



FORWARD

The FOUNDATION for
EVANGELISM

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2010 Distinguished Evangelist of The United Methodist Church Award

Rev. Shane Bishop of Christ United Methodist Church in Fairview Heights, Ill., emphasizes that the passion he and the congregation he serves has is to “see people come to Christ who previously didn’t have a relationship with Him....We are in the business of moving and connecting people with Jesus Christ.” Because of his leadership in Wesleyan Evangelism he was honored as the 2010 Distinguished Evangelist of The United Methodist Church on October 30, 2010, at The Foundation for Evangelism’s Donor Appreciation banquet.

The award was presented by Mr. Lane Rees, chair of the board of trustees for the Foundation, and Dr. Jack Ewing, executive director. Rev. Bishop was invited to speak to the guests and related an inspiring story of how God called him, and continues to call him, to minister to those who do not know Jesus.

Bishop related his experiences on the church’s softball team, which does not play in church leagues, but rather community leagues, where the players can be a witness to all they encounter. These experiences, he said, helped shape his idea of his identity in Christ and chal-



L-R: Dr. Jack Ewing, Rev. Shane Bishop, Mr. Lane Rees

lenges him to do all that he can to reach out to the hurting and lost around him. Bishop said that “When Jesus found me, I joined the most dynamic team in history, [and] ... it’s always been enough to wear the uniform.” He challenged guests to rethink their ideas of evangelism and do whatever it takes to help people connect to Jesus. “If the world perceives us as a little crazy, I pray we’re God’s kind of crazy,” he mused.

(continued on page 3)

Grace Spiritual Leadership Academy to Train Church Leaders

“Imagine 1,500 United Methodist pastors equipped with the tools to lead a new movement of the Church, leading their local church to become faithful and fruitful, extending God’s Kingdom into their communities...” so begins the Grace Spiritual Leadership Academy proposal presented to The Foundation for Evangelism board of trustees Oct. 30 at their annual meeting. The program is based on 10 years of experience of mentoring, community, and training in an “incubator process” where leaders are equipped either to lead their teams through the process or an entire team travels through the process together.

Presented by Rev. Jorge Acevedo of Grace Church in Cape Coral Florida and 2009 Distinguished Evangelist of the United Methodist Church, and Craig Robertson of Spiritual Leadership Inc. (SLI), the grant would use \$5.4 million to bring 1,500 leaders within The United Methodist Church through the incubator process with

(continued on page 2)

Our Vision
is to raise up generations of leaders
with a passion for evangelism.



Letter from Dr. John L. Ewing, Jr., Executive Director

One of my favorite hymns in The United Methodist Hymnal is "Here I Am, Lord." While singing this hymn is always meaningful for me there, have been several times in my life when I have been aware that God is speaking to me more specifically than other times while singing it. This past Sunday morning was one of those times. As I sang, "I will go, Lord, if you lead me" God's crystal clear call on my life was reaffirmed. Five years ago God led me to The Foundation for Evangelism through the encouragement of Paul Ervin. Over these last four years I have been privileged to follow Paul as the executive director of the organization. These have been good years for the Foundation even as we have had to adjust to the loss of a very large gift pledge and the downturn in the economy. We have clarified our mission and vision, we have developed a comprehensive development program, and we have identified a very exciting initiative that we hope will have a significant impact on the leadership development of The United Methodist Church (see the Grace Spiritual Leadership Academy description on page 1).

On October 22, 2011, the board of directors of Lake Junaluska invited me to become the next executive director of this place that the Foundation has called home for almost 25 years. The only reason that I accepted their invitation is because God had clearly called me to this new position. I did not seek it nor want it, but I have learned that when God calls we need to respond. I firmly believe that the futures of the Foundation and Lake Junaluska are very bright. I was very pleased when the board of trustees named Jane Boatright Wood, our current vice president,

to serve as the interim executive director. Jane has worked for the Foundation for the last six years and has significant executive experience prior to coming to us. A search committee has been formed and the board hopes to have the new executive director named by the end of April 2011.



I have had the privilege of serving as the CEO of three different organizations in my life and have worked with several executive assistants. I have never worked with anyone more competent, more committed, or more enjoyable to work with than Lynda Leonard. As you can read later in this edition of the FORWARD, Lynda is retiring at the end of November. Oh, how she will be missed but we are fortunate to have another person with incredible gifts to assume her responsibilities, Dianne Collins.

