Letter from the President

Dear Friends in Christ,

What is new, always new, and always needed in the life of the Church? Re-new-all!

The good news is that, while so-called mainline churches are charting a fifth straight decade of decline, God has already been acting to inspire and start new congregations and to bring hope and new life to dying congregations, to the larger Church, and to many communities throughout the world. The Spirit of God is always working to bring new life and hope where it is most needed. The practical question for each of us is whether we will be a part of what the Spirit is doing or stand in the way of it.

Church renewal can be seen, heard, felt, researched, studied and discussed. The United faculty is bringing this good news to bear in our classrooms in required courses, electives, and as an optional concentration. The learning is from both academics and practitioners. It is life-changing and ministry-changing—essential qualities for turning around whole denominations of the Church! We want our students and graduates to be among the leaders in a great movement of renewal!

Three years ago United adopted as a prayer, a program and a tagline: Spirit Led, Renewing the Church! God has been faithful in answering this prayer and blessing the United community with vitality and growth. If you have not visited us lately in person or online, please come and see!

As we celebrate in this season God’s Incarnation in Jesus Christ, we are reminded that the new life Christ brings is not only for ourselves, but for the sake of the whole world.

Please pray with us for this blessing of renewal upon each other, our Church and communities, and to the very ends of the earth.

Gratefully Yours in Christ,

Wendy J. Deichmann Edwards, President
Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Noon – 2 p.m.
Lecture by Dr. Tyron Inbody; Christology and Cultural Conflicts: The Cross in Clint Eastwood Movies
Cost: $10

6 p.m.
Alumni/ae Banquet: Class of ’71 inducted into Eckels Society
Cost: $25
Distinguished Alumni/ae and Effective Ministry Award will be given (Nomination form is on page 11)
For more details and registration visit www.united.edu

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Lecturer: Dr. Walter Brueggemann

LECTURE 1 | Monopoly: Accountability for the Food Fight
LECTURE 2 | Community: Abundant Food Practiced as Astonished Gratitude

PANEL DISCUSSION | Journey to the Common Good

Highlights From 2010 Heck Lectures

The Alumni/ae Banquet at the 2010 Heck Lectures, held on April 13, was a time to honor United alums who have served faithfully in many kinds of ministries. Attending from the Class of 1960 (top left) are (from left) H. Stanley “Stan” Eichenauer, Marvin D. “Marv” Mulford, Dean V. Roush, Kaye R. Casterline, Marvin A. “Mac” McRoberts, and Gerald E. “Jerry” Bell. Attending from the Class of 1970 and becoming members of the Eckels Society (top middle) are (from left) David Hogg, Todd Frail, William Hunter, Mark Stockslager, and Fred Brown. Dr. John K. Bergland (top right) was the 2010 recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award, and Dr. Cathy Johns (bottom) was the 2010 recipient of the Effective Ministry Award.
UPDATES

Class of 1953

Robert P. Crosby, of Seattle, WA, and his wife, Patricia, have published a new book, *A Month in Medieval Volpaia, Tuscany: Diary of a Temporary Citizen* (Vivo Publishing, 2010), a book that chronicles a month of connections and joy in Italy, illustrated with over fifty color photos. It is available at bookstores and online at Amazon.com.

Class of 1954

Charles W. Peckham, Sr., and his wife, Arline, of Lebanon, OH, recently received the “Chairpersons’ Award of Honor” at the national meeting in California of the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries.

Donald R. Repsher, of Bath, PA, recently published a book on historical highlights in the history of the Lenape Indians in Astorn, PA, titled *The Common Sense of Life! Tales from a Long-Ago Forest*, with the collaboration of two chiefs, a ceremonial leader and a clan mother.

Class of 1955

John K. Bergland, of Rocky Mount, NC, has published a new book, *The Journeys of Robert Williams* (Xulon Press, 2010), the story of an Irish street preacher and Methodist Circuit rider who preached in Virginia and North Carolina and was the first Methodist printer and publisher in America. The book is available at Amazon.com.

Class of 1956

James L. Harring, of Kingston, PA, recently observed and was recognized for the 55th anniversary of his ordination at Church of Christ Uniting. He is in his 12th year as Minister of Pastoral Care at this merged Methodist and Presbyterian congregation following 30 years as pastor of Albright United Methodist Church in Wilkes-Barre and simultaneous years as Senior Protestant Chaplain of The Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre.

William Kinsey, of Morgantown, WV, recently attended the Rocky Mountain ATV Jamboree. He currently volunteers at Suncrest UMC in Morgantown.

Hobert Prunty, of Vienna, WV, has retired and now volunteers at the Salvation Army.

