

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

Advent and Christmas Wishes Extended

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Annual Conference,

From the entire staff of the Annual Conference, on behalf of Bishop Brown, and most certainly from me, let me wish you all a most blessed Advent and Christmas Season.

Allow me to share with you these thoughts, written by friend:

ADVENT

A year's-end vision, frozen solstice dream:

Days: brief, fierce, blue; nights: black and chill; spans both

Devolving fast toward fates unknown. Light, loath

To lose dominion, lingers, fades; extreme,

The grasp of winter on the world. What gleam

Of kindness now will curb the fitful growth

Of winter in our hearts? As we plight our troth

To Mammon, we choke off our spirit-stream.

When times grow harsh, wise prophets come; we hear

Them crying in the wilds. With scares-felt voice

They rail at hearts of stone and ice; their clear,

Thin clarion-call requires of us a choice:

Eternally to exist as slaves to fear,

Or to open hearts and hands -- in life rejoice. *

In the light of all that is going on in us and around us this Christmas Season: wars and violence, death and disease, abuse and neglect, the promotion of untruth over truth, the promotion of fear over the faith in love - in spite of all of these things we have the Christian audacity to wish you a Merry Christmas as together we work for a better world for tomorrow in God's name.

My prayer for you would be this:

May this season find you at peace, gathered with friends and family.

May your memories of those gone be warm and joyful.

May your thoughts be centered around the God that God gave to us.

May the Lord bless your household and bring to you and yours a safe
and wonderful New Year.+

Ron Hodges, Director of Mission and Ministry

Always remember, in whatever language we say it, We are all sisters and brothers!

* @ 1996 Ellen H. Bloedel + Selected

Disaster Training Held at Conference Office

What if a magnitude 7 earthquake were to hit the Wasatch Fault that runs near Salt Lake City? What if a terrorist bomb were to injure the Bishop and kill people on the way to a Sunday service? The Executive Leadership Team of the Rocky Mountain Conference considered responses to these kinds of questions during a training exercise planned and presented by representatives from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Tuesday, November 28, 2006 at the Conference Office in Greenwood Village.

Hard, challenging questions were asked by the presenters even as they explained various parts of a potential disaster response by our Conference. Presenters included UMCOR national staff Gordon Knuckey, retired RMC elder, Larry Powell, international catastrophe consultant, Tom Hazelwood, domestic emergencies staff, and Walt and Marge Rudolf, volunteers. From FEMA Region 8, Steve Cochrane, National Preparedness Division, Art Storey, George Betz, and Jon Wallace, Response and Recovery Division also presented parts of the disaster response resources. Besides the ELT, Ann Fort co-chair of Volunteers in Mission, Ben Roe, Conference communications staff, and John Dietz, Peaks Lay Leader, participated.

One of the primary topics covered included the Incident Coordination System (known as Incident Command System in the secular disaster response world). You can read more about the secular process here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incident_Command_System. Concepts such as the 3 Rs (Rescue, Relief, Recovery), communication issues, resources of UMCOR, and the different types of ministry needed were covered as well.

The event was envisioned and coordinated by Ron Hodges, Director of Mission and Ministry, and planned by FEMA and UMCOR personnel. Photos are on the web, linked from the home page, <http://rmcumc.org/>.

A new page will be added to the Conference Information pages that will carry resources for learning about disaster response organizations and concepts. During a disaster, the Conference home page will focus on the disaster and our church's response.

QST: Calling All Radio Amateurs

"Does your congregation include any amateur radio operators? Or does your community?" If so, the Conference encouraged recipients of the following e-mail to please forward this message to them.

The Rocky Mountain Conference is updating its emergency preparedness plan as a result of a training with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Tuesday, November 28.

The Conference uses e-mail almost exclusively to communicate within our regional organization of clergy and laity. However, it is clear that under some emergency conditions (Hurricane Katrina being the most visible recent example), e-mail will not be available, and cell phones and landline phones will be either unavailable or overloaded and unusable.

We'd like to identify those amateur radio operators who would be willing to be a part of an emergency communications system if the need were to arise anywhere in our 3-state region (Colorado, Utah, and most of Wyoming). If you are licensed in the amateur radio service, please get in touch with Ben Roe, K0YDS, ben@rmcumc.com.

What Language(s) Do You Speak?

As the conference continues the work on the Disaster Plan, we would like to know who can speak different languages within our conference. From the information we receive from the folks that would like to participate, we will create a master list for the Conference for emergencies. If you would like to be on the master list, e-mail Jayne Adams (jayne@rmcumc.com) the following information: Full Name, Phone Number, Address, Church you attend, Languages spoken and proficiency level.

