

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

Your Invitation to RMC Christmas Open House

Just a reminder: The Executive Leadership Team, the Rocky Mountain Conference staff and the Episcopal Office invite you to our Christmas Open House here at the Rocky Mountain Conference Office at 6110 Greenwood Plaza Blvd., Greenwood Village, CO. The event is Monday, Dec. 17, 1-4 p.m. Join us for fellowship and fun!
-Grace and Peace, Warner H. Brown, Jr.

This year's mission project will be in support of the Towaoc Mission with our gifts of love and care. In May of this year, the church on the 2000-resident Ute Mountain Ute reservation was gutted by fire. There are items that they need for the church and its people. At the conference office items and donations are being collected in the front lobby to let them know of our care for them. Please join us in our Christmas giving and care. Here are some of the items that are needed: Nonperishable food items, children's bibles (not pictorial), Bible-based coloring or activity books, 10 Subscriptions to the POKET magazine, new Teddy bears. Donations should be sent to: Rocky Mountain Conference with the subject line to read: Towaoc Mission. Santa will also be present at our open house, so be sure to bring friends and family to our celebration. We will be doing pictures!

District Conferences Announced

- The Metropolitan District Celebration is entitled "People of Faith Embracing a Future with Hope" and will be held Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Burns Memorial UMC. The event is a partnership with the Tongan and Ghana Wesley UM Fellowships and co-hosted by Aurora First UMC, Christ Central UMC, Goode Centennial UMC, & Mountain View United Church
- The Western Colorado Sub-District Conference will be held at Crossroads UMC in Grand Junction, CO on Saturday, Apr. 19, 2008 from 10 a.m. to noon.
- The Utah Sub-District Conference is set for Saturday, May 3, 2008 from 10 a.m. to noon. It will be held at Mountain Vista UMC in West Jordan, UT.

Watch for more information as the events get closer.

World AIDS Day is December 1

UMCOR and the Health and Welfare Unit of Global Ministries are offering excellent online educational resources and news articles geared to World AIDS Day, which is always on December 1. These materials strongly feature the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund, established by the 2004 General Conference and provide links to the fund. The basic World AIDS Day site is <http://new.gbgmumc.org/umcor/work/health/hivaids/wad07>. This site contains links to many other specialized locations and lists an expanding menu of news articles and stories. Resources are also available at RMCUMC.org under Mission/HIV-AIDS.

Around the conference, World's AIDS Day will be observed by: Peoples UMC, Colorado Springs with an observance Friday, Nov. 30 in cooperation with The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs Black Student Union and The Latino Student Union at 6 p.m. (Flyer here: <http://rmcumc2.org/News/WorldAIDS07CS.pdf>); Jefferson Avenue UMC with a Gospel Music Concert Saturday Dec. 1 at 3 p.m. The concert will feature Carlton Malone & Gods Beloved, with other special guests. Free will offering. Flyer: <http://rmcumc2.org/News/WAD-GOSPELflyer.pdf>; and Donald Messer will be the keynote speaker at a special worship service at the Upper Room Chapel in Nashville on November 28.

Holiday Blues Turn into Blessings

A support group entitled "Turn Holiday Blues into Blessings," continues its ongoing meetings each Sunday at 10:15 a.m. in the Wellspring Center Education Room of St. John's Episcopal Cathedral in Denver. Many people experience some stress, pressure, and difficult emotions during the holiday season. All are welcome to this spiritual support group. You may share some of your feelings associated with this upcoming holiday season, benefit from hearing from others and learn about some ideas on how to approach this season with a changed attitude and a deepened spiritual purpose. Lead by professional counselor Mary Eggers Bernuth.

Please note: If your church has a similar offering, or a special "Blue Christmas" observance planned, please let us know at the conference office. We've already had one call inquiring about this type of service.

Youngsook Kang Graduates with D.Min.

