



The Link



4th Avenue United Methodist Church, 318 W. St. Catherine, Louisville, Ky. 40203 502-585-2176
Official Supporter of the Fairness Campaign
Pastor: Rev. Jean Hawxhurst
June 2008

Pastor Jean Reports on General Conference

Every four years our United Methodist General Conference convenes in order for representatives from all the annual conferences to come together for worship, discussion and decision-making on behalf of our denomination. The most recent General Conference was held in Fort Worth, Texas April 22 through May 2. Representing you and me, the Kentucky Annual Conference sent a delegation of 14 people, half laity and half clergy.

Several significant things occurred about which I know you will be interested. I will share only basics here. For more and detailed information, log onto umc.org.

- g A new hymnal revision committee was approved.
- g **There will now be only a one-year membership requirement for persons who want to enter the process of ordination in the UMC.**
- g With a bishop's approval, deacons will now be allowed to administer the sacraments.
- g **The idea of "regional conferences" will be explored for implementation.**
- g A new litany for our United Methodist Social Creed was adopted.
- g **A budget of \$642,000,000 for this next quadrennium was approved.**
- g The mission statement of our denomination was changed to include the mandate to make disciples of Jesus Christ "for the transformation of the world." This represents a shift from a focus on personal salvation to a greater, world-wide purpose.
- g **The statement of membership vows was changed to include the idea of "witness" or faithful living. So, now when members join our congregation, they will be asked if they will support Fourth Avenue with their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.**
- g There were demonstrations against war, torture, harsh treatment of immigrants, and the phrase in our social creed that says "homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching."
- g **The words "incompatible with Christian teaching" were retained in our Social Creed, and a powerful witness of lamentations resulted.**
- g A resolution was passed "on opposition to homophobia and heterosexism." The General Board of Church and Society was tasked with developing resources and ways to witness against these facets of marginalization.

- g** A resolution encouraging divestment from companies abetting genocide in Darfur was passed.
- g** A resolution entitled "Welcoming the migrant to the US and Global Migration and the Quest for Justice" was passed.
- g** **The Judicial Council now has its first woman president with Rev. Susan Henry-Crow, a chaplain at Emory University.**
- g** The General Commission on Religion and Race celebrated 40 years of work and ministry.
- g** **Approval was granted for the General Board of Church and Society and the Women's Division to continue their memberships in the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.**
- g** A resolution calling on Texas to end the death penalty in that state was passed.
- g** **The Clergy Letter Project was endorsed. It adds a statement to the Book of Resolution that reads as follows: "The United Methodist Church endorses The Clergy Letter Project and its reconciliatory programs between religion and science, and urges United Methodist clergy participation." You can read the resolution and see how it reads in context here: <http://calms.umc.org/2008/Text.aspx?mode=Petition>**
<<http://calms.umc.org/2008/Text.aspx?mode=Petition&Number=990>> &Number=990
- g** The General Convention also adopted two other resolutions that are very supportive of evolution. The first explicitly adds the acceptance of evolution to the Methodist's Book of Discipline. In part, the resolution states that "We find that science's descriptions of cosmological, geological, and biological evolution are not in conflict with theology." You can read the full resolution here: <http://calms.umc.org/2008/Text.aspx?mode=Petition>
<<http://calms.umc.org/2008/Text.aspx?mode=Petition&Number=50>> &Number=50.
- g** **The final resolution adds a new statement to the Methodist's Book of Resolution dealing with creationism and intelligent design. The wording reads as follows, "Therefore be it resolved that the General Conference of the United Methodist Church go on record as opposing the introduction of any faith-based theories such as Creationism or Intelligent Design into the science curriculum of our public schools." The specific information is available here: <http://calms.umc.org/2008/Text.aspx?mode=Petition>**
<<http://calms.umc.org/2008/Text.aspx?mode=Petition&Number=839>> &Number=839.

I hope this brief retelling of actions interests you and is a catalyst for you to go and learn more!

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Jean

Sanctuary Worship in June

In the 10:45 service:

June 1 – A Service of Holy Communion with a focus on "Peace with Justice." Pastor Jean will preach on Romans 1:16-17, 3:22-31

June 8 – Craig Tuck will preach

June 15 – The Rev. Robert Edgar will preach on this Father's Day. (See information below on Bob Edgar.)

June 22 – Pastor Jean will preach on Romans 6:1-11.

June 29 – Pastor Jean will preach on Romans 6:12-23.

Friend needed!

One of our Fourth Avenue sight impaired shut-ins would so much appreciate someone who could visit at least every other week to read to her and write letters. Her nursing home is close to Fourth Avenue church. If you would like to be such a friend, please let Paula Sammons or Pastor Sarah know. You would be a blessing!

