

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

General Conference Delegation Reflects

The Rocky Mountain delegation attending the 2008 General Conference in Fort Worth, Texas, sent back reports via communications team Skip Strickland and Olon Lindemood. Besides written reports and reflections, the communications team put together inexpensive and engaging video "Two-Steppin' Reports" that showed folks back home something of what was happening in Fort Worth. All of these reports are linked on the web at rmcumc.org/News/gc2008/. More on the actions of the General Conference below.

"Sexual Ethics: Keeping Congregations Safe"

Rev. Dr. Karen A. McClintock will provide training as required by the Annual Conference for Clergy. Laity are encouraged to attend. Space is limited and early registration is suggested. You may register by accessing the Sacred Trust Web Site, ethicseducation.net. Click on the Seminar – Registration Button on the Home Page to register for the training. You may link to the credit card site for payment. More details are on page 13 of your Registration Booklet. (See it here: rmcumc.org/COI/ac/ac2008/RegBooklet.pdf)

Child Sexual Abuse: Safety Tips on a Sensitive Subject:

At Annual Conference, each church will be provided with a DVD furnished by Church Mutual on the above subject. Please pick up the copy for your church at the Registration Table when you pick up your registration materials. Other printed materials will be available. -- Ethical Education Task Force

Tellers Needed for Annual Conference

Because of the illness of Keith, I have been asked to fulfill the role as head teller. I need some help. Tellers are needed if "counts" are required during AC. Besides the fun of counting, a teller is reserved a special seat at each session. If you are interested, please contact me at pastor@cumcps.org. – Don Ford

Center for Pastoral Effectiveness of the Rockies Postpones Golf

The annual golf tournament has been postponed a year. The Center strongly encourages all to attend the Seminar beginning at 8:30 am on Wednesday, June 18th. The Center had set as our goal to set aside \$50 from each golfer's fee to go towards the Covenant Fund. THE FUND IS STILL A PRIORITY, writes Bill Selby, executive director. So we ask that you bring your money or check books to the clergy executive session and donate your part. – Bill Selby

Annual Conference Rooms Added

More rooms have been added for Tuesday-Friday at the Denver Tech Marriott. There are also plenty of rooms available on Saturday night at the contract rate. Reservations may be made online here: rmcumc.org/COI/ac/ac2008/index.htm#rooms. If you reserved a room at a higher rate, contact Nancy Butterfield at NancyB@rmcumc.com.

In Defense of Creation Hearing Scheduled

The Council of Bishops is working on revising the "In Defense of Creation" document which they put out several years ago. They would like input from UM's. So here's your opportunity to comment on an important issue of the day: care of the environment. Come to this pre-conference session on Wednesday, June 18, to learn and share your voice.

In Defense of Creation: A Public Hearing On Environmental Degradation, Climate Change and the Church
 Wednesday, June 18, 2-3:30 PM, Denver Marriott Tech Center

"In Defense of Creation," a pastoral letter crafted by the United Methodist Council of Bishops in 1986, is receiving a timely update. First written to address nuclear proliferation and the possibility of extinction of all life, it is now being revised to include new threats to God's creation including environmental degradation, global warming, endemic poverty, disease, and a world awash in weapons-nuclear and non-nuclear alike.

The results of this hearing, and others like it around the world, will be reflected in the final document to be approved by the Council of Bishops in May 2009 and released to the United Methodist Church for study and action.

Bishop Warner Brown, Convener; Rev. Rebekah Simon-Peter, Moderator; Rev. Linda Gertenbach, Church and Society; Panelists: Rev. Peter Sawtell, Eco-Justice Ministries; Diane Dandeneau, Colorado Interfaith Power and Light; Dr. Jim White, University of Colorado. Discussion and comments to follow.

Want to talk with someone about Tithing or Property Insurance at Annual Conference?