Urban Survival for First Responders Free Class

Gerry Singer, Emergency Coordinator for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service in Denver, and emergency preparedness trainer offers to clergy and laity the chance to attend a free class on Urban Survival. This class will be offered at significant cost after this, but Gerry wants some interested folks to take it and give him feedback. He would prefer a church or church group take it together, but would allow a mix of churches. Contact him soon at kc0cat@kc0cat.net. Flyer: <http://rmcumc2.org/News/UrbanSurvivalClass.pdf>.

Director of Mission and Ministry Reflects on Advent

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Annual Conference,

One of the great joys I have been privileged to experience over the past three and one-half years I have served in this position is the opportunity to worship in many of churches across the Annual Conference. Almost every Sunday my wife and I have visited a different congregation, and while I have not gotten to as many churches as I would have liked we have been in all three states and only rarely repeated a visit. I usually bring greetings on behalf of the 262 sister churches of the Conference and from Bishop Brown, and I have learned that there is some powerful preaching and worship leadership going on among us.

Yesterday we worshiped for the first time at Christ Church in Denver. The choir did a wonderful introit titled "He Came Down." The music line was from a traditional Cameroon tune accompanied by drum. It got all of us into the mood of the Season of Advent, and while all of the adults were thinking how wonderful the music had been a tiny little voice was heard to softly, but emphatically say, "Yea!"

We have to assume the little one was responding to the tune and the tempo of the music but what if the "Yea!" was in response to the title? What if the celebrative note was given because of the message of the words?

Isn't Advent the time for us to get ready to share the news "He Came Down," and also to get ready to give a joyful "Yea!" ?

May your Advent waiting be filled with meaning, depth of purpose, and a recommitment to Jesus' message of caring, sharing and serving. – Ron Hodges, Director of Mission and Ministry, RMC

Ron Hodges Retires

Over 100 guests attended a surprise retirement party for Ron Hodges at what was ostensibly just the staff Christmas party held in Littleton on December 14. The Conference staff planned the party to celebrate Ron's ministry at the Conference office as Director of Mission and Ministry as he retires December 31. Besides Bishop Brown and RMC guests, Bishop Ed Paup of the Seattle Area (and elected from this Conference) attended to wish Ron well. Ron's family in attendance included his spouse Pat, son Brenden and his son Ian; son Brien, daughter Kara, her spouse Chris Dawdy, and their sons Garrett, Ronnie, and Logan. The staff gave him a "Street Pilot" talking GPS (global positioning system) and Native American ministries gave him a bright red Pendleton Cochitti pattern blanket. Then there were all the White Elephant gifts: a chicken that does the chicken dance and sings a song; a speaker and tin can on a string for the staff lunch room so he can listen in and keep in touch; real "House Wine" and a few others that had been making the "white elephant" rounds for several years. Photos are on the Web under News.

YOUTH WORKERS!

Have you ever asked yourself YMI here? Have you ever asked yourself YMI empty? Whether you're a rookie or a seasoned veteran discover your spiritual gifts for youth ministry at YMI the Youth Ministry Institute offered January 20 and February 24, 2007.

\$25 registration for six hours of top-flight training, a brand new top line youth ministry book and a top shelf gift bag all presented by great youth leaders. Lunch is included.

Look for the YMI nearest you...

Jan 20	Feb 24
First UMC Grand Junction	First UMC Cortez
UMC of Steamboat Springs	Broomfield UMC
First UMC Cheyenne	First UMC Alamosa
St. Luke's UMC Denver	Lamar UMC

Christ UMC Salt Lake City	First UMC Laramie
First UMC Gillette	Fleming UMC
Long's Peak UMC	

Visit <http://www.rmcmc.org/MI/YMI/index.htm> for more info and registration form.

Journal Volume II Being Printed

The second volume of the 2006 Journal is being printed and if you purchased a Journal you should be receiving it before the end of the year. The contents in electronic form (PDF) are on the Conference web site (under Church Information, Online Journal as well as Conference Information, Annual Conference Sessions). Note that there is an errata document for both volume I and volume II.

Time to Update Interpreter Magazine Subscriptions

Thanks to United Methodist contributions to the World Service Fund apportionment, every pastor and seven leaders in every U.S. congregation can receive a subscription to Interpreter magazine. In order to make sure the designated leaders from each church receive the magazine, the enrollment forms sent to each congregation must be completed and returned to our Customer Service team.