The Foundation for Evangelism has been providing resources for evangelism to The United Methodist Church for over 60 years. Leaders have come and gone but the mission of strengthening our beloved denomination through evangelism has not changed. Thank you so much for your continued support of this most critical need for our Church.

Grace Academy *(continued from page 1)*

the ultimate goal of equipping them to be faithful and fruitful in bringing God's Kingdom to their communities.

Rev. Jorge Acevedo shared his own experience in this transformational process. *"Around my 10th year at Grace Church...I was looking for an out. By the grace of God we had a pastor who was a friend of Craig [Robertson]'s who'd been through this process in an urban church restart that SLI had worked with. As he came to our congregation he brought these learnings. In the last five years the transformation in me personally as a leader is second only, frankly, to my conversion.... That's why I'm so profoundly committed to spending the rest of my life...in helping the United Methodist Church be all that God wants her to be. Helping us do what...is in our DNA to do better. We have a special and unique message to share with*

our culture, and we want to be a part of that. We believe this [program] can help make this happen."

The Foundation for Evangelism board accepted this grant proposal, and is seeking supporters that will be partners to have a multiplying impact on The United Methodist Church.

A New Grant Opportunity in 2010

Stay informed of this and other grant opportunities at www.FoundationForEvangelism.org/grants.

For information on supporting this or other grants, please call 800-737-8333.

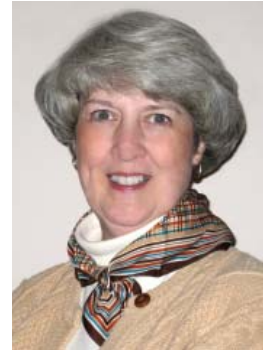
Celebrating Lynda Leonard, Executive Assistant, At Her Retirement

Sixteen years ago, Lynda Leonard joined The Foundation for Evangelism staff, serving as executive assistant to Bishop Earl Hunt, Paul Ervin, and Jack Ewing. In that time, she has earned the love and trust of the Foundation staff and board of trustees with her quick wit, caring attitude, and diligent work ethic. Among those who know the organization well the saying goes, "Lynda's really the one in charge!" And in many ways, Lynda keeps the day-to-day operations of the Foundation going.

The youngest of six children, Lynda is a native of Waynesville, NC. She is married to her college sweetheart, Steve Leonard, and they have two children. Their first grandchild, Isaac James Leonard was born May 21, 2009.

At The Foundation for Evangelism's annual board meeting, Lynda was recognized for her years of dedication. The trustees expressed their gratitude for the assistance, love, and care she has shown them. Several trustees shared experiences where Lynda had been a tremendous help or influence on them. Often, she helped to make reservations, flight arrangements, and even restaurant recommendations for visiting trustees and guests. Her temperament during trustee meetings was described as always being pleasant, with a contagious smile on her face that often lifted the spirits of those who may have been weary or frustrated during organizational business. However, Lynda's responsibilities extended far beyond this. She has been an integral part of the executive staff of the Foundation.

Lynda will retire at the end of November. She expresses that she has enjoyed and loved working with The Foundation for Evangelism and the ambitious goals that have been achieved during her employment. "It is a joy working with so many wonderfully dedicated people with a spirit for evangelism." She says that her plans for retirement are "soaking up" some grandbaby time with grandson Isaac and enjoying some free time to explore things she has not had time to do while working.



We wish Lynda the best as she begins this new phase in life. She will be sorely missed by staff, trustees, and Foundation friends.



Distinguished Evangelist *(continued from page 1)*



Rev. Bishop has been the senior pastor at Christ UMC since 1997. Under his leadership the average worship attendance has grown six-fold, mostly from professions of faith. Yet, Bishop insists he is not the sole minister of the church. The ministers are all those who attend, and he puts

this philosophy into practice by promoting discipleship and spiritual growth so that more individuals can be evangelists for Christ. He encourages laity to plant seeds wherever they go.