Laurie Day, Assistant Treasurer - Donor Services, will be available throughout Annual Conference to talk with anyone - clergy or lay - about the Tithing system, designated giving, property insurance, or other issues regarding the Treasurer's Office at Annual Conference. She will be happy to answer questions specific to your local church or something more general. You can call Laurie, before Annual Conference, at 303-733-3736 or 1-800-536-3736 ext. 162, or email, laurie@rmcumc.com to schedule an appointment time. There will also be a sign-up sheet at Annual Conference Registration for individuals to schedule a time to speak with Laurie. See you at Annual Conference!

Metro District Establishes Hispanic/Latino Ministries

The Metropolitan District Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries, in cooperation with the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM), is launching a new position entitled District Coordinator for Hispanic/Latino Ministries, effective June 1. Jaime Nieves, a member of University Park UMC, will be the Coordinator, and will be a Hispanic Plan Missionary, officially commissioned by the GBGM.

Her main responsibility will be to implement programs and strategies of the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministries of The United Methodist Church in the Metropolitan District. In consultation with the District committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries (chaired by Rev. Pat Bruns) and Rev. Youngsook Kang, District Superintendent, Ms. Nieves will promote, develop and coordinate United Methodist ministry in Spanish in committed congregations in the Metropolitan District of the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Contact District Superintendent Youngsook C. Kang at youngsook@rmcumc.com if you have any questions.

Faith UMC Celebrates Ministry In Closing

A Special Invitation is extended on the occasion of the closing of Faith UMC, Sunday, June 29, 2008, with a Worship Celebration at 11:15a.m., Reception with dinner 12:30-2:30p.m. Festivities will take place at Faith UMC, 3200 Zenobia Street, Denver. RSVP by June 15, 2008 to Denise at 303.863.3845 or 303.619.2146.

March 2008 Tithe Report

The March 2008 Tithe reported in April reflects a total giving of \$466,333 for the month. On a year-to-date basis, total Tithe giving amounts to \$1,135, 423. This puts us behind in our ability to meet World Service and General Board obligations. The percentage of giving units participating in the Tithing program continues to reflect an improvement over prior years, as shown in the following District summary:

	Total No. Churches	Giving Units Participating	Percent
Metro	45	32	71%
Mile High/Pikes Peak	40	34	85%
Peaks & Plains	44	39	88%
Sunshine	47	43	91%

Utah/West. CO	58	46	79%
Wyoming/NE CO	44	38	86%
Overall	278	232	83%

Based on input received from many of you, we are presenting an abbreviated report which shows just current year giving-without comparing to last year giving. Your comments are always welcome and if you have other suggestions regarding what information you would like to see reported, please let us know.

If you desire more detailed information, please contact our office. -- Wayne Bettendorf, Treasurer; Laurie Day, Asst. Treasurer, Donor Services

You will find this report, the detailed report by district then by church, and a graph comparing last year with this year on our Web, here: rmcumc.org/CR/Finance/March08tithe.htm

From Donna Hite: Free Money for your Health!

I have received information from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits that all active members (clergy and lay) enrolled in the conference health insurance plan are eligible to receive a \$100 Visa gift card by doing the on line Health Risk Assessment (HQ). This is for all those who have completed, or will complete the assessment from January 1, 2008 to June 30, 2008.

If you and your spouse are both enrolled in the plan, then you both must complete the assessment in order for either of you to receive the gift card. REMEMBER, SPOUSES MUST REGISTER UNDER THEIR OWN NAME. What an opportunity for extra money to spend as you wish! Note: you will also be eligible for the conference \$150 reward.

Representatives from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits will be available the Thursday and Friday of annual conference in the blood screening room. They will have computers available for those who need assistance with the assessment. So, take advantage of having your blood work done, at no cost to those enrolled in HealthFlex, as well as completing the health risk assessment and earning your reward.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. -- Donna Hite, Asst. Pensions Officer, HealthFlex Administrator, 303-733-3736 or 1-800-536-3736 ext 150; Direct line: 303-325-7050

Older Adult Ministry Meeting Set

There will be a meeting on Tuesday, June 3, 2008, at Tri-Lakes UMC, Monument, for those interested in Older Adult Ministry. This meeting will be led by Olon M. Lindemood, Superintendent of the Mile High/Pikes Peak District, and Jim George, Co-Chairman of the RMC Older Adult Council. Anyone interested in older adult ministry is invited to attend.

