

The Arbor Vine

Ann Arbor District of The United Methodist Church
Rev. Mark E. Spaw, District Superintendent

May 2014

To be Commissioned/Ordained at Annual Conference

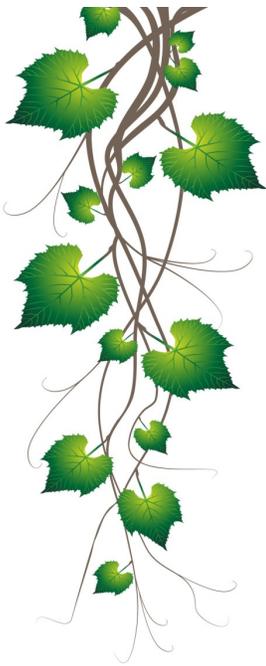
Sue Pethoud	Provisional Deacon
Thomas Snyder	Provisional Deacon
Christine Beaudoin	Provisional Elder
Paul Hahm	Provisional Elder
Andrew Lee	Provisional Elder
Bradley Luck	Provisional Elder
Tina Zimmerman	Deacon
Aaron Kesson	Full Elder
Megan Walther	Full Elder

To Retirement

Faye McKinstry	Clinton
Michael Clemmer	Deerfield, Wellsville
Gary Dawes	Adrian
Steve Khang (On Leave)	Ypsilanti St. Matthew's

Appointments for 2014

Chris Butson	Azalia, London (Jan 1)
Sam Pooley	Deerfield, Wellsville (Jan 1)
Nick Berlanga (Associate)	Plymouth First (Feb 1)
Pam Beedle-Gee	Clinton
Drew Hart	Adrian
Bri Desotell	Ypsilanti First
Michael Desotell	Ypsilanti St. Matthew's
Mark Zender	Britton Grace
Julius Nagy	Springville
Naylo Hopkins	Canton Cherry Hill, Denton Faith
Lawson Crane	Weston



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DISTRICT NOTICES

UNITED METHODIST MEN PLAN EVENTS FOR 2014

June 14 - Canoe Trip Outing, a multi-generational Father's Day
September 20 - at Howell UMC. Breakfast and Speaker

REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMP

Research shows that summer church camp profoundly nurtures faith in children, youth and young adults. Lake Louise Camp and Retreat Center offers a full summer schedule of quality summer camp experience designed to move hearts toward God. You can register at www.umccamps.org. They are also looking for young adult staffers.

GCSRW

The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, an agency of The United Methodist Church, sends out updates on their work. See them at www.gcsr.org.

VISITING MISSIONARIES

Revs. Ut To and Karen Vo-To, GBGM missionaries to Vietnam, will be in Michigan from July 23rd through August 11th. To schedule them to speak at your church, Contact Roberta King, 734-662-8020 or garyandroberta@sbcglobal.net.

KNITTED TOGETHER IN LOVE

Come to Judson Collins and make Prayer Shawls on May 2-3. Come for all or part of the weekend. Quilting, knitting, crocheting and more are welcome. See <http://umccamps.org/pages/detail/1906>, Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Judson-Collins-Center/154320245657#>,-- for brochure and registration. If you could like the Judson Collins page and pass along the prayer shawl retreat information to those who might be interested we'd appreciate it!

YOUTH SERVICE FUND GRANT APPLICATIONS

Grants are available to youth groups that have plans to participate in mission trips, peer listening programs or other events. The application is available on the Young People's Ministries page of www.DetroitConference.org.

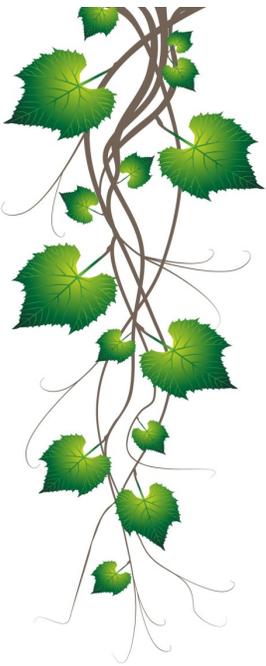
CHURCH SECRETARIES - SAVE THE DATES

The Secretaries Fall Retreat (DCUMCS) will be on October 12-13, 2014 in Mackinaw City at the Bridge Vista Beach Hotel. The theme is going to be finding ourselves in the Bible and we will have an excellent training on some of the UMC paperwork and processes. It will be beautiful up there. Contact Kathy at kathy@carletonumc.com.

The Certification Institute for the Professional Association for United Methodist Church Secretaries will be held July 13-18 in Nashville. This program provides extensive training in United Methodist procedures. It is sponsored by GCFA (General Council on Finance and Administration).

LOCAL CHURCH AUDITS

There is a 25-page document that will be posted soon on AADistrict.org that offers basic advice on setting up and conducting an audit. Look for "The Local Church Audit Guide."