The Metropolitan District Committee on Superintendency is proud to announce that Superintendent Youngsook Kang graduated from the Theological School at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey with a Doctor of Ministry degree on October 26. Her dissertation project was to create curriculum on Global Mission in the Context of World Peace and Interfaith Dialogue. We are proud of Youngsook and invite you to congratulate her on this great accomplishment. Youngsook's e-mail address is Youngsook@rmcmmc.com.

-- Melanie Rosa, Chair Superintendency Committee, Metropolitan District

The New Vision Coming Soon

There is another issue of *The New Vision* at the printer and will be in your hands by mid-December. If you haven't already done so, please let us know immediately how many copies of this issue you will need for inclusion in your bulletin, newsletter, or literature rack. The theme of this issue is "Journeying to Meet the Christ" and uses stories that were not included in the previous issue. We in the RMC are doing some exciting things, and our hope is that these issues of *The New Vision* can help communicate this to the folks in your church. We think you'll like this issue. Remember to keep in mind things that your church does that might be of interest and "help people see their ministry together in these states and beyond." United Methodists are about service in the name of Christ and about the faith journey. Help to tell the story!

Extension Minister Praised for Service

Lucia Guzman has been serving the Denver Public School system as a member of the Board of Education. Michael Bennett, from the office of the superintendent, sent the following note to Denver Public School employees after the meeting on November 19:

"The Board of Education bid farewell to Lucía Guzmán, who was term-limited after serving District 5 since November 1999. Guzmán worked tirelessly to represent the Northwest Denver community for eight years. During her tenure, Rev. Guzman was instrumental in establishing the highly popular dual-language programs at Academia Sandoval and Bryant-Webster K-8 and the International Baccalaureate programs at Brown Elementary School and Lake Middle School. She thoughtfully guided the reforms at North High School and establishment of the North/Valdez campus. Guzman led the district's efforts to ensure equitable benefits for all DPS employees and has been a champion for community and parent engagement throughout the district.

"DPS and Denver are forever indebted to Rev. Lucía Guzmán for her work on behalf of Denver's kids," said Bennet. "We will carry her example and passion forward."

Lucia Guzman serves under extension ministry appointment in the Office of Human Rights & Community Relations for the City of Denver. Her e-mail address is Lucia.Guzman@ci.denver.co.us. Congratulations, Lucia.

RMC Extension Minister Writes Casper Op-Ed

Rebekah Simon-Peter, RMC clergy involved with BridgeWorks, wrote an editorial that ran in the Sunday Oct. 21 issue of the *Casper Star-Tribune*. Entitled, "Reflections on Sacred Ground: Faith and the Environment," it deals with climate change:

"While an Environmental Studies student at the University of Vermont some 25 years ago, I first learned about the climate change we are now experiencing. Somebody's going to do something about this, I thought. Somebody's got to.

"It took awhile, but last month, I met those "somebods" at a gathering of the faith and conservation communities in Lander. This conference, "On Sacred Ground: Faith and the Environment..." challenged and inspired us...educated us...engaged us...renewed us...nourished us...wowed us..."

Read the rest of the piece: <http://bridgeworkspresents.net/newsandviews.aspx>

GraceWorks Featured in *Interpreter Magazine*

Kerry Greenhill, New England clergy and former director of the Bishop's Young Adult Initiative and GraceWorks, and Katie Moore, volunteer in the GraceWorks pilot year, are quoted in an article by Joey Butler in *The Interpreter Magazine* online entitled, "Keep It Simple: Monastic lifestyles grow in popularity."

"Cell phones. YouTube. iPods. Text messaging. MySpace. Video games. When all else fails, there's still TV. Society's stimulus button is stuck in the 'on' position and it seems that you couldn't escape all the distractions if you wanted to. But more and more young people are doing just that.

"A trend toward simple living is growing in popularity among Christian young people. Not only are they casting off the material 'shackles' of consumer society, they are embracing spiritual discipline and looking to better the community around them through service.