Class of 1957

Ira C. Fortna, of Millersville, PA, and wife Janice have five children and eight grandchildren. Ira resides in a care facility as a result of an auto accident 12 years ago. He can be reached at Oakleaf Manor, 2101 Wabank Rd., Millersville, PA 17551.

Harold Knepp, is now living at Loyalton of Creekview, an assisted living facility. He would love to hear from fellow classmates and can be reached at 1100 Grandon Way, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050.

Class of 1958

Edward Hardman of Buckhannon, WV, has now retired and spends seven months in West Virginia and five in Sebring, FL.

Class of 1959

David Wilson, of West Mansfield, OH, is celebrating his 42nd year in ministry, and his 32nd year as a volunteer firefighter/EMT.

Class of 1960

R. Frederick Crider, of Timonium, MD, continues to write new hymn texts, with none published as yet. Many of them are used at his home church in the Baltimore Washington Conference and some appear on the General Board of Discipleship’s website.

Class of 1961

Bernard Lieving and wife Dorothy are now residing in Tampa, FL. Bernard completed 16 years on staff at Hyde Park UM Church in Tampa and serves as a full-time congregational care pastor.

Class of 1962

Marlin Miller, of Central City, PA, officially retired from the Western Pennsylvania Conference in 1999, but is currently in his 11th year as associate in four-point Meyersdale Charge where he preaches in two of the churches each week.

Class of 1963

Bernard Lieving and wife Dorothy are now residing in Tampa, FL. Bernard completed 16 years on staff at Hyde Park UM Church in Tampa and serves as a full-time congregational care pastor.

Class of 1964

Fred Ruffner, of Towson, MD, continues to write new hymn texts, with none published as yet. Many of them are used at his home church in the Baltimore Washington Conference and some appear on the General Board of Discipleship’s website.

Class of 1965

Edward Hardman of Buckhannon, WV, has now retired and spends seven months in West Virginia and five in Sebring, FL.

Class of 1966

David Wilson, of West Mansfield, OH, is celebrating his 42nd year in ministry, and his 32nd year as a volunteer firefighter/EMT.
Class of 1972

David E. Case, Jr., of Mansfield, OH, retired on July 1, 2010, from active United Methodist ordained ministry after 41 years of full-time service. He also served as chairperson of several annual conference and district boards. Charles R. Fowler, of Johnstown, PA, completed eight years as a district superintendent, and was appointed to Leechburg First Church, Leechburg, PA, on July 1. At the 2010 Annual Conference he was recognized for his work as a superintendent and celebrated 40 years in ministry. His wife, Carol, and family were on hand at the conference to share with him.

Class of 1974

John Friggle, of Oil City, PA, is now retired but is preaching and doing pastoral care at Rouseville United Methodist Church, Rouseville, PA.

Al Kundenreich, of Muncie, IN, has been teaching math in the local high school for the past seven years and is involved at High Street UMC.

Class of 1980

John Adams, of Fayetteville, OH, was granted Incapacity Leave in April of 2008 and is currently an adjunct instructor at Chatfield College, a small Catholic College, where he also teaches writing.

Dennis and Gail Alexander, of Minneapolis, MN, are working in Connectional Ministry.

Class of 1984

Velma Shearer, of North Manchester, IN, is working with a peace group and is a part of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

Class of 1987

Joseph Spackman, of Paw Paw, MI, just completed a trip to Israel and Europe, and is now serving Paw Paw UMC, his fourth charge since graduation. His wife, Nona, is a certified social worker and is working in foster care licensing.

Robert T. Wilson, of Mesa, AZ, volunteers as a chaplain at a local hospital.

Class of 1988

Cynthia J. Osborn, of Kent, OH, is Professor of Counseling and Human Development Services at Kent State University. She is in her 14th year on the faculty.

Class of 1992

Mary A. Bushong, of Sun City Center, FL, is “retired and enjoying every minute of it.”

Class of 1993

Evon Horton, of Pensacola, FL, has published his first book, From a Father’s Heart, which addresses ways to have healthy relationships and is available through Amazon.com.

Lawrence Dowdy, of Wagram, NC, has been appointed by the Office of Governor Beverly Purdue to serve as the Faith-based Outreach Coordinator for the State of North Carolina. He will serve as a liaison between the Governor’s office and the faith community and will be responsible for the Faith-based Leadership Advisory Council. He has served in the ministry for 28 years and is currently pastor of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Proctorville, NC, and is the Vice-Moderator for the Lumber River Baptist Association.

Class of 1994

Frank and Linda Hoover, of Limon, CO, are on sabbatical.

Class of 1995

Janie Shoemaker and her husband Floyd, of Hillsboro, OH, are enjoying retirement, and particularly enjoyed a recent three-month month trip to Alaska and family reunion on the East coast.