Shane Claiborne ("Jesus for President") Comes To Denver

Save the date! On July 7, Shane Claiborne will stop in Denver on his national book tour for an evening talk about his new book with Chris Haw, *Jesus for President*. Shane, a 30-something, "ordinary Christian radical," is the founder of The Simple Way, a community in Philadelphia, which tries to model living as Jesus would have us live.

He is also the author of *The Irresistible Revolution* which calls us all to live more simply, more compassionately. The event is free for all and begins at 7 pm at Trinity UMC. It is sponsored by the Conference Church and Society Network. Come early for good seating.

Kenya Methodist Faculty Visits RMC!

The Rev. Dr. Peter Mukuccia will be speaking in several churches in and near Denver in June. He is a member of the Faculty at Kenya Methodist University (the OTHER Methodist University in Africa) which has grown rapidly and has been a project of the Africa Partnership Committee and supported by many churches in our Conference. All interested persons are invited.

Sunday, June 1, St. Paul U.M.C., Boulder, 4215 Grinnell Ave. Sunday School 9:00 and 10:15 a.m. Worship
Sunday, June 8, Ft. Collins First U.M.C., 1005 Stover St., 8:00, 9:00, 10:15, 11:30 a.m. Worship
Tuesday, June 10, Sunrise U.M.C., 2655 Briargate Blvd., Colorado Springs, 6:00 Pot-Luck supper and 7:30 p.m. meeting
Sunday, June 15, Park Hill U.M.C., Denver, 5209 Montview Blvd., 10:00 a.m. Worship
Sunday, June 22, Westminster U.M.C. 3585 W. 76th Ave., 8:30 Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. Worship

Rev. Mukuccia (Iliff class of 1981) also will attend the Iliff Alumni/ae Banquet, June 5, and Annual Conference June 19-20 including the Friends of Iliff lunch June 19 and the Missions Dinner at Hope U.M.C. June 20. He will be available for informal meetings with persons during Annual Conference.

The Food/Fuel Crisis: Can you feel it? Can you solve it?

Jim Gulley, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries, has written this about the food/fuel crisis: At this very moment, soaring FOOD and FUEL prices are taking a toll on hundreds of millions of people at home and abroad. Some have no margin to adjust.

Food pantries in Denver and probably your community cry out for new food stocks to feed the daily increase of hungry people.

Residents of Haiti's Cité Solé with no access to food fill unfed stomachs with "mud" patties sprinkled with sugar to silence the wrenching roar of their guts, at least temporarily.

Others in the Two-Thirds World spend 50-80% of their meager wages (\$1.00/day) to feed their families.

In Myanmar (Burma) cyclone Nargis took more than 120,000 lives, destroyed entire villages and devastated the livelihoods of millions of survivors.

Join others to fight back the food/fuel crisis! Here is a 3-prong strategy:

- 1) Feed the hungry in your community every week. Go to your nearest food pantry and find out what they need. Make a commitment to "tithe your weekly grocery tab". If you spend \$100.00 a week on groceries, buy \$10.00 of items requested by your food pantry. Offer these in-kind tithes (cash from the forgetful) at the altar during the offertory each week. Make feeding the hungry be central, not peripheral, to worship.
- 2) Partner with UMCOR to feed the hungry in crisis and equip resource-poor farmers to feed themselves and their neighbors. www.umcor.org
- 3) Learn what are the underlying causes of the food/fuel crisis. Join Bread for the World, a Christian group that works to influence U.S. food policies. Help reshape policies that will reduce U.S. dependence on oil and will create opportunity and hope for people in the Two-Thirds World to produce and/or access the basic food they need - not just to survive, but to grow and flourish. Read about Bread for the World's Recipe for Hope campaign and get involved!