The Rose Circle will meet Tuesday, June 3 at 10:30 am in the church parlor. Teddye Noel is the hostess.

(Note: Correction - In the May issue of the Link, Bishop Michael Watson was listed as a member of the California Conference. He is actually the leader in the Alabama-West Florida Conference. Sorry!

The Board of Trustees will meet Tuesday, June 10 at 6pm in the New Hope Classroom.

News Items From Pastor Jean

Rev. Bob Edgar to Preach at Fourth Avenue

Our brother, Richard Beliles is the leader for the Kentucky Chapter of "Common Cause," a nonpartisan, non-profit, citizen group who lobbies to make government at all levels more honest, open and accountable. Because of that honorable work, Richard has successfully invited Rev. Bob Edgar to share with us on Sunday, June 15 at the 10:45 service.

In May 2007 Rev. Edgar was named President and CEO of the national Common Cause organization. He arrived at Common Cause with a long history of leadership and public service that included vocational ministry in the United Methodist Church, twelve years in Congress, and seven years as the General Secretary of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.

He was elected to the US House of Representatives in 1974. While there, he led efforts to improve public transportation, fought wasteful water projects, and served on the committee that investigated the deaths of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and President John F. Kennedy. Now, under Rev. Edgar's leadership Common Cause is championing campaign funding reform, improved ethics, open media, and voting reform. He also sits on the boards of Families USA and the National Religious Partnership for the Environment.

Rev. Edgar received a BA from Lycoming College (PA), a M.Div. from Drew, and holds four honorary doctoral degrees. He is the author of "Middle Church," a call to progressive people of faith to take back the moral high ground from right-wing extremists and make America a better and less divided country.

Kentucky Annual Conference

As we begin the month of June, we also begin this year's Kentucky Annual Conference. It will be held this year June 1 – 4 at the Galt House in downtown Louisville. Volunteers are needed in lots of areas to help make our out of town guests feel welcome. Contact Annie Haigler (ahaig@netzero.net) to offer your assistance. We will also be hosting several lunches here at Fourth Avenue. If you want to serve

as a greeter/host for these events, see Pastor Jean.

Events you may want to attend at the Annual Conference include the following. (All events take place in the Galt House downtown.)

Monday, **June 2** – 8:30 a.m. - Opening worship with Bishop Ann Sherer preaching

Monday, **June 2** – 1:30 p.m. – Memorial service

Monday, **June 2** – 7:30 p.m. – Ordination service

Tuesday, **June 3** – 8:00 a.m. – Morning worship and Bible study with Leonard Sweet

Tuesday, **June 3** – 7:30 p.m. – Mission and Ministry Celebration

Tuesday, **June 3** – 9:00 p.m. – Reception for Bishop and Mrs. King

Wednesday, **June 4** – 8:00 a.m. – Morning worship and Bible study with Leonard Sweet

Wednesday, **June 4** – 2:00 p.m. – Closing worship and the reading of appointments

Help Ministries

HELP Ministries is our local area ministry, in which 6 local churches come together to provide ministry services for those in our neighborhood in need. Mary Anne Tenfelde and Jean Hawxhurst represent Fourth Avenue on the HELP board. There are lots of ways you can get involved in this work, particularly through volunteering to serve in the HELP office assisting persons in need. See Mary Anne if you would like more information, or would like to offer a couple hours a month/week to this important community ministry.

Motet Singers Concert

The Motet Singers will offer a benefit concert on Sunday, June 1 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul United Methodist Church. They will sing a mixture of religious and popular music. Tickets are \$10 each and all proceeds go directly to HELP Ministries. To purchase a ticket see Laura Curry, Larry Curry, David Stewart or Pastor Jean.

Meetings and Events in June

U **June 1** – Annual Conference begins – Galt House

U **June 1** – 7:00 p.m. – Motet Singers Benefit Concert – St. Paul UMC

U **June 5** – 7:00 p.m. – Interfaith Pride Service

– First Unitarian Universalist

- U **June 7** – 10:00 a.m. – Wesley Walk for Others – St. Paul UMC
- U **June 8** – Noon – special reception after worship for new couples and babies!
- U **June 9** – 5:45 p.m. – ad hoc community group
- U **June 21** – 10:30 a.m. – Progressive UM’s of KY – Buechel UMC

Thank You’s

- 9 to an anonymous donor for our lap top computer that makes the power point presentations possible.
- 9 to those who volunteer with the Open Door lunches by hauling the food from Dare To Care, fixing and serving the food at mealtime
- 9 to Jack Steiner who has been helping out around the office.
- 9 to Brendan of Boy Scout Troop 317 who will be creating new furniture for our garden area.

Congratulations!!