Class of 1996

Nancy Copeland-Payton, of Sandpoint, ID, travels throughout the United States as a retreat leader, spiritual director and author. She directs the spiritual director training program for Gonzaga University. She recently published a book, The Losses of Our Lives, The Gifts of Sacred Renewal in Everyday Loss (Skylights Paths). It is available through the publisher as well as online through Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

John E. Duckworth and his wife, Nicole, are expecting their first children, triplets and request prayers for a healthy pregnancy and safe delivery.

Class of 1997

Catherine F. Stentzel and her husband, James, are enjoying their retirement in Key West, FL. Catherine occasionally preaches in her home church.

Class of 1998

Stephen E. Ellis, of Elizabeth, IN, has now officially survived cancer and is doing well.

Willie Gable, of New Orleans, LA, is serving in the Progressive Baptist Church and is president of the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance.

Class of 2003

Alecia Schroedel, of Beloit, OH, is celebrating the fifth anniversary of her heart surgery. She works with the blood drive at Creighton Road Community Center.
Class of 2005

Jeffrey Zickeloose, of Buckhannon, WV, was ordained as an United Methodist Elder in June of 2010. He recently participated in a parish exchange program with Hesse Church in Frankfort, Germany.

Class of 2006

John D. Abbot, Jr., of Indianapolis, IN, is currently on disability leave and is accepting preaching, teaching and seminar assignments. He is currently writing Does the Church Need Hospice Care?, which addresses what seems to be an actively dying institution and what we can do to save it.

Alvin C. Hathaway, is the new pastor at Union Baptist Church in Baltimore, MD.

Class of 2007

L. Eugene Vaughn, of Cincinnati, OH, has recently accepted the position as Pastor for Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church in Cincinnati.

Class of 2008

Lea Ann Morris, of Wapakoneta, OH, will complete her second master’s degree in December, to become a nurse practitioner.

ANNIVERSARIES/WEDDINGS

Blessings on:

Steward Warner, ’85, of Reading, PA, who was married to Jennifer Smith on February 7, 2009. He serves Holy Cross United Methodist Church in Reading and Jennifer is District Resource Assistant to the Central District Superintendent in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

Frederick,’64 and Joyce Zimmerman, of Cleona, PA, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 4, 2010. They have four children and 11 grandchildren.

Class of 2005

Jeffrey Zickeloose, of Buckhannon, WV, was ordained as an United Methodist Elder in June of 2010. He recently participated in a parish exchange program with Hesse Church in Frankfort, Germany.

Class of 2006

John D. Abbot, Jr., of Indianapolis, IN, is currently on disability leave and is accepting preaching, teaching and seminar assignments. He is currently writing Does the Church Need Hospice Care?, which addresses what seems to be an actively dying institution and what we can do to save it.

Alvin C. Hathaway, is the new pastor at Union Baptist Church in Baltimore, MD.

Class of 2007

L. Eugene Vaughn, of Cincinnati, OH, has recently accepted the position as Pastor for Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church in Cincinnati.

Class of 2008

Lea Ann Morris, of Wapakoneta, OH, will complete her second master’s degree in December, to become a nurse practitioner.

ANNIVERSARIES/WEDDINGS

Blessings on:

Steward Warner, ’85, of Reading, PA, who was married to Jennifer Smith on February 7, 2009. He serves Holy Cross United Methodist Church in Reading and Jennifer is District Resource Assistant to the Central District Superintendent in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

Frederick,’64 and Joyce Zimmerman, of Cleona, PA, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 4, 2010. They have four children and 11 grandchildren.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to:


Darryl Fairchild, ’92 and Kim Armentrout, ’97, of Dayton, OH, on the adoption of Maya Grace, who was born on April 21, 2010, and weighed 6 lbs, 9 oz.

PASSAGES

Our sympathy to:


The family of Alice Herbert, of Irving, TX, who died on January 31, 2010. She was the spouse of John Charles Herbert, ’50, who died in 2005.

The family of Kathryn B. Sheppard, ’84, who died on February 11, 2010.

The family of Evan Jones, ’39, of Columbus, OH, who died February 19, 2010.

G. Lucille Nuhfer, whose husband, James Nuhfer, ’64, died March 28, 2010. Condolences may be sent to 11509 Dove Ln., Saint Marys, OH 45885-9695.

Sherron Ludwig, whose husband, James Ludwig, ’93, died on March 28, 2010. Condolences may be sent to 11129 Cardinal Lane, Saint Marys, OH 45885-9692.

Everett Aldstadt, ’59, whose wife Thelma Aldstadt, died on March 31, 2010. Condolences may be sent to 11412 Cardinal Lane, Saint Marys, OH 45885-9692.

David C. Forbes ’01, whose wife, Hazel Forbes, died in April of 2010. Condolences may be sent to him at PO Box 28181, Raleigh, NC 27611-8181.