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of the hungry in our communities, throughout the U.S. and the rest of the world. Take action today! Jim Gulley, Conf Sec. Global Ministries, jim.gulley@comcast.net

General Church News

General Conference acts on wide range of issues

The General Conference of The UMC met in Fort Worth in April 23-May2. The assembly meets every four years to determine the course of the UMC for the next four years, setting budget, program emphases, revising social and theological statements and the book of rules, worshiping, and celebrating.

Some highlights: new mission statement: "The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world;" ordination process made more accessible and more localized; "provisional membership" replaces "probationary membership"; global health and poverty capital campaign adopted along with \$642 million budget; committee formed to study global structure of church and assigned to recommend in 2012; full communion with ELCA established; homosexuality stance little changed; heterosexism and homophobia opposed; more moderate Judicial Council members elected; 700,000 member Cote d'Ivoire church formally received as an UM annual Conference; new Faith and Order standing committee formed; constitutional amendments sent to annual conferences; one less bishop available to

Jurisdictions in 2013; membership vows now include "witness." Read a more complete report here at UMC.org: tinyurl.com/5aq8eh.

The first ever Young People's Address included two of our own young persons and can be watched at this link: tinyurl.com/5cvg4c. Many more parts of the Conference may be watched at this same link.

Young people add voices to church policy

Young people added their voices to the top legislative meeting of The United Methodist Church and served as role models for "holy conferencing" during the 2008 General Conference. They also submitted 43 proposals calling for resolutions on mostly social justice issues including war and peace, concern about poverty and opposition to killings in the Philippines.

Although the church is graying--most members are age 60 and older--the young adult presence at General Conference was highly visible during the April 23-May 2 gathering. More... <http://tinyurl.com/6arcgh>

GBGM Produces New Global Praise Songbook

The Global Praise program, a ministry of The General Board of Global Ministries, presented the songbook "For Everyone Born, Global Songs for Emerging Worship" to General Conference 2008. Several of the songs were used during worship and were received with great excitement.

Many of the songs in the book can be taught quickly by rote, making them perfect for use in worship and other gathering times, as well as short energizers. The songs were chosen for their accessibility, immediacy, and suitability for cross-cultural use. Please feel free to contact the Global Praise office with questions about this new songbook or the Global Praise program. Listen to clips of each song by going to www.globalpraise.org, music resources. Both the songbook and the CD are available from Cokesbury. Jorge Lockward, Global Praise Program Coordinator, 212-870-3967, jlockward@gbgm-umc.org

Missions News

UMCOR Responds to Myanmar Disaster

Cyclone Nargis tore through Myanmar (Burma) May 2, 2008, with unexpected fury, causing a tidal surge that swept inland and devastated Myanmar's most populated regions. The storm left homes and businesses flattened and families forever changed. UMCOR is partnering with Church World Service, the Methodist Church in Lower Myanmar and Action by Churches Together to provide relief and support for those struggling in the aftermath of the cyclone.

What You Can Do

Please pray for the people of Myanmar who have suffered great losses. Put UMCOR Advance # 3019674, Myanmar Emergency in the memo of your check to help the survivors of Cyclone Nargis and put it in your local church offering plate.

Please use these resources to share with others:

bulletin insert (<http://rmcumc.org/News/myanmarbulletin.pdf>)

news release (<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/newsroom/releases/archives08/myanmarhelp/>)

RMC Responds to TORNADOS

In several e-mails, Skip Strickland, Director of Mission and Ministry, has written about the tornado damage in northeast Colorado and southern Wyoming. Here is the latest:

Much work is going on behind the scenes in order to clarify how we may assist in the recovery efforts in the area of Colorado and Wyoming that was impacted by the recent tornadoes. Since this event has now qualified for Federal Disaster Assistance it is a different situation than the Holly tornado recovery or Ordway area fire recovery. With this designation, many agencies are on the scene to offer assistance. We have discovered that our United Methodist Disaster Response system is best at helping people secure the aid available to them and take care of those who do not qualify to receive assistance. We commit to help in the long term, while many others come and go.