Enrollment can be accomplished as follows: (888) 346-3862; E-mail: csc@umcom.org; Fax: (615) 742-5499; Online: www.interpretermagazine.org; Mail: Interpreter, PO Box 440229, Nashville, TN 37244

United Methodist Foundation Hires New Staff

Marilyn Bierbach, Executive Director of the UM Foundation has announced the addition to the Foundation staff of Linda Gardner, CPA, as Gift Planning Director, and Carl Gardner as Financial Education Director. The Gardners will be traveling around the Conference to work with churches in establishing their endowment committees and funds and educating congregations on gift, financial and retirement planning. A sample of programs available include:

- * Giving From Another Pocket – There's More to Consider Than Cash
- * Faith, Life & Money – A Christian Financial Planning Program
- * Retirement Planning Today – In depth Financial Planning
- * Changing The World Tomorrow ...Thru Endowment Gifts Today
- * Year End Tax Planning Opportunities – with emphasis on year end gifts

Other Programs can be developed upon your request. Contact the Gardners at the Foundation office at 303/778-6370 or by email at Linda@RM-UMF.org or Carl@RM-UMF.org.

UM Foundation: More Information on the New IRA Contribution Law

Linda Gardner, CPA, Gift Planning Director, RMC UM Foundation, linda@rm-umf.org has provided additional information on the new IRA contribution law and the process for giving. If you are age 70 ½ and are contemplating this kind of gift to your church, contact her at the UM Foundation for her information: 303/778-6370 or by email at Linda@RM-UMF.org

UM Foundation Offers Year-End Tax Info

Linda Gardner, CPA and newly hired Gift Planning Director of the RMC United Methodist Foundation, has provided some year-end tax information, available on the RMC web: <http://rmcmc2.org/News/2006YETaxPlanning.pdf>. Linda can be contacted at the Foundation at 303/778-6370 or by email at Linda@RM-UMF.org

Out of the Shadows and Into the Light: What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality

Conference in Colorado Springs from February 14-16, 2007. The purpose of the conference will be the examination of researched biblical perspectives on homosexuality from various denominational viewpoints, and to devoutly/respectfully engage in processing the information by opening the mind, the heart and the will through structured/facilitated interaction, communication and introspection. This conference is geared to

ministers and lay people who have a desire in leading discussion within their church on these issues, but are not sure how to do so. Registration is limited to 100 persons. In addition, up to 150 students may be able to have their entire registration fee waived for a limited participation. For more information: <http://www.shadows2light.com/> Organized by Dr. Miguel A. De La Torre, Associate-Professor of Social Ethics & Director of the Justice and Peace Institute, Iliff School of Theology

General/Jurisdiction Church News and Resources

Board of Discipleship Offers Stewardship Resources

The General Board of Discipleship has a Center for Christian Stewardship web site also with lots of information that can be helpful in your stewardship planning. Note also that there is a link to a Planned Giving School in Scottsdale, AZ -- January 22-26, 2007: www.gbod.org/stewardship The early registration fee for this school has been extended to December 15. More info online at <http://www.gbod.org/stewardship/pgs07home.asp> UM Foundation Executive Director Marilyn Bierbach has attended and highly recommends it. It is endorsed by the National Association of United Methodist Foundations. More on Planned Giving at <http://www.rm-umf.org/>

United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts Gather!

Remember and reclaim the call of God to ministries of music, preaching, and worship arts at the Biennial National Convocation of The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts July 16-19, 2007, in St. Louis, MO.

Speakers and leaders include outstanding resources in the areas of dance, congregational singing, preaching, visuals for worship, choral music, organ music, age level music, handbells, contemporary worship, and more. In addition, experience multi-sensory worship, concerts, music reading sessions, dynamic worship spaces in St. Louis, and fellowship with all those gathered. Registration is open now along with details at www.fummwaconvo.org.

Missions News

VimShare Now On-Line

Betsy Keyack, co-coordinator of UMVIM has updated the RMC UMVIM web site with the Fall/Winter 2006/07 issue of VimShare at www.rmcmvim.org. If you have any feedback, please contact Betsy at bkeyack@att.net.

