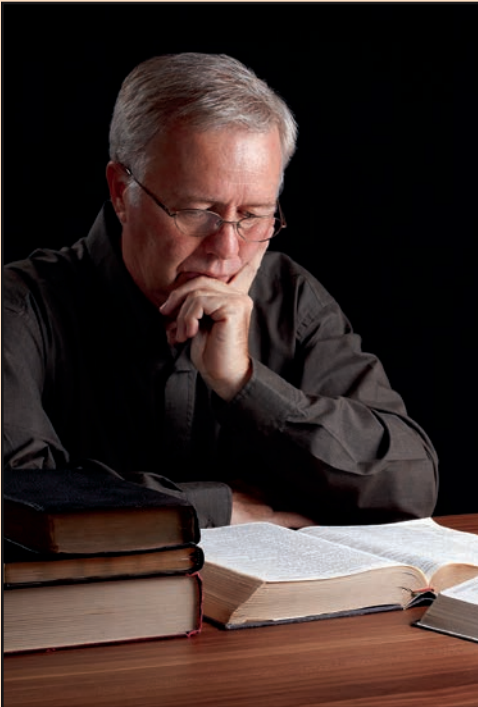
Five things pastors wish they could tell their congregations

By Carey Nieuwhof

1. I'm trying to step off the pedestal people keep putting me on.

I'm not better than anyone else. Really. I have never believed I'm better than anyone else. And I promise you if we got to hang out more, it wouldn't take long for you to see I don't belong on a pedestal either.

I'm not in ministry because I've got this all figured out, or because it was an ambition of mine. I honestly feel I was called into it. Believe it or not, I tried to resist the call. But people kept affirming what I couldn't stop sensing—that God was calling me to serve in the local church. So I obeyed.



It gives me a lot of comfort that the heroes in the scripture were flawed people. Peter barely got it right. Paul had his critics. Noah was a flawed leader. So was Moses. But reading their stories gives me hope for my story. And—you know what—it gives me hope for your story too and for the church.

God belongs on the pedestal. So why don't we keep God there and keep ourselves below it?

2. I also have doubts

I realize you might think my faith is rock solid. And in the end it actually is quite strong.

But I have days when I'm not sure my prayers make it past the ceiling. I have days when I read the scriptures and it seems like just another book. And I have days where I wonder where God is in the middle of this. Just like you.

But I'll tell you why I can't let my faith go or shake it. Because God's faithfulness keeps overshadowing my doubts.

God has been consistently patient, kind, gracious and giving toward me. And he has been toward you too.

And the days where the prayers seem empty and the scriptures seem cold are inevitably followed by the days in which God's presence is almost palpable and the scriptures real to me.

So don't let your doubts do you in. Persist through them. I have and I do, and all I keep finding is the faithfulness of Christ. You will, too.

3. I don't always know what to do

I don't have all the answers. I don't always know what to do.

I know you know that. But there's something in all of us that wants our leaders to know what's next.

I've become committed to telling you when I don't know, and I hope you can accept that. You also need to know I'm doing my best to surround myself with incredibly wise people. Together, we are far smarter and wiser than any of us is alone.

The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for a generation. No one understood why Jesus was so resolute to go to the cross. And the birth of the early church in the first century probably made many peoples' heads spin. But God was in all of it.

I'm sure as we pursue Christ as best we can, we'll figure out where he is in the middle of all this.

4. I so appreciate it when you cut my family some slack.

It's fine for you to put me under a microscope. I get that. I got called into this and I'm accountable.

But this church is a place where my family is growing up. It's a place where my kids are asking their own questions and where my wife comes on her good days and bad days.

When you treat them as people who are on their own faith journey and hold them up to no greater standards than you do any other family, you give my family an incredible gift.

We are pursuing Christ together, and when you give us grace, you actually make that journey richer.

5. I'm more grateful for you than you realize.

I realize how demanding life is and how busy you are.


I know you worked late on that project this past week...and still came to the event at the church.

I realize you haven't had eight hours sleep in about three years and your kids are driving you crazy...and you took time to seek God today.

I realize your family argued on the car ride to church and still walked through the door anyway (we do that too sometimes).

I realize the school trip cost more than you thought and you'd really like to get to Disney this year but you're giving anyway.

I know that you serve in a number of organizations in the community but you still throw your weight behind this mission at the church we're in together.

Thank you—really. 



The Rev. Carey Nieuwhof is founding pastor of Connexus Church in Barrie, Ontario, Canada. He is the author of several books, including, Lasting Impact: 7 Powerful Conversations That Will Help Your Church Grow. Connect with him at CareyNieuwhof.com.

Toymakers 'make smiles one toy at a time'

By John Burlew

PALM HARBOR, Fla.—

Last year, members and friends of East Lake UMC produced 12,000 hand-made wooden toys for children around the world.

Under the banner "Toymakers of East Lake," 315 volunteers donated 18,000 hours in 2015 to create and deliver toys to children's hospitals and medical centers.

Toys were sent to Ronald McDonald Houses, women and children's abuse shelters, orphanages, Metropolitan Ministries, UM Cooperative Ministries, and local first responders. In addition, toys were shipped to flooded areas in Louisiana and Mississippi, hurricane damaged communities in Mexico, Haiti, Cuba and the Caribbean, and medical and health mission teams serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Bob Helms, president of Toymakers.

Volunteers of all ages

On an average day, 20 to 30 volunteers work at the shop and 35-45 people work on Saturdays. Volunteers range in age from 13 to 96.

The ministry is coordinated by a board of directors that includes two high school students. It is supported by foundations, and individuals. Local businesses also donate services, paint, wood, and machinery.

"It is a privilege to be able to offer some form of comfort to these children and their families in stressful times," said



High school students repair bikes as well as make toys. They receive community service credits toward various high school programs including the Bright Futures College Scholarship Program.

Gene Watson, a founder of the ministry. Toymakers provide a guarantee that "all toymakers receive as much pleasure in making these toys as the children who receive them as gifts."

A modest beginning

In 2007, East Lake UMC allowed Toymaker founders to set up shop in a newly purchased 2,500 square foot abandoned golf cart repair facility next door to the church. After much work to make the dilapidated building usable, and getting machinery and wood donated to make toys, Watson, Mac Russell, John Little, and Chip O'Shell began making toys. Watson had previously volunteered at another toy making group that was formed in 1982 in Pasco County.

In 2008, Trevor Charlton, a volunteer, was asked to repair six bicycles. He did it, and suddenly more donated bicycles began to appear at the shop. Trevor asked for a corner of the toy shop to repair bicycles for disadvantaged children and to provide personal transportation for adults who cannot afford cars. Fast forward to 2015, the program delivered more than 400 bicycles to 15 community service organizations. A steady stream of high school students volunteer to repair bikes



There is a tremendous feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction for volunteers when they complete a brightly painted, hand-made wooden toy for a child in distress. Belonging to Toymakers provides a genuine sense of being part of something bigger than themselves – for working adults, veterans, retired seniors and students alike.


and make toys. They receive community service credits toward various high school programs.

Janet and Bob Helms joined Toymakers in 2009. Bob is now the president, and Janet leads an annual open house and silent auction; she also coordinates website content, purchasing, scheduling deliveries and communications with donors and children’s agencies.

More space created

The increase in the number of volunteers from the original four to 315 fueled the need for more space.

In 2014, the toy makers added two 53-foot shipping containers for storage; this acquisition freed up space for more volunteers and a growing bicycle ministry.

In 2015, volunteers and local contractors completed an addition to the shop building. 

For more information about the ministry, visit their website- www.toymakersofeast-lake.org.



John Burlew is the former president of the Northeastern Jurisdiction of Conference Presidents of UM Men and an emeritus member of the UM Men Foundation.

Letters to Toymakers of East Lake

- I just wanted to send a note of thank you!! My son went to Tampa General Hospital on Friday, June 14, 2013 with a head injury from a fall. He was very scared and not talking much which for him was not normal. He is a very talkative 5-year-old. The nurse came in and gave him this wooden green tractor and the biggest smile ever came over his face and he never put it down. What you are doing is a blessing and I thank God for each and every one of you. Thank you again*
- My son was in the ER at Tampa General two weeks ago for an asthma attack. He was given one of your wooden cars and it was such a wonderful distraction for him. He played with it his entire hospital stay and still does to this day. Just wanted to thank you for making a difference! What a wonderful thing you are all doing. Thanks again!*
- I want to make sure you are aware of how grateful we are for the work involved in bringing a smile to the faces of children with your wood work. Our 18-month-old son was involved in a farm accident and had to have emergency eye surgery. I will never forget the smile that came to his face when one of the nurses at Tampa General gave him a wooden helicopter. Among all the scary things for a baby to endure in a hospital, your helicopter made us all smile in the midst of stress, worry, fear, etc. Thank you for being a blessing to us! His little helicopter is one of the favorites in his playroom! Thank you again.*

Why we need a band of brothers

By Derek Maul

Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed; and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands grew weary; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; so his hands were steady until the sun set.