- U to Andrew Smith who was baptized into the church in May, and to Andrew and Ashley Sullivan, who are engaged to be married this October.
- U to Judy Morrison and Russell Behanan who are engaged to be married!
- U to Karen Rankin and Ron Newbold who are engaged to be married in July!
- U to Jeanine, Scott and Zachary Weideback who are expecting a baby!
- U to Gil Schroerlucke whose memoirs are now published!

Needs of the Church

- | someone to carry on the ministry of the Fourth Avenue Coffee House.
- | a tenant to rent our third floor office.
- | cooks among us who are willing to teach others how to create special dishes.

Nurture Team

The Nurture Team will host a get together at Friendship House June 20 at 2:00 PM. They will, also, have their first community ice cream social June 28 at 2:00 PM.



Our Resident Clown

From Sarah Ewing

We have all enjoyed the antics of our own Hobo Harold (aka Harold Williams)! He has entertained us - and amazed us. Our children have oohed and aahed as he made them fanciful creatures with his balloons. What many of us don't know is that Harold is Secretary of his local clown unit named INKY (IN -diana/KY), the Clown unit for north central Kentucky and southern Indiana and is also their chaplain. Harold recently attended the National Clowns of America International meeting in Richmond Virginia. His INKY unit was in the top 10, finishing 7th, in the Group Skit Competition. Their skit was titled “Run



Harold Williams

For the Noses” and you’ll recognize him in the picture boosting next year’s convention in Louisville. As you can see, Harold is second from the right. When you see Harold staffing his trinkets table in Central Hall, give him a “high five” for congratulations. Incidentally, all the profits from the table stay right here in Fourth Avenue. Way to go, Harold!

Memorial

A gift in memory of Elaine Curry has been received from Trudi and Grover DuVal

A Word From Kate

Dear Fourth Avenue Faith Community, I would like to thank you for the honor and privilege to serve alongside you. I really appreciate your willingness to "take on" a second seminarian. Serving God at Fourth Avenue has been a rich and rewarding experience for me.

I would also like to thank you for the very generous love offering you gave me. This gift is a tremendous blessing and I am very grateful to you for it. Please know you remain in my prayers. I promise not to be a stranger!

Many of God's richest blessings and peace in Christ,

Kate Crandell

(When your editor received the following note and article, he felt obliged to comply. Who would dare say no to April?)

Gilbert: Regardless of what you think, PRINT this article. Love, April

I Did What I Could: A Memoir by Gilbert Schroerlucke is more than a memoir, it is a story of love and commitment to God, family, church and community. For many of us it is guide to social justice and courage. It is a beautiful story of growing up in a less than perfect circumstance and weaving that experience into a meaningful future of love and outreach to others.

I have known Gilbert and Bettye for many years. Unlike Donna Morton, who wrote the touching preface to the book, I don't remember how or when I met Gilbert and Bettye. What I do know is that both have dramatically impacted my life. They have gently pushed me to think about difficult issues that I would prefer to skip over, they have supported me through joyous and heartbreaking times, and they have set an example of what real live Christianity is all about.

I highly recommend *I Did What I Could: A Memoir* to all. It is a compelling book to read. It is a wonderful window into the life of a man and his

family, his commitment to social justice, and his ongoing effort to encourage the church to be open and welcoming to all people who love God and seek justice in this imperfect world. I am honored to know and love Gilbert, I'm grateful that he and Bettye are in my Sunday School class, and I feel blessed that he is a member of our Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church congregation.

April DuVal, Friend and Admirer

(Haven't gotten a copy yet? Want one? There are a few left. There is no charge. Ed)

It Was Hat Sunday



Wednesday Forums

June 4: First of Two Sessions on Paul - Biography

June 11: Second of Two Sessions on Paul - Theology

June 18: Kathy McKinley on planning funerals, plus a survey on the future of the forum

June 25: United Methodist Women's potluck, and Pastor Jean talking about the plants of the Bible

We will, then, take a break for July and August

From Caryl Keeley, President of United Methodist Women

A huge big thanks to the women of Fourth Avenue UMC. Your support of the Healing Place For Women and the collection of eye glasses for the Lion's Club Eye Bank is commendable. This month 20 pairs of eye glasses have been collected. Several people's vision will be greatly improved because of these efforts. Keep up the good work.

On June 25 th theUMW will sponsor the all family pot luck dinner. This will be the last Wednesday .night dinner until Fall. So come out and bring your wonderful food and happy faces. We will have a relaxing evening with our church family. Yeah!!! looking forward to seeing all of you wonderful people!!!!!!!!!!!!

