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For Church Leaders Gathered at The Table

**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

### Two Episcopacy Nominations Announced

Conference Secretary Alane Currier Griggs recently announced that Janet Forbes and Youngsook Charlene Kang have been nominated and conveyed their willingness to participate in the process of discernment for the Western Jurisdictional Episcopacy to occur at this year's Rocky Mountain Annual Conference Session. Their names, age, gender, ethnic background, conference membership and complete service records are:

- Janet Forbes, 57, Female, Caucasian, RMC: Consecrated Diaconal Minister in the Tennessee Conference, 1980; FUMC Colorado Springs, 1980-1985; Ordained Deacon in 1985; Ordained Elder in 1989; appointed to attend school, 1985-1987; Grand Junction, FUMC, assoc, 1987-1992; RMC, Council Director, 1992-1997; Cheyenne FUMC, 1997-5/15/2004; Highlands Ranch, St. Luke's 5/16/2004-present.
- Youngsook Charlene Kang, 55, Female, Asian, RMC: Ordained Deacon in 1991; Ordained Elder in 1993; Wheat Ridge, Assoc 1991-1995; Golden, FUMC 1995-2000; General Board of Global Ministries 2000-2005; St. Paul's, Boulder, Interim, 7/2005-12/31/2005; Superintendent, Metropolitan District 1/1/2006-present.

Note the following rule (page 483, 2007 Journal): Names may be added to this list up until the setting of the bar during the opening session of the Conference (June 18, 2008 7:00 pm) by submitting a petition bearing the signatures of 25 or more members of the Annual Conference and a signed statement of willingness by the potential nominee.

### Annual Conference Session Notes

#### ***Skip Strickland Announces "On Our Elbows" Visitor Campaign; Theme Development Ideas***

In a recent "View from the Village," RMCUMC Director of Mission and Ministry Skip Strickland announced that he and Wayne Bettendorf have followed the idea of Jim Griffith, an expert in church growth, who shares the best way to turn around a dying church or build a new church is for members to bring someone on their elbow. They've issued this challenge: Which churches can document the number of visitors that members have brought to worship, the percentage of growth in worship attendance during this time and the number of new members (excluding your confirmation class) that have joined from Sunday, March 2 until Sunday June 1. There's a tally sheet on the web site for you to use. The small, medium and large-sized churches with the best ratio of these three factors will receive donuts, bagels or muffins for your fellowship time provided by Wayne and Skip.

Skip also reminds us that the theme for the 2008 Annual Conference Session is "Church For the Rest of Us." Our theme presenters, Diana Butler-Bass (author of the book that the theme is based upon) and Jim Griffith, happen to be two of the most popular speakers that different denominational and local church leaders throughout the United States are seeking to hear. They present research findings, practical insights and suggestions for how to turn around a local church and create a "church for the rest of us." Bishop John R. Schol of the Washington Episcopal Area of the UMC will join them, preaching at the opening worship service. He is known for his creative work in conference organizing and leadership development for the renewing of the local church.

To prepare for this year's Conference Session, Skip asks that we consider what steps can be taken, at this time in history, to keep our local churches vital or to turn around decline? One suggestion is that we read and discuss the books in the Bishop's Big Read: *Christianity For the Rest of Us*, by Diana Butler Bass; and *Adventures in Missing the Point*, by Brian McClaren and Tony Campolo, both available at Cokesbury. You

may want to bring additional church members to hear Diana Butler-Bass's Thursday night, June 19, presentation at the Conference Session.

Another idea is to attend one of the numerous workshops sponsored by the UMC and/or other groups that focus upon local church vitality. One example is the School of Congregational Development sponsored by the General Boards of Global Ministries and Discipleship. It will be held the same week, July 31-Aug. 5, 2008 in both Grand Rapids, Michigan and Orlando, FL. It will focus both upon starting new churches and turning around churches. The sites will have unique classes but will also be linked by video conferencing to offer common presentations.

