

**TABLETALK** is a publication of The Rocky Mountain Conference Office of Communications  
Information and Concerns of RMC Leadership, for RMC Leadership

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## Conference News and Resources

### **New Tax Law Benefits Local Church Budgets**

The Rocky Mountain United Methodist Foundation and Treasurer Jack Ford are celebrating a recent change in the tax laws of the United States. In brief, anyone who is age 70 1/2 and has an IRA may roll over up to \$100,000 per year to their local church (or any other 501(c)(3) charity) tax free!

"This is big!" Jack Ford, treasurer of the RMC, said. "Here is a chance for members who must take a mandatory distribution from their IRA to benefit their local churches and get a giant tax advantage, too! As you know, 70 and a half is when the IRS requires you to start taking minimum distributions from your IRAs and pay taxes on those amounts. Now those who don't need the minimum distributions as income and who don't want to pay tax on them can give them to their local churches in 2006 and 2007 and pay no tax on those amounts!"

Jack urges pastors and local church stewardship and finance committees to print the flyer (on the web, see below), post it, and discuss it with their members faced with the mandatory distribution and who want to give to the church. "It's a win-win proposition," he said.

"This is a time of the year that finance and stewardship campaigns are emphasized," he reflected, "and this type of tax-favored giving can allow members to express their appreciation of God's gifts to them and their commitment to the ministries and programs of their church in the name of Christ."

For more information, contact Jack Ford, Conference Treasurer, or Marilyn Bierbach, executive director of the UM Foundation. Jack may be contacted at 800-536-3736 or 303-733-3736 ext. 151 or [jack@rmcumc.com](mailto:jack@rmcumc.com). Marilyn may be contacted at 303-778-6370 or [umfinc@qwest.net](mailto:umfinc@qwest.net).

Some resources on the web:

The UM Foundation flyer: <http://rmcumc2.org/CR/finance/IRARolloverSept06.pdf>

On Tithing: <http://archives.umc.org/interior.asp?mid=666>

News piece: [http://www.sptimes.com/2006/08/20/Columns/Charity\\_rules\\_change\\_.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/2006/08/20/Columns/Charity_rules_change_.shtml)

Detailed paper:

[http://www.ncpg.org/gov\\_relations/Hoyt-CHARITABLE%20IRA%20ROLLOVER%20\(revised\).pdf](http://www.ncpg.org/gov_relations/Hoyt-CHARITABLE%20IRA%20ROLLOVER%20(revised).pdf)

### **Youth Leadership Conference Gathers**

Over 400 YLC youth and adult sponsors gather the first weekend in November at the YMCA of the Rockies Snow Mountain Ranch to consider "Super Christians, Super Heroes" with keynote speakers Olon Lindemood, Skip Strickland and Loren Boyce, all RMC clergy. Bible Study, fundraising for the Youth Service Fund, and devotions are just part of the many activities during the 3-day event.

YLC is one of 2 major youth events of the Conference. The other is Up With Youth, which meets in the Spring, April 13-15 at the YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park. More info is on the web:

<http://www.rmcumc.org/MI/Youth/>.

### **Conference Council on Finance and Administration Requests Apportionment Catchup**

The Conference Council on Finance and Administration says that receipts of Wider Mission payments are slightly behind where we anticipated we'd be at this time of the year, so the Council is requesting churches to please catch up on Apportionment payments if they have some to send in to bring their accounts up to date.

The Council also is requesting Conference boards and committees to postpone discretionary spending where possible until later in the year. Historically the last quarter has been good for income, so there is optimism that we can end the year ahead of last year.

### **Ethics Education Task Force Announces New Web Site**

The Conference Ethics Education Task Force has announced a new web site specifically for information on the program of the Conference that mandates ethics training for every clergy and for lay leadership of local churches. Visit <http://www.ethicseducation.net/> to see it! This site may also be reached through the Rocky Mountain Conference Web site: <http://rmcumc.org/home.htm> (Conference Information). Contact the task force at [RMC SacredTrust@aol.com](mailto:RMC SacredTrust@aol.com).