The family of Kenneth Weaver, ’50, of Tipp City, OH, who died on June 10, 2010.

John McRoberts,’58, whose wife, Gloria McRoberts, died June 24, 2010. Condolences may be sent to John at 3652 North Dr., Greenville, OH 45331.

Donald G. Haulman, ’64, of Imler, PA, whose wife, Christobel L. Haulman, died on July 16, 2010. Condolences may be sent to him at 10736 William Penn Rd., Imler, PA 16655-8954.

Ruth Lewis, whose husband, Gerald Lewis, ’63, died July 16, 2010. Condolences may be sent to her at 2042 Westbranch Rd., Grove City, OH 43123.

Laurie Brown, whose husband, Edon L. Brown, ’64, died on July 19, 2010. Condolences may be sent to her at 1710 Kaibab Loop, Prescott, AZ 86303-6374.

Barry Baughman, ’00, of Liberty Center, OH, whose mother, W. Arleen Baughman, died on August 2, 2010.

Ruth Mae Burkhart, whose husband of 50 years, David L. Burkhart, ’63, died on August 9, 2010. Condolences may be sent to her at 402 Marshall Dr., Shillington, PA 19607-2823.


The family of Fred J. McComb, ’60, of Ft. Myers, FL, who died on August 26, 2010.


David Holmes, whose wife, Jean Homes, ’90, died September 13, 2010. Condolences may be sent to him at 111 Glenwood Circle, Wilmington, OH 45177.


Deb Holder, ’92, whose mother, Bea Holder, died on October 22, 2010. Condolences may be sent to 500 Woodcove Way, Beavercreek, OH 45430.
First Annual “Light the Fire!”
Church Renewal Conference:
MARCH 27 – 28, 2011

Keynote: Dr. Leonard Sweet

United’s tagline – Spirit Led, Renewing the Church! – is guiding the planners of its Light the Fire! Conference, scheduled for Sunday and Monday, March 27 – 28, 2011.

Uplifting worship, exciting keynote presentations and stimulating workshops will offer participants diverse ways to explore the topic of church renewal. Large and small churches will be represented, as will leaders from a variety of denominations.

Bishop Violet Fisher, retired United Methodist Bishop, will preach on Sunday evening at Ft. McKinley United Methodist Church, 3721 W. Siebenthaler Ave, Dayton, with special music provided by Ginghamsburg Church.

Registration and a Preconference Workshop on the renewal that has occurred at Ft. McKinley will begin the conference on Sunday evening followed by worship and a casual reception.

Monday will be filled with worship, presentations and workshops. Dr. Leonard Sweet, keynote speaker, will offer dynamic lectures on the theme “Evangelism and Discipleship in a TGIF World.” Currently the E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism at Drew University in New Jersey, Dr. Sweet has been Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Theological School at Drew University for five years. He served for 11 years as President and Professor of Church History at United prior to his appointment to Drew. He was also provost at Colgate Rochester/Bexley Hall/Crozer Divinity School in Rochester, NY.

Throughout his career, Dr. Sweet has been involved in leadership positions in the United Methodist Church and also serves as a consultant to many of America’s denominational leaders and agencies. He is the author of more than 200 articles, more than 1200 published sermons, and dozens of books. He and his wife, Karen Elizabeth Rennie, are primary contributors to the web-based preaching resource sermons.com.

An electronic registration form can be accessed at www.united.edu. For more information, please contact the Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Nowak, jnowak@united.edu or 937.529.2278.
What is This Church Renewal Thing?
Not surprisingly, many people have inquired about the Master of Divinity concentration in church renewal United has been touting the last few years. Some are skeptical. Others are merely curious. Few are indifferent. They want to know, what are we up to? What is this “church renewal thing” all about?

Let me cut to the chase. Worship attendance and membership in many local churches and even in entire denominations in the United States and Europe are in steep decline. When we add to numeric decline growing worries about the spiritual health of congregations, the lack of young clergy, the absence of young families, dwindling financial resources, and a host of other concerns, we should not be surprised that many are deeply pessimistic about the current state and future of the church.

At United, we agreed we had a simple choice to make. We could join in the hand-wringing and nay-saying, or we could attempt to be a part of a solution to the many problems now facing the church. Suffice it to say, we have opted to be part of the solution.

What are we doing to prepare students for leadership that will result in church renewal? First and foremost, we persistently remind students they are not the primary agents of renewal. On the contrary, we emphasize that the primary agent of renewal in the church is none other than the Holy Spirit. Thus students at United learn that the most important step on the journey to renewal is the prayerful attunement of our minds and hearts to the presence and work of the Holy Spirit. They must learn that church renewal is ultimately about relinquishing our human desire to be in control of the things of God. Indeed, it is about acknowledging the presence of the Holy Spirit among us and inviting the Spirit to have her way in our midst. In other words, students at United learn that renewal is most likely to happen when we admit to ourselves that we are out of answers; that we have no idea what to do next. We must look to God for wisdom and direction.