"The term 'New Monasticism' emerged in 2004 following a conference in Durham, NC, conducted by Rutba House, a then-emerging community seeking to learn from others committed to similar ways of life. Borrowing the phrase from Jonathan R. Wilson's book *Living Faithfully in a Fragmented World*, the group developed 12 defining attributes. Among them were sharing economic resources with one another and the needy, hospitality to the stranger, submission to the larger church and care for the environment.

"One such group is GraceWorks Community in Cheyenne, WY, an initiative of the Rocky Mountain Conference that recently finished its pilot year.

"GraceWorks volunteers lived together for one year and worked at community agencies serving young people and those in need. Volunteers were provided a basic food and living stipend, so they learned quickly to pool resources. In weekly house meetings, they discussed faith issues and practices as far ranging as household economics, keeping Sabbath, honoring the body and forgiveness..."

Read the rest of the article here: <http://www.interpretermagazine.org/interior.asp?ptid=43&mid=12444>

Tithe Transitions Newsletter Continues Each Week

Tithe Transitions—the weekly newsletter regarding the conference switch from apportionments to tithing—continues each week. We have been collecting e-mail addresses for local church finance chairs and treasurers so they might get these messages directly. If there are persons who need this information who may not have received it, please contact the conference office. All editions of T2 are on the web at rncumc.org/CR/Finance/ (under Church Resources).

Leading From Within: Courage to Lead Retreat set for May

The presenters at the recent Clergy Retreat are offering a "sampler retreat" May 12-14, 2008 at the Franciscan Retreat Center in Colorado Springs. Laity and clergy are invited to this limited-enrollment experience, entitled "Leading from Within: Courage to Lead for Religious Leaders (Clergy and Lay)." Caryll and Jay Casbon, nationally recognized facilitators, will be leading this retreat, based on the work of Parker Palmer author of the recent book "A Hidden Wholeness." The retreat will create a "circle of trust" that focuses on the rejoining of soul and role, personal and professional life, and the relationship of the inner life to the outer work of service in ministries. A brochure with more information and registration form is on the RMCUMC.org web site: <http://rncumc2.org/COI/clergy/2007retreat.htm>

Clergy Retreat Materials Posted

The bibliography handed out by the Casbons at the Clergy Retreat last week is now on the web (Conference Info -> Clergy Info -> 2007 Clergy Retreat) <http://rmcumc2.org/COI/clergy/2007retreat.htm>. Also, the Communion Liturgy is posted.

Phillips UMC to Host Christmas Craft Fair and Cookie Sale

Phillips UMC hosts its Christmas Craft Fair and Cookie sale on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be hundreds of great cookies to choose from. Homemade crafts and professional items will be for sale as well. Booths may still be available for rent. Contact the church office at 303-934-5549 for more information. Phillips UMC is located at 1450 S. Pierce St. in Lakewood.

Alternative Gift Boutique Offered

Outreach Ministries at St. Andrew UMC invites members of the community to the annual Alternative Gift Boutique on Saturday, Dec. 8 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Purchase gifts from non-profit and fair trade organizations from around the world. Some of the organizations attending are Women's Bean Project, Global Girlfriends, Ten Thousand Villages, Pillow Dreams Project, A Mark on the World, Grassroots Uganda, and many more. Visit www.st-andrew-umc.com for more information. St. Andrew is located at 3350 E. White Bay Drive, Highlands Ranch CO (9300 block of S. University Blvd.).

Church Secretaries Certification Institute Announced

The Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries announces its 2008 Certification Institute to be held July 20-25, 2008. The registration fee is \$300*. This includes course materials, a continental breakfast Monday through Friday, a couple of lunches and dinners (Sunday & Thursday). Travel, room, additional meals and any other incidentals are the responsibility of each participant. Arrangements have been made with Emory University for air-conditioned dormitory rooms at \$38* per day for singles and \$30* per person, per day for doubles. (*These rates are as of October, 2007.) A brochure about it with more detail is available on our web site: <http://rmcumc2.org/News/PAUMCS200807.pdf>. A limited amount of scholarships are available that cover the cost of the registration fee. They need to receive a written request explaining the need for the scholarship. Contact Cynthia J. Haralson, Director of Records and Statistics, GCFA Staff Representative to PAUMCS, 615-369-2386, Toll free: 866-367-4232 x2386, Fax: 615-369-2411, charalson@gcfa.org.

