



HOOSIER UNITED METHODIST
NEWS

May/June 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

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Liberia President Sirleaf addresses United Methodists

FORT WORTH, Texas (UMNS) - Liberia President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf told a worldwide gathering of United Methodists that her country and her church share a common commitment to eradicate poverty.

Sirleaf, a member of the Monrovia (Liberia) United Methodist Church, greeted delegates to the denomination’s top lawmaking body as “fellow Christians and fellow Methodists” many times during her April 29 address to the 2008 General Conference.

“This is a special honor for me,” she said. “I am the first African leader and the first female president to address the General Conference of The United Methodist Church.”



President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

Sirleaf, 70, was greeted with cheers, applause and “ululations” from fellow Africans in the assembly. General Conference brings together delegates from around the world every four years to decide church law. The body met April 23-May 2 in Fort Worth.

Governor honors Bill and Gloria Gaither with state’s highest award

Gospel songwriters, singers Bill and Gloria Gaither receive the Sachel award from Governor Mitch Daniels in ceremonies at the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis. INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana’s Governor Mitch Daniels honored gospel music singing and songwriting pioneers Bill and Gloria



Gaither of Alexandria, Ind., on April 2 with the 2008 Sachel Award, the state’s highest honor.

“With all the success they have achieved, the Gaithers still live with us: in the house in which they raised their children, in the way in which they raised those children, in the way in which

I Have Called You Friends

Friends with Christ, Friends with Each Other
John 15:12-15

North Indiana Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church
May 29-31, 2008
Purdue University, West Lafayette
For more information log on to www.nicumc.org

South Indiana Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church
June 5-7, 2008
Indiana University, Bloomington
For more information log on to www.sicumc.org

they and their music have spoken to us and to the better angels of our nature now for 50 plus years,” said Daniels.

The Sachel is given annually by the Governor of Indiana to recognize a lifetime of excellence and moral virtue that has brought credit and honor to Indiana.

The Indianapolis Star named “He Touched Me” (#367 in The United Methodist Hymnal) among the top 10 songs of the 20th century written by a Hoosier. The UM Hymnal also has three other Gaither songs.

Bill Gaither told Together that the three leading users of their music are Southern Baptists, Roman Catholics and United Methodists.

Nationally known organist to retire from New Albany church

NEW ALBANY, Ind. - Dr. Donald Paul Hustad, 89, is perhaps one of the most preeminent experts on church music and worship alive today. He currently serves as the associate organist at Trinity United Methodist Church in New Albany, Ind. He plans to retire in June to move to the Chicago area to be near his family. He will be 90 on Oct. 2.

He has been organist at numerous churches in the United States, taught organ and most notably served as Crusade organist for the

Billy Graham Evangelical Association from 1961 to 1966 working directly with George Beverly Shea, Cliff Barrows and Dr. Graham.

At a tribute to Hustad in Louisville this spring, he was called “the reigning ‘Dean’ of evangelical church music in the United States.”

Trinity United Methodist Church at 2796 Charlestown Road in New Albany will be hosting a retirement celebration on Sunday, May 25. That Sunday will be Hustad’s final Sunday to play for the New Albany congregation at the 9 a.m. worship service. That afternoon at 2 p.m. ET, the church will hold a celebratory event at which Hustad will play some of his favorite hymn arrangements. One of his daughters will join him and play the flute. A variety of recognitions will be presented on “Dr. Don’s” life and service to the church, church music and worship.

Janitors’ victory points way to good jobs with health care



More than 200 pastors and church members, including many United Methodists, packed Market Street just west of Monument Circle in downtown Indianapolis this past summer urging corporations to provide a living wage and health care insurance for the city’s janitors.

INDIANAPOLIS - As workers throughout the Midwest face ever-increasing economic pressures, Indianapolis janitors have won higher wages, more work hours and health insurance in their first-ever city-wide union contract.

The groundbreaking agreement will help lift more than 1,000 janitors out of poverty, increasing the income of the average worker and increasing the income of the lowest-paid workers by an incredible 169 percent during the course of the contract, more than doubling the income of workers at the lowest end of the spectrum within the first 20 months.

The agreement comes following similar janitors’ victories reached in the nearby Ohio cities of Columbus and Cincinnati. Cities like Indianapolis have seen a sharp increase in service-sector employment. In all three cities janitors gained the support of hundreds of religious, elected and community leaders, including United Methodist pastors, and urged the region’s numerous Fortune 500 companies, who contract out for cleaning services and who combined take in more than \$1-billion a day in revenues, to support good jobs with health care for the region’s working families, who are falling further behind as corporate CEOs receive record levels of compensation in millions of dollars.

The agreement recently ratified by janitors provides the city’s janitors with victories on four key fronts.

- ◆ Higher Wages
- ◆ More Hours
- ◆ Quality, affordable health insurance
- ◆ Paid holidays and vacation time

Head of new church starts to speak at North Indiana Conference

The North Indiana Annual Conference will not have a conference preacher this year during its session. Indiana Area Bishop Mike Coyner will be preaching at the Memorial Service at the opening of conference on Thursday morning and during the Com-

missioning and Ordination Service on Saturday.

Tom Butcher, the church’s executive officer for New Church Starts in the United States and leader of the Path 1 Team of the General Board of Discipleship, will be speaking Thursday evening May 29 during the Church Development Celebration Service.

Butcher will work to build and implement the denomination’s collaborative effort to train 1,000 new church planters who are planning to start 650 new congregations by 2012. He leads the denomination’s effort to make new disciples of Jesus Christ by planting new churches. A leader with a proven track record of helping to start new churches, during Butcher’s tenure in Congregational Development, he facilitated the start-up of 24 new churches and the revitalization of more than 40 others congregations.

Storey: Methodist Church of Southern Africa to build seminary

A UMNS photo by Linda Green.



The Rev. Peter Storey, former bishop of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, talks about the scheduled opening of a new seminary in 2009. He will speak at the South Indiana Conference on Friday, June 6.

The Methodist Church of Southern Africa is working to open a Methodist seminary that will develop leaders to transform the church and the nation of

South Africa.

“Leadership is the gift and skill of moving other people into transformative action in the world,” said the Rev. Peter Storey, former bishop of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa.

During a presentation sponsored by the Upper Room earlier this year, a ministry of the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, Storey talked about the challenges faced by his country - poverty, pandemic diseases, crime, corruption, racism, education crises and environmental degradation.

Storey is chairman of the project to open the new seminary, which is scheduled to enroll its first 35 students next January. The seminary will provide candidates for the ministry with three years of residential, spiritual and academic training and internships - instead of the current six years of on-the-job training

The seminary will be named in honor of the late Rev. Seth Mokitimi, who “models the kind of minister the seminary seeks to produce,” said Storey

The new seminary “is not about bricks and mortar” but about developing life-changing spiritual leaders to transform the church and the nation of South Africa, Storey said

Transformational pastors, he said, have qualities that include a spiritual life nourished by Christ; personal conduct that is above reproach; accountability to colleagues and the church; ability to interpret Scripture faithfully and preach spiritual liberation effectively; and a passion to work for justice, reconciliation and unity of all people

Storey will preach during the ordination-commissioning service at the South Indiana Annual Conference session at the Indiana University Auditorium in Bloomington on Friday, June 6, at 7:30 p.m.

He also will speak at the Duke Divinity School breakfast at 7 a.m. in State Room West of Memorial Union. Information about tickets is available through the South Indiana Conference Web site at www.sicumc.org.