It takes time for full recovery to happen. Some studies say at least ten years. New facts are discovered all the time. For instance, once the Church Mutual insurance adjusters arrived in Windsor, it was discovered that the church roof and some outside walls sustained more damage than originally thought. The people of the United Methodist Church in Windsor do want to say thank you to everyone who has been in prayer for them and offered help and assistance in their recovery. Plus they would like to thank Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr., The Rev. Dr. Eric Van Thomas Smith, and The Rev. Leighton Mekeal who joined them in worship last Sunday.

The Rev. David Lillie, our Rocky Mountain Conference Disaster Coordinator, has been in contact with many of those persons impacted. He asked me to let you know in particular, that Linda Pelletier is hard at work dealing with the needs of her community and we thank her for her effort. As soon as she is clear about what the community in and around Windsor, CO needs, she will let us know. Other leaders through out this area of our conference are also active in helping.

One thing is clear, a Long Range Recovery Team will be formed. This committee will develop procedures to initiate and manage recovery efforts and will determine where United Methodist Volunteers might become involved and active.

In the meantime, financial contributions will assist the recovery process. These contributions may be made to the "Conference Disaster Fund" through the Rocky Mountain Conference office. This fund provides early financial assistance in the recovery process. Checks with this designation in the memo line may be made out to your local church and dropped in the collection plate. Later, as a plan is developed, funds from the United Methodist Committee on Relief may also be utilized.

In the near future, our Rocky Mountain Conference United Methodist Volunteer in Mission coordinators Betsy Keyack and Ann Fort will post more information about work team and volunteer opportunities.

Thank you to everyone who has already done so much to help. If there are others who need assistance let us know. We also continue to pray for those who have suffered significant loss both in the Rocky Mountain Conference and throughout the world. – Skip Strickland, Director of Mission and Ministry

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

- **Keith Thompson**, RMC clergy at First UMC, Boulder, whose mother Vera Kunesh died peacefully at Frasier Meadows April 26. Expressions of care may be sent to Keith at RevKeithT@comcast.net.
- **Nadine Korhonen**, minister of congregational care at First UMC Cheyenne, is undergoing tests and would appreciate your prayers for medical wisdom. You may send expressions of care to her at revnadine@qwestoffice.net.
- **Bev Goodier**, diaconal minister at Christ UMC in Salt Lake City, had surgery May 6 in Salt Lake to have a couple of neck disks fused. Please keep her in your prayers. Expressions of care may be sent to her at bbgoodier@comcast.net.
- **Sharon Cooper**, spouse of WY/NECO DS **Chuck Cooper**, has gone home from the hospital following surgery for cancer. With the type of cancer and the successful surgery, she will not need chemotherapy or radiation treatments. Sharon said she appreciates everyone's prayers so much. She knows your prayers gave her strength through the entire diagnosis, hospitalization and surgery process! Please continue to pray for her as she heals. Expressions of care may be sent to chuck@rmcumc.com.
- **Paul Rider**, retired RMC clergy and retired Air Force chaplain, in your prayers. His father died March 26 and his mother quickly deteriorated til her death on Mother's Day, May 11. Helen Rider was 88 1/2. A

funeral will be held in Gage, OK, later this week. Expressions of care and support may be sent to him at afchap@pjirider.com or at 237 Rainbow Dr, #13713, Livingston TX 77399.

- **Mary Ann Kernodle**, deaconess on leave of absence. She has undergone two brain surgeries to explore the cause of seizures she has been having. While the surgeons found most of the cause, they were not able to operate further without harming her memory functions. She has had a lot of physical pain with this and now with no real positive news, is struggling with recovery. She says, "All of this has really challenged me spiritually." Expressions of care and encouragement may be sent to her at makftjk@4dv.net or 984 Emporia St., Aurora, CO 80010.
- **Abby Kershaw**, spouse of Joel Kershaw, associate pastor at First, Fort Collins, is recovering from surgery. It went well and she is recovering at home doing well. Joel writes, "We have been so overwhelmed at the compassion and care of the people of the RMC and want to thank you all for keeping my wife and our family in your prayers!" Expressions of care may be sent to jkershaw@fcfumc.net.
- **Linda Pelletier**, pastor of the slightly-damaged Windsor church, as she cares for herself and the trauma of the tornado May 22, and as she cares for people who have lost much: homes, businesses, and belongings. The parsonage there had a broken window. Please also keep in your prayers those who are caring for all those affected by the tornados that happened the next couple of days, including other pastors in the Peaks and Plains, Northeast Colorado, and Wyoming districts. Linda's e-mail is LindaPel@msn.com. Disaster Response Committee chair David Lillie, pastor at Laramie, spent some time in a dark restroom as a tornado hit Laramie. See this page for e-mails and office phones of our clergy: <http://rmcumc.org/CHI/Journal/allchurches.phtml>
- **Chris Frasier**, member of the Board of Stewards, whose father died recently. Expressions of care may be sent to him at yndot2943@yahoo.com.