### **Ethics Education Task Force Planning Training for 2007 and Beyond**

All Active Clergy Serving Ministry Settings and All Lay Members of Annual Conference Session 2006 were reminded of the Ethics and Sexual Misconduct training program of the Conference in an e-mail this past month. Tommy Gleaton, chair of the task force, wrote:

*At Annual Conference Session last June, the Conference passed a petition that says, "It is required in every ministry setting employees attend a Rocky Mountain Conference Ethics & Sexual Misconduct Training at least once every four years." At the same time the mention of "equivalent training" was removed. What this means to all of us is that every clergy person\*, all full or part-time staff are required to attend the Ethics & Sexual Misconduct Training at least once every four years.*

*\*Clergy persons are defined in Schedule A, B, and C of Petition AC11. Petition AC 11 may be reviewed at the [ethicseducation.net](http://www.ethicseducation.net) web site, click on "Links" then Petition AC11.*

*All persons working with children and youth are strongly encouraged to attend the Training. Persons in volunteer leadership roles ie. Lay Leader, Chair of SPRC, Chair of Trustees, Chair of Education, etc. are strongly encouraged to attend the Training.*

*I hope each of you understand that the intent of this Training is to look again at ways to protect those who are less able to protect themselves and to update you on how you can protect yourselves as well.*

### **Clergy Compensation Forms On The Web**

The 2007 Clergy Compensation worksheet and instructions are on the [RMCUMC.org](http://www.rmcumc.org) web, under Church Resources: <http://www.rmcumc.org/CR/Finance/>. Contact Jack Ford, [Jack@rmcumc.com](mailto:Jack@rmcumc.com), 303-733-3736x151 or Donna Hite, [Donna@rmcumc.com](mailto:Donna@rmcumc.com), 303-325-7050 for assistance.

### **Metro District Announces New E-mail Address**

The Metropolitan District Office has a new email address as follows: [metro@RMCUMC.com](mailto:metro@RMCUMC.com). Please note this new email address for any email correspondence with the Administrative Secretary's office of the Metropolitan District of the Rocky Mountain Conference. Thank you. -- Youngsook Kang, Metro District Superintendent

### **Teaching Basic Christian Practices To Children**

If you want help in teaching basic Christian practices to children and helping them focus on their relationship to God, you might be interested in the excellent new addition to the Companions in Christ series called The Way of the Child which focuses on the spiritual formation of children including 3 booklets, a CD and DVD.

For more information go to [http://www.upperroom.org/bookstore/description.asp?item\\_id=322287](http://www.upperroom.org/bookstore/description.asp?item_id=322287). -- Susan W. N. Ruach, Director of Conference Spiritual Leadership Development, General Board of Discipleship, 877-899-2780 ext. 7142

### **UMs Appear in Concert**

Retired RMC clergy John Blinn and active UM lay woman Judy Hagerman appeared at The Wheat Ridge United Methodist Church Fine Arts Concert Series on Sunday, October 8th for a concert entitled "Peace:The Gathering of Friends". Musicians sharing in this concert include Blinn on Native Flute, Guitar, Vocal; Hagerman on Violin; Nita Hatcher, Flute; and Diana Mapes, Drums. Elaine Blinn shared stories related to the music.

### **Native American Awareness Series Presented**

The Christian Indian Center, Denver, is highlighting a Native American Awareness Educational Series during November. Darrick Silversmith (Navajo), is a student organizer at Front Range Community College in Westminster, CO. The itinerary of this series is available on the RMCUMC web site (<http://rmcumc2.org/News/IndigenousVoicesVisions2006.pdf>). The series will showcase various elements of Indigenous culture.

### **Christian Indian Christmas Bazaar Scheduled**

The Christian Indian Center, Denver, offers the 17th annual Christmas Bazaar December 1 & 2 at the Center, 501 South Pearl, Denver. Arts & Crafts, Silver/Turquoise Jewelry, Baked Goods, Navajo Tacos, Mutton Stew, and Frybread offered. Flyer: <http://rmcumc2.org/News/2006CICflyer.pdf>

### **Marriage Encounter, United Methodist Announces 2007 Dates**

The MEUM is for couples who want to enrich their marriage relationship and "encounter" each other in deeper ways. The 2007 Weekend dates have been confirmed:

Feb. 9 - 11 in Denver

April 27 - 29 in Salt Lake City

Oct. 19 -21 in Colorado Springs

More at: [www.encounter.org](http://www.encounter.org) or from Harry & Deb Thomas, [HnDThomas@aol.com](mailto:HnDThomas@aol.com). MEUM is affiliated with the General Board of Discipleship.