Scam E-mail Uses RMC Pastor's Name

I get a fair amount of spam and unusual e-mail here, even after it passes through the office filtering system. One I recently received is one that looked suspicious, not in the From: or To: fields (sometimes those are "dead giveaways"), but in the Subject line's misspelling and UPPERCASE LETTERS. The tone of the message was also a bit suspicious, so I decided to check it out with the Metro District office, D.S. Youngsook Kang, and Char Elliott, Associate Pastor at Washington Park UMC. Char reported she has had problems with her old email "mschar.2000@yahoo.com," particularly this last week. She says, "Please ignore anything sent very recently from it as it did not come from me." Char's new e-mail address is: mschar0516 at aol dot com.

The moral of the story is: if you have any doubts about the trustworthiness of an e-mail, check it out by calling the person it is purporting to come from or someone who knows them pretty well, and knows, for instance, if they've done what the e-mail says they've done. You know your colleagues: does the text sound like them? That was one thing that got me wondering if the message really did come from Char.

This kind of scam has been done by phone in our Conference (and several others) before. Frankly, e-mails that look suspicious to me usually get deleted without a second glance and without opening, but this one was enough different, I thought I would check it out. I hope this note is helpful in your own decision-making about handling your e-mail.

-- Ben Roe

The New Vision Text Available

We in the communications office here apologize for the difficulty some have had in reading a couple of the stories in the latest issue of *The New Vision* due to the lack of contrast between the background and the

print. In approving the electronic proof, Stuart Davis, editor, Mary Sue Alexander, designer, and I all thought that the problem was in our printers or screens. The text of all the stories is now on the web. The issue was folded incorrectly, as well. The submitted piece was folded correctly, so that the first story continued below the fold as you opened the issue up. If you have issues left or have not put them in your bulletins yet, it would be helpful to refold them.

General Church News

Council of Bishops Elects President, Decries Iraq War

The semi-annual meeting of the UM Council of Bishops met at Lake Junaluska, a UM retreat center in North Carolina's Smoky Mountains. They elected Iowa Bishop Gregory Vaughn Palmer the new president of the assembly, succeeding Janice Riggle Huie of the Houston Episcopal Area. The Council also adopted a resolution calling for immediate safe and full withdrawal of troops and no additional deployment of troops to Iraq by the United States. In calling for the immediate withdrawal, the bishops said their position is based on the denomination's position that war is incompatible with the teachings and examples of Christ, and Jesus Christ's call for "his followers to be peacemakers."

The bishops represent more than 11 million United Methodists in the United States, Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. About 125 active and retired bishops from around the globe attended the meeting. Press releases may be found on UMC.org, the denomination's main web site.

Missions News

Volunteers In Mission News

Dear Friends in Mission,

Here is the latest in UM Volunteers in Mission news and mission opportunities in 2008 for your Sunday bulletins, church newsletters and general information:

- KENYA Mission Trip - you are invited to join a mission team to Kenya in summer 2008. This could be the experience of a lifetime! We will be working at a school in Meru and visiting United Methodist ministries in the area. There will be two groups: July 2-18, including a wildlife safari after the mission work; July 11-August 2, including a wildlife safari before the mission work and a six-day round trip climb of Mount Kilimanjaro at the end. Cost is \$3400 for the first group and additional for the group hiking Kilimanjaro. For more information, please contact Ann Fort, 303-220-0840, annfort8269@comcast.net.
- There are still openings for the UBUNTU Explorers Journey to Hong Kong and China September 2-13, 2008. UBUNTU Explorers is a program in which United Methodist women from the US are hosted by women's organizations in other countries. The program allows Christian sisters to understand and share together the daily life, joys, struggles, culture, challenges and opportunities of women. The team leader is Jeanie Blankenbaker, jbumvimny@aol.com.
- GREENSBURG, KANSAS, March 8-15 - help with home repair/rebuilding from devastating tornadoes. Contact: Pastor Jon Laughlin, pastorjon@bresnan.net.
- APPALACHIA/CHAVIES CENTER, Kentucky, March 17-21 - home repairs with Appalachia Service Project. Contact: Marilyn and Hugh Douglas, Marilyn.Little@slcc.edu, 801-571-4870.
- UMCOR Sager Brown Depot, Baldwin, Louisiana, April 13-18 - work in UMCOR's warehouse processing relief supplies; sew; serve in the Baldwin community. Registration due February 1, 2008. Contact: Donna Hite, donna@rmcumc.com, Merlene Barner, mbarner@niwotumc.org
- MCCURDY SCHOOL, Espanola, New Mexico, May 4-9, October 5-10 - help with a variety of projects at the school. Contact: Marilyn and Hugh Douglas, Marilyn.Little@slcc.edu, 801-571-4870.
- PINE RIDGE RESERVATION, South Dakota, October 18-25 - share life with the Native Americans in South Dakota. Contact: Pastor Jon Laughlin, pastorjon@bresnan.net
- GUATEMALA, November 8-16 - medical and construction team. Contact: Marilyn and Hugh Douglas, Marilyn.Little@slcc.edu.
- LIMON FUMC would like to host a Volunteers in Mission team willing to teach Bible School for one week in summer 2008. They can provide a place to stay, daily showers, afternoon activities in addition to a curriculum and support with Bible School. They need a team of 10-20 people June 2-6 or June 9-13. This would be a GREAT mission opportunity for families with younger children, in addition to people of all ages

who like to work with children. Please contact Pastors Linda and Frank Hoover, fhoover@mindspring.com or 719-775-2137, 719-775-2628.

- Teams are still needed in the Gulf Coast since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. DuLac, LA, home of the Houma Native Americans, is a great place to help out. Contact information: DuLac - J. P. McGuire, arovingguy@yahoo.com; any part of Louisiana - 877-345-5193; Mississippi - 866-435-7091.
- We are participating in the Rocky Mountain Conference Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee. The committee is starting the process of developing a new Disaster Response plan. If you are interested in disaster response and recovery and would like to serve on the committee, please contact Rev. Dave Lillie, dave_lillie@bresnan.net (dave_lillie).
- Thank you teams for sending in your 2007 Mission Trip report forms! If you have not sent one in yet, please send it to Ann Fort, 8269 S. Kearney Street, Centennial, CO 80112, annfort8269@comcast.net, 303-220-0840. Blank forms are available at www.rmcmv.org under "Resources" or from Ann.
 - Blessings, Betsy Keyack and Ann Fort, RMC co-coordinators, UMVIM

UMCOR Updates

Recent topics covered at the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) website can be found at <http://new.gbmg-umc.org/umcor/newsroom/hotline/>. They include reports on: Mexico: Flood Response, US: Restoring Livelihoods After the Fires, Worldwide: A Silent Shout About HIV/AIDS, US: Organ Tissue Donor Sunday, Zimbabwe: UMCOR Helps Food Crisis in Zimbabwe, Nicaragua: Hurricane Felix Recovery, Worldwide: Hope for Graduates of Magambe, US: California Wildfires Support Continues, Northern Ghana: Flood Response, Worldwide: UMCOR's New Resources for the Holiday Season

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 listed on the Prayer Concerns page on the Conference web site: RMCUMC.org/Community. More information about each of these named may be on those pages. Please keep in your prayers:

- **MarKeva Hill**, pastor at Peoples UMC in Colorado Springs, whose father, Joe Hill, died Thursday, Nov. 15. Services were held November 20 at New Hope AME Church in Haralson, GA. He was over 90-years-old and MarKeva is grateful to have been with him recently. Expressions of care may be sent to her at 5110 Tamlin Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80938-9601 or mhill12345@msn.com.
- **Fred Venable**, retired clergy from another conference, and his spouse Joan, whose son Mark died suddenly earlier this month. Services are Tuesday, Nov. 27, with Dick Evans and Harvey Martz officiating. Expressions of care may be sent to 18350 E. Colgate Place, Aurora, CO, 80013.
- **Jackie McCall**, lay equalization delegate from the Mile High/Pikes Peak District and president of the Stratmoor Hills UMW, whose daughter Latisha Hurst died in San Antonio, TX, earlier this month, from complications after surgery. Services were held November 17 at Greater Good News Mission Baptist Church in San Antonio. Expressions of care may be sent to Jackie at home: 614 Crestridge Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80906, or in care of Stratmoor Hills UMC, 1705 Cheyenne Meadows Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80906 (or to the church at shumc@frii.com).
- **Lonnie Johnston**, retired RMC clergy, who had heart bypass surgery and is home, doing very well. Expressions of care may be sent to Lonnie at Lonnie231@aol.com, or 209 Talon Ct., Cheyenne, WY 82009.
- Matilda Agyakwa, spouse of **Kwaku Agyakwa**, and Princess, their infant daughter, members of the Ghana Wesley United Methodist Fellowship, Will Morris, pastor of Burns UMC in Aurora, and members of the Burns community as they grieve the sudden death of Kwaku, who was secretary, business manager and one of the founding members of the Fellowship and member of the Metro District Conference committee. He died of unknown causes as he was arising for Sunday morning activities. Several children remain in Ghana. Expressions of care may be sent to Matilda at 7226 E. Colfax Ave., Denver, CO 80220 and to Will at pastorwrmorris@hotmail.com.
- **Rae Batch**, Lay Speaking Council and Annual Conference Equalization Member, whose wife Louise had a stroke in September. She continues to make good progress in her recovery. Memory and vision are

improving, but there is a ways to go. Expressions of care may be sent to them at rmlbatch@aol.com or 1700 Glenwood Dr., Fort Collins, CO 80526.

Thanksgivings

- **Gene Raiford** writes, "Sincere thanks for all the many, many notes and prayers. My wife, Ronda, who was hospitalized for kidney problems, is doing well now and was released to go back to work. Her illness was worrisome; however no cancer was discovered. She is still regaining her strength but she is going to be fine. We are grateful for the love and concern expressed. The prayers worked. Bless all who lifted her in prayer. Grace and Peace, Pastor Gene Raiford, Simla United Methodist Church."

Gene Worth Dies

Gene Worth, retired RMC clergy, died October 31 at Frasier Meadows Retirement Community in Boulder, CO. Gene was admitted "on trial" in 1944 to the Colorado Conference and elected to full membership in 1946. He served Denver churches Barnum, Simpson, Grace, and Evanston, as well as Holly-Granada, Salida, Colorado Springs First, Pueblo, Bethel, Montrose, Golden, and Las Animas. He retired in 1984. Gene was an amateur radio operator (call sign W0AGU) for many years and earlier this year donated some ham equipment for use in an emergency communications station at the conference office. A memorial service was held November 3 in the Chapel at Frasier Meadows. Expressions of care may be sent to Gene's wife of 64 years, Marjorie Worth, 4840 Thunderbird Dr. #83, Boulder, CO 80303.

TableTalk Publication and Subscription Information

TableTalk is a selection or edited summary of some 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 rmcumc.org/subscribe. Help your Conference budget by receiving this publication via e-mail!

Archives of the 2007 RMCUMC News posts are here: rmcumc.org/News/Communications/news.htm

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