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Spaw's Paws

Some thoughts from your D.S., Rev. Mark E. Spaw

“Mother’s Day, Memorial Day and the Act of Remembering”

I have a great memory, its just short." well, what good is a short memory? The celebrations this month of Mother's Day and Memorial Day got me thinking about the act of remembering. These two wonderful celebrations will hopefully help all of us to remember some things about ourselves and those that have sacrificed and given so much to us. As you celebrate Mother's Day and Memorial Day, give these concepts some thought, prayer, and remember:

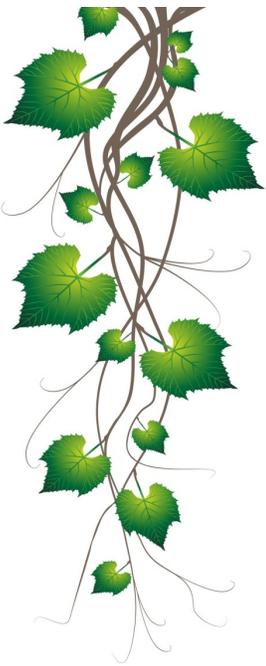
1. Just how important our family is - no matter what shape that "family" might take. (Immediate Family, Relatives, Church Family, Loving Friends, Etc.)
2. Not to take those you love and care about for granted. God has blessed each of us with loving friends and family. LOVE THEM!
3. As I get older, the teachings and discipline of my mother, not always appreciated, nor understood, are becoming greatly appreciated and much more clear in my understanding.
4. Honor those who have gone before us and given their lives so that we might have a chance to live, thrive, and carry on. "Those dead, shall not have died in vain."
5. Not to waste our time or actions, nor hold back in sharing our feelings about those we love. What are we waiting for? Share your love in words and deeds.
6. The parental love shared by our parents is magnified and given divine dimensions by our loving Creator, God Almighty. Through the birth, the life, the death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ we recognize God's parental love for ALL creation.

O, what a joy it is to be loved by those who have shown their love through sacrifice, dedication and giving of themselves. What a joy it is to be loved by God above. Spend time this month in words and deeds of appreciation and affection to those you love, those who need your love, and to those who have loved you. Let's ALL try and remember.

Remembering You,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark". The signature is stylized and appears to be written in a cursive or semi-cursive font.

Rev. Mark E. Spaw, D.S.



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John Dean Town Health Project Update

As of April, Ann Arbor District congregations have pledged a total of \$39,400 over the 3-year project, or nearly one-half of our goal! Nearly \$19,000 has already been sent. Thank you! Planning for a VIM trip to John Dean Town for January 2015 is underway. For information, contact Jill Woodward, Team Leader (and member of South Lyon First UMC), at mar22pjrc@aol.com. Several members of last year's VIM trip are available to speak about the project at your church. Contact Edith Wiarda, Ann Arbor Liberia Task Force Chair, ewiarda@mmtc.org, to schedule.

See more information about the John Dean Town project later in this newsletter.

Imagine No Malaria

The John Dean Town Health Project is an important initiative for the Ann Arbor District. There is more information on this in the following pages. We also support Imagine No Malaria, a project that is a key mission for Bishop Kiesey and for the Conference as a whole.

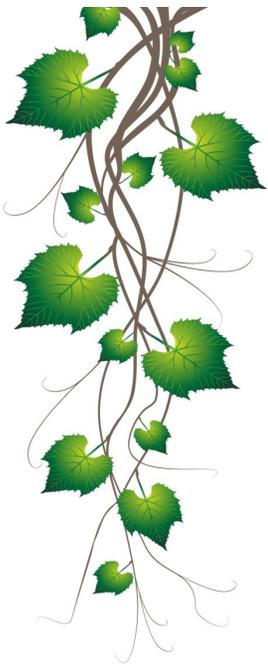
Information on Imagine No Malaria is available at <http://www.minomalaria.org/>.
Donations should be sent to:

Detroit Annual Conference Treasurer's Office
1309 N Ballenger Hwy.
Flint MI 48504
Use Advance Special Number 3021190

Michigan Area Haiti Task Force

Keep up with the good work of the Haiti Task Force by reading their newsletter at

[mahtf_eletter_february2014_forbill.pdf](#)



Defrocked United Methodist Pastor Frank Schaefer to speak at Ann Arbor First

May 10, 2014 - 7 PM

Rainbow Crossing and the First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor (FUMC) are honored to welcome Frank Schaefer to speak in the Sanctuary at 120 S. State, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. His talk will be followed by a Q & A, and a reception in the Wesley Lounge at FUMC.

Frank Schaefer lost his credentials in the United Methodist Church (UMC) in December 2013 because he performed his son's same-gender marriage. Mr. Schaefer is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity.

MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Gail & Tom Burdette | 20 Jim Chapman |
| 4 Julie Ann Pooley | 20 Cathy & Tom Freeman |
| 6 Melanie Carey | 21 Ron & Gayle Fike |
| 10 Evans & Betsy Bentley | 22 Sandra Miller |
| 12 Roy Forsyth | 22 Kevin & Diane Griffin |
| 12 Beverly & Roy Forsyth | 23 Jan & Pete Harris |
| 13 Brad Luck | 24 Mark Spaw |
| 14 Chris & Michael Beaudoin | 24 Doug Olsen |
| 16 Judy Braid | 25 Kevin Griffin |
| 18 Al Bamsey | 28 Gary Dawes |
| 18 Anne Hanna | 30 Aimee Luck |
| 19 Diane Griffin | 30 Jim Braid |
| 19 Barbara & Gary Dawes | 30 Tina Zimmerman & Gregg Sucha |
| 20 Janet Smith | 31 Gwen & Julius Nagy |

PARAMENTS NEEDED

One of our small churches has no paraments, and cannot afford to buy any. Paraments are the linens that go on the altar, lectern, and pulpit. Does your church have some that you no longer need, stored in a closet somewhere? If so, contact Jane at the District Office. 734-663-3939.

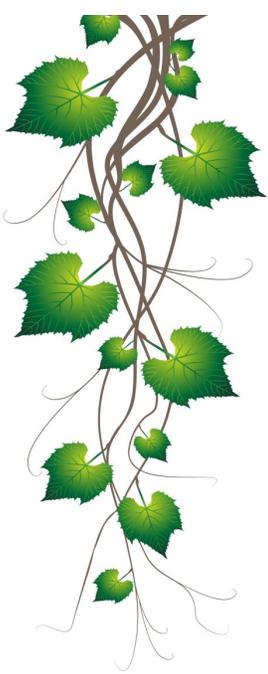
FREE TO A GOOD HOME

- 17 polyester gray choir robes of various sizes
- 1 size 5'1"-5'3" Black robe (owned by Judi Darling)
- 1 red stoles 1 purple/green stole 1 black/gold/purple stole

Contact Novi United Methodist Church, info@umcnovi.com, 248-349-2652

Are there other church supplies that you might give to another church? Are there supplies that you need?

Let Jane know.



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ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2014

Annual Conference will be held at the Adrian campus on May 15-18. The schedule and resolutions will be posted on www.DetroitConference.org.

Annual Conference registration will be done online

Registration for the 2014 Detroit Annual Conference may only be done online this year; no paper registration forms will be available. Those members without computer access are asked to arrange to register using the church office or pastor. Register on www.DetroitConference.org. Materials must also be downloaded from the Conference website and will not be mailed.

Special Covenant Offerings at Annual Conference

There will be two special covenant offerings at Annual Conference this year. There will be no containers. In recent years Haiti and Liberia have requested that we not send containers, but rather assist financially with special ministries.

Covenant Mission Offering - to be split between ministries in Haiti and Liberia to feed children.

Liberia Teacher Training Program - an offering to assist training workshops for school teachers.

Clergy Spouse Luncheon - Saturday, May 17, 2014

12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m. sponsored by the Detroit Conference Clergy Spouse Association on Adrian College Campus in the Ritchie Dining Hall's Adrian Room and hosted by the Blue Water District Clergy Spouses. *BE SURE TO PICK UP YOUR TICKET AT REGISTRATION AND BRING IT TO THE LUNCHEON. TICKETS ARE NOT AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR.* Information on child care can also be found in the Clergy Conference Packet or on the Conference web site.

FYI - Annual Conference in 2016

Due to the timing of General Conference, the Detroit Annual Conference and the West Michigan Annual Conference will hold a joint Conference in 2016, to be held in East Lansing. Business meetings will be held separately, and the program and educational parts will be held together.

Mediation Skills

Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders will be presented by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center on June 2-6, 2014, at Utica United Methodist Church, Sterling Heights. The MSTI consists of a combination of lectures as well as discussion and guided practice in role plays. The training will look at the nature of conflict, guide participants in understanding their own style of response to conflict, and develop an understanding of mediation skills using Family Systems Theory and Church Conflict.

The John Dean Town Health Project

All Ann Arbor District congregations are invited to participate in the **John Dean Town Health Project**, which has the goal of bringing *sustainable and lasting health improvements to 18 rural Liberia villages*. The project focal point is a place called John Dean Town, located in the heart of our covenant partnership region, in St. John River District, Grand Bassa County. John Dean Town is in a remote location, a 90 minute walk from the nearest road. Even so, it is a hub of United Methodist activity, with a UM church, school, clinic and guest house. Because of this existing infrastructure -and because of the dire maternal and infant health status of the surrounding area -- Bishop John Innis of the Liberia Annual Conference, and Victoria Tomah, Director of the United Methodist Health Program in Liberia, have identified John Dean Town as an ideal place to host this major effort.

