

Ken's Comments

It would be wonderful if conflict never happened in our churches. Or would it? Conflict is a sign that people are talking about issues that matter. Conflict itself is neither good nor bad. The real question is how we handle it when it occurs.

The Bible is full of stories about conflict within the community of faith. Moses, Miriam, and Aaron had disagreements. Jesus had serious conflicts with the Pharisees and Sadducees. The disciples occasionally quarreled among themselves. The Book of Acts records many conflicts among people and groups in the early church. A careful reading of Paul's letters will reveal that he often faced tough problems posed by his missionary congregations and their factions.

So the problem is not with conflict itself but how it is managed. In Holston Conference we have been seeking to use "holy conferencing" as a way to discuss important issues which often divide us. Here are some useful guidelines which can be utilized by any group when discussing a potentially divisive issue or concern:

1. Every person is a child of God. Always speak respectfully. One can disagree without being disagreeable. Separate the person from the issue. Avoid personalizing conflict.
2. As you patiently listen and observe the behavior of others, be open to the possibility that God can change the views of all parties in the discussion.
3. Listen patiently before formulating responses.
4. Strive to understand the experience out of which others have arrived at their views.
5. Be careful in how you express personal offense at differing opinions. Otherwise discussion may be inhibited.
6. Accurately reflect the views of others when speaking. This is especially important when you disagree with that position.
7. Avoid using inflammatory words, derogatory names, or an excited and angry voice.
8. Avoid making generalizations about individuals and groups. Make your point with specific evidence and examples.
9. Remember that people are defined, ultimately, by their relationship with God, not the flaws we discover, or think we discover, in their views and actions.

We should not be afraid of conflict. It is a sign people really care about what is happening and are not passive or apathetic. But we do believe Christians can discuss important issues without the acrimonious debate that often leaves some feeling like winners and others like losers. We can change the dynamics of a situation through honest, open, compassionate conversation on matters which we are passionate. Don't you think?

Calling All Men!

"A gathering to strengthen the faith of men" -- that's the theme behind the retreat sponsored by the United Methodist Men of Holston Conference meeting in Sevierville, Tennessee on August 15-16 at the Sevierville Events Center. Speakers include Bishop James Swanson, Reverend Allen Black and Reverend Jason Roe. Special guests include singer, Jason Crabb and comedian, Brad Stine. In addition to the worship, singing, and special entertainment, participants will have the opportunity to attend two workshops chosen from a listing of six workshops. For more detailed information about the event, including registration and lodging, go to the web site: www.CallingAllMen.net. You do not have to be a member of United Methodist Men to participate in this special weekend. The event is open to all interested men of the conference. Let's have a good group of men from Oak Ridge District!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

July

3-Ray & Alice Petty (A)	18-Brent Hall (B)
4-Ray Petty (B)	19-Barbara Fox (B)
5-James Guthrie (B)	20-Jim Furches (B)
6-Mary Arnold (B)	22-Brad Nance (B)
8-Gary Atwater (B)	22-Betty Smalley (B)
8-Gary & Janice Atwater (A)	23-Bill Akers (B)
8-Gayle Crabtree (B)	23-Jason Crandall (B)
10-Kevin & Stephanie Blue (A)	23-Kenneth Faught (B)
11-Brad Stapleton (B)	23-Linda Justice (B)
13-Janice Cate (B)	24-Leann Crandall (B)
13-Nancy Cole (B)	24-Kethy Rimmer (B)
14-Betty Dreyer (B)	28-Lynn Trotter (B)
16-Billy Kurtz (B)	30-James & Diane Bailes (A)
17-Vicki Hall (B)	30-Gary Tye (B)

Joys and Concerns

Our prayers are offered for:

- ✦ Rev. Scott Ketron, who recently had surgery.
- ✦ Rev. Herbert Daugherty, who has been diagnosed with ALS and is undergoing treatments.
- ✦ Rev. Leonard Arnold, who is undergoing chemo therapy treatments.
- ✦ Rev. Robert Dreyer, who has been admitted to NHC.

Sympathy and prayers are offered for:

- ✦ Rev. Sue Lynn Johnson and family, upon the death of her mother, Latinize Smith.

**How is your church going to
"Offer Them Christ"
in 2008-2009?**

Oak Ridge District Clergy Meeting Schedule

2008	
July 15	Clergy Family Picnic (Cove Lake; 6:30 p.m.)
District Wide Clergy Meeting First UMC, Oak Ridge 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	
August 14	September 11
October 9	November 6
December 11	
2009	
January 9	February (No Meeting)
March 12	April 16
May 14	June (No Meeting)

ATTN OAK RIDGE DISTRICT CLERGY: Make plans now to meet our new pastors and their families at the Oak Ridge District Clergy Picnic on Tuesday, July 15, at Cove Lake State Park. We will begin gathering at 6:00 p.m. and plan to eat at 6:30 p.m. There will be a time for introductions following the meal. The Nominating Committee will also present their recommendations for clergy officers for the 2008-2009 conference year. Please be thinking about any program ideas you would like to suggest to the new officers. There will also be a sign-up sheet for devotions at our scheduled meetings.