### **Nominations Requested for Peacemaker Awards**

The Church and Society Network, Advocating for Peace with Justice is seeking nominations for the 2008 Peacemaker of the Year Award to be given out at the Peace with Justice breakfast at Annual Conference. The award recognizes those folks in local churches who have made a significant contribution to finding solutions for social justice issues facing the community, nation or world in recent years. If there is such a person in your congregation, please send a nomination listing the person's information and how they have "worked for peace and justice" Please include a letter from the pastor and/or from the committee chair(s) responsible for the nomination. Send the nomination to [peacewithjustice@rmcumc.com](mailto:peacewithjustice@rmcumc.com) or to Church and Society, Conference Office, 6110 S. Greenwood Plaza Blvd. Greenwood Village, CO 80111 by May 1.

The C&S Network is also seeking nominations for the Lifetime Peacemaker Award to be given out at the Peace with Justice breakfast as well. This award recognizes those folks in local churches who have made a significant contribution to finding solutions for social justice issues over many years and who continue to be active in "peacemaking." Please send the nominations as above. We look forward to hearing about and recognizing these "peacemakers."

### **Second Tithe Report Released**

Tithing by churches in the RMC went downward by \$43,745, Treasurer Wayne Bettendorf reported recently. The money submitted in March for February local church income, while lower than the previous month, still showed an increased level of participation by local churches over the same period last year. Twenty-two churches have increased their giving to Conference programs, while 63 churches have not yet participated in the new church tithe program in 2008. The full report is on the web, including a detailed spreadsheet by district and church: <http://rmcumc.org/CR/Finance/February08tithe.htm>

### **Native American Indian Events Announced**

- American Indian festival and concert is open to the public and will be held Sunday, April 20 at St. Luke's UMC, 1877 S. Broadway in Highlands Ranch. Morning services will feature the music of Vince Redhouse at 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. American Indian market and food concession will run from noon to 5:30 p.m. Vendors will have beadwork, jewelry, books, music, videos and more. Concession menu will include frybread, chili and Indian tacos by Christian Indian Center ladies. Vince Redhouse will be in concert at 3 p.m. A freewill offering will be taken to benefit the American Indian Wellbriety Center of Colorado Springs. More: [www.stlukeshr.com](http://www.stlukeshr.com)
- The Spring Bear Powwow and Indian Market has been set for Saturday, May 17 at Regis University Fieldhouse, 3333 Regis Blvd. (50th Ave., old north Denver). Everyone is welcome: FREE admission and parking. All dancers and traditional drums are welcome, too. More information at: [www.ravendancers.org](http://www.ravendancers.org)

### **Nothing But Nets Matching Grants Still Available**

Matching grants of up to \$150 are available through June 16 for children and youth groups who hold a fundraiser for the Nothing but Nets program. About 15 grants have been given so far in the name of local church youth groups. It's hoped that groups will take up the challenge to offer the gift of hope in a mosquito net to an African. Every \$10 buys a net. Each offering is also matched by the Gates foundation. So your efforts may be doubled or tripled. The grants are a one time only opportunity and if you have not yet had a fundraiser, there is still time. When you have completed the fundraiser, just contact us, Joyce and Derek

Detoni-Hill at revsdh@kci.net and we follow up with you then. Check out the NBN website at [www.NothingButNets.net](http://www.NothingButNets.net)

### **Brentwood UMC Pastors To Represent Special Ministries at General Conference**

Pat Bruns and Tan Nguyen, pastors of Brentwood UMC, Denver, have been asked to represent special ministries of our denomination at General Conference. Tan will be part of a team advocating for the continuing development of United Methodist ministries with Asian Americans. Pat will be part of a team emphasizing the need for United Methodists to expand their outreach to Latino/Hispanic Americans. Brentwood is a multi-cultural and multi-lingual faith community; it is one church, with one budget that reaches out in many ways and in three languages: English, Spanish and Vietnamese.

### **RMC Clergy to Study Pastoral Care in Rural Ministry Settings**

Johnny Arrington of Meeker was chosen as one of seven outstanding rural pastors in the United States, including UM, Presbyterian, Lutheran, and Baptist, who will serve as consultants to a rural ministry project on pastoral care. The Louisville Institute also awarded Drs. Jeanne Hoeft, RMC extension minister, and Shannon Jung, both of Saint Paul School of Theology, and Dr. Joretta Marshall, of Brite Divinity School, Fort Worth (also a RMC extension minister), a pastoral leadership grant to pursue researching and writing a textbook on *Practicing Care in Rural Congregations and Communities*. "The goal of the project," said Hoeft, the lead author of the group, "is to explore what pastoral care means in the emerging reality of rural America. Communities and congregations are changing so rapidly there that we want to explore the best ways their churches can do ministry. Rural communities present unique challenges and a unique wisdom to the church."