Second, we help students to think carefully and critically about the causes of church decline. We explore a vast range of proposals for what is wrong with the church, understanding that, unless we can uncover what is really problematic, we will not discover how to participate in the required changes. On this front, we stress the importance of a humble and contrite spirit before God. Our students learn that diagnosing what is wrong with the church is not about pointing the finger at others. They learn that, from a theological point of view, church decline calls us to confession, not blame.

Third, after considering a range of proposals about how and why the church has been in decline, our students encounter an equally wide range of proposals about how to put things right. They study a host of prophetic movements that have already demonstrated viable pathways to renewal, such as the missional church, the new monasticism, the emerging church, the deep church, and the liquid church to name just a few. Often, they get to meet and listen to renewal leaders such as Adam Hamilton, Brian McClaren, Mike Slaughter, and Alan Hirsch. Even now, we are planning a major conference for 2012 around the work of church leaders like Elaine Heath, Shane Claiborne, and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove.

Fourth, in the midst of exposure to a wide range of renewal movements, we suggest to students that we have a fundamental choice to make. We can engage in the work of ministry from the standpoint of either a miserly pneumatology or a generous pneumatology. We can undertake the work of ministry from a theology of scarcity or from a theology of abundance. In laying out this option, we suggest that, if we operate from a theology of scarcity and from a miserly pneumatology, then we will invariably succumb to our greatest fears concerning the current state and the future of the church. Moreover, we will become slaves to pessimism and to despair, to resignation and cynicism about church and culture alike. By contrast, if we learn to operate from a theology of abundance and from a generous pneumatology, then we subject ourselves to the perfect love that drives out all fear. We become slaves to Christ, in whom all fears are relieved. In other words, if we will let the Holy Spirit throw open the windows and doors of our theological imaginations and begin to think and operate from the standpoint of a theology of abundance – even superabundance – then we can be open to all that God is doing in and through a wide range of renewal movements in the church, including our own particular context.

Finally, this church renewal thing at United Theological Seminary is ultimately about one thing – it is about receiving and living into the promise that our Father in heaven really does know how to give good gifts, including the gifts of the eternally begotten son of God by whom we are saved, and the transforming presence and work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the life of the church.

There can be no doubt that we are living in troubled times. But we are the heirs of great promises, the recipients of great gifts; we are the children of a God who gives generously in good times and bad. Even so, come Holy Spirit.
January 9, 2011

**Women in Leadership Prayer Breakfast**
7 a.m., Harriet Miller Women’s Center

---

January 24 – 28, 2011

**Doctor of Ministry Intensive**
Theme: National and Foreign Missions for the Master.

---

February 21 – 25, 2011

**Gathering Week**

---

March 27 – 28, 2011

**Light the Fire! Church Renewal Conference**
Speaker: Dr. Leonard Sweet
Theme: Evangelism in a TGIF (Twitter, Google, iPhone, Facebook) World
See page 7 for details.

---

March 29, 2011

**Encountering God through Emerging Worship**
Speakers: Rev. Dr. Safiyah Fosua ’94, and Rev. Dr. Taylor Burton Edwards, both of the United Methodist Board of Discipleship

---

April 1 – 2, 2011

**M2 Live Conference**

---

April 6, 2011

**Vision to Victory**
Dr. Richard Wills, chapel preacher and evening lecturer

---

May 10 – 11, 2011

**Heck Lectures and Alumni/ae Reunions**
Speaker: Dr. Walter Brueggemann

---

May 21, 2011

**Spring Commencement**
Precious Blood Catholic Church
1:30 p.m.

---

May 24 – 26, 2011

**The Charles E. Booth Preaching Conference: Preaching in an Age of Apostasy**
Held at the Renaissance Hotel, downtown Columbus, OH

---

Institute for Applied Theology 2011 Events

For more information visit www.united.edu and select Lifelong Learning.

**Jan. 2011**

Music Ministry Certificate Course begins. See page 13

**Jan. 10 – 12**

Christian Formation: Planning and Implementing Children’s Ministry Within a Congregation

**Jan. 10 – 12**

Spiritual Formation: Direction and Companionship

**Jan. 10 – 12**

Urban Ministry: Healthy Urban Church and Community Held in Columbus, OH

**Jan. 13 – 15**

Older Adults: Planning a Ministry With/For Older Adults

**Jan. 13 – 15**

United Methodist Studies

**Jan. 14 – 15**

Church Stewardship and Finance

**Feb. 11**

Excellence in Preaching Workshop
Publications Survey

Answers to the following questions will help us evaluate our publications.