– Exodus 17:11-12

I first met Steve in a long Starbucks line during a layover at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. Obviously stressed, he responded eagerly to my friendly, "What's up, you look a little frazzled?" He spilled his guts waiting for his triple espresso, and continued his lament as we walked to the gate.

A 37-year-old father of two, Steve is struggling in his marriage; he is stressed at work, and he is unsure of where his life is going. His family attends a mid-sized UM congregation, but he said he is losing interest.

"Sounds like you need some encouragement," I said. "Are you involved with UM Men?"

"Really good people," Steve said, "but I couldn't connect. We had breakfast, a devotional, and a church workday. There was no one my age, and it reminded me of my dad's Rotary Club."

In God's Image

*What the New Testament
Teaches about Being a Man*



Derek Maul

"I'll pray for you," I said. "Find a covenant group; you need some brothers to hold your arms up."

He pocketed my card and darted down the jet way; I wondered if I'd ever hear from him again.

When your arms get tired

Moses was a great leader, deeply spiritual, and close to God, but he still needed friends when he couldn't hold his arms up any longer.

Why? Because we were created with the innate need for community.

We can't be disciples without support and accountability, that's just the way we are made.

So I'll ask you, "Who are the guys you could count on to hold your arms up? Think for a moment and see if you can come up with at least two or three: men you can

confess to, cry with, and ask for prayer.”

I ask because most guys who honestly reflect are likely going to come up empty.

Our church needs men who are willing to hold up one another’s arms. We need men who know us intimately, men who know our story and are invested in it. We need accountability. We need brothers willing to pray with us at the drop of a hat.

Contagious change

I’ve been involved with covenant groups for years. These are small gatherings of men who make firm promises regarding confidentiality, prayer, honesty, mutual support, participation, and accountability.

Groups ranging in size from 5 to 15 have been transformational when it comes to personal growth, strengthening men’s ministry, and adding life to the church.

When men move away from the traditional “Did-you-see-the-fumble-in-overtime-on-Saturday” model into in-depth accountability discussions, then the “disciples-make-disciples” principle will soon effect contagious change.

At my church, one men’s accountability group has now grown to five groups, each one spinning off another one as guys catch the vision and accept responsibility for reaching out to their brothers.

Our latest incarnation is a strong set of younger guys who call themselves “Fathers who aren’t in heaven.” They meet Wednesday evenings while their children attend kids’ ministry, and, boy, do they ever hold one another’s arms up.

When my children were teens the guys prayed me through some tough situations, and it was the support I received between weekly meetings that made all the difference. These men

knew me, they knew my struggles, and they knew my needs; it’s something you can’t get in large groups.


A possible resource

My latest book (*In God’s Image: What the New Testament Teaches About Being a Man*) is designed as an 8-week study, written for men looking for encouragement in their journey as disciples, and direction when it comes to honoring God’s image in the way that we live.

We need one another! Not because we are weak, but so we can become stronger. Not because we are insufficient, but because we are exceptional when we stand together. Not because of what we can do, but because of what Jesus will do through us.

The last word from Steve

Steve from the Starbucks line emailed me soon after his flight landed. We talked some more, and he asked me to put him in touch with a band of brothers to help hold his arms up.

Look around your church; I guarantee you have enough men like Steve to launch your first group. 



Author and men’s ministry advocate Derek Maul lives in Wake Forest, N.C., where he divides his time between writing and traveling to speak about the fully engaged Christian

life. You can reach him at derekmaul@gmail.com, and find his books at Amazon.com.

Men turn out in big numbers

By Mark Lubbock

Thanks, but I'm just too busy." That's the all-too-common response when a man is invited to join a church activity.

No doubt about it—our lives are hectic and packed with activities and responsibilities.

Two generations ago the church was the center of social activity. Today it has to compete with "way-too-many" distractions. Men need a compelling reason to prioritize a church activity over . . . well . . . over almost *anything* else.

The mission of UM Men is to "Help men grow in Christ so others may know Christ."

The usual way churches offer opportunities for spiritual growth to men is in the form of an impersonal posting about a study group or event. Individuals must take the initiative to sign up.

The posting of invitations seldom attracts new men. Only a small percentage of men will sign up for these sorts of activities. "Build it and they will come" only works in the movies. Today, men need personal invitations to do something that is worth investing their time.

This could be a golf game or a fishing trip, but it also could be a Habitat for Humanity build or a mission trip. And, yes, if properly presented, it could be a Bible study. Yet, to overcome the "I'm-too-busy" response it is important to start with relationship-building activities.

Two churches in the Baton Rouge District in the Louisiana Annual Conference enjoy consistent success by providing gateway events that help build relationships.

Men's Steak Nite

The Rev. Scott Wright, pastor of NewSong UMC in Prairieville, La., joins men of the church in sponsoring a quarterly Sunday "Men's Steak Nite."



The Rev. Scott Wright, pastor of NewSong UMC, makes sure the men are well fed.

They cook steaks and open the church doors to all men. The cost is low and the steaks are great. While men are socializing they have exotic snacks such as barbecued deer sausage.

There is no formal program. The only spiritual element is a short prayer before the meal. Men of the church do all of the work from set-up to clean-up.

Of course, the church hosts weekly small groups and men's studies, but you'll seldom see participants in these groups.



It's clear most men attending the Broadmoor UMC sports banquet are LSU fans.

Before and after Sunday services, men issue personal invitations to the dinner.

As men get to know one another at the dinner, the natural “right next step” is to invite attendees to attend a small group or weekly study.

The dinners are working.

Sports banquets

Broadmoor UMC of Baton Rouge uses a different approach.

The men host large events keynoted by national sports figures with local connections. The speakers generally talk about their sports career and offer testimonies about their faith journeys.

The church gym is generally decorated with LSU colors and men of all ages sit together at round tables to eat plate-size, two-inch thick steaks.

Each man is given a ticket for a free give-away of signed footballs and basketballs from the pro speaker.

Last spring, the men invited teenage members of a church-sponsored basketball team to attend the dinner. Many of these young men would be considered “at risk” because of their home environment and economic circumstances.

One young man said, “This is my first steak in almost two years.” The banquet was clearly a special treat.

Colis Temple Jr. served as the keynote speaker for a spring meeting. In addition to being a NBA star, he was the first African-American athlete in any varsity sport at LSU. He exhorted young blacks in attendance “to rise up, get a degree and make a difference in the community.”

More than 150 men attended this event which introduced them to the newly formed “Men of Broadmoor” (MOB), the men’s church group. While it is a chartered




There is ample opportunity for Baton Rouge men of all generations to compare personal stories and share predictions about the LSU basketball season.

UMM group, it has a unique identity—a great idea!

Events worth trying

Each of these two approaches creates a non-threatening and inviting doorway for men to come together. Trained leaders in each event roam around introducing themselves to men they do not know, and introducing these men to others.

Studies show that for a visitor to join a church they must first have up to six meaningful relationships in the church. This dynamic works in men’s groups as well. So the social event, which is appealing all by itself, serves as the means to connect the men to each other.

From there, men are invited to visit the other church activities. Over the course of a year, more and more men decide to participate in activities that provide opportunities for spiritual growth. 



The Rev. Mark Lubbock is a Louisiana-based staff member of the General Commission on UM Men.

Army Guard veteran serves as SFS adviser

NATCHITOCHEs, La.—

David Poston, a retired lieutenant colonel in the Louisiana Army National Guard and commander of transportation units deployed during Desert Shield and Desert Storm, has agreed to serve on the Strength for Service advisory team.

"It's a personal mission for me," says Poston. "Anything I can do to help our military and first responders, I'm on it."

A graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Poston served as a commander at both the battalion and company levels.

He retired from the military in 2008, following 27 years of service. During that time, he received many awards and decorations, including the Army Commendation Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters.


With undergraduate and graduate degrees in industrial technology from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Poston served as an educator and administrator with the Louisiana Technical and Community College System.

He concluded his professional career as the administrator of the Toledo Nursing Center in Zwolle, La.

He currently serves on the boards of directors of several nursing homes in Louisiana, Texas and Alabama. He is also a managing general partner and limited partner in family companies involved in timber production and health care.

David and his wife, Sandra, are members of Natchitoches First UMC and members of the 50/50 Sunday school class. David serves as treasurer of the UM Men organization.

"I've been active in fund raising and distributing *Strength for Service* books since the ministry began," says David. "I started out helping a retired Army command sergeant major, and I was later asked to spearhead the effort. Books in the pockets of those serving is my thing."

David and Sandra have been married for 46 years; they have two sons, Al and wife, Susan; Brad and wife, Michelle; and three grandsons, Kyle, William, and Stuart. 



The family of David and Sandra Poston.