### **The New Vision Spring Edition in Churches; Feedback Requested**

The spring edition of *The New Vision* arrived in Conference churches in time for the Easter bulletins. In it are stories of "The Least of These," all stories of how churches and people in our Conference are in ministry to the world around us. We hope you will find this issue meaningful as you celebrate the Easter season. We would greatly appreciate your feedback about this publication: how do you use it? in what ways does it help tell the story of UM ministry? in what ways does it help people feel connected to other UMs and other people? Any additional comments are welcome: send them to [Stuart@rmcumc.com](mailto:Stuart@rmcumc.com), [CommChair@rmcumc.com](mailto:CommChair@rmcumc.com), and please copy [Ben@rmcumc.com](mailto:Ben@rmcumc.com).

### **Politics and the Pulpit 2008: Guide to Restrictions on the Political Activity of Religious Organizations**

During every election cycle, many congregations find themselves wondering what role, if any, they can play in the political process. Can a minister, rabbi, imam or other member of the clergy endorse a candidate from the pulpit or speak on political issues of interest to voters? Is a church or other house of worship legally permitted to register voters or distribute voter guides? Answers to these and many other questions are contained in this guide that sets out in plain English the rules governing political activity that apply to nonprofit organizations (including churches and other religious groups) that are exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Go to: <http://pewforum.org/docs/?DocID=280>

### **Economic Stimulus Act: Important Info for Low Income People**

You may have heard in the news about the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008, which allows for a rebate check to be sent to individual taxpayers. Those who have at least \$3,000 of income (earned & also from normally tax-free sources, such as Social Security, railroad retirement or VA benefits) need to file an income tax return to receive the rebate to which they are entitled. The Internal Revenue Service is mailing special information packages to 20.5 million recipients of Social Security or Veteran's Affairs benefits to help them get their 2008 economic stimulus payment. An IRS News Release is available on the [RMCUMC.org](http://RMCUMC.org) web site asking churches to inform their parishioners of this. A flyer that churches may want to put on their bulletin boards is here: [www.irs.gov/pub/irs-utl/p\\_4670\\_general.pdf](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-utl/p_4670_general.pdf). Press release: [rmcumc2.org/News/IRs-08-042.pdf](http://rmcumc2.org/News/IRs-08-042.pdf)

### **Metropolitan District and Mile High Subdistrict Conduct Lay Speaker Training in April**

A variety of Lay Speaking classes are offered Friday, April 11 and Saturday, April 12 at Northglenn UMC.

- Dennis Beedle, District Director Metro/Mile High Lay Speaking Ministries, will teach the Lay Speaking Basic Course.

- Advance courses: Lay Speakers Tell Stories with Sandra Beedle, District Director Metro/Mile High Lay Speaking Ministries for 2007 and Lay Speakers Leading in Prayer with Cliff Pike, Certified Lay Speaker.

More info at: <http://www.rmcbolm.org/TrainingEvents.htm>

### **St. Andrew UMC Offers Opportunities for Learning and Growing**

- Forum on Immigration Offered - The Social Justice team presents a forum entitled "Crossing the Border: The Immigration Debate" on Thursday, April 24 at 7 p.m. The forum will represent a diversity of viewpoints including those from Amy DeVan, an immigration attorney, Dr. Miguel De La Torre, an Iliff professor, two Presbyterian ministers affiliated with a humanitarian group on the border, Frosty Wooldridge, a representative from Defend Colorado Now, and others. A moderator will preside over the evening, which will include speakers' remarks and audience questions. There are an estimated 12 million undocumented individuals in the US and 225,000 in Colorado.
- Bridges Out of Poverty Discussed - Held Thursdays, April 24 to May 22, 7 to 9 p.m. People in poverty face challenges and barriers virtually unknown to those in middle class or wealth, requiring survival skills, strategies, and the use of hidden rules different from those used by people living in more stable economic environments. Irene Bindrich, an earth care professional, will help participants explore ways that we, as followers of Jesus, can create relationships with people from poverty to identify strengths and build resources for a better life.
- Beyond Divorce: Rebuilding When Your Relationship Ends - Thursdays, April 24 to June 26, 2008, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Learn the skills necessary to adjust to your losses and receive encouragement to rebuild your life! Facilitated by Paul and Beth Walker: Paul has been a therapist for over 35 years while Beth is a life coach with more than 25 years of experience in mental health. Beth and Paul have been married for 12 years and both have personally transcended the trauma of divorce. Fee is \$150.