We are also finalizing our report of missions for the Rocky Mountain Conference taken this year.... approximately 85 teams with over 30 going to the Gulf Coast. We have not heard from several churches. Would you please check with the team leaders in your church and have them fill out the Mission Trip Report (at http://rmcumc.org/MI/UMVIM_TripReport.rtf). If they don't have actual financial information, please ask them to estimate. The information we gather is sent to GBGM where they decide the amount of funds that will be allocated to WJ UMVIM. – Ann Fort, annfor8269@comcast.net

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:

- **Steve Firme**, spouse of **Kristie Firme**, pastor of Julesburg UMC, had hip surgery Nov. 28. Expressions of care may be sent to him at pastorkristie@hotmail.com or PO Box 298, Julesburg, CO 80737.
- **Mike McCormick**, spouse of **Kerry McCormick**, pastor of Platteville First UMC, upon the death of Mike's father, Richard McCormick, Nov. 25 by suicide. Expressions of care may be sent to them at P.O. Box 238, Platteville, Co. 80634-0238
- **Rev. Chang Oh Park**, husband of the late **Hyoungh Soon Park**, Korean Coordinator for the RMCUMW from 2001 to 2005 and UMW members. She died suddenly on Thanksgiving Day. During her tenure, she was instrumental in the chartering of four Korean UMW units. Her tremendous energy and openness

to other cultures allowed her to be equally effective in both English speaking and Korean speaking churches. Expressions of care for the family may be sent to 13975 E. Bellewood Dr., Aurora CO 80015 or to son Charles.Park@UCHSC.edu.

- **Pat Vestal**, former Conference staff member and current part-time assistant to Pat Moore, associate conference treasurer, says her surgery went well and she now just has sit at home and keep her foot up. She'd love phone calls to 303-934-5249. Cards may be sent to 1665 S Wolcott Ct., Denver 80219.
- **Blaine Scott**, RMC clergy at FUMC, Grand Junction, and his spouse **Tracy**. Tracy's father, Bill Harmon, died in Kansas City following a brief bout with bladder cancer. Expressions of care can be sent to Tracy & Blaine, 766 Foxfire Ct., Grand Junction, CO 81505.
- **Nancy Butterfield**, Senior Projects Coordinator at the Conference Office, developed complications after surgery and continues recovery. She appreciates the prayers and cards she's been receiving. Encouragement may be sent to her here at 6110 Greenwood Plaza Blvd., Greenwood Village, CO 80111. She expects to return to work mid-January. Questions and concerns which cannot wait until then should be addressed to Netta Hares at 800-536-3736 or 303-733-3736 or Netta@rmcumc.com.
- **Edwina Burton**, retired elder, was readmitted Dec. 4 to the ICU at Swedish Hospital in Englewood following her surgery of November 28. She is home and doing better now. She gives thanks for the support and good wishes of all and wishes all the best of health and "a sense of patience as we struggle together to come to the realization of God's plans for our lives." Expressions of care can be sent to her at edwina6724@aol.com.
- **Lu Wilson**, retired clergy, who is in Longmont United Hospital ICU with pneumonia and a broken hip. The pneumonia is delaying surgery on her hip. Expressions of care should be sent to Longmont UMC and pastor Bruce Maxwell will make sure they get to her: Lu Wilson, c/o FUMC 350 11th Ave., Longmont, CO 80501.
- **Ted Nutting**, retired RMC clergy, who is recovering from a difficult infection after being in the hospital on IV antibiotics, which have been continuing at home. He says he has these 2 or three times a year, but have now recurred 4 times in 4 months. He covets your prayers for recovery and new solutions to prevent future infections. Expressions of care may be sent to him at rtednutting@aol.com or 372 Spring Snow Dr, Loveland, CO 80538.
- **Larry Grauberger**, lay member of Annual Conference (Evanston UMC) and member of the BOM, who has had extensive back surgery that will lay him low for many weeks. Expressions of care can be sent to 7221 S. Highland Dr., Littleton, CO 80120 or larryjjsi@msn.com.
- **Doug Hill**, pastor of the Olathe UMC, has been diagnosed with the West Nile virus. He's not felt well since August and finally got the answer. The doctor says there is no treatment other than lots of rest and lots of liquids. And there are no known anti-viral treatments for this virus. He recalls that Wesley once wrote that "God does nothing except in response to prayer." So he asks for your prayers, including prayers for patience and forbearance! Expressions of care may be sent to Doug at olathemethodist@wmconnect.com or to PO Box 148, Olathe, CO 81425.
- **Mary E. Woods**, retired probationary clergy member and chaplain in Albuquerque, who requests continued prayers for her recovery from post-stroke complications. She writes, "I have been blessed immensely during this two-year spiritual journey." Expressions of care may be sent to her at EhenWoo@aol.com.