Plan now to enter national contest

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Now is the time to plan to enter the third annual national contest for the most outstanding local church, district and conference ministries to men.

Wall plaques will be presented to the top five chartered local-church ministries, the top district and the top annual conference. The top local church will receive a trophy and a wall plaque.

The deadline for entries is Feb. 1, 2017, but entries will be received beginning October 1.


There is no form to fill out. Simply describe the ministries, the number of people involved, the amount of money raised and to whom it was contributed, along with ways in which the ministries have made a difference in the church and community. Do not confine your report to the activities of the small group of men who engage in Bible study. The ministries

encompass all the activities of men in your church, district or annual conference.

E-mail information and optional photos to RPeck@gcumm.org or mail entries to Rich Peck, 1000 17th Ave. S., Nashville, TN 37212.

Entries will be judged by a panel composed of conference and jurisdictional presidents of UM Men selected by Dan Ramsey, former president of the National Association of Conference Presidents (NACP).

Winning entries will be announced at the March, 2017, NACP meeting in Nashville. Winning ministries will be advised in advance of the meeting so representatives may plan to personally receive the awards. Plaques and trophy may also be presented during annual conference sessions.

Local church, district and conference winners will be featured in the summer 2017 issue of *UM Men* magazine. 

Humor

RIGHT ANSWER

Pastor Jason tried to get the children involved in his children's sermon.

"Could any of you tell me what animal has a bushy tail and rushes around the yard gathering nuts?"

Timmy raised his hand.

"I know the answer is Jesus," he said, "but it sounds a lot like a squirrel."



BETTER SIGNS

A driver came across Sven and Ollie holding signs on the side of the road. Sven's sign proclaimed: "The End is Near." Ollie's said: "Turn Around." The driver gestured out his window and shouted something at the pair as he sped by.

Moments later Sven and Ollie hear squeaking brakes followed by a loud crash. Sven turns to Ollie and say: "Ya, maybe you're right. I should have gone with 'The bridge is out!'"

A preacher's son

By Tom Tozer and Bill Black

Tom grew up as a PK. He's been blessed (or cursed) by having a behind-the-scenes view of life in a parsonage—otherwise known as a “fish bowl.” To remain true to the theme of this UMM issue, Tom would like to remind readers of one very important fact: “Your pastor is an ordinary man or woman who responded to an extraordinary calling.”

He laughed, he cried, he bled

To loosely paraphrase Shakespeare's Shylock, “Does not your pastor laugh when amused, cry when hurt, bleed when wounded? Yes.”

Tom's dad told his favorite jokes over and over. He spoke in bad French. His dog bark was the hit of covered-dish dinners. His laugh could be heard above all others. He also had a temper. Tom remembers when his backside was warmed with a razor strap. Occasionally Tom and his siblings heard their mother and father arguing. It was never a violent confrontation, but it was loud and disturbing. The pastor's decibel range peaked during a discussion about homosexuality. But the preacher could hurt and be hurt. Some funerals were more difficult than others, and the emotion was evident on the man's face and in his voice. Tom remembers those late hours when his dad answered the phone then drove off into the night.

Endurance test

How the pastor must have felt when he found Tom and his buddy smashing men's hats lined neatly along the coat rack shelf during a revival service—or when the Sunday school teacher caught Tom and a friend sneaking Ritz crackers out of the nursery. The greatest test of his father's endurance had to be when Tom


and a questionable friend were acting up in the balcony during the reading of the scripture. Abruptly, the reading ceased and a voice boomed from below. “I want you boys up there to come down and sit in the front!” The agony of sitting in a pool of sweat, heart racing, and short of breath, was life changing. Tom's father never mentioned the incident again.

Loner

Pastors do not have a lot of close friends, and they live in glass houses where their conduct is open for constant scrutiny. Their children's lives are no less visible and subject to unfair expectations. Tom remembers the anonymous hate mail his father received. People were short on courage but long on conspiracy.

Allow space

One of Tom's most vivid memories was when the family went to Canada every summer. His dad went out in his boat early each morning and did not return until dark. It was his paradise on earth—the most relaxed he could ever be—away from a world where he could unwind and be an ordinary person.

UM men can support their pastor simply by understanding that an extraordinary call was answered by an ordinary man or woman. 



Tom Tozer (left) and Bill Black write a syndicated column on fatherhood and are authors of Dads-2Dads: 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).



Across the Nation

SWANSBORO, N.C.—

Men rebuild termite-damaged church

Men of Swansboro UMC spent several Saturdays gutting St. Thomas AME Zion Church building and putting it back together.

Helen Shepard, lay leader at St. Thomas, said a termite problem started three years ago and the 13-member congregation moved services to a recreation center.

UM Men member Ray Bihary said water had penetrated the walls of the 31-year-old structure and termites moved in.

YADKIN VALLEY, N.C.—

District presents seven awards

Yadkin Valley District presented seven Cross and Flame Awards to five members of Beulah UMC and two members of Zion UMC.



Pictured from left: Back row: Paul Cartrette, chair of the Religious Emblems Committee of the BSA Old Hickory Council, and Phillip D. Thompson, a member of the committee that presented the awards. Front row: Dave Whitfield, a ranger at Camp Raven Knob; Annette Reece, a Girl Scout leader and tutor; Dorothy Sullivan, pastor of Beulah and Zion churches;

Susan Sullivan, a Boy Scout leader; Goldie Sparger, a 4-H leader and hospital volunteer; and Nathan Lankford, a Boy Scout leader and participant in outreach ministries.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—

Troop receives Bishop's Award

Boy Scout Troop 55, chartered to Fountain City UMC, received the Bishop's Award of Excellence for Scout Sunday observances, worship services at campouts, and participation in PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth) studies.

Troop members participated in an annual clean-up of the church cemetery, visited a senior citizen's home, and placed American flags on graves on Memorial Day. They also participated in a "Scouting for Food" drive and collected food for the Second Harvest Food Bank.



Scouts participate in a "Stop Hunger Now" food packaging event.

LIBERTY, Mo.—

Aborted project turns into blessing

The UM Men organization of Liberty UMC offered to help paint the basement of St. Luke African Methodist Episcopal Church, the site of annual dinners honoring fire fighters and police officers.

Their goal was to strengthen ties between the two congregations. But, before work could begin, it was discovered that the ceiling above the 147-year-old sanctuary was not structurally sound.

The congregation needed to find somewhere else to worship until repairs could be completed.

UM Men President Randy Young asked

the Rev. Allen Zugelter, pastor of Liberty UMC, if the church could provide space for the St Luke congregation. Zugelter offered three rooms in the Family Life Center to the Rev. Helen Harris, pastor of St. Luke; the offer included Wesley Hall which seats more than 200 worshippers.

The first service was held on March 13. UM greeters welcomed the AME congregation with cookies, donuts, and coffee. Several UM members attended the inaugural AME service.



St. Luke AME Church

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—

Shootout at high noon

For two years, men of Centenary UMC have gathered for a monthly "Shootout at High Noon." Along with good food, old westerns and scripture readings, the second Wednesday events include a discussion of *Strength for the Journey*, a book provided by Bishop Robert E. Hayes.



PINEVILLE, La.—

Men serve breakfast to homeless

Pineville UMC men and members of the Missions Committee prepared eggs, sausage, biscuits, fruit, coffee, and juices for the homeless.



WICHITA, Kans.—

Former KC Chief's mascot falls 75 feet

Dan Meers, former mascot for the Kansas City Chiefs, told men of the Great Plains Annual Conference about a bungee stunt at Arrowhead Stadium that went terribly wrong. He slammed into the seats from a height of 75 feet. "Everything has a purpose in God's plan," he said. Meers quoted C.S. Lewis: "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our consciences, but shouts to us in our pain."



Rod Handley, founder and president of "Character That Counts," told the Calvary UMC gathering that Joshua teaches us the importance of knowing our enemies. "Once you know your enemy (alcohol, drugs, pornography or—you name it) . . . discipline yourself in faith and do something about it."

The men raised more than \$1,400 for a scholarship fund. Kenzie May of Colwich, Kans., and Jordan Rousselle of Aurora, Colo., received the awards.

WEST MILTON, Ohio—

Men replace portion of a home

In May, 13 men and 1 youth from Hoffman UMC tore off a deteriorating portion of a local man's home and replaced it.



WOODWORTH, La.—

Men explore the radical leadership of Jesus

Some 30 men explored what it means to say Jesus was a radical leader in the first century; he remains the same in the 21st century.

Sessions were led by Steve Nailor, president of the National Association of Conference Presidents; Dan Ramsey, past NACP president; L.W. Smith, president of Strength for Service Corporation; and Mark Lubbock and Jim Boesch, deployed staff members of the General Commission on UM Men.

The assembly also learned how to participate in the Upper Room Prayer Line ministry.



Louisiana UMM President Wayne Prejean (blue shirt) and UM Men Hunger Advocate Sonny Evans (yellow shirt) address the gathering at the Wesley Center.

