



FORWARD

Magazine

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Helping young pastors, Hispanic-Latino leaders network and grow

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New Board Members

We welcome three new trustees this year

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The Foundation for Evangelism
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of Discipleship of The United
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Refresh 2010: a Gathering of UM Campus Ministers

by Joseph McBrayer, Director
of Emory Wesley Fellowship

At Refresh 2010, this past December in Leawood, Kan., over 200 United Methodist Campus Ministers gathered at the Church of the Resurrection to engage in the practices of reflection, worship, dialogue, and prayer about ministry with college students and young adults. The three days we spent together were engaging, challenging, and encouraging to me both personally and professionally.

Refresh provided an intentional time to look back over the semester of ministry and life, to be in conversation with others in the field of campus ministry, and to hear what nationally recognized speakers have to say about United Methodism, the Church, and ministry with young adults and college students.



Alan Hirsch speaks at Refresh

Having read *The Forgotten Ways* while in seminary, I was excited to have the chance to hear author Alan Hirsch and engage his ideas with other campus ministers. The resulting discussions proved fruitful – especially from the perspectives of campus ministers



I find myself still pondering and digesting themes and ideas from the conference and engaging with the people and resources I discovered. I have a deeper hope for the Church, for our United Methodist denomination, and I have a renewed passion for young adults and college students to be involved in the life changing transformation that comes from being a part of the body of Christ.

who work directly with, and sometimes in between, the aspirations, creativity, and willingness of college students and young adults and the sometimes slow-to-change features and facets of our denomination and institutional structures. One of the most helpful and practical suggestions from Hirsch was that ministers each take time to think through and rank our gifts in the five categories. Hirsch's message and subsequent workshop offered a provoking, challenging time to engage in conversation and thought about how to go about the renewal of the Church and its structures.

The most powerful moment in my experience at Refresh was our afternoon session with Rev. Adam Hamilton. Hamilton spoke

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Letter from Jane Wood, Interim Executive Director

It is said that one test of an institution's success is the ability to fulfill its mission and vision. At The Foundation for Evangelism, part of our mission is to promote, encourage, and provide resources for evangelism. As you read this FORWARD, you will find stories detailing the work of providing these resources and their impact on the lives and ministries of today's United Methodist leaders.

Recently, an E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism grant received credit in the international press as a major factor in the re-accreditation of the Reutlingen School of Theology (see page 3). As we celebrate the affiliation of three exceptional United Methodists with our board of trustees, we put forth the call for names of the next generation of outstanding leaders with a passion to help others experience God's transforming love through Jesus Christ through our Excellence Recognition awards.

Our contributing writers, Joseph McBrayer and Ronnie Collins, are just two examples of the Foundation's vision "to raise up generations of leaders with a passion for evangelism" at work today in The United Methodist Church. Both these outstand-

ing leaders have answered God's call to work with the next generation of United Methodist leaders educating them on the fullness of a life lived practicing Wesleyan Evangelism.

It is with such anticipation that we look to 2011 and beyond in the life and work of The Foundation for Evangelism. The seeds we plant today are inextricably linked to the transformed lives of tomorrow. We hope you are inspired by these stories of exceptional leaders around the globe who benefit from the ongoing work of the Foundation, and we ask that you consider adding your support to these efforts so that lives continue to be transformed.



Wood Named Interim Executive Director of Foundation

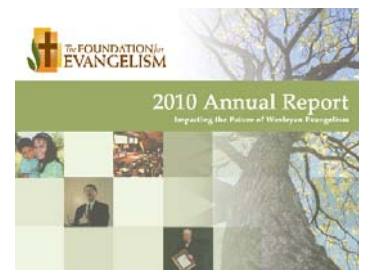
The Foundation for Evangelism board of trustees has appointed Jane Boatwright Wood as interim executive director, succeeding Executive Director Dr. John "Jack" Ewing. Dr. Ewing left the Foundation after accepting the position of executive director for Lake Junaluska Assembly, Inc. Wood assumed the interim position January 1, 2011.

Wood previously served as vice president at the Foundation providing leadership in the areas of development, technology, grants, and operations over the past six years. Prior to that time, she served as chief operating officer for Crescent Preferred Provider Organization and vice president for Haywood Regional Medical Center in Western North Carolina.