### **Marriage Encounter Now 1.5 CEUs**

The General Board of Discipleship approved 1.5 CEU Credits for clergy attending an ME weekend!! Even better news is that this is not considered vacation time from the pulpit. At the present, CEU credits are also being approved for Engaged Encounter. EE will probably be 1.0 CEU Credits. Information can be found at the [encounter.org](http://www.encounter.org) site. Click the ME symbol and then click on Continuing Education Information for United Methodist Clergy: <http://www.encounter.org>

### **Becoming a Praying Congregation Workshop Offered**

Hope UMC in Greenwood Village is sponsoring a day of exploring the promise of taking prayer more seriously as a congregation--based on Rev. Vennard's most recent book. You are invited to attend this one-day event featuring Rev. Jane Vennard and violinist Judy Hagerman, Saturday, November 11, 2006, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Hope United Methodist Church, 5101 S. Dayton St., Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Ticket, including a box-lunch, is \$35 per person or \$30 for four or more attending from the same church. Advance registration required. Registration forms are available on the web-site, [www.hope-umc.org](http://www.hope-umc.org) or <http://rmcumc2.org/News/VennardBrochure0611.pdf>. Cokesbury will have a display of books available.

## **General/Jurisdiction Church News and Resources**

### **United Methodist Bishops Meet in Mozambique Nov. 1-6**

#### ***First Meeting of Global Body Outside United States***

Bishops of The United Methodist Church celebrate the rapid growth of the church in Africa during their meeting in Mozambique Nov.1-6. Nearly 80 bishops from the United States, Europe, Africa, and the Philippines are attending the meeting. It will be the first time United Methodist bishops will meet as a group outside the territorial United States.

“By our very presence here, we are embodying the global nature of The United Methodist Church,” said Bishop Janice Riggle Huie of Houston, president of the Council of Bishops.

Most recent estimates show there are more than 2.2 million United Methodists meeting in 6,000 places of worship across Africa. Worldwide, there are an estimated 11 million United Methodists, with nearly 8 million in the United States. “Africa is at the forefront of ministry. We can learn much from our brothers and sisters in Africa,” Huie said. “In the midst of chaos, violence, disease and heart-wrenching conditions, the cry of the people is ‘Lord, I want to be a Christian.’ In many areas, the church provides the only access to health care. In many communities, our United Methodist schools are training Africa’s future teachers, business entrepreneurs and governmental leaders,” Huie said.

## **Missions News**

### **VIM Medical/Dental Team Forming**

#### ***Attention Health Professionals!!***

A VIM Medical/Dental team is being formed to go to Cambodia in October of 2007. They will be working in 8 villages in a 2 week periods with some site-seeing included. Information sessions were held in October in Colorado Springs and Highlands Ranch. A later information session will be also in Breckenridge. Date and time TBA. Come and learn more. Questions to June Essing, Coordinator of Health Care Volunteers RMC, 2109 Lee Circle Drive, Woodland Park, CO.80863, 719-244-3612 or 719-687-6854.

### **Gandhi Birthday Celebration Honors Crossroads Volunteer**

A celebration of Gandhi’s birthday was held Sunday October 1 in Jordan Park in Salt Lake City, home of the International Peace Gardens. The celebration featured author, naturalist and environmental activist Terry Tempest Williams, speaking about her beliefs about peace, and how we can contribute to it. Williams is best known for her book *Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place*, which interweaves the progress of her mother’s cancer (attributed, possibly, to fallout from nuclear testing) with an account of the flooding of the Bear River Bird Refuge.

