



HOOSIER UNITED METHODIST
NEWS

March 2008

Hoosier United Methodist NEWS is designed for use with church newsletters or worship bulletins, bringing news of the United Methodist state and world “connection” home to congregations. It is a free service of Indiana Area United Methodist Communications, www.inareaumc.org. We welcome your comments and questions via e-mail: editor@inareaumc.org; or by post: Editor, *Hoosier United Methodist News*, 1100 W. 42nd St., Suite 210, Indianapolis, IN 46208. Daniel R. Gangler, editor; Erma Metzler, layout editor

Appointment listings at www.inareaumc.org

Harvard administrator named DePauw’s 19th president



Photo courtesy of DePauw

DePauw University President Robert G. Bottoms (right) welcomes the University’s President-elect Brian W. Casey to the school’s campus in Greencastle.

GREENCASTLE, Ind. (DePauw) – Dr. Brian W. Casey, associate dean for academic affairs in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University, will become the nineteenth president of United Methodist-related DePauw University, effective July 1.

The appointment of Casey was announced Feb. 21 by R. David Hoover, chair of DePauw’s Board of Trustees and chairman of the board, president and chief executive officer of Ball Corporation, at a morning news conference at Independent Colleges of Indiana in Indianapolis.

“A nine month international presidential search – the most comprehensive in DePauw’s 171-year history - has yielded a very special leader,” said Hoover, a 1967 graduate of the University.

Casey, 44, joined the Harvard administration in 2005 and previously served as assistant provost at Brown University. He has taught at both Brown and Harvard. He began his career as an attorney with the Wall Street law firm of Davis Polk & Wardwell.

Casey will succeed Dr. Robert G. Bottoms, the longest-serving president in DePauw history, who has guided the University since 1986. Last April, Bottoms announced plans to step down from the presidency at the conclusion of the 2007-08 academic year and become Chancellor of the University and director of the new Janet Prindle Institute for Ethics.

Confirmands from across the state hang for a day with Bishop Mike

ZIONSVILLE, Ind. – More than 400 youth and their adult sponsors, packed First UMC in Zionsville on Saturday, March 1. They came to hang with their Bishop Mike Coyner.

This is the second year Coyner spent a day with confirmands - middle school and high school youth going through confirmation classes in their home congregations.

Confirmation youth came to be affirmed by Bishop Mike upon their confirmation and to meet and worship with other confirmands of both North Indiana and South Indiana Conferences.

For ten bucks, groups had their pictures taken with Bishop Mike.

After lunch and worship with a praise band, Coyner spent an hour with confirmands. He talked about the meaning of confirmation as an act of faith making firm ones commitment to Jesus Christ and His church.

“Confirmation is our response to God. We believe in one God expressed to us in three ways. God is known to us in three ways,” Coyner explained.

North outdoor ministries congratulates Mishawaka church

Impact1828, the outdoor ministries program of the North Indiana Conference congratulates First United Methodist Church of Mishawaka and Senior Pastor Larry Whitehead for their visionary planning to reach youth and children for Jesus Christ.

Impact1828 reports, that in just two years, their ministry has

grown from zero to more than 90 campers. Their story is a true testament to a faith community’s ability to turn vision into reality.

Mishawaka First has a powerful story to share about accomplishing such amazing growth and how it has affected their congregation as a whole.



Together Photo

Bishop Mike spent March 1 with confirmation youth like these of Center UMC in Indianapolis.

Whitehead, shares their story: "Camping ministry has been become an incredible blessing to all aspects of the ministry of Mishawaka First UMC. In the fall of 2005 the Church Council embraced a vision for sending 50 kids to camp the next summer. God sent us 68 in 2006! We had 92 campers last year (mini, elementary, middle school and high school) and plans are underway to make an even bigger impact in 2008!"



Photo courtesy First UMC Mishawaka

Youth and sponsors of First UMC in Mishawaka give each other back massages during one of the many North Indiana Conference sponsored camps last summer. The church sent 92 campers in 2007.