2010 Annual Report Available Online

The Foundation for Evangelism's 2010 Annual Report is now available for download online. Go to FoundationForEvangelism.org/annual-report to view the document or review annual reports from previous years.

If you would like a printed copy of the annual report mailed to you, please contact us at 1-800-737-8333 or email dcollins@foundationforevangelism.org.



Refresh 2010 (continued from page 1)



Adam Hamilton at Refresh '10

from his experience with young adults and college students at the Church of the Resurrection. He spoke about the increasing secularization of society and the aggressive anti-theism so prevalent in our American culture. He noted the importance of campus ministry for the future hope of our denomination and the Church in general as campus ministers are on the “front lines” of understanding and working with the new, emerging generations. Hamilton said that Christians must “understand the questions and concerns of the people you work with and help answer some of the questions” and that we must “formulate thoughtful Christian responses” to their difficult questions.

Hamilton shared portions of his own journey into ministry and highlighted three of the difficult questions that young people and college students are asking – questions of Theodicy (evil in the world), questions about other world religions, and questions about sexuality. Hamilton gave articulate, genuine, and succinct responses to these questions and shared how he and the Church of the Resurrection had engaged in each of these complex questions.

Hamilton and his vision for the renewal of the Church and our denomination give me an even greater hope for the future. Throughout his talk – especially in the context of these difficult questions – Hamilton modeled responsible dialogue, civil discourse, and a vulnerable, disarming openness and honesty that helped to produce mutual understand-

...Campus ministers are on the “front lines” of understanding and working with the new, emerging generations.

ing. Hamilton articulated a hopeful-critical vision for the future of the United Methodist Church that calls for young people to be “modern day reformers” helping to retool and rethink Church in ways that help the wider world to see the Christian faith as an examined, intelligible, attractive, and practical way of living life to the fullest.

Refresh was an excellent time to be encouraged, challenged, strengthened, and revived while being with colleagues in campus ministry from across our denomination through quality speakers, workshops, and spaces for conversation, collaboration, worship, and prayer. I find myself still pondering and digesting themes and ideas from the conference and engaging with the people and resources I discovered. I have a deeper hope for the Church, for our United Methodist denomination, and I have a renewed passion for young adults and college students to be involved in the life-changing transformation that comes from being a part of the body of Christ.

Refresh is an annual gathering of United Methodist-related campus ministers and chaplains for the purpose of being inspired, trained, and refreshed. The Foundation for Evangelism provides substantial financial support for this event.



Joseph McBrayer is Director of the Emory Wesley Fellowship. He writes about music, media, and theology at his blog jmcbay.wordpress.com

Reutlingen School of Theology Receives Re-accreditation

The Reutlingen School of Theology in Reutlingen, Germany, recently received its institutional re-accreditation for an unprecedented 10 year period from Germany’s Federal Board of Science. In its press release, the board notes the positive development in research and teaching as well as the international relationships of the school as being crucial points for their decision. The Foundation for Evangelism was mentioned five times in the Board of Science’s public statement on the re-accreditation of the school, clearly indicating that the long-term support of the E. Stanley Jones Chair of

Evangelism has had a significant impact on the development of the school as a whole as well as its public perception within the academic community.

The Reutlingen School of Theology, founded in 1877, was federally accredited in 2005 as the first United Methodist related institution of higher education in the German-speaking part of Europe. Professor Achim Härtner, E Stanley Jones Chair of Evangelism, has been a professor at Reutlingen School of Theology (RTS) since 1995. The position, funded by a grant

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Ministry to Youth Goes “Out of the Box” *by Pastor Ronnie G. Collins*

In the summer of 2008, God gave four youth leaders and myself a vision for a ministry to youth that was “outside the box.” We had an average youth group size of about 12 regulars that at times would be 25 to 30 on a Wednesday evening. The vision was to find a place in a neutral location outside the local church building. This is not because we are against the local church in any way, we just realized that we needed to reach a group of teens who had no background with church and the traditions that so many of us have come to know and love. We found a storefront building in our small downtown community and negotiated a rental agreement with the landlord.