Williams and Gail Johnson received the Gandhi Peace Award at the Birthday Celebration. Johnson is being honored for decades of leadership and service in community organizations including Church Women United, Crossroads Urban Center, Utah Issues and Juvenile Justice Advocates. The award, given by the Gandhi Alliance for Peace, acknowledges individuals who, by their example, uphold and promote the ideals of Gandhi’s legacy. Both women, according to the Gandhi Alliance, have recognized the power of community involvement and citizen engagement, and have worked to mobilize that power to affect social change.

### **Littleton UMC Sponsors Tour To China, June 16-27, 2007**

Littleton United Methodist Church’s 2007 tour is to China, departing Denver June 16. Some are taking an extra four days in Hong Kong and Guilin, leaving Denver June 12, joining the group in Shanghai on June 17. Highlights include 3 days Shanghai, Three Gorges Dam, Viking cruise on the Yangtze river, Xian (terra cotta army), three days Beijing. This tour is limited to 24.

For details, including detailed itinerary (emailed) and cost, contact Richard Hendry at [rhendry@littletonumc.org](mailto:rhendry@littletonumc.org) or Elfi Smith at [TravelOrganizers.com](http://TravelOrganizers.com), 303-730-7777 X2233

## **Trinity UMC in Denver, CO Sends Medical Team to Guatemala May, 2007**

A medical mission team from Trinity UMC in Denver will be providing basic medical care to rural villages that have very limited access to such services. The team is currently looking for physicians, dentists, pharmacists, and nurses. Trip dates are May 11 - 20, 2007. For more information, please contact Rev. Miriam Slejko in the church office at (303) 839-1493 or [mslejko@trinityumc.org](mailto:mslejko@trinityumc.org). More details are available at [http://www.puravida.org/participate\\_trips\\_details\\_2007\\_may.htm](http://www.puravida.org/participate_trips_details_2007_may.htm).

## **Sierra Service Project Offers Summer Youth Projects**

Registration materials are now available for Sierra Service Project's 2007 summer service experiences. SSP has been in the business of providing faith-forming service experience for youth groups since 1975. Over 100 churches use SSP each summer to give youth a chance to serve, grow their faith and commitment to the church, and meet other young people. Projects take place on Indian reservations, in South Los Angeles and in Honduras. For registration information, call 916-488-6641 or visit their website at [www.sierraserviceproject.org](http://www.sierraserviceproject.org). The priority registration deadline is November 15.

# **The Conference Community**

## **Prayer Concerns and Caring For The Conference Community**

Prayer Concerns are offered for the Clergy and Lay Members and leadership of the Annual Conference and their immediate families, as a way to nurture the community of the Annual Conference. Prayer concerns are sent to those on the Conference Bulletin Board e-mail list as "Prayers." Please keep these in your prayers:

- **Bonnie and Tommy Gleaton.** Bonnie underwent serious surgery Sept. 27. Tommy is chair of the Conference Ethics Education Task Force. Expressions of care to them may be extended through [Tgle105463@aol.com](mailto:Tgle105463@aol.com).
- **Ginny Bettendorf**, pastor at Redlands UMC in Grand Junction, and her family. Ginny is undergoing radiation treatments for cancer following surgery (she says that all cancer is believed to have been removed). Expressions of care may be sent to her at [pastor@rumcgj.com](mailto:pastor@rumcgj.com) or c/o Redlands United Methodist Church, 527 Village Way, Grand Junction, CO, 81503.
- **Joe and Mary Rouse.** Joe is a member of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration and had a mild heart attack Monday, September 25. Expressions of care may be sent to them 8188 Burnt Oak Trail, Franktown, CO 80116.
- **Bill Stroud**, pastor, members and friends of the **Deer Park UMC** near Bailey, as they deal with the aftermath of a bomb threat, hostage taking, and death of Emily Keyes, 16-year-old Junior at Platte Canyon High School near Bailey in late September. The youth of Deer Park were students at that school. As we know, these kinds of events affect the whole community. Please continue to keep this whole community in your prayers. Expressions of care may be sent through Bill at [office@deerparkumc.org](mailto:office@deerparkumc.org).
- Friends and family of **Arch Deuel**, trustee emeritus of Liff School of Theology and well known to Wyoming UMs. Bill Moore, pastor of First UMC, Casper, says "he had the most delightful smile of mischief I have ever had the opportunity to be blessed by." Expressions of care may be sent to the family (Carolyn, Dana & Linda Bau) at 1824 Lynwood Pl, Casper WY 82604.
- **Bishop Mary Ann Swenson**, former Bishop of the Denver Episcopal Area and currently Bishop of the Los Angeles Area and the California-Pacific Conference, who is recovering from surgery. Expressions of care may be sent to her at PO Box 6006, Pasadena, CA 91102 or [calpacbishop@earthlink.net](mailto:calpacbishop@earthlink.net). She is recovering very well and says she is "glad to be alive."
- **Mary Perry**, spouse of **Skip Perry**, pastor at Wheatland and Chugwater UMCs. Mary's mother, Edith Ficken, passed away on Wednesday, October 11, after a very long battle with Alzheimer's. Expressions of care may be sent to [perrygg3@yahoo.com](mailto:perrygg3@yahoo.com).
- Rich Stoakes, pastor of the Rifle United Methodist/Presbyterian Church, reports that **Betty Clifford** has had another stroke, not as severe as her first one three years ago at annual conference in Laramie, but serious nonetheless. She is now in the Rifle VA nursing home for physical, occupational, and speech therapy. She greatly appreciates the prayer support of the conference. Expressions of care may be sent to her at [betcliff@rof.net](mailto:betcliff@rof.net) or c/o the United Methodist/Presbyterian Church of Rifle, 200 E Fourth St.,

Rifle, CO 81650. Please keep her in your prayers.

- **Trudy Robinson**, pastor of First UMC, Cheyenne, whose mother, Anita Repp died October 19th. Trudy traveled to West Covina, California to be with her father, Earl, and the rest of her family. Expressions of care may be sent to Trudy and family at [trudyrobinson@qwest.net](mailto:trudyrobinson@qwest.net) or c/o FUMC, 108 E 18th St., Cheyenne, WY 82001.

### Thanksgivings

- **Pat Moore**, Associate Conference Treasurer, gives thanks for the success of the surgery her husband Richard had. She gives thanks for the success of the surgery. Contact Pat and Dick at [PatM@rmcumc.com](mailto:PatM@rmcumc.com) or to 6110 Greenwood Plaza Blvd., Greenwood Village, CO, 80111.
- **Bonnie and Tommy Gleaton** give thanks for all the prayers, communications, and flowers during Bonnie's hospital stay. Tommy has been active in the Conference for a long time and is currently chair of the Ethics Education Task Force. Contact Bonnie and Tommy at [tgle105463@aol.com](mailto:tgle105463@aol.com) or PO Box 6283, Denver, CO 80206.
- **Rich and Susan Stoakes**, as they recover from the loss of their home, their belongings and pets in the fire last summer. Rich says they are doing well, "all things considered. The loss of three of our dogs and items of family and sentimental value are the hardest to absorb... The outreach and support from our church here in Rifle, and our former churches, Central UMC in Colorado Springs and Phillips UMC in Lakewood have blessed and overwhelmed us." Rich and Susan are grateful to the conference for your thoughts and prayers. "God is good all the time!" he says. Expressions of care may be sent to them c/o the United Methodist/ Presbyterian Church of Rifle, 200 E Fourth St., Rifle, CO 81650 or [Revsaintoakes@aol.com](mailto:Revsaintoakes@aol.com).
- **Bill Stroud**, pastor of Deer Park UMC near Bailey, gives thanks for the help over the past week with the school shooting at Platte Valley High west of Bailey. He gives thanks for all the prayers, support and offers of help from around the Conference. He gives thanks for the help of members of Evergreen UMC and DS Steve and Ingrid Burnett. Scott Schiesswohl, pastor at Evergreen UMC, arranged for some additional assistance through Iliff. He further says, "This kind of terrorism can only be addressed by good faith, by prayer, and by being open to the needs of the least and the lost, and the disturbed, a place where our church from the days of John Wesley onward has seen as our field of service. As a church we must begin to affiliate ourselves more with the disenfranchised, and find new ways to bring hope to the hopeless. ... Thanks again to all of you as we prepare for the future, I pray that we can stand together to begin to bring good news and good hope to all those who are for some reason or another overcome with hopelessness."