Mail the completed survey to United Theological Seminary, JoAnn Wagner 4501 Denlinger Rd, Dayton, OH 45426.

1. How accurately do United Theological Seminary’s publications represent the reality of the school?
   - [ ] Very accurately
   - [ ] Somewhat accurately
   - [ ] Neutral
   - [ ] Not entirely accurately
   - [ ] Not at all accurately

2. How appropriately do United’s publications use gender inclusive language?
   - [ ] Very appropriately
   - [ ] Somewhat appropriately
   - [ ] Neutral
   - [ ] Not entirely appropriately
   - [ ] Not at all appropriately

3. If you have ever seen a United advertisement, do you feel it presented the school fairly and honestly?
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No, explain:

4. How often do you read the issues of Keeping in Touch that you receive?
   - [ ] Not at all
   - [ ] Rarely
   - [ ] Sometimes
   - [ ] Usually
   - [ ] Always

5. Number the following types of articles in order of preference with 1 being the type you enjoy the most.
   - [ ] President’s Letter
   - [ ] Faculty News
   - [ ] Featured Students and Alumni/ae
   - [ ] Campus Events
   - [ ] News and Notes
   - [ ] Articles about Programs
   - [ ] Fundraising/Development News

6. Which sections would you like to see improved? Check all that apply:
   - [ ] President’s Letter
   - [ ] Faculty News
   - [ ] Campus Events
   - [ ] News and Notes
   - [ ] Articles about Programs
   - [ ] Featured Students and Alumni/ae

7. What aspects of the seminary would you like to know more about? Check all that apply:
   - [ ] Faculty
   - [ ] Facilities
   - [ ] Alumni/ae
   - [ ] History
   - [ ] Courses
   - [ ] Fundraising
   - [ ] Online Learning
   - [ ] Continuing Education
   - [ ] Administration/Staff

8. What kind of stories would you like Keeping in Touch to feature?

9. Do you receive United’s eNewsletter?
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No

   If you would like to receive it, please provide your email address:

10. How would you rate the content of the eNewsletter?
    - [ ] Poor
    - [ ] Fair
    - [ ] Average
    - [ ] Good
    - [ ] Excellent

11. List two ways we could improve United’s publications.
    a.
    b.

---

Nomination Form for 2011 Alumni/ae Awards

Submit information online at: www.united.edu under the Alumni/ae section or mail this form to: United Theological Seminary, Brice Thomas, Associate Director of Alumni/ae Services and Development, 4501 Denlinger Rd, Dayton, OH 45426.

FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 15, 2011

Your Name: ____________________________  Your Phone: (________)  Your E-mail: ____________________________

Name of Nominee: ____________________________

Select one award for recognition (Effective Ministry Award or Distinguished Alumnus/a Award):

- [ ] Effective Ministry Award: Nominee has developed outstanding (new or unique) ministries, is engaged in a particular local expression of ministry and witness, and serves in challenging areas of ministry defined by characteristics such as geographic region, cross-cultural appointments, etc.

- [ ] Distinguished Alumnus/a: Nominee has obtained denominational, ecumenical, or professional distinction

Reason Nominee’s Ministry Merits Recognition:

__________________________
**CURRENT FACULTY NEWS**


**Dr. David Watson,** Assistant Professor of New Testament has published a new book, Honor Among Christians: The Cultural Key to the Messianic Secret, Fortress Press, 2010. Dr. Watson and **Dr. Jason Vickers,** Associate Professor of Theology and Wesleyan Studies, taught the “Seminary Series” at Ginghambugh UMC, Tipp City, OH.

**Dr. Lisa Hess,** Associate Professor of Practical Theology and Contextual Ministries, is participating in a gathering of seven scholars to delve more deeply into the educational methodologies and issues related to multifaith education in a seminar context. It is sponsored by the Center for Multifaith Education at Auburn Seminary (NYC), funded by the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion.

**Dr. Emma Justes,** Distinguished Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling, presented at the 2010 Clergy Conference of INTEGRIS Baptist Medical Center on October 28. Her talks were entitled “Scared Listening or Sacred Listening: It makes all the Difference,” and “Listening as a Practice of Hospitality: It’s not as Easy as it Sounds.” Both are related to her book, Hearing Beyond the Words (Abingdon Press, August 2006).

**Dr. Andrew Park,** Professor of Theology, was invited by the Boston School of Theology for Consultation on Reconciliation and Peacemaking in August. The group included UMC seminary presidents, three UMC bishops, and other academics and activists. He was also on a regional TBN program speaking about his book Triune Atonement: for Sinners, Victims, and the Whole Creation (The WJK Press, 2009) for 30 minutes on July 2. He taught a summer intensive course for the for the D. Min. program at the Claremont School of Theology in May and June.