The son of a Baptist preacher, Rev. Bishop is described as having "southern Illinois grit," a down-to-earth manner that makes him both approachable and reputable. Bishop holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Southern Illinois University- Carbondale. He is an

ordained Elder in The United Methodist Church and a graduate of Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

Since Rev. Bishop's tenure began, the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference has recognized Christ UMC with its Award for Church Growth and Evangelism for Large Churches four times. Rev. Bishop has also been recognized with The Foundation for Evangelism's Denman Evangelism Award (1996) and was inducted into the World Methodist Evangelism Council's "Order of the FLAME" in 1999.

Photo at left Courtesy Christ United Methodist Church, Fairview Heights, Ill.

Our Mission
is to promote, encourage, and provide
resources for responsible evangelism,
enabling The United Methodist Church
to bring persons into a personal relationship
with Jesus Christ and help them grow
as His disciples.

Interview with Dr. Mark Teasdale

From Denman Doctoral Fellow to E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism

Dr. Mark Teasdale is no stranger to The Foundation for Evangelism. Serving as E. Stanley Jones (ESJ) Professor of Evangelism at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary for two years now, Teasdale has already taught students for four semesters in the Wesleyan way of Evangelism.

Teasdale was connected to The Foundation for Evangelism before taking his position on the faculty at Garrett, however. While beginning his graduate studies at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas, Texas, Teasdale received a Denman Fellowship from the Foundation which allowed him to focus his efforts on his coursework. This was a challenging time, financially, for him and his family, however he credits the Denman Fellowship with allowing them to make ends meet.

How did your studies as a Denman Doctoral Fellow help prepare you for your work as an E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism?

The Fellowship offered me the opportunity to give myself wholly to my graduate work because it freed me from having to hold down a job at the same time that I was studying. This was a real gift. As a result of this freedom, I was able to explore possible connections at SMU for my studies that were otherwise not often considered. This included developing a plan for coursework that included graduate studies both in Perkins School of Theology and in the SMU William P. Clements Department of History. This cross-departmental coursework was instrumental in helping me develop both a strong foundation in the classical field of history while connecting that to the emerging critical study of evangelism.

The connection between the Denman Fellows and the John Wesley Fellows was crucial for me. Through participating in that larger fellowship, I met and found encouragement from a vast array of peers and senior scholars, many of whom were remarkably supportive and encouraging as I learned the ropes of being part of the academy.

How did your experience with an E. Stanley Jones professor help shape your current work?

The ESJ professor that most significantly influenced me was Dr. James C. Logan at Wesley Theological Seminary. Jim was a mentor and friend to me when I was an MDiv student at Wesley. I still remember “finding myself” theologically in his Methodist History and Doctrine

course, which was where I first became acquainted with him. That first contact led me to visit him frequently in his office for guidance on both coursework, issues in my ministry, and just for fellowship. I also made a point of taking every elective he offered, which all happened to be evangelism electives.



As I was concluding my studies at Wesley, Jim encouraged me to consider working toward a PhD with the goal of teaching evangelism. This is what set my trajectory. From that point forward, becoming an ESJ professor was my goal.

It was Jim who again encouraged me when The Foundation for Evangelism decided to launch the Denman Fellowship. Jim contacted me at the church to let me know that the fellowship was about to be announced, and he wanted me to apply.... A little less than a year later I was headed to SMU having been announced as the first Harry Denman Fellow. It was a great honor for me, and I am still grateful to Jim for his help with this.

What has been the most exciting part of being an E. Stanley Jones Professor at Garrett-Evangelical?

Simply being an ESJ Professor is exciting! To be hired directly out of Ph.D. work into one of only fifteen such positions worldwide was an immense honor – one that I continue to give our Lord thanks for when I come to work each day. Knowing that I have the wonderful and awesome responsibility of helping shape what the United Methodist Church will look like by having a hand in forming the next generation of leaders is a truly amazing gift.

I am especially grateful that I can teach evangelism, because evangelism touches on every aspect of the life of the church. There is great freedom in teaching evangelism at Garrett-Evangelical because it allows me the opportunity to help students integrate much of their classical work in systematic theology, history, Bible, and other courses as they consider what the *missio Dei*, [or Sending of God], is and how they can best participate in

it both as individuals and as church leaders empowering their congregations for sharing the gospel.

You recently defended your dissertation. What was the highlight of this work for you?