YOUTH DIRECTOR -- POSITION OPEN

Rockwood United Methodist Church is seeking a part-time youth director. Sunday afternoon and Wednesday evening Bible study (or a different evening). 10-15 hours per week. Salary negotiable. Contact church at 865 / 354-0753 or e-mail at rockwoodumc@bellsouth.net for job description and application.

CHOIR DIRECTOR -- POSITION OPEN

Rockwood United Methodist Church is seeking a part-time choir director. Sunday morning and Wednesday evening practice. 10-15 hours per week. Salary negotiable. Contact church at 865 / 354-0753 or e-mail at rocwoodumc@bellsouth.net for job description and application.

Eye of the Storm: Disaster Response in the US



UMCOR/Alize DaBera

In the wake of the most turbulent storms UMCOR responds, rebuilds, walks with survivors and stays until the job is done. United Methodists have a reputation for staying until the job is done in some of the most challenging disaster situations in the US. Through its humanitarian aid and disaster relief agency, UMCOR, the church responds to domestic catastrophes such as hurricanes, tornadoes and fires, as well as disasters of human origin.

- **Early response.** UMCOR calls for flood buckets and other relief supplies and responds to invitations from bishops of affected regions to provide emergency grants and planning for long-term assistance.
- **Trained disaster workers respond.** Through local United Methodist churches and trained disaster response workers, UMCOR provides immediate relief.
- **Looking ahead to long-term recovery.** UMCOR's main focus in any disaster is the long rebuilding process. Recovery from some devastating storms may take up to five years or more—well after the media have stopped paying attention.



We're 100% efficient. Every dollar you give to this emergency will provide humanitarian relief and recovery only for this emergency.

Through your donations UMCOR is delivering hope and making real the presence of Christ in disasters on behalf of all United Methodists.

Your simple gifts of cash bring hope in these ways:
\$5.00 Provide a warm dry blanket for someone whose home is flooded after a hurricane.

\$45.00 Underwrite one bucket of cleanup supplies.

\$100.00 Support trauma counseling for a family who lost everything.

\$500.00 Buy building materials to repair an uninsured home.

In all projects UMCOR seeks the involvement of community and religious leaders. This ensures a holistic and integrated response, true to Christ's mandate to serve heart, mind, spirit, and body. Please consider supporting such ministries today with your gift.

How to Give

Your contributions to UMCOR Advance #901670, Domestic Disaster Response, will enable UMCOR to respond effectively and quickly. Write the # and name of the project on your offering envelope and in the memo line of your check.

Offering For local church and Annual Conference credit, put your gift in the offering plate on Sunday.

Check Make your check to UMCOR and send to UMCOR, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087.

Credit Card Call toll-free (800) 554-8583



July 2007

The United Methodist Committee on Relief delivers hope and enhances human dignity through food, shelter, health and peace projects.

UMCOR
475 Riverside
Drive Room 330
New York, NY
10115
<http://umcor.org>

UMCOR is part of the General Board of Global Ministries.

Annual Conference Clergy Matters

We welcome the following clergy into the Oak Ridge District:

Ray Petty (Alice) --- Andersonville UMC/Mt. Pleasant UMC
Glenna Manning (John) --- Beaver Ridge UMC
Jack Sills (Maria) --- Bethel UMC (Knox)
Gary Fox (Barbara) --- Central UMC, LC
John Brewster (Gincy) --- First Farragut UMC
Catherine "Katye" Fox --- Harriman UMC/Midtown Valley UMC
Jake Beeler --- Thompson's Chapel UMC
Kenneth Faught (Christian) --- LaFollette UMC
William "Billy" Kurtz (Karla) --- Luminary UMC
Jason Crandall (Leann) --- Martel UMC
Lewis Weaver (Marcia) --- Valley View UMC/Heiskell UMC
Jim Marshall (Betty) --- Well Springs UMC/Cawood UMC

Clergy Retiring:

Kenneth Henderlight, Serving as Superintendent
Oak Ridge District

Clergy moving out of the district:

Jonathan Jonas to First, Marion
David Henderson to Trinity, Wise/Appalachian Prayer Fellowship-Darby
Amy Cook to White Oak
Lyle White to Big Spring-Valley Head
Patricia Bishop to Calhoun/Spring Creek
Richard Tallent to Englewood-Mars Hill
William "Skip" White to Friendsville
James Ferguson to First Dandridge

Congratulations to:

Newly Commissioned Probationers:
Jason Crandall, Martel UMC

Congratulations to:

Newly Commissioned Deacons:
Glenna Manning, Beaver Ridge UMC,
Minister of Programs