**Dr. Wendy Deichmann Edwards,** President and Associate Professor of History and Theology, was elected in June to the Women in Leadership Committee of the Association of Theological Schools.

**RETIRED FACULTY UPDATES**

**Dr. Kathleen A. Farmer** has written several of the exegetical articles for Feasting on the Word and will be writing several more for an online supplement of these preaching-from-the-lectionary resources.

**STAFF UPDATES**

**Phylis Ennist,** United’s Director of Educational Technology and Distance Learning, was recently invited to join the Technology in Theological Education Group Steering Committee, formed by the Association of Theological Schools.

**Brice Thomas ’04,** was recently hired to direct alumni/ae relations, assist the Vice President for Development, and to co-direct the Center for Worship, Preaching and the Arts in the Institute for Applied Theology. Any questions or concerns about United’s alumni/ae programs should be directed to bthomas@united.edu or posted at United’s Facebook page.
Spotlight on United Alums
Faithful and Fit: A Holistic Approach

By Brice Thomas, Associate Director of Alumni/ae Relations

Rev. Melissa Meyers, ’06, Associate Minister of Children, Youth and Young Adult Ministries at Faith United Methodist Church in Orland Park, IL, began working in July of 2010 with this vital church merger to develop programming and outreach activities to a younger generation. FUMC is a merger of three distinct congregations who felt they were not adequately reaching out to their community. Although signs of decline were on the horizon, these congregations saw an opportunity to combine energy and passion before the desperation of decline set in. What evolved was a new-found commitment to fulfill the great commission of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

The risk taking began when each congregation sold its existing building and moved into a movie theater to worship together until they could find permanent space. In less than a year, the opportunity to purchase another existing church building resulted in a campus complete with an athletic complex and facilities for multi-generational ministries.

“It’s is exciting to be appointed to a risk-taking church,” said Meyers. “Starting a few new programs doesn’t seem so risky compared to moving out of your established building! We no longer accept the status quo. There is no need to convince people to reach out to each other. They saw their future, and they wanted to change it.”

Immediately the church began engaging the community with basketball, volleyball, and other athletics to integrate a wellness emphasis into the education and practice of spiritual life. What resulted was an open door for seekers uncomfortable with connecting to a church in traditional ways. Some attend athletic events, but don’t necessarily attend worship.

Once a seeker enters the doorway of athletics, FUMC takes the next step by integrating spiritual formation into a small group program around athletic activities. For example a running club will meet to share joys and prayers, and to reflect on how God has been seen in their daily lives, with the ultimate goal of engaging members in a common mission activity. The next phase is to then nurture emerging worship experiences within these spiritual groups.

Meyers said she was influenced by a training program offered through the Institute of Congregational Development, a two-year new church start program within the Northern Illinois UMC Conference. That program and her experiences at United taught her that, theologically, the church is not a building. Her student core group experience modeled a discipleship mechanism that stressed accountability to individual and group spiritual growth.

“United also gave me theological perspectives on my feelings and experiences in ministry,” she said. “It gave me an excitement and enthusiasm about being in the church, and to love the church even in the midst of challenges. She said a memorable lesson came from Dr. Ty Inbody who said, “Any Christian who doesn’t love and hate the church at the same time doesn’t really understand the church!”

Meyers said her advice for current and incoming students is this: Learn what self-care is. Being active in a church can quickly wear you down. “I see a spiritual director once a month. I am committed to a personal physical training program. I have a designated room in the parsonage for sacred disciplines, and I protect my own Sabbath. You also need to be clear about your goals for seminary … but be flexible. Know where you are headed, but be prepared for detours. Always enjoy the journey. Church renewal begins with renewing yourself first.”

Rev. Melissa Meyers, ’06, Provisional Member, Northern Illinois Conference, UMC
pastormelissa@faithumcop.org

Floyd and Elaine Flake Certificate in Music Ministry

United’s new certificate program, the Floyd and Elaine Flake Certificate in Music Ministry, will begin in January 2011. This six-course program is designed to provide outstanding leadership of music ministry in the twenty-first century Christian Church. Courses include Teaching Biblical Faith and Ministry, Theology in Music, Spiritual and Music Ministry Formation, Congregational Songs, Technology in Music Ministry, and Ensemble Leadership. For more information about this program, please visit the website at www.united.edu or contact the program’s director, Jeremy Winston, at 937.529.2201 or jwinston@united.edu.
Did you know all United alumni/ae receive the following benefits of life-time membership in the Alumni/ae Association?