### Clergy Transitions

The complete appointment list with current e-mails is available on the RMCUMC web site: <http://rmcumc.org/CHI/DistrictSites/allappts.phtml>. This list is updated each month September - May (irregularly June-August).

Effective October 1:

- **Terry McLaughlin** began serving Berkeley UMC as supply pastor. Terry retired from chaplaincy at the Wm. Jennings Dorn VA Hospital in Columbia, SC, June 30, 2006.
- **Rhonda York**, commissioned deacon, is serving as 1/4 time Children and Youth Minister at SonRise UMC in Pueblo West.

**Diana Boulter** is retiring effective January 2, 2007. Diana currently serves Trinity UMC, Denver, as Associate Minister of Gift Planning

**Paul Murphy**, retired RMC clergy, died October 8 after an extended illness. Paul served Greeley First, Stratmoor Hills, Buffalo-Kaycee, Greeley Wesley, Denver/Boulder UMHE, Ed-Venture Associates, Grant Avenue, Denver North District, Burns Memorial before retiring in 1999. After retiring, he also served at Park Hill. Expressions of care can be sent to his spouse Paula and family at: 14091 E. Marina Drive, Apt. 402, Aurora, Colorado 80014-5526.

**Bob Morgan**, Cheyenne, WY, retired clergy member of RMC, died September 27, after a short time in hospice care. Bob served Paoli-Wages, Brush, Newcastle, Rawlins, Casper Christ, Cortez, Sterling Faith, and Salida before his retirement in 1992. Expressions of care can be sent to his wife Johnna at 1503 Trent Ct, Cheyenne, WY 82009.

### **Robinson Publishes "Godbearing"**

Elaine A. Robinson, Associate Professor of Theology and Methodist Studies at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth has published a book on evangelism: *Godbearing: Evangelism Reconceived* (The Pilgrim Press). According to Cokesbury, "The author takes a different approach to evangelism in this book that moves beyond the traditional paradigms that cause discomfort to most mainline Christians. She reconceives the language of evangelism to speak of "Godbearing" as a practice of the individual Christian and the church conceived as bearing the Christ-character within oneself and bearing God to others for the purpose of furthering life." It's available at Cokesbury or from Amazon.

### **Curriculum Needed**

Heritage UMC is looking for a copy of the Power Express curriculum called "Christmas Around the World." We would be willing to "rent" it from you. Please contact me at [denise.bender@umheritage.com](mailto:denise.bender@umheritage.com). Thanks. Blessings on all of your ministries, Denise Bender

### **Jobs Available**

**Check out the Jobs and Resumes on RMCUMC.org:** <http://rmcumc.org/CR/Jobs/>

Recent postings:

- Director of Music, Louisville UMC (posted 10/16/06)
- Youth Coordinator, Golden First (posted 10/16/06)
- Volunteer Resources Manager, DenUM, Denver (posted 10/13/06)
- Part time Church Secretary, Evanston UMC, Denver (posted 10/13/06)
- Video Production Position, Lakewood UMC (posted 10/13/06)

### **Conference Office Phone Troubles**

The main phone lines (303-733-3736 and 303-777-3116) into the Conference office were out of order October 3 for several hours. Calls to these numbers did not go through. If that happens again, please remember that there are direct-to-desk lines for many of us. Those lines continued to work. Visit our web site (Conference Information -> Staff) <http://www.rmcumc.org/COI/Staff/> for the listing of direct line numbers.

### **TableTalk Publication and Subscription Information**

TableTalk is a selection or summary of the most important e-mailed information sent to the Rocky Mountain Conference e-lists since the last issue. If you wish to receive all information sent by e-mail to the Conference, please send us your e-mail address and say what kinds of information you wish to receive. If official Conference News is the only information you wish to receive, you can sign up yourself at <http://rmcumc.org/subscribe>.

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