PORTLAND, Ore.—

Korean veteran aids effort to provide devotional books

Harold and Melba Houser staffed the Strength for Service display area at General Conference in Portland.

Some people think the conference is stressful, but Harold is not one of them. He is a Korean War veteran who fought with United Nations troops in the 17-day battle at the Chosin Reservoir. Thirty thousand UN troops were attacked by 120,000 Chinese troops. That Nov. 27- Dec. 13, 1950 battle resulted in the evacuation of UN troops from North Korea.



Harold and Melba Houser explain the ministry of Strength for Service to General Conference delegates and visitors.

RINGGOLD, Ga.—

Children receive softer landing area

UM Men and other members of Woodstation UMC added 12 tons of rubber mulch to a playground they had earlier installed for the church and community.



WYLIE, Okla.—

Church receives award

NACP President Dan Ramsey and South Central Jurisdictional President Kenneth Tielke, presented the 4th place award for the best UMM group in 2015 to Larry Johnson, president of UMM of First UMC, and the Rev. Wally Williams, pastor of the Wylie church.

Wiley men contributed 351 man hours to construct eight ramps for persons with handicapping conditions.



From left: Kenneth Tielke, Larry Johnson, Dan Ramsey, and the Rev. Wally Williams celebrate placing fourth in a national competition.

LIVERPOOL, N.Y.—

Men collect 6,800 pairs of shoes

Men of Upper New York Annual Conference collected 6,800 pairs of shoes in a fund-raising effort to provide a guide dog for Logen, the autistic 5-year-old son of Steve Husdedt, conference director of communications. The men received 40 cents for each pound of shoes.

The guide dog will prevent Logen from wandering away as he has done in the past.

CLEVELAND, S.C.—

Men gather at Asbury Hills Camp

UM Men from the Columbia District gathered at Asbury Hills Camp for a spiritual retreat led by the Rev. Joseph James, pastor of Cayce UMC, and the Rev. Jeffrey Salley, congregational specialist for the Columbia and Hartsville Districts.



The retreat focused on Proverbs 27:17: "As iron sharpens iron, so friends sharpen each other's faces."

Five 2-member teams spent five hours answering 28 calls on the Upper Room Prayer Line.

SWANSEA, S.C.—

Men award scholarship

Joe Riley, secretary and treasurer of the Swansea Community UM Men, presents a \$500 check to Yunuem Pena, 2016 graduate of Swansea High School. This marks the seventh year the men have presented the scholarship to a deserving student in memory of Billy Etheredge, a loved and respected member of the community.



MIO, Mich.—

Chickens bumped for beef

For 26 years, UM Men of Mio UMC provided barbecue dinners at the county fairgrounds.

During the last year of the Rev. Lois Glenn's tenure, they replaced the chicken with beef to be served at "cabin-fever dinners" during January, February, and March.

The dinners continued during the tenures of the Revs. John Britt, Marcel Lamb, Tracy Brooks,

and presently Brenda Klacking. Brooks served as a chief chef following Roy Boerner; Colleen



UM Men President Bill Kusey (front left) and the Rev. Brenda Klacking (front right) join with other members of Mio UM Men.

Keith now holds that lofty position for the fund-raising dinners.

LICKING, Mo.—

UMM award scholarship

Licking UM Men presented Kayleann Jones with a \$1,000 scholarship check.



Back row from left: Grant Heithold, John Bailey, Leonard Floyd, Norman Bradford, Curt Huguenot. Middle row, Dan Hatch, Don Freeze. Front, Kayleann Jones.

AURORA, Ill.—

Troop marks centennial

Blackhawk Boy Scout Troop 11, sponsored by Wesley UMC, is the second oldest troop in Illinois.

Since being chartered by the UM Men of Wesley in 1916, a total of 181 scouts have achieved the rank of Eagle.



NAPERVILLE, Ill.—

UM Men build Habitat House

Jim McCloud, left, was among volunteers from Community UMC who installed siding on a Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity rehab in Aurora in June. He is joined by



Lawella Szweda of Aurora, a future Habitat homeowner. *Photo by Al Benson.*

MANCHESTER, Tenn.—

Church presents six Good Samaritan Awards

First UMC presented six Girl Scouts with Good Samaritan Awards following their service to a homeless shelter, a domestic abuse shelter, an assisted living center, a nursing home, an arts center, a child care ministry and a veterans' hospital.

"These girls have been together as a troop since 2006 and have performed an amazing amount of service for our community," says Laura Noe, a leader of the troop.

TULSA, Okla.—

Troop receives bishop's award

A troop chartered by Boston Ave. UMC received the Bishop's Award of Excellence from Bishop Robert Hayes during the Oklahoma Annual Conference.

With over 50 active scouts, Troop 20 earned the Presidential Volunteer Service Award—Gold Level—for 1,000 hours of community service. Scouts serve the Boston Avenue UMC and the community through the Easter sunrise service, a CROP Walk, the Tulsa Food Bank, and Restore Hope Ministries.

The Tulsa troop also received the BSA Journey to Excellence—Gold Award—for providing an outstanding program for young men to succeed and become leaders. Over 400 scouts have achieved the rank of Eagle, including five in the last year.

Scouts participated in campouts across Oklahoma and Missouri, Civil War re-enactments, along with skill-development, and patrol competitions.

Boston Avenue UMC and Troop 20 hold the longest continuous scouting charter in Tulsa with more than 90 years of service together.

Scouts participate in the PRAY "God and Church Program," and serve as greeters, ushers, choir members, and communion stewards. The church provided scouts with camping equipment, a trailer, and a 3,000 square-foot meeting room.



From left: The Rev. David Wiggs, pastor of Boston Ave. UMC; Audra Fogle, director of welcoming ministries; Braden Wright; Christian Wright; Rob Wright, and Bishop Robert Hayes. The Wright family joined the Boston Avenue congregation through their affiliation with Troop 20.

Cliff Duncan, Boston Avenue's facility manager and Troop 20's charter organization representative, was presented a Cross and Flame Award for his exceptional work as a liaison between the church and troop.

CIMARRON, N.M.—

Chaplain distributes New Testaments

The Rev. Lampley, one of three resident Protestant pastors serving the Philmont Scout Ranch and Training Center, distributes Backpacking New Testaments to scouts prior to their treks across the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

The books are part of the 20,000 New Testaments and Psalms distributed to scouts at three high-adventure centers.



FLOWER MOUND, Texas—

Honey Dudes are here to serve

When widows, single mothers and wives of deployed military need work done around the house, they call "Honey Dudes."

Men of Trietsch Memorial UMC named their organization after the list of chores their wives frequently assign them.

"A lady in need will either call into the church office or email, and we dispatch two guys," says Kevin Cummings, founder of the ministry. The work can be anything

from moving boxes, mowing the yard, trimming bushes or changing the flapper on a commode. There is no charge for the services.

One woman was in the hospital after being a victim of a sexual assault in her bedroom. She said she couldn't go back to the scene of the horrific crime. The woman's sister called the Honey Dudes.

Bed Start Ministries provided a new queen-sized bed and Honey Dudes painted and renovated her room. When the woman returned from the hospital, her bedroom was unrecognizable. She felt loved and safe, and she could sleep at night, thanks to some men she had never met before.



FOLEY, Ala.—

Venture Crew receives Bishop's Award

Venture Crew 5099, chartered by Foley UMC, received the Bishop's Award of Excellence at a laity banquet during the 2016 session of the Alabama West Florida Annual Conference. Pamela Baker, adviser, received the award on behalf of the crew.

All crew members completed the "God and Life" study of Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY). They cleaned up the play area for Sunday school children and held an Easter egg hunt for children of the community.

The crew ended the school year with a three day canoe trip and campout on the Mobile-Tensaw River Delta, a 260,000-acre wetland in Alabama.

BURLINGAME, Calif.—

Scout leaders drive message home

At an exhibit of the California-Nevada Annual Conference two scouting ministry

specialists helped conference members understand the membership potential that can be lost when churches fail to understand scouting as a ministry.



CROTON ON THE HUDSON, N.Y.—

Church ranks fifth in nation

Asbury UMC ranks among the finest UM congregations in their ministry to, with, and by UM Men. They sponsor several fund-raising activities and support a public-health ministry in Nicaragua and a missionary in Israel/Palestine. They also repaired church buildings, maintained the grounds, sponsored a Father's Day worship service, provided school back-packs and distributed *Strength for Service* books.



From left: Royston Bailey, president of New York Conference UM Men, presents the fifth place award to Don Daubney, Stuart Colby, Russell Schultz and Earlwyn Benjamin.

AURORA, Ill.—

Float celebrates 125th anniversary

Driving his John Deere tractor, Paul Eggert, president of UM Men, pulled a float celebrating the 125th anniversary of Fourth Street UMC and the sponsorship of prayer booth at the downtown Aurora farmer's market.