Thanksgivings

Steve Easterday-McPadden, pastor at Longs Peak UMC in Longmont, his spouse Kim and family give thanks that their daughter **Daryl** has "just crossed a HUGE milestone: completion of her last scheduled round of chemotherapy for her LCH disease. That means that there is nothing else scheduled for her medically and that now we just monitor the condition and watch for symptoms. Needless to say we are breathing a cautious sigh of relief, but one grounded in our thanks to God and the many, many folks who have helped us carry this burden in so many ways. We want to express deep thanks for your support of Daryl and our family these past several years now, and we praise God for place in the RMC Community. God's blessings to you all, as we enter this blessed season of Advent and Christmas together." Expressions of care may be sent to Steve and Kim and their family at pastorsteve@lpumc.org or 1421 Elmhurst Dr, Longmont, CO 80503.

Clergy Transitions

The complete appointment list 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).

- **Michael Ratliff** will be appointed to an extension ministry at the General Board of Discipleship as Associate General Secretary of the Division on Ministries with Young People, effective April 1, 2007. Beginning January 1, he will be deployed part-time from St. Andrew UMC in Highlands Ranch to transition toward his new appointment with the GBOD, while completing his ministry with youth at St. Andrew.
- **Gene Sharp** will be appointed as half-time local pastor to Mountain View, Woodland Park, effective January 1. Gene recently transferred his certification and licensing qualifications from the Central Texas Conference
- **Rebekah Simon-Peter** currently pastor at the First United Methodist Church in Rawlins, Wyoming will be appointed to Bridgeworks Ministry, effective January 1. In this new role she will be available for a variety of workshops around bridging. Details can be found at her web site, www.bridgeworkspresents.net.

Harold Rickard Dies

The folks at FUMC Golden have shared that Harold Rickard, retired clergy, and 2005 recipient of the 2005 Rocky Mountain Conference Lifetime Peacemaker Award, died November 22 in Bristol, Vermont. Harold and his wife Margaret were both vital members at Golden First for years. He was 89 years old.

Harold was a missionary, pastor, and life-long advocate for justice and peace. He was born to a Methodist Episcopal circuit rider family in Oklahoma. He was married 62 years to Margaret Bauman, also a "PK." Harold graduated from Boston University, influenced by John Swomley to more than a half-century of membership in the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR).

He served rural churches in Vermont, before the end of WWII. The dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki gave them resolve to work in Japan in some way for peace and reconciliation. They served 11 years in Okinawa, bringing mobile hospital services to the remote villages of northern Okinawa, served patients at Airaku-en ("Garden of Love and Comfort"), a leprosarium on a small Okinawan island, helped in restoring and building churches, and advocated for Okinawan human and civil rights with American military brass. They moved to mainland Japan where they served a community of outcaste people. Their first visit to Hiroshima led to their participation in several annual International Atomic and Hydrogen Bomb Conferences in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Upon returning to the US in 1982, the Rickards devoted the remainder of their lives to advocacy and action in varied aspects of mission, justice, and peace works.

Margaret preceded Harold in death December 7, 2003. Expressions of care may be sent to the family care of the First UMC, 1500 Ford St., Golden, CO 80401.

Available

- **Robes:** Rev. Doris Greenwood, retired RMC elder, offers at no cost 4 ministers robes: 1 black w/black velvet stripe and 3 white, and 2 organs (one is a Wurlitzer). Contact her at 970-242-7004.
- **Gravesites:** Crown Hill-Arvada/Denver area. 4 total in 'Garden of Love' area w/stain glass sculpture. \$2300 each-value. \$1750 each. D. Price 817.451.8263 d_onna_direct@yahoo.com
- **Paint/Stains:** Is there anyone who might be interested in a donation of wood stain and assorted paint for teams going to the Gulf for hurricane recovery operations? I've been assured the paint is good quality and includes a collection of slightly mistinted paint which has accumulated and needs to be disposed of for a good use. I could provide additional details on the quantities and types available if there is interest. There would be a need to find a storage place for the paint which is currently at a retailer in Summit County. -- Jim Gulley, 970.668.2159, jim.gulley@comcast.net
- **Free Van!** The San Juan Coperative Parish would like to give, free, a 1983 Ford 8 passanger, V8 van to the first church which call between 8am and 1pm. Phone 970-565-3002. Yes it runs, we were just given a later model one.



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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>. Help your Conference budget by receiving this publication via e-mail!

Archives of the 2006 RMCUMC News posts are here:

http://mail.rmcumc.org/pipermail/rmcnews_rmcumc.org/2006/date.html

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