Thanksgivings

- Congratulations to **Felicia George**, pastor of Merritt and Alameda Heights, who married Daniel Webster Euell III on Saturday, April 12, 2008. Her new legal name is **Felicia George Euell**, - Felicia G. Euell. After July 15, 2008, her new mailing address will be 11353 Jersey Way, Thornton, CO 80233
- **The Marstons** are the clergy family at First UMC, Montrose. Their daughter Kelly was diagnosed with leukemia in May a year ago and was lifted up for prayer at that time. Beth Marston, spouse of pastor Mark, writes that Kelly is now in remission. Beth says she will receive chemo for another 17 months, but is having problems with side effects. Beth has a website that she updates periodically, at www.caringbridge.org/visit/kellymarston. Beth says, "I can't tell you how much all of the prayers mean to us. It is from all of the prayers that she has done so well." You may be in touch with the Marstons via e-mail, markandbeth@plains.net.

Appointments

Updated appointment list on the web: rmcumc.org/CHI/Journal/Appointments.htm, updated monthly July-May. Please surround these persons and their families with prayer during these transitions.

Effective July 1:

- Emily Neely, associate pastor at First UMC in Canon City.
- Jessica Rooks, pastor for the Lamar UMC.
- Sonja Waldmann-Bohn, Brush UMC.
- Randy Short, Home UMC in Rye, Colorado.
- Tom Towns, Probationary Elder, currently serving half-time at Christ UMC in Salt Lake City and half-time at Tooele Community UMC, will be appointed full-time to Christ UMC.
- Debi Paulsen, Candidate for Ministry, will supply Tooele Community UMC part-time.
- Roy Trueblood, a retired Elder from Illinois Great Rivers Conference, will serve Delta UMC.
- Stephen Sidorak, Jr., General Secretary of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns. Stephen has previously served churches in the Rocky Mountain Conference and has been Executive Director of the Christian Conference of Connecticut in Hartford, Connecticut.
- Brian Oliver, associate at First UMC in Casper



Rocky Mountain Conference
The United Methodist Church
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IMPORTANT: If you have e-mail, please send us your address. We must minimize costs! Ben@rmcumc.com

2007 RMC Conference Liturgies On-Line at GBOD

The General Board of Discipleship has invited members of the 2007 Annual Conference Worship team to publish several of their liturgies online. "Making Visible the Invisible," the 2007 Annual Conference theme, was also the theme of pieces by Rev. Trudy Robinson, Rev. Rebekah Simon-Peter and Rev. Kerry Greenhill. Ironically, however, the authors were asked to delete or reword language related to sexual orientation, thus further ensuring that some of God's children remain invisible. Although Rev. Kerry Greenhill declined to reword her communion liturgy for publication with GBOD, you can find it in its entirety here: rmcumc.org/COI/ac/ac2007/. The other pieces can be found here: *The Diversity Among Us* (<http://tinyurl.com/69hgwx>) and *God Makes Visible the Invisible* (<http://tinyurl.com/6ob86p>)

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. *Please note: if you have e-mail, we will stop sending you this publication on paper via US Postal Service. This month's edition is changing formats and mailing method in a cost-cutting move. Do your part by printing either the PDF from the web site (rmcumc.org/News/table/) or by printing the e-mail you receive.*

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