Devotional books presented to first responders and Navy officers

BATON ROUGE, La.—

Books delivered following killing of three law officers

A Missouri Marine veteran ambushed and killed three law officers and wounded three others on July 17.

Three days later, Mark Lubbock was speaking with a Baton Rouge surgeon about the need to have his gallbladder removed.

To the surprise of his surgeon, the staff member of the General Commission on UM Men, asked the physician about his spiritual health.

“Whoa! He turned to me silently, not speaking for a moment,” says Lubbock. “Then he really opened up.” It turns out, he was one of the surgeons who operated on police officers wounded in the attack.

Lubbock told the surgeon about *Strength for Service for God and Community*, and how the devotions bring hope and comfort to first responders.

Lubbock was not surprised when the doctor asked if he could have a copy. He gave the surgeon his personal copy.

A few days later, Dan Ramsey, a leader of UM Men and a former officer of the



Officer Montrell Jackson was a 10 year veteran of the Baton Rouge Police Department. He leaves behind a wife and a four-month-old son.

Houston Police Department, delivered 468 books to Chaplain Duren Boyce of the Baton Rouge Police Department just hours before the funeral of Officer Montrell Jackson.



Dan Ramsey presents SFS books to Chaplain Boyce.

SAN DIEGO, Calif.—

Navy base receives 3,300 SFS books

The Strength for Service team sent 3,300 copies of *Strength for Service to God and Country* to U.S. Navy Captain Fauntleroy, chaplain of the Pacific Fleet. The books were distributed by 54 chaplains under his command. Those chaplains serve 88 ships.

Several UM leaders were in the San Diego area for a national Boy Scouts of America meeting and they had the opportunity to personally greet Chaplain Fauntleroy and other Navy personnel.



Chaplain Fauntleroy (Navy white dress uniform), expresses appreciation to Larry Coppock (coat and tie). Others gathered at the base include Michael Feist (in Scout uniform); Jim Jeffery (with coat), a member of the SFS Advisory Committee; and retired Captain Al Paton, district president of UMM. They are joined by Navy personnel who received copies of the devotional book.

ORLANDO, Fla.—

First responders receive 780 Strength for Service books

Following the tragic killing of 49 people at an Orlando night club, the Strength for Service organization shipped 780 copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community* to Orlando police officers.

“You all are a blessing to Orlando law enforcement,” said Chaplain Edwin Quintana, president of Inter-America’s Chaplains Association who was engaged in debriefing police officers, F.B.I. and other officials involved with the tragedy.

The non-denominational ministry had earlier sent books to the nearby Ocala Police Department when one of their officers was accidentally killed.

The books were provided by World Wide Technology.



Pastor Edwin Quintana, president of Inter-America's Chaplains Associations, presents a copy of Strength for Service to Stanley Murray, chaplain of the Orange County Sheriff's Department. Murray helped distribute copies of the book to other officers in his department.

WHEELING, W.Va.—

First responders reeling from deaths of two youth

Following the June 23 deaths of two young boys, Wayne Custer, president of Northeastern Jurisdiction UMC Men, asked the Strength for Service organization to send 150 books to first responders in Wheeling.

On June 23, Wheeling police found the body of 15-year-old Kyle Morgan in the water below the Fort Henry Bridge. The cause of death was blunt force trauma, and the case was ruled a homicide.

The same day, police recovered the body of 8-year-old Emanuel Williams who



Wheeling officers search for the body of an 8-year-old boy who slipped on a rock while walking next to the Big Wheeling Creek.

slipped into the Big Wheeling Creek while on a walk with his mother and sister.

First responders in the state were helping hundreds of people escape from rising floodwaters.

A total of 23 people died in the floods and more than 500 homes were damaged or destroyed.



Wayne Custer (left) gives Strength for Service books to Wheeling Deputy Police Chief Martin Kimble and Fire Chief Tom Helms.

DENHAM SPRINGS, La.—

Church members express appreciation to fire fighters

First UMC called the Denham Springs Fire Department on two occasions—on January 13, 1973 when the sanctuary was destroyed by fire, and on October 29, 2007, when the educational wing caught fire.

Church members expressed their appreciation to 29 firefighters in three stations.

"All the firefighters were very receptive of both the devotionals and our personal presence," said Barney Babin, secretary of Louisiana Conference UMC Men.

First UMC Pastor Jacqueline King led devotions for a Monday presentation;



Barney Babin (left) joins Fire Chief Melvin D. Wheat and members of the Denham Springs Fire Department. Jimmy Parker (with cap), Dave Rector and Norton Pendergrass are on the right.



Following presentations to fire stations, Barney Babin presented 35 books to Sergeant John Gillespie to distribute to Denham Springs police officers.

Associate Pastor Mark Martin, led devotions on Tuesday, and Babin led the devotions on Wednesday.

Babin later presented 35 additional books to Sergeant John Gillespie, chaplain of the Denham Springs Police Department.

AUSTIN, Texas

Church honors first responders

Members of Wesley UMC provided a lunch for representatives of the Austin Police Department, Fire Department, Sheriff's Department and the Austin Emergency Medical Services.

After the meal each department was presented with a gift basket for their department, and Cary Boddeker, president of Rio Texas Conference UM Men, presented each first responder with a copy of *Strength for Service to God and Community*.



First responders in Austin attend luncheon at Wesley UMC.

VICKSBURG, Miss.—

Men present 300 devotional books to first responders

UM Men of Warren County distributed 300 copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community* to police officers, fire fighters, county deputies, and rural volunteer fire fighters.

As the men crisscrossed the county presenting the books to area first responders, Bob Walters, president of Hawkins UM Men, provided a moving account of the history and importance of the books.



Bob Walters (center) and Buddy Lofton (right) present Strength for Service books to Warren County Rural Fire District Coordinator Jerry Briggs in Bovina, Miss.

COLUMBUS, Miss.—

Downtown church gives SFS books

Members of First UMC delivered copies of *Strength for Service to God and*

Community to Columbus police and firefighters. Their pastor, the Rev. Rocky Miskelly, serves as volunteer chaplain to both stations.



Members of First UMC get an up-close view of fire trucks.

Bishop Swanson reelected president of commission

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Mississippi Bishop James E. Swanson Sr., will serve as president of the General Commission on UM Men for the 2017-2020 quadrennium, a position he has held since 2013.

Swanson was elected at the August 11-13 organizational meeting of the commission, which was convened by retired Bishop Joe Pennel, a member of the first commission created by the 1996 General Conference. He chaired the Scouting Committee of the 1997-2000 board.

Bishop Swanson

A graduate of Southern Bible College, Houston, and C. H. Mason Seminary, ITC, Atlanta, Swanson was ordained as an elder in the South Georgia Conference. He served as pastor of St. Mary's Road UMC in Columbus, Ga., for 14 years, where the church grew from 16 active members to 950 with 525 in average worship attendance. In 2001, he became superintendent of the Savannah District, and he was elected to the episcopacy in 2004. He served the Holston Area from 2004 to 2012, when he was assigned to the Mississippi Area.



The Rev. Jennifer Wilson, chair of the Personnel Committee (left), congratulates Gil Hanke upon his reelection to the post of general secretary of the commission. Bishops Swanson and Mueller (right) join in celebration.

Other officers

Arkansas Bishop Gary E. Mueller, a graduate of the University of Kansas in Law-rence and Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, was elected vice president. Mueller served several churches in the North Texas Conference prior to his election to the epis-copacy in 2012. He also served a four-year term as director of connectional ministries for the conference.



Bishop James E. Swanson Sr. and Bishop Gary E. Mueller.

Henry Dozier, president of the Southeastern Jurisdiction UM Men, was elected secretary and Glenn Wintemberg,

president of the UM Men Foundation, was elected treasurer.

The Rev. Jennifer Wilson will chair the Personnel Committee; Phillip Howard will



Wade Mays (left), national director of Meals for Millions of the Society of St. Andrew, presents a plaque honoring Northern Illinois Conference as the top giver in 2015 to Steve Nailor, president of the National Association of Conference Presidents of UM Men. Nailor is former president of the conference and a leader of the Rockford District that raised \$14,000 of the \$24,000 given by the conference. The plaque, which is hung at the commission office in Nashville honors top givers for the last 13 years.

chair the Scouting Ministries Committee; and Kenneth Hudgins will chair the Men's Ministry/Leadership and Church Renewal Committee.

Return to Indianapolis

In 1913, thousands of Methodist men gathered in Indianapolis for a national meeting.

In 2017, UM Men will return to that city for a similar gathering.

Featured speakers for the July 7-8 meeting include: Mississippi Area Bishop James Swanson, president of the General Commission on UM Men; South Carolina Bishop Jonathan Holston; Shan Foster, national director of MEND, a YWCA program combatting domestic violence; and Dr. Kevin Watson, assistant professor of Methodist and Wesleyan Studies at Candler School of Theology.