St. Andrew UMC is at 3350 E. White Bay Drive, Highlands Ranch, (9300 block of S. University Blvd.) Call 303-794-2683 for more information or visit [www.st-andrew-umc.com](http://www.st-andrew-umc.com).

## **General Church News**

### **"Promise of Land" Preaching Conference Set for April 16-18 in Salt Lake City**

Join Kristin Emery Saldine, assistant professor of homiletics at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and Tex Sample, well-known activist theologian, formerly of Saint Paul School of Theology, and others for this exploration of preaching in the Western context. "Life in the West provides both challenges and opportunities. Whether we are native or a transplant from somewhere else, each of us has been called to provide meaningful preaching and teaching to a group of faithful people in this unique context. Even so, sometimes it is hard to tell whether God has placed us on a pioneering journey or exiled us to the wilderness." Promise of Land: Preaching God's Creation is April 16-18 in Salt Lake City. More info at [www.promiseofland.org](http://www.promiseofland.org) and the full brochure is also here, including bios, schedule, registration: [http://rmcumc2.org/News/pol\\_brochure.pdf](http://rmcumc2.org/News/pol_brochure.pdf)

### **Leadership Training for Adults Who Work With Youth or Young Adults Offered May 17**

The GBOD (General Board of Discipleship) is offering a one-day leadership training event for adults who work with youth and with young adults. This day is designed for volunteers and paid staff. Called "The Source," the training for the Western Jurisdiction will be in Las Vegas on Saturday, May 17. For more information: [www.gbod.org/thesource](http://www.gbod.org/thesource) and a brochure: <http://rmcumc2.org/News/sourceFLYER.pdf>.

### **Pew Study Raises Questions for UM Leaders**

Mirroring most other mainline U.S. denominations, United Methodists are generally older, whiter and wealthier in a nation that is increasingly populated with young adults, people of color and families with modest incomes. The UMC also is losing more members than it's gaining, with its parishioners increasingly moving to evangelical Protestant churches or choosing not to affiliate with another religious group at all.

That portrait of United Methodism was presented in a landmark study of religion in America released in February by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. Based on interviews with more than 35,000 adult Americans, the study found that U.S. religion is increasingly diverse and fluid "in a vibrant marketplace where

individuals pick and choose religions that meet their needs," leaving religious groups to compete for members. Read the full UMNS story: <http://tinyurl.com/392o4t>

## Community Events

### Muslim Society of Denver Offers First Educational Lecture Series

- Saturday, April 12, 1 p.m. - Imam Mohamad Altab`aa: Holy Land from a Religious Perspective: Imam Altabaa is originally from Syria, and has a Master's Degree in Islamic Studies. He served as an Imam in Ohio from 2000 to 2007. Currently, he is the Imam at Abu Baker Mosque.
- Saturday, April 26, 1 p.m. - Ramzy Baroud: Gaza Today: Mr. Baroud is author and editor of PalestineChronicle.com and the author of books on the Intifada. His work has been published in several newspapers and journals worldwide. He is from Nuseirat Camp in Gaza.

Both lectures are free and open to the public. They are at Abu Baker Mosque (Masjid), 2071 South Parker Road, Denver. For more information: 303-696-9800, [Denvermosque.org](http://Denvermosque.org).