What Will This Project Accomplish?

Local midwives, or Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs), from 18 villages within walking distance of John Dean Town will receive intensive training from qualified health practitioners.

These will be multi-day sessions, given roughly quarterly. They focus on hygienic best practices for rural births, pre- and post-natal care, and child immunizations. Trainings also cover issues such as nutrition, safe water, malaria, HIV/AIDS, and other general public health topics.

In order for a village to send a TBA to the training, it must provide her with work space (a "birthing hut,") and with compensation.

In order for a village to be provided with a well, and with building supplies for a latrine, its people must dig and haul sand and gravel for making the needed concrete.

The program provides well pumps, cement, forms for making the concrete well liners, and Liberian well diggers and builders who have the necessary experience.

Villages receive mosquito nets for general distribution.

What Makes This Project Worthwhile?

It replicates a proven, successful effort that has already been run once before in another Liberia location - one that has led to **substantial reductions in maternal and infant mortality**.

The project is fully-aligned with the UMC's Four Areas of Focus, in this case, "combating the diseases of poverty by improving health globally."

It intentionally works to raise the status of women, via village leadership roles for the local midwives.

It requires significant buy-in and commitment from participating villages.

It opens up meaningful VIM experiences to Ann Arbor District volunteers, with all the associated benefits of being in direct relationship with our Liberia Partners.

We are able to receive mentoring from leadership at Trinity UMC, Denver, Colorado, which funded the pilot project.

What Will The Project Cost?

Costs are estimated at \$80,000 over three years.

As of 3/17/2014, Ann Arbor District churches have pledged \$35,570, of which \$17,068 has already been contributed.

If contributions are received beyond what is needed at John Dean Town, the excess will be used to seed the next round of TBA training in another location. Note that \$15,000 in kick-off funding for our project was provided by the above-mentioned Trinity UMC.

Directions for Sending Funds for the John Dean Town Health Project

Ann Arbor District Liberia Partnership Task Force

Additional documents and videos are available on www.AADistrict.org
Direct Questions to Edith Wiarda, ewiarda@mmtc.org, 734 475 9121 - Updated 3 8 2014

1) Write a check to "Advance GCFA." Put "John Dean Town TBA #3020622" in the memo line.

(TBA" stands for "traditional birth attendant'.) Note that the designation for "John Dean Town TBA" is important. This advance number is for the entire Liberia Annual Conference Health Program, not just for the John Dean Town project.

2) Send a note with the check. Use the form at the bottom of the page.

3) Send the check and the letter to: Advance GCFA, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY 10087-9068

Do not send your donation to the Ann Arbor District, nor to the Detroit Annual Conference. DAC bundles donations, and has no way to tell GBGM that your donation is to be designated to the John Dean Town Health project.

4) Please send emails to the following to inform that the gift is on its way (optional step, but helpful):

- a. Bishop Innis: b.innis123@amail.com and
- b. The Bishop's Administrative Assistant, Sister Awah Cole: Liberiaumc@vahoo.com ;
- c. Treasurer for Liberia Annual Conference, Sonoway Dolopei (he does not do email), via the accountant, James Jackson, treasury206@yahoo.com;
- d. Ms. Victoria Tomah, LAC Health Program Coordinator, moniudaesv@vahoo.com.
- e. Ms. Winsome Wright, GBGM: wwriaht@abam-umc.org ;
- f. Edith Wiarda, Ann Arbor District Liberia Task Force: ewiarda@mmtc.org.

5) Keep copies of everything you send.

On your year end local church report enter the amount on line 48, "total amount given directly to UM Church causes." Your church will "get credit." It does not help to notify the Conference.

6) Track your gift online.

Go to www.advancinghope.org. Click on "Gifts at Work" at the top. Then click on "Track your Gifts." You can search by Advance number, or by your own church (it helps to know your church's GCFA number - see your Treasurer), or both. Your donation will appear online within a couple of weeks of sending your donation. Check the website to confirm its receipt.

Fill out the following form and attach with your check as described above.

Dear Officials for the General Council on Finance and Administration:

Please accept the enclosed donation, check number _____ in the amount of \$ _____,
for Advance number 3020622.

This gift is for the John Dean Town TBA (traditional birth attendant) project, and is to be directed to the attention of Ms. Victoria Tomah, Health Department Coordinator for the Liberia Annual Conference.

Thank you,

Name of individual donor: _____
or Congregation: _____

UMC, Ann Arbor District, Detroit Annual Conference

Ann Arbor District Office
of the United Methodist Church

900 S. Seventh St. Suite 1

Ann Arbor MI 48103

Return Service Requested



The Arbor Vine