The theme of the event will be "Discipleship—the contact sport." Sessions will be held in St. Luke's UMC, located 26 miles north of the Indianapolis Airport. Several motels and hotels are located nearby.

This is the 12th quadrennial national conference since the first UM Men gathering in 1969. In 1973 there was a laity gathering but no men's gathering. The first nine events were held at Purdue University; the last two conferences were held in Nashville. This will be the first event in Indianapolis since the creation of the UMC in 1968.



Thousands of Methodist men gather in front of the Indiana State Soldiers and Sailors Monument for a 1913 national gathering. Built between 1888 and 1901, the monument honors Indiana veterans who served in earlier wars.

Delaware pastor named director of men's ministry

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Gilbert C. Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men, has named the Rev. Dr. Richard (Rick) Vance, pastor of Ebenezer UMC in Newark, Del., as director of men's ministry. He will assumed that position on September 1.

Vance assumes a position left vacant after Larry Malone left the post in December, 2010. Since that time, Mark Lubbock, Mark Dehority, Greg Arnold, and Jim Boesch have served as regionally-deployed part-time leaders of men's ministry. They will continue in that ministry under the direction of Hanke and in cooperation with Vance.

A 1987 graduate of Salisbury (Md.) University (Bachelor of Science in adult education) and Wesley Theological Seminary (Master of Divinity in 1995 and a Doctor of Ministry degree in 2006), Vance is an ordained elder in the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference and a leader of UM Men conference workshops.

"We had a list of outstanding candidates," said Hanke, "but Dr. Vance brings a history of work in men's ministry and in participation with several other agencies of the church. He has attended General Conference as a communicator for his conference, and Bishop Johnson and Allan Loomis (conference president of UM Men) both joyfully describe him as 'a really great guy' and 'a great choice for this position'."

Looking beyond the local church

"For some time, I have felt that God has been calling me to expand my ministry beyond the local church," says Vance. "I see this as an opportunity to encourage, equip and empower men—led by God and the Holy Spirit—to work cooperatively to transform their communities and the world."

In 1996, Vance co-founded "My Friend's Place," a church-based youth drop-in center in Berlin, Md., and he served as chief executive officer for two years prior to leaving the area to serve as a pastor.

Since 1998, he has led mission trips in the United States and other nations.

"Shortly after 9-11, I served with UMCOR (UM

Committee on Relief) as a volunteer logistics person, working to develop prayer centers through New York and staffing the centers with volunteers I had trained," he says.

He has also served as a chaplain for fire fighters, police officers and EMS personnel.

Faith journey

In describing his faith journey, Vance says he was raised in a Jewish and Pentecostal home, but he attended a non-denominational church as a teenager. "Within that congregation, I committed my life to Christ and later felt called to be in ministry as a pastor," he says. "At the age of 19, my father died very suddenly of cancer. Out of anger and hurt, I left the church and distanced my relationship with God."

Vance says he remained out of the church for two years until he accepted an invitation to attend a UM church. "I began to see how God had directed my path even in my seemingly disobedient period and had brought me to a place where I could be nurtured and hear God's call on my life again. In 1991, I answered God's call on my life to become a pastor, began seminary and have now been serving UM churches for 24 years."

"Dr. Vance will help expand our men's ministry specialist program, and our work in the areas of domestic violence, prison ministries, and several other projects in the planning stage," said Hanke.



The Rev. Dr. Richard Vance

UM Men Awards

Richard Small

Former mayor serves on boards of several foundations

TULSA, Okla.—

The UM Men Foundation inducted the former mayor of Olympia Fields, Ill., into the John Wesley Society.

A member of Boston Avenue UMC, Richard serves on the Board of Trustees of Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa, and the Oklahoma UM Foundation. The foundation presented Richard and wife, Norma, with an award recognizing their Christian stewardship and philanthropy. The couple has also been honored as outstanding leaders by the UM Higher Education Foundation.



David Battles (right), a member of the UM Men Foundation, presents a John Wesley Society plaque to Richard Small.

John Green

Men tap trustee as fellow in the John Wesley Society

STILLWATER, Okla.—

Men of First UMC named John as a fellow in the John Wesley Society.

“He has served on nearly every committee and in numerous leadership roles of First UMC,” said Jerry Gill, a fellow member of the society.

“During his many years as a church trustee and member of the finance committee, he helped provide oversight of church facilities and fiscal affairs,”



Jerry Gill presents a John Wesley Society award to John Green.

said Gill. “But John is most comfortable when he can roll up his sleeves and work with others in outreach ministries.” He delivers supplies and assists clients to select their food.”

Fred Carter

Men induct president into John Wesley Society

PINEVILLE, La.—

Men of First UMC inducted UMM President

Carter into the Society of John Wesley.

“This award recognized his dedication to God, his country, his church and fellow members,” said Bob Nash, a former president.



From left: Randy Hoben, vice president; Bob Nash, past president; Cliff Kelley, past president; and Fred and Karen Carter.

Duane Spinelli and John Dinsmore

Charter members honored

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—

The Northwest Hills UM Men presented Duane and John with “Lifetime Achievement Awards” for more than 30 years of support for the church and UM Men. The charter members have served many positions at the church.



Duane Spinelli (right) and John Dinsmore

E.G. (Greek) Long **A present for his 91st birthday**

TOBACCOVILLE, N.C.—

Tabernacle UM Men presented Greek with a Life Membership Award on May 22, one week after his 91st birthday.

After serving as a charter member of UM Men in 1978, he served as treasurer from 1984 to 2015. During that time, he purchased the food and served as chief cook.

“He would arrive each Sunday before 5 a.m. to start cooking,” says Lloyd McCormick, UM Men president. “He was also instrumental in starting a Mother’s Day breakfast.”



Lloyd McCormick (right) presents award to Greek Long.

A church member since 1958, Greek served on the Parsonage Building Committee, The Board of Trust-

ees, the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Cemetery Committee. He served as superintendent of the Sunday school, chair of the Administrative Council, and a leader of UM Youth Fellowship.

He also served as a 60-year member of the Old Richmond Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad and president of Forsyth County Fire and Rescue Association, which named him “Firefighter of the Year” in 2005.

He retired from Pepsi Cola Bottling Company in Winston-Salem after 41 years of service.

Doug Wheeler **Fifteen years as president**

IDA GROVE, Iowa—

Men of First UMC presented Doug with a Life Membership Award for his 15 year stint as president of UM Men. During that time, he organized a number of fund-raiser and mission projects.

“Doug also worked tirelessly to encourage new members to join the group,” says Tom Grell, UM Men president.

Donita Hiatt **MOPS leader prevents two suicides**

WESTFIELD, Ind.—

Christ UMC presented Donita with the Susanna Wesley Award of Excellence for years of service to the MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) program.



Donita and John Hiatt

She also helped tutor mentally disabled children. Through counseling, she saved the lives of two women who were planning suicides.

Donita and husband John have four children, and they have fostered three.

Harold Thornburg and Wayne Thornburg **Charter members given life memberships**

CONOVER, N.C.—

Two charter members of First UMC were presented with Life Membership Awards.

UM Men serve some 3,000 meals each year, and Harold is generally the one who plans and cooks the meals.

Wayne is a volunteer fire fighter who has served as assistant scoutmaster since 1985.

Whenever there is a job in the church, these men are the first to volunteer.

Joyce Annison **Retired nurse receives Susanna Wesley Award**

DENHAM SPRINGS, La.—

First UMC presented a Susanna Wesley Award to Joyce for service to UM Men, the church, and the community.

She retired in 2002 after serving for 23 years as a nurse in eight schools in the Livingston Parish.



Clyde Ellis, a member of the Louisiana Conference UM Men Executive Committee, presents the award to Joyce Annison.

“School nurses are advocates for the kids,” Annison said. “Not to be overly critical, but sometimes, parents aren’t good advocates for their children. We’re there for the kids.”

She is a volunteer at the church, Cancer Services, and the United Way.

The Rev. Edward Weston **Pastor retires after 42 years of service** BELLEVILLE, Ill.—

Men of Union UMC presented their pastor with a Life Membership Award upon his retirement after 42 years in the ministry.

“Ed led in good times and bad,” said Thomas Wade, president of UM Men, “In 2002 the church suffered a devastating fire that destroyed a newly rebuilt facility. Over the next two years, the church grew stronger and



The Rev. Ed Weston

revised plans for additional space that was finished in late 2004.

“He developed a concept and plan to establish a satellite facility in a neighboring community, which has grown from 20 establishing members to an average of 130 per week in two services,” said Wade.

Ed also led fund-raising efforts for a church in Liberia that gave birth to another congregation.

Claudia Polin **Serves church for seven decades** ELLOREE, S.C.—

UM Men of Jerusalem UMC presented the Susanna Wesley Award of Excellence to Claudia for seven decades of service to the church and the denomination.