### DenUM: Charity Partner for *Post-News Colorado Colfax Marathon* seeks help

Denver Urban Ministries has registered as a charity partner for the 2008 *Post-News Colorado Colfax Marathon* on Sunday, May 18 and they need your help! You can support DenUM in three ways:

- Run the Race! Run the marathon, run or walk the half marathon, or organize a five-person marathon relay team! Runners who raise more than \$500 for DenUM will have their registration fee reimbursed.
- Volunteer! Thousands of volunteers are needed to work water stations, help at the Health and Fitness Expo and support runners at the start/finish.
- Donate! If you cannot run or volunteer on May 18, or are already registered to run the race, you can still raise money to support DenUM's services to families in crisis. Sponsor a runner or raise money for DenUM as you run!

For more information about the Colfax Marathon, visit [www.coloradocolfaxmarathon.org](http://www.coloradocolfaxmarathon.org)

## Missions News

### UMVIM Update

Dear Friends in Mission, Here is the latest UMVIM and Missions Parade news & needs:

- UMVIM TEAM LEADER TRAINING - will be offered Saturday, April 12, from 9 am to Noon in the Boulder area. Please contact Betsy Keyack.
- VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS - several churches would like teams to come and help with their Vacation Bible Schools this summer: Cheraw, CO UMC, May 27-30, followed by mission work May 31 to June 3 or 4, Upton, WY UMC, Montrose UMC, and Eagle UMC. Please contact Ann Fort, [annfort8269@comcast.net](mailto:annfort8269@comcast.net).
- WE NEED YOUR PICTURES! - Again this year at Annual Conference Session we will be having a Missions Parade slide show to highlight the mission work of your churches. We are looking for photos of your involvement in your local community, mission trips, relationships with UM missionaries - ANY mission service! Please send photos by May 1 to Betsy Keyack, [bkeyack@att.net](mailto:bkeyack@att.net) or 10317 S. Charissglen Circle, Highlands Ranch, CO 80126.
- Please let Ann Fort know about your mission trips, including youth mission trips. Thanks!
- WARREN VILLAGE, a transitional housing facility in Denver for single parent families, is looking for a team to conduct VBS this summer. Contact: Naomi Taggart, [ntaggart@warrenvillage.org](mailto:ntaggart@warrenvillage.org).
- HURRICANE REBUILDING in Beaumont, Texas, May 31 - June 8. Sponsored by BUMMP - Boulder UM Mission Partners. Contact: Bruce Borgmann, 303-466-4753, [bruce@midwestcompany.com](mailto:bruce@midwestcompany.com) or Don Wisdom, [wisdom@expercomp.com](mailto:wisdom@expercomp.com).

- Blessings, Betsy Keyack and Ann Fort, Co-coordinators, UM Volunteers in Mission, Rocky Mountain Conference

### Summer Mission Opportunities Offered by DenUM

Congregations throughout the Rocky Mountain Conference and beyond are gearing up for another exciting summer of mission opportunities at Denver Urban Ministries (DenUM). DenUM offers a variety of service learning experiences, from afternoon activities to multi-day mission trips. Activities include, The Game of

Life, the Food Stamp Lunch Challenge, and a Hunger Banquet. Participants also have the opportunity to volunteer at over 20 non-profits throughout the Denver area that specialize in a multitude of services including, food and serving meals, light construction, painting and maintenance, working with children and the elderly, and warehouse work. For more information contact the Urban Education Coordinator at [urbaned@denum.org](mailto:urbaned@denum.org) or 303-350-5062.

## 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](http://RMCUMC.org/Community). More information about each of these named may be on those pages. Please keep in your prayers:

- **Ray and Joyce Scott**, retired RMC clergy, who write: "We appreciate your concern and prayers. The colon tests came back clear. The cancer of the lung [results are forthcoming]. Thanks for all the prayers and support in these days. Love, Ray and Joyce Scott." Notes of care can be sent to them at 2101 S. Garfield Apt. 320, Loveland, CO 80537 or through Stephanie Munoz [pastorstephanie@qwestoffice.net](mailto:pastorstephanie@qwestoffice.net).
- **Terry Benedett-Farmer**, pastor at Englewood UMC, asks for prayers for her husband Larry's sister, who is caring for their father and his brother-in-law in Palo Alto, California. Larry's father, Harold Farmer, is in a VA Care Center but continues to suffer from Alzheimer's and is gradually declining. His sister Peggy's husband, Terry McNulty, was diagnosed with brain tumors and is receiving radiation and chemo treatments. The tumor is inoperable. They have two teenage children at home. They will be very grateful for any support of prayer. Expressions of care may be sent to them at [pastor@eumc-co.org](mailto:pastor@eumc-co.org) or 3885 S Broadway, Englewood, CO 80113.
- **Minnie Brown**, Candidacy Registrar for the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and spouse of Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr., sends her thanks to all who sent cards and good wishes and to the Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone Conferences for the beautiful flowers since her recent foot surgery. She is doing very well and is back in the office, walking on a nice big boot! Contact her through the Episcopal Office, 6110 Greenwood Plaza Blvd., Greenwood Village, CO 80111 or [jayne@rmcumc.com](mailto:jayne@rmcumc.com).
- **Pat Vestal**, former administrative assistant for RMC Mission and Ministry informs us that her sister, Gail Hanson, died of lung cancer March 19 in Kansas City, MO. She was 64. Please keep her family in your prayers. Expressions of care to [pvestal@mho.com](mailto:pvestal@mho.com) or 1665 South Wolcott Ct., Denver, CO 80219.
- **Alefosio (Ale) Vaioleti**, Trinity UMC (Kearns Utah) lay member to Annual Conference, whose 24-year-old daughter, Kaloni Vaioleti, died March 15. Kaloni was born not breathing and suffered brain and nerve damage from oxygen deprivation in addition to having Cerebral Palsy. Ale & his wife, Tina have been devoted and loving parents of this special child whom they call, "their angel," This death occurred less than two weeks after the death of their first granddaughter, named Kaloni after their daughter. Their granddaughter was born March 2 and it took 15 minutes to establish a heartbeat. She lived only two days. Services for their daughter were held at Trinity UMC. Expressions of care may be sent to Alefosio & Tina Vaioleti at their home address: 10188 Peony Way, Sandy, Utah 84094.
- **Todd Everhart**, pastor of Rinn UMC in Longmont, whose grandmother, Ima Justis, died in Tennessee on March 13. Expressions of care may be sent to him at [pastorte@hotmail.com](mailto:pastorte@hotmail.com) or 5434 Wolf St., Frederick, CO 80504.
- **Kathy Haley**, RMC clergy on incapacity leave, who is recovering from abdominal surgery. Please keep her and her healing process in your prayers. Expressions of care may be sent to her at [silverwolf13@comcast.net](mailto:silverwolf13@comcast.net) or 2040 Forest St., Denver, CO 80207.
- **Lucille Sams**, long-time member of Central UMC in Colorado Springs, died March 12 after a prolonged period of declining health. Lucille was actively involved in District and Conference activities, especially in the area of Christian Education. She was the Coordinator of the Developing Leaders in Local Church program for several years. A memorial service was held March 19 at Central UMC. Messages of condolence can be sent to Lucille's son, Roger, at 3605 Haven Circle, Colorado Springs, CO 80917 or to [samsmgmt@comcast.net](mailto:samsmgmt@comcast.net).
- **Burry Bessee**, pastor at Cheyenne Wells and Kit Carson, whose father died March 12 in Orchard Park, NY. A memorial service will be held later this spring, when the family can all gather in Orchard Park.

Burry writes, "Dad was alert right up until the end, a fitting end to a wonderful, full life." Expressions of care may be sent to her at victoriadrake@hotmail.com.