See other churches that have risen to the challenge of reaching more youth and children for Jesus Christ at www.impact2818.com/top100/.

Imagine Indiana places focus of new conference on congregations

INDIANAPOLIS – The Imagine Indiana Design Team recently completed its report to the North Indiana and South Indiana Annual Conferences for their approval in creating a new Indiana Conference uniting the existing conferences. Both sessions will consider the 50-page report later this spring.

Each of the state's 1,200 United Methodist congregations is equally represented by clergy and lay members during the two conference sessions.

According to the design team plan, the goal of the new conference is to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

The Imagine Indiana Design Team believes that stronger congregations, better stewardship of God's resources, and a united voice for Christ working in and through the United Methodist Church across Indiana are the expected results of this new plan for a new Indiana Conference.

The plan calls for the focus of the new Indiana Conference to be on congregations, their pastors and members. The 12-member design team believes the new conference will be more conducive to responding to the needs of congregations than the two existing conferences.

The new conference plans to bring ministry resources closer to congregations, the place where people are welcomed into Christian faith and nurtured spiritually, to strengthen congregations.

The complete downloadable Imagine Indiana Design Team Report can be found by logging on to www.inareaumc.org. A printed report will be distributed before the annual conference sessions. Questions about the report can be directed to the Rev. David V.W. Owen at ImagineIndiana@inareaumc.org or Indiana Area of The United Methodist Church, 1100 W. 42nd Street, Suite 210, Indianapolis, IN 46208.

An hour-long presentation about the report will be video streamed on Sunday, March 30, at 7 p.m. ET on www.inareaumc.org. The



presentation will be viewed and discussed at district sites and also can be viewed by any computer connected to the Internet. The presentation will be archived.

Ruth's House finished, soon to open in Evansville

Following six years of dedicated work, Ruth's House has risen at the southwest corner of Walnut and Governor Streets in Evansville. The transitional home operated by a ministry called Reflecting Waters, Inc., a faith-based organization dedicated to women residents, who desire to meet the difficult challenges of recovery from addictions.



Photo courtesy of Reflecting Waters ministry.

Ruth's House, a residential ministry for women recovery from addictions, was dedicated in Evansville on Feb. 16.

This unique Reflecting Waters ministry was begun by the Rev. Ruth E. Milgate, a retired United Methodist pastor of the South Indiana Conference. Ruth's House is now finished and debt free. The home was dedicated Feb. 16 during a special service at the Nazarene Baptist Church in Evansville and will serve women of the greater Evansville area who desire to be in recovery from alcohol and drug addictions.

According to Milgate posing her own question, "Would we do it again, based on the challenges we have had to meet of the last six years as we tried to live out the claim of God in our lives? There is no easy answer, because God's call often takes those who follow it out of their comfort zones! We have also found, though, that God also gives love, grace and mercy for the journeys in which he calls us."

The new home will house each year up to 24 women living out a recovery lifestyle. The six-month program includes: counseling, finding and maintaining employment, learning the discipline of money management, and developing a strong support system through local 12-step programs.

Area receives Lilly Endowment grant to study pastors' finances

INDIANAPOLIS – Indiana Area United Methodist Bishop Mike Coyner announced Feb. 20 that the Indiana Area of The United Methodist Church has received a \$50,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment to conduct a study of the financial and well-being needs of the state's 1,000 United Methodist pastors now serving in 1,200 Indiana congregations.

According to Coyner, the prompting for the study came from the Lilly Endowment who invited several denominations in Indiana to conduct an actual study of pastor's financial needs.

Based on information provided by the United Methodist General Board of Ordained Ministry by ministerial candidates, the clergy school debt has been growing larger and larger with many candidates having school debts of \$30,000 or more, not including other indebtedness.

"After we conduct the survey, we will have factual data about most or all of our active pastors in Indiana, so we will have a better picture of the problem," said Coyner.

The results of this study could be used to prepare a larger grant request of the Lilly Endowment to develop programs and policies to help pastors and their families.