She has served as chairperson of the Administrative Board, membership secretary, recording secretary and financial secretary.

For many years, she sang in the choir and prepared Sunday bulletins.

She also supported Epworth Children’s Home, Africa University, the Ghana Technology Project, Samaritan’s Purse, and South Carolina Conference.



Win Carter, vice president of the Church Council and chairperson of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee, presents the award to Claudia Polin during a Mother’s Day service.

Larry G. Smith **Leader chairs several committees** AUSTIN, Texas—

Men of Crestview UMC presented a Life Membership Award to Larry, a 41-year church member. He served as chair

of Church Council and chair of the Finance Committee. A lay reader, he also served on the Staff-Parish Relations Committee and committees dealing with outreach, evangelism, missions and endowments. He also served for five years as a trustee of the UMC Capital District.



Larry trims bushes as part of a neighborhood Advent service project.

“Larry has cooked, cleaned, and helped UM Women with bazaar work,” says Jack Moncure, president of Crestview UM Men. “As chair of the Finance Committee, Larry led us through some rather patchy areas.” He also served as a driver for seniors, a leader of food drives and packed care kits and flood buckets.

Donald Thompson *Engineer has culinary skills*

AUSTIN, Texas—

UM Men of Crestview UMC presented a Life Membership Award to Don for his engineering and analytical skills in designing the expansion of the altar area of the church. He also established guidelines for the church’s electrical use.

The lay leader is a member of annual conference and he helps prepare meals for fifth Sunday lunches and Wednesday morning UM Men meals.

“Don is involved in all areas of outreach whether it be the preparation of snacks for workers, mowing, trimming, raking church neighbor’s yards or helping repair homes,” said Jack Moncure, president of Crestview UM Men.

John B. Keene Jr. *Lots of reasons for the honor*

HAMPTON, Va.—

Men of St. James UMC say they have lots of reasons for presenting J.B. with a

Life Membership Award.

“He is well known throughout the church and community as someone who can be counted on wherever a need arises, whether it’s assembling meals for ‘Stop Hunger Now’ or driving seniors to community events,” said Harold Richardson, president of UM Men. “J.B. has served as an usher, trustee, sings in the choir, and has led our scout troops.”

Marie Rouse *Congregation is proud of pastor’s wife*

HUNTINGTON, N.Y.—

UM Men of Huntington and Cold Spring Harbor UMC presented a Susanna Wesley Award of Excellence to Marie, wife of Pastor Luonne Rouse.

“Marie has developed many church plans and activities and has served as a lay minister with exceptional qualities,” says Bill Rhinehart. “She helps with the children’s choir and a number of group meetings and organizations.”



From left: Bill Rhinehart, Phil Martellia, Marie Rouse, Charles Roth, Dr. Luonne Rouse, Steve Henry, Wayne Carty, and Ken Longstreet.

Carol Ricketts *Five family members inducted into the John Wesley Society*

CASEYVILLE, Ill.—

In June, Carol Ricketts was inducted into the John Wesley Society by UM Men of Caseyville UMC.

She is the seventh church member to receive the honor and the fifth member of the Mueth family.

Carol’s father, Orville Mueth, founder of

the UMM chapter in Caseyville, received the award in 1995. Sons Terry and David and their mother, Sylvia, received the awards in 2012.

Carol is active in the choir, UMW, Vacation Bible School, the Board of Trustees, and Faith in Action.



From left: David Mueth, Sylvia Mueth, Carol (Mueth) Ricketts and Terry Mueth hold five John Wesley Society Awards. Orville Mueth, first recipient of the honor, died in 2010.

Les Pribble
Charter member inducted into John Wesley Society

SPEARFISH, S.D.—

Men of Spearfish UMC welcomed Les as a fellow in the John Wesley Society.

“Les has been a tireless supporter of not only our local chapter but has served as UM Men vice-president of the Prairie Hills District of the Dakotas Conference,” said Everett Follette, president of Spearfish UM Men. “He



Everett Follette, president of our Spearfish UM Men and past president of Dakotas Conference UM Men, (left) presents a John Wesley Society plaque to Les Pribble.

has also held every office within our local chapter and currently serves as our treasurer.”

A charter member of UM Men, Les was a leader of the church’s evangelism program.

He also serves as the chief cook for

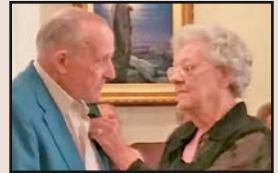
semi-monthly UM Men breakfasts, and he routinely crushes and recycles donated aluminum cans, an effort that annually provides more than \$2,000 for several charities.

Hoyt C. Grant
Men honor veteran

PICKENS, S.C.—

Men of Porter’s Chapel UMC presented Hoyt C.

Grant, a U. S. Army veteran, with the Life Membership Award for exceptional service to the church and community.



Hoyt’s wife, Laura Ann, presents her husband with the lapel pin.

Lavern Nanny
Prayer warrior given life membership

RALEIGH, N.C.—

Men of Wesley Memorial UMC presented a Life Membership Award to Lavern for lifetime contributions to the church and UM Men.

“Lavern is a leader that models Jesus Christ in his thoughts, words and deeds,” said Jerry Baker, a UM Men leader. “He is an active member of our Wesley Memorial prayer chain, assists in teaching the Senior Adult Sunday School Class, is the leader of our Mayview Convalescent Center Ministry, and he is a constant attendee of the UMM meetings and supports the UMM fundraising projects.”



Lavern Nanney (center) receives a Life Membership Award from UMM Vice-president Joe Massey (left) and UMM President Denver Walston.

The Summiteers

GLEN JEAN, W.Va.—

For the first time, the Summit Bechtel Reserve served as the site for the annual national UMM Scouters Workshop.

The June 17-24 event was held at the 5-year-old high-adventure base and permanent site of BSA National Jamborees.

Gale winds and torrential rain storms pounded the 10 by 12-foot wall tents of the 22 participants during the week-long training event.

Course Director Bill Byrd, Assistant Director Susan Lawyer, and three shepherds (group leaders) guided the group through a host of topics ranging from the Programs of Religious Activities with Youth to youth protection, and the role of scouting ministry specialists.

Larry Coppock and Byrd gave the group the moniker, “The Summiteers,” denoting their special contribution to scouting ministry.

The workshops provided participants with an opportunity to tour the 70,000 acre site and to take a wet and wild raft ride down the New River Gorge.

Responses from participants

“I picked up several ideas and many connections that will help us in the North Georgia Conference,” said Chris Karabinos. “Having not heard of a bishop’s dinner before, I see us holding one in the spring of 2018 as a tool to recruit new units. I also established connections with a lot of experienced scouters who can help connect us to other scouting resources around the country.”

“This was my third scouter training experience,” said Bill Chaffin, scouting coordinator for the Virginia Annual Conference. “The course is never the same. The information will take some time to digest, filter, and I will most assuredly share again. I feel renewed and empowered in my ministry.”

Darrell Adams says the workshop gave him a clear understanding of his responsibilities as a



Workshop participants gather at the sign welcoming people to the Summit Bechtel Reserve.



Yes, there are members of the workshop somewhere under the rapids of this raft on the New River Gorge.

scouting ministry specialist. He plans to work with his pastor to expand scouting ministries in his church and in the Roanoke District of the Virginia Conference.

“I have had quite a bit of leader training as a scouter, but this was my first opportunity to be trained in scouting from a UM perspective,” said Craig Moles. “I look forward to applying these ideas in our local congregations in the Antelope Valley of California.”

Jeanette Yoh of Newport News, Va., said she expected to receive a clear understanding of

scouting ministry. “I received so much more,” she said. “An understanding of the relationship between the church and scouting was something that I lacked and it will be tremendously helpful as I work with my local churches.” She says the course also provided her with “forever friends” who are only an email away.

Che Dolan, a scouting ministry specialist from Little Rock, Ark., says, “I don’t want us to think too small about the information we gained this week. Scouting is a way for a church to minister to an entire community.”

Scouting is best way to reach youth, says pastor

“Train children in the way they should go; when they grow old, they won’t depart from it.”

– Proverbs 22.6 (CEB)

The Reverend Paul Judd, senior pastor of First UMC in DeKalb, Ill., says churches that want to increase the number of young participants should look to scouting.

At the same time, the scouting ministry specialist thinks churches are the best ways for scout councils to increase their numbers. He sees a synergy between the church and troops.

“How many churches no longer sponsor a scouting unit?” he asks. “And how many people, wishing to strengthen their scouting unit, forget to look to the church?”

“Unfortunately, we are so busy we forget to seek out new partners or to bring something we already have to the next level,” says Paul.

Texas roots

Paul grew up in Texas. His parents met and were married while attending a Bible College, so their Christian faith was an integral part of their lives.

Paul’s father became a cubmaster when Paul joined Pack 380, in Arlington, Texas. His mother became a den leader.