The highlight of the work was the affirmation I received from other scholars. This affirmation came in three ways:

- Other scholars that graciously agreed to be members of my dissertation committee. To have them review my scholarship, examine me, and then pass me with honors was a point of deep joy on my part.
- The faculty and administrators at Garrett-Evangelical who agreed to hire me ABD (All but Dissertation), were incredibly supportive.... I felt truly blessed that I had such a supportive community of scholars at Garrett-Evangelical that were willing both to bear the load of my writing along with me and then celebrate with me when it was finished.
- There was a special highlight in being Ted Campbell's first PhD advisee to graduate. After the defense was over and I had heard the verdict of my committee, he explained to me that in the room directly across the hall he had sat with his defense committee and likewise been awarded an honors grade on his dissertation and defense. Being part of that situation coming full circle with Ted now serving as the advisor was very meaningful.

What are your plans for utilizing current and emerging technologies for your work in evangelism?

In many ways, I think that evangelism professors have to take seriously that they must be evangelism practitioners. Evangelism is, after all, a practice. It is critically important to study it, but to study apart from practicing it is anemic. Technology offers a particularly effective venue for evangelism scholars to practice their evangelism as they study it.

Garrett-Evangelical is currently launching several courses online. I am part of that work, and will be teaching the Theology of Evangelism course online in 2011 and on a rotating basis following that.

In addition, I am looking at ways to make appropriate use of social networking, web presence, and book-web crossovers to consider how I might best leverage the unique platform I have been given as an ESJ Professor

to better equip individuals and congregations to share the good news of Jesus Christ. I recently launched a new website (evangelismprof.com) for this purpose. It is still pretty much blank right now, but I am hoping to make it a good resource for people as time permits me to build it.

What upcoming plans, projects, or publications are in the works for you?

I am currently in the process of remaking my dissertation into a book. I also have a bibliographical essay that will be published in *Theological Librarianship* in 2011, along with several book reviews that will be in the 2011 issue of *The Journal of Christian Ministry*.

In addition to publications, I am making more contacts with the churches in the Northern Illinois Conference where I have been serving as a consultant on evangelism and congregational mission. I hope to do more of this, perhaps using the new website I am developing as a base for helping supply some items to those in ministry.

In addition to my role as the ESJ Professor, I also direct the Doctor of Ministry program at Garrett-Evangelical. We have increased the number of students in our program significantly over the past year, so keeping up with all of these new students - and preparing for the fact I will have to read many of their project papers in the next couple of years - takes a good deal of my time. Still, I am grateful to be connected with a program that I believe will be developing leaders who can help provide strong leadership for the church on both the local and judicatory levels.

I also want to note that I have become more optimistic about the situation of The United Methodist Church as a result of my time in the ESJ chair. I am coming into contact with more and more students who have a clear-eyed view of what struggles and ailments plague the church, and who also have a passion and desire to change that. It is my immense privilege and responsibility to help equip these new leaders so they can change the denomination by discerning where God is at work and then doing their best to lead the church to participate along with God in the redemption of creation.



Dr. John Marshall Named First Emeritus Trustee



Long-time trustee and donor, Dr. John Marshall, was honored for his service to the board of trustees at the The Foundation for Evangelism's annual meeting during a recognition dinner held Friday, October 29. Dr. Marshall was presented with a gift from the Foundation trustees and staff, and was named the first emeritus trustee.

In his remarks to those gathered to celebrate his appointment as emeritus trustee, Dr. John Marshall discussed the power of a planned gift. "I was able to ensure that the work of evangelism I have been so committed to over the years will continue through a planned gift to The Foundation for Evangelism. I utilized a plan that allowed me to receive income from the

gift for life. This is something I encourage each of you to learn more about."

Dr. Marshall and his family chose to support The Foundation for Evangelism with a Unitrust. One of many life income plans available to donors.

Life income plans allow you to retain the security of income for the rest of your life while supporting the Foundation's work and receiving a tax deduction. If you use appreciated securities to fund the plan, you get multiple tax benefits. You will be entitled to an income tax deduction based on the full-appreciated value of the securities (minus the present value of the income stream payable to you) and defer capital gains taxes upon completion of the sale. Life income plans include the charitable gift annuity, charitable remainder trust, and others.

The Foundation for Evangelism offers a variety of life-income plans to fit your needs. You can make a gift now, obtain tax benefits and receive income for the rest of your life.