- Former Metro District administrative secretary **Ken Gies** and his family, whose father Ray is on home hospice and is nearing the end of his life. Expressions of care may be sent to krgies@comcast.net.
- Steve Truitt, former husband of **Betty Brown**, pastor of LaVeta UMC, died on March 10 after a long journey with brain cancer. Expressions of care may be directed to Betty at bettybe49@hotmail.com.
- The family of **George Uyemura**, assistant pastor at Simpson UMC in Arvada, from 1947-1952 and then pastor to Issei Japanese at Simpson from 1952-1959. George died March 12 at age 90. Services were held March 15 at Epworth UMC in Portland. He was a retired member of the Pacific Northwest Conference. Survivors include his sons, Daniel and David; brothers, Francis and Joseph; four grandchildren and a number of nieces and nephews, many of whom are members of the Simpson church. The e-mail address for Simpson is simpsonumc.arvada@gmail.com.
- **Prayers for Kenya:** "Thank you so much for your continued prayers for Kenya. For the last two months Kofi Annan, former secretary general of the UN has been leading the mediation process between two political parties that have been struggling for power in Kenya. On Feb. 28 the leaders of those two political parties struck a power sharing deal. Please pray for an amicable power sharing process and also that the internally displaced people can be able re-start their lives. -- Amos Kariuki, pastor, Longs Peak UMC, Longmont
- **Doug Hill**, pastor of Olathe UMC, whose father has been diagnosed with extremely aggressive, terminal bladder cancer. An operation to remove the tumor could not get all of it, and he is not in condition to survive another operation. Expressions of care may be sent to Doug and his family at olatheumc@msn.com.
- **Darrell Mount**, whose father, Dallas, died February 21. Dallas was 101 years and married to Juanita for 74 years. Juanita is 95 and lives in a Good Samaritan home, under hospice care. Expressions of care may be sent to Darrell at Darrellemount@aol.com.
- **Marcia Shafer**, pastor at Sundance, WY, who recently fell on ice and broke her right leg. She'd like prayers for rapid and successful healing! Expressions of care may be sent to her at her church, PO Box 567, Sundance WY 82729 or mjshafer@rangeweb.net.
- **Nancy Butterfield**, conference staff, her daughter Sarahdawn, and the family of Vivian Newell. Vivian died February 13, and services were held February 21 at Fort Logan National Cemetery. Expressions of care may be sent to NancyB@rmcumc.com.

### Appointments and Retirements

- **Harold Anderson**, pastor at Brush UMC and **Delbert Hansen**, pastor at Faith Cheyenne retire July 1.
- **Gary Blaine Peters**, a member of the Rocky Mountain Conference since 1980, and more recently serving as counselor to Vietnam veterans as President and Director of the Essex Growth Center will retire June 30. Appreciations may be sent to 3086 S. Federal Blvd., Denver, CO 80236, essexcolorado@aol.com or 303-981-6685.
- **Margaret Gillikin** will begin an appointment to Salida UMC in Salida, Colorado on July 1. Margaret currently serves as the associate at First UMC in Casper, Wyoming.
- **Larry Howard** will be appointed to Central UMC, Colorado Springs, CO, effective July 1. As previously announced, Granville Smythe, currently appointed pastor, will retire effective July 1.
- **David** and Carol **Lillie**, are appointed as the pastoral team to First UMC of Longmont effective July 1. Bruce Maxwell, current senior pastor of FUMC will retire in July. Allyson Ellis, associate at First, is relocating with her husband out of the Conference effective July 1.
- **Jeff Rainwater** was introduced as the pastor of the Laramie UMC starting July 1.
- **Laura Easter Rainwater** was introduced as the Wesley Foundation Director in Laramie, Wyoming, starting July 1.
- **Donna Patterson** is appointed to Estes Park UMC effective July 1, 2008
- **Kun Sang Cho** will be appointed to Faith UMC in Cheyenne, Wyoming, effective July 1.
- **Bill McCreary**, currently serving in extension ministry as Associate Dean, College of Pharmacy at the University of Utah will retire effective July 1.
- **Gary Goettel** will begin an appointment to Fowler and Manzanola UMCs July 1.
- **DeEtta Goettel** will begin an appointment to Ordway UMC on July 1.



**Rocky  
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## **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 <http://rmcumc.org/subscribe>. Help your Conference budget by receiving this publication via e-mail!

TableTalk is edited by Stuart Davis, communications intern, and Ben Roe, information administrator. The next TableTalk will be published via e-mail near the end of December and sent a few days later by US Postal Service bulk mail. It will contain items sent prior to the date of publication. To subscribe to TableTalk, send an e-mail (or a postcard) with your name, church, and e-mail address to [ben@rmcumc.com](mailto:ben@rmcumc.com) or the address above. Archives of the 2007 RMCUMC News posts are here: [rmcumc.org/News/Communications/news.htm](http://rmcumc.org/News/Communications/news.htm).