Caryl

June Birthdays

June 1	Laura White
June 8	Ephrian Rodriquez
June 8	Mary Anne Tenfelde
June 11	Jack Benz
June 13	Mary Pelly
June 14	Ralph Calveard
June 16	Clementine Robinson **
June 22	Clayton Walls
June 26	Judy Morrison
/June 29	Janie Christensen

** Although she is no longer with us, we will remember Clementine in our thoughts and prayers on her "special" day!

Anniversaries

June 2	Ralph & Carolyn Olds
June 18	Josh & Rynne Luttrell
June 24	Jerry Cappel & Jean Hawxhurst

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Art and Spirituality

Gil's Gallery, a collection of Gil Schroerlucke's handcrafts, pictures of some of his construction projects, and some reactions to his spirituality expressions is currently on display in Central Hall. His show will last through Sunday, June 29th. His meet and greet will be after the worship service on Sunday, June 1st.

Summer Cooking Classes

The culinary artists have spoken. They want to show you how to prepare some of their favorite dishes. .So every Thursday from 2-4pm during the summer months, everyone is invited to participate. .It would be helpful if you plan to participate to let each instructor know so that they can better plan their class.

All classes meet in the kitchen.

The June schedule:

- *5th- Summer Salad-Teddye Noel
- *12th-Marvelous Meat loaf- Jeanne Parcher
- *19th-Irish Stew - Harold Williams
- *26th-Party Sandwich-Bob Boutell

(See Courtland Rose for more details)

Open Door

Our Open Door ministry continues by serving lunch Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and a full meal on Saturdays. Approximately 100 persons are served each time.

This is done entirely by volunteers. Are you one?

A Funny from Jack Steiner

(A notice in a church bulletin)

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

We Welcome New Members



Scott & Jeanine Wiedeback and son, Zachary reside at 217 West Carter Ave., Clarksville, IN. Jeanine is the daughter of Jacqui Lovett

Karen Rankin became a church member on May 4th. (No picture currently available) Karen who resides at 734 Meigs Ave., Jeffersonville, IN. sings in our choir

Robert (Rob) Hoffman transferred his Charge Conference membership to Fourth Ave on May 8. Rob is a resident on the elder tract, to be ordained in one or two years. He will be appointed to the Portland Center in July 2008.

James Crossett, (No picture presently available) who was received into membership May 4 resides at 208 Ardella Court, Louisville, Ky. 40203



Ashley Sullivan and Andrew Smith
Residence: 1303 Culbertson Ave.,
New Albany, IN

Invitation

Karen Rankin and Ron Newbold invite you to attend their marriage ceremony on Sunday, July 6, 2008 at 12:30 PM at Fourth Ave. UMC.

Our Sunday School - The Keystone Class

By Jack Benz

The Keystone Class was established in 1941 for young couples. This was a time of new marriages, family beginnings, career establishment, military commitments (and resulting upheavals). The class provided a special place within the church for Christian fellowship and bonding. Over the years this has been an ever-changing and flexible group with significant impact on our own spiritual growth and the life of the church. In the early years the Keystoners were often asked to give up our space and move to a new classroom. As soon as it was painted, repaired and renovated we were promptly assigned a new area. One of those areas was the closet in the Fellowship Hall and our admittance was by way of the dimly-lit space behind the stage through dripping pipes and spider webs. We still have our portable wooded sign on a chain (in the shape of a keystone) which has hung on many different doors. In the 40's we were fortunate to have some exceptionally qualified teachers to guide us including Lee Blackwell, Atty., Dr. Bonneau P. Murphy, Methodist minister, and class members. Our last teacher was Lucy Mitchell with class participation and discussion. As spiritual, physical and financial needs arose our group was quick to respond willingly and lovingly and always with harmony. Our literature was the International Lesson Series. Our recent membership was predominantly retirees, but anyone was welcome to join our class. Officers in 2006 were: Polly Bennett, Pres., Jean Benz, Vice-Pres., Jack Benz, Treas.

After 67 years of service and declining membership (as we aged) the Keystone Class has now merged with the Circle Fellowship Class.

Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church
318 W. St. Catherine Street
Louisville, KY. 40203

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(Copied from the newsletter of First UMC in Madison, WI.

The Starfish Story

It was still early.

The mist had not yet cleared from the sea.

In the distance, a solitary figure stood throwing objects out over the water.

Walking along the debris-strewn beach, I looked at the masses of starfish scattered everywhere.

The tide had thrown them in, stranding them on the beach.

As the sun rose higher, they would perish.

Approaching the stranger, I could see that it was the starfish he was picking up and returning to the sea.

Our eyes met.

“Do you really think you can help?

There are millions of starfish on this beach.

You can help so few.

Does it really make a difference?

Does it matter?”

He reached down and picked up another starfish, looking at it intently.

“Oh yes,” he replied.

“It matters to this one!”