Resources for our donors: If you're like many people, you do your major giving toward the end of the year. The Foundation for Evangelism has five tips to help you make the most of your year-end giving. Please visit our website www.FoundationforEvangelism.org/donate or call 800-737-8333 to request a copy of this information for your year-end gift planning.

Grant Highlight: Congress on Evangelism Hispanic-Latino Leaders Scholarships

For the third year in a row The Foundation for Evangelism will provide a grant to The 2011 Congress on Evangelism at Myrtle Beach, S.C., for a Hispanic-Latino Leadership track. A portion of the grant allows leaders to attend the event on scholarship. In the last two years, 50 faith community leaders received training through this multilingual, multicultural gathering focused on the needs of the Hispanic-Latino population in The United Methodist Church.

Led by Dr. Roberto Escamilla, the gathering seeks to provide participants with tools to enhance and strengthen their ministry with Hispanic-Latino individuals. Worship and Bible Study receives great emphasis and various national leaders in Hispanic-Latino ministry in The United Methodist Church present workshops and seminars. This year leaders such as Rev. Jorge Acevedo, 2009 Distinguished Evangelist of The United Methodist Church, and Rev. Francisco Cañas, coordinator for the National Plan for Hispanic and Latino Ministries, will provide leadership for this program. Rev. Cañas will lead three sessions on spiritual leadership and funding opportunities. He represents the General Board of Global Ministries which will participate in the Congress on Evangelism for the first time in 2011.



This grant is just one of the many that The Foundation for Evangelism is providing to help strengthen emerging and growing congregations within The United Methodist Church. While The Foundation gives grants to United Methodist projects and ministries, no funds are received from apportionment dollars. All grant funds are raised by the Foundation through the generous support of our donors.

A Heartfelt "Thank you"

It is always a privilege for The Foundation to recognizing donors who have chosen to support the work of helping persons experience God's transforming love through Jesus Christ. For the second year, The Foundation for Evangelism has honored The Leaders Council, a group of individuals who partner with the Foundation by committing an annual gift of \$1,000 or more. Additionally, The Leaders for Tomorrow Church Program, in its first full year, has honored over 20 United Methodist congregations whose annual gift is \$1,000 or more.

The Foundation for Evangelism's vision is to "raise up generations of leaders with a passion for evangelism." This vision cannot be accomplished without the generosity of so many persons who believe in the work of the Foundation, have a personal passion for evangelism, and share their financial resources.

The 2010 Leaders for Tomorrow Churches

- First United Methodist Church - Aberdeen, SD
- First United Methodist Church - Fort Smith, AR
- First United Methodist Church - Troy, OH
- Lakewood United Methodist Church - Houston, TX
- Cypress United Methodist Church - Cypress, TX
- Church of the Resurrection - Leawood, KS
- Isle of Hope United Methodist Church - Savannah, GA
- Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church - Reynoldsburg, OH
- Rockwood United Methodist Church - Canton, NC
- The Woodlands United Methodist Church - The Woodlands, TX
- Harvest Church - Byron, GA
- Anderson Hills United Methodist Church - Cincinnati, OH
- Long's Chapel United Methodist Church - Lake Junaluska, NC

We also extend a heartfelt thank you to our many other donors whose generosity makes the Foundation's work possible.

The 2010 Leaders Council Members

Dr. & Mrs. William Appleby
Mr. Bill Apetz †
Mrs. Wilma Boatwright
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Bowling
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Brown
Mr. & Mrs. William Cannon
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† Deceased

Remembering Catherine Copeland

On November 1, 2010, Catherine Copeland passed away in San Antonio, Texas. Mrs. Copeland served as a Trustee of The Foundation for Evangelism during some of our most formative years. She left the board only when asked by then Foundation President, Dr. Charles Kinder, to assume a critical role on the development and promotion staff at the Foundation. Mrs. Copeland was instrumental in ensuring the success of the grand vision cast by the trustees - the E. Stanley Jones Professors of Evangelism. In recognition for her invaluable work to Offer Them Christ, she was named one of only three Lifetime Founder Trustees by

The Foundation for Evangelism and held this distinction until her recent death.

We are humbled that Mrs. Copeland's family has chosen to list The Foundation for Evangelism as one of the recipients for memorials. For more information or to make a contribution, please contact us at 800-737-8333.





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