30% discount to United’s first annual “Light the Fire” Church Renewal Conference on Mar. 27 – 28, 2011 featuring Dr. Leonard Sweet

30% discount to the 2011 Heck Lectures on May 11, 2011 featuring Dr. Walter Brueggemann

30% discount to any Lifelong Learning program through the Institute for Applied Theology at United (including our emerging online and hybrid course offerings)

30% discount to any Regional Alumni/ae Exploring the Faith Lecture Series event

30% discount to audit any Master’s level class with approval of instructor for $100 per class. Just click on the Lifelong Learning Tab at www.united.edu for a list of potential courses to audit

FREE Planned Giving and Stewardship workshops and Fundraising consultation through United’s Advancement office

Lessons in Renewal
Exploring the Faith

Church renewal can remain theoretical or even hypothetical until a congregation begins taking steps toward change. The saying goes, “If nothing changes, then nothing changes.”

As United continues to expand its emphasis on renewing the church, sharing experiments in renewal and the lessons learned are integral to the success of the next generation of pastors who are facing a church in decline.

United’s regional “Exploring the Faith” lecture series for our alumni/ae pastors and their lay ministers provides an opportunity to delve into issues related to the Church in the 21st century. Our lecturers in this series are not only scholars, but ordained ministers who care deeply about the life of faith. These lectures are intended to be scholarly and practical, evocative of conversation, and rooted in Scripture and tradition.

These regional alumni/ae continuing education events are being organized around the following themes:

- The Confessions of Faith: A Vital Resource for Church Renewal
  Instructor: Dr. Jason Vickers

- The Bible and Church Renewal
  Instructor: Dr. David Watson

- Unboring Church: A Proposal for Renewal
  Instructor: President Wendy Deichmann Edwards

Seven regional locations are scheduled or being developed in the fall and spring:

- Willow Valley DoubleTree Resort in Lancaster, PA
  Date: January 30 – 31, 2011
  Instructor: Dr. Jason Vickers

- Hyde Park UMC Tampa, FL; Lindsey Wilson College in KY; Indiana Wesleyan; University of Indianapolis; East Ohio; Detroit

You can register for these alumni/ae gatherings and continuing education events at www.united.edu. Click on the Alumni/ae Tab and then the Exploring the Faith menu item on the left. If you are interested in hosting an alumni/ae event in your area, please contact Rev. Brice Thomas, Associate Director of Alumni/ae Relations for more information. 937.529.2256 or bthomas@united.edu
Phonathon 2010
More than 60 students, faculty, staff and alumni/ae participated in our Annual Phonathon during two weeks in October. Calling alumni/ae to check in, share prayers, and update contact information was a valuable way to encourage better communication and increase scholarship to current and future students. In the photo at left (from left) Aaron Smith (student), Sherri Blackwell, '07, JoAnn Wagner (staff), Brice Thomas, '04 (staff), and Valdrie Walker (student) make phone calls.

Alumni/ae Gathering and Luncheon 5/10/10
Community UMC in Harrison City, PA
(Row 1 from left) John Stubbs, '68, John E. Ciampa, '73, Dr. Wendy Deichmann Edwards, Rev. Brice Thomas, '04, James F. Bray, '64; (Back Row from left) Arnold Rhodes, '68, Janet Flanagan, '67, Sharon Schwab, '77, David Eversdyke, '71, Raymond Lyon, '78, Bishop George Bashore, '58, and Carolyn Bashore. (Not pictured: Patricia Ciampa, '95, Randall Flanagan)

Alumni/ae Gathering and Luncheon 4/22/10
Nardin Park UMC, Farmington Hills, MI
Hosts: Rev. Dale Miller, '92 and Rev. Susan Youmans, '05

O'Brien Library Dedicated
On September 8, the United community gathered for the dedication and naming of the Elmer J. and Betty A. O'Brien Library. The O'Briens launched the naming opportunity with a $500,000 gift commitment, and an additional $100,000 will be raised to fulfill one-half of the library naming rights. At left the O'Briens pose with a portrait that will hang outside the library.

Retired Faculty
Retired faculty gathered at the Seminary recently for lunch and their regular meeting. Seated (from left) are Patricia Sheaffer, Marjorie Pohly, Kenneth Pohly, Donald Rogers; Standing (from left) Aaron Sheaffer, Kathleen Farmer, Tyron Inbody, Donald Gorrell, Lois Gorrell, Romaine Frey, Robert Frey, Patricia Frey, and June Bar.
Keep In Touch with United

To submit any of the forms below, please do one of the following:
Email the information to: utsalumline@united.edu
or mail to: United Theological Seminary, 4501 Denlinger Rd., Dayton, OH 45426.

1. Update Your Contact Information
Please fill out the whole form if any of the information below has changed

Your Name:   Grad Year:  

Address:  

City:  State:  Zip:  

Home Phone: (       ) Office Phone: (       )  

E-mail:  

2. Entry for News and Notes Section
Provide alumni/ae news to be included in the News and Notes Section of KJT.