The Rev. Paul Judd

Paul loved camping, and one of his favorite memories was attending a jamboree in Fort Worth, where he ate fried rattlesnake (yum, yum). In high school he became active in a local Explorer Post because it focused on camping, canoeing and other outdoor activities.

He remembers learning of Elvis Presley's death from the scout van radio as they were going to the Leonard Scout Reservation. He learned to face challenges, such as canoeing the Brazos River in Texas, where he remembers porting his canoe as much as paddling.

When you meet Paul today, you'll likely hear him greet you with a "Howdy," quickly revealing his Texas roots.

If you bring up scouting, you'll likely hear him tell you, "I used to be a bobwhite," referring to his completion of a Woodbadge class, and receiving his beads in 2002.

As a scout he learned the joy of cooking over an open fire, being aware of the flora and fauna, and becoming one with nature. He also hiked part of the Appalachian Trail and canoed the boundary waters.

He shared his love of living outdoors as a camp counselor at the UMC Camp Reynoldswood, outside of Dixon, Ill. Young UM campers made breakfasts, dinners, desserts and even pizza over open fires.

Training for Marine Corps and law enforcement

Scouting helped Paul learn the importance of teamwork and "pulling your own weight." These skills prepared him for a tour of duty in the U.S. Marine Corps and later a 10-year career in law enforcement.

The irony is that Paul hated the merit badge training as a scout (it was too much like school). Later, he found himself a strong advocate for merit-badge training as the key in living out the scout motto, "Be Prepared."

Scouting career in Illinois

Paul has served as cubmaster, assistant scoutmaster, and Venture Crew adviser in Illinois. He also served as a commissioner, adult trainer and merit badge counselor in the Wetassa District of the Blackhawk



Paul Judd and son Connor when Connor was a Cub Scout.

Council. He later served on the White Eagle District Committee and is currently an organizational representative.

As his father, Paul became active as an adult in scouting because of his son. He mentored and encouraged his son along with other young people in his community.

Through his initial role as teacher and scouter he has lifelong connections with many from the Lanark, Ill., area. One young man, Dakota, later became his adopted son.

When Eric, another former troop member, was ready to wed the love of his life, he came to his former scoutmaster, now a UM pastor, to officiate at the service.

Paul is a trained PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth) counselor, and, as an ordained elder in the Northern Illinois Conference, he is an advocate for living out the Scout Law: "A Scout is reverent."

He is also a legacy UM Men member and a scouting advocate at both the district and conference levels.

The way we should go

"As United Methodists we say we 'have open hearts, open minds, and open doors,'" says Paul. "It is time to step outside our doors and see the opportunities available through scouting ministries."

The Rev. Paul Judd is excited about the opportunity to share and teach what he has learned, so another generation may be "trained in the way they should go."

Scouting Awards

Greg Godwin **UM Scout leader receives** **Distinguished Eagle Scout Award**

GLEN JEAN, W.Va.—

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball and BSA Buckskin Council Executive Jeff Purdy presented Greg with the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award.

Established in 1969, the award recognizes Eagle Scouts who have received national-level recognition for volunteer service. The award is given by the National Eagle Scout Association. Other recipients of the award include President Gerald Ford, Steven Spielberg and Neil Armstrong.

Eighty people attended the presentation service at the Summit Bechtel Reserve.



Larry Coppock (left), national director of UM scouting ministries, congratulates Greg following the award presentation.

Greg Schoeneck **Torch recipient says scouting** **changed his life**

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—

The Indiana Annual Conference Committee on Scouting presented Greg with a Torch Award during the 2016 session.

An Eagle Scout, Greg serves as the advancement chairman of the LaSalle BSA Council and charter troop representative for Chesterton (Ind.) UMC.

“Boy Scouts changed my life as an 11-year

old, and my mission has been to allow every boy that wants to be in scouting to participate,” says Greg.

The graduate of VanderCook College of Music and Columbia University has served as chair of the troop committee, a merit badge counselor and assistant scoutmaster. He was vice-chair of the district committee and chair of the Eagle Board, and he received the Silver Beaver Distinguished Service Award in 2013.



Greg Schoeneck

Jonathan Johnson **Scout organizes Lupus Awareness** **Walk**

ATLANTA, Ga.—

Ben Hill UMC presented Jonathan with a Good Samaritan Award for organizing a 2015 Lupus Disease Awareness Walk.

His Eagle project walk at Westlake High School drew more than 200 people and 20 health fair vendors.



From left: Senior Pastor Byron E Thomas, Scout Commissioner Ernest Perry, Jonathan and his family.

Lisa Coleman **Skilled teacher receives Cross and** **Flame Award**

MADISON, Wis.—

Bethany UMC presented Lisa with a Cross and Flame Award for leading Tiger Cubs, Bear Cubs and Webelows. “She is a member of the executive and pro-

gram-planning committee and has taught Sunday school for many years,” says Clarence Olson, scouting coordinator.



Clarence Olson presents a Cross and Flame Award to Lisa Coleman

Jonathan Isami Hsieh Kuo **Scout installs flags**

NEWBURY PARK, Calif.—

St. Mathews UMC presented Jonathan, 15, with a Cross and Flame Award after he installed flags at the church for his Eagle Scout project.

The high school sophomore has served as patrol leader, quartermaster, scribe and troop guide. He now serves as junior assistant scoutmaster for

Troop 730 and is also a member of the Order of the Arrow. He hopes to become a paramedic.



Jonathan Isami Hsieh Kuo

Matthew Todd Pitts **Scout provides a home for the homeless**

RICHMOND, Va.—

Westhampton UMC presented Matthew with a Good Samaritan Award for preparing lunches and spending nights with homeless guests.

“You will not find a candidate of higher

moral caliber, spiritual depth and intellect than Matthew,” says the Rev. Christy Haga Turner, pastor.

A member of BSA Troop 444 at Reveille UMC, Matthew is active in the youth program and serves as an usher and acolyte.



Matthew Pitts

Lewis Holden Petree **Scoutmaster pulls teeth and sings**

WINDER, Ga.—

First UMC presented the dentist with a Cross and Flame Award.

The Eagle Scout is a graduate of University of Georgia and he received a doctorate of dental medicine from the Medical College of Georgia.

Lewis serves as scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 700, and he sings with the chancel choir and the Quartermaster Gospel Quintet. He volunteers his professional talents with the Mercy Health Clinic Mission in Athens, Ga.



Dr. Lewis Petree

Lorrie Yodzis **Church secretary receives Cross and Flame Award**

FELTON, Pa.—

Winterstown UMC presented Lorrie with a Cross and Flame Award.

The church secretary is a scout leader where her son, Nicholas, 11, is a member.



Lorrie Yodzis

Bill Swilley **Assistant scoutmaster receives** **Torch Award**

ATLANTA, Ga.—

The North Georgia Annual Conference presented Bill with a Torch Award. The Eagle Scout and Silver Beaver Award recipient has been involved in scouting for seven decades.

Bill served as scoutmaster for 10 years and he has held additional leadership positions with Troop 467 and with the Atlanta Area Council. He also serves as troop chaplain.

Austin Feest **Youth serves children in Liberia**

RACINE, Wis.—

First UMC presented a Good Samaritan Award to Austin for his service to children at an elementary school in Ganta City, Liberia.

The high school senior was nominated by August Grulich, president of Wisconsin Conference; he and Austin were members of a mission team that painted the school and provided supplies for the children.

Austin is a 4-year volunteer at a camp for special-needs children and their families. He also serves in the church's food booth on July 4 and helps a neighbor with yard work.



Austin jumps rope with children at Jabez Elementary School in Ganta City.

Caroline Munsell **Mission minded senior named** **student of the year**

LAFAYETTE, La.—

Asbury UMC presented Caroline with a Good Samaritan Award for her service on mission teams and for her contributions

to Asbury Church and the community.

“She is an exceptional young lady who graduated with a 4.0 grade average,” said Ron Sarver, a leader of UM Men who presented the award. UM Men also awarded Caroline a college scholarship.

During her senior year at Lafayette High School, she was elected president of the student council and president of the Key Club, and she was named “student of the year” in the high school and the Lafayette Parish School District.



Caroline gives a child a lift during a Vacation Bible School in Panama.



Ron Sarver presents Caroline with a Good Samaritan Award

Billy Hopwood III **Life Scout receives** **God and Church Award**

SAN DIEGO, Calif.—

Bill Hopwood Jr. presented his son with a God and Church Award during the May 26 Duty to God Breakfast at the BSA national meeting.

Billy is a life scout at a troop chartered by the San Carlos UMC. He has been to Alaska and several camps, and he plans to attend a summer camp in Hawaii and the 2017 National BSA Jamboree in West Virginia.



Chief Scout Executive Mike Surbaugh congratulates Billy Hopwood following a presentation of the God and Church Award by his father.



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