Our first hurdle was to present the vision God had given us to the Church Council. We wrote up a proposal that included the cost of rent and utilities and then shared what we believed God had shown us, that there were many teens who needed a place to belong, a safe place, where they could learn about Jesus and not be intimidated by the elements of Christianity they didn’t understand.

There was a unanimous vote from the church council to allow us to move forward. Our first hurdle was the issue of how to staff the new ministry site and how often to have events. We decided we would hold all Wednesday evening Youth Group activities there as well as Sunday School on Sunday morning. We went quickly on Wednesday evenings from an average 12-20 youth to about 40 youth each week. We started to challenge the youth at that point to bring their friends and to help get the word out about “Out of the Box” (OOTB) and within a year we were averaging around 60 youth every Wednesday evening for Bible study.



At this point we started to host a “5th Quarter” [event] at the conclusion of all our local high school home football games where we would have free pizza from 9 pm to midnight. The first event drew 130 teens from the community and the second 150. Since that time we have used Out of the Box for many things related to the community. Some of our teen girls have held baby showers for local teen girls who are pregnant, the local school system uses OOTB for after school tutoring, and most recently groups



from the church and community have started to host adult bible studies at Out of the Box.

Many people have asked us how we can afford to have such a place and my only answer is that God has provided. We have spent an average of \$10,000 on the youth each year, 2009-2010, and we have never gone without. We have had donations from people in the community who do not attend our church and have no youth of their own, they are just grateful that we are offering a safe and fun place for the youth of the community. Most of the money spent is outside the budget and is given by those who see the work and want to be a part of it. We have had donations of video equipment, computers, soda, Gatorade, Monster Energy Drinks, snacks, pool tables, foosball, Wii Game system, furniture, you name it and we have received it.

As the minister for Out of the Box I essentially pastor a good size church. I connect and communicate with the youth, which numbers more than 100 youth, through text messaging, facebook, twitter, blogs, and through YouTube video’s. The communication is constant, the youth send me questions and I deal with them through bible studies, “Three Minute Thursday” Video’s, and any other venue available. The truth is, our youth in 2011 are as busy as the adults. They have youth, church, school, sports, clubs, jobs, etc... through the use of social media the youth and I have built some of the strongest relationships in my 20 plus years of working with this age group. It opens the door for them to ask questions in private and then we can sit down face to face after they realize that I will not judge them. It is a win win situation. When we come together for an event or a Bible study we have a crowd because of the



relationship building that happens mostly online.

What about Evangelism? The evangelism that we do is in “Relationship Building.” I have a heart for evangelism and I came up through a generation that taught me to share my faith by going door to door, and I am thankful for that. I have led many people to Christ through the years by sitting in their living room or in a laundry mat, or some other setting by sharing my faith, what we would call a “cold call.” I believe this can still work today but by and large it doesn’t. People want to know who you are and if they can trust you before they will hear anything that you have to say. Gone are the days that people will automatically give you a listening ear just because you represent a church. We live in a culture where people want to see your faith in action first. We are doing evangelism, sharing our faith, in the weekly youth Bible studies, in community outreach such as 5th Quarter [events], and through social media.

A second hurdle we reached is how to get the youth from the youth group to church membership. We were drawing large groups of youth and they were making commitments to Christ and doing ministry in response to that but we were

not very successful at attracting the bulk of them to our home church. We were having the most youth in the history of our church attending Sunday morning worship services and then again on Sunday nights but it was a small number compared to the youth who gathered on Wednesday nights for Bible Study. We looked for ways to receive the youth into membership through the youth group but that never materialized.

In February 2010 the Holston Conference [of the United Methodist Church] approached us about taking First Hillsville UMC to a multi-site church to help meet the needs of those who were coming to OOTB Youth and 78 percent of our county who are not attending church anywhere on most Sunday mornings. On January 2, 2011, we launched “Out Of The Box Worship Center” (OOTBWC). Once again we negotiated a lease for a space just a couple doors down from the youth center and we launched the first Sunday with 100 people, and on our most recent Sunday we had 137 in attendance. First Hillsville UMC has moved from an average 350 in attendance to more than 400 each Sunday. On Sunday mornings at OOTBWC nearly half of those in attendance are under the age of 21, while every age group is represented, from infants to senior citizens.

Once again God has given us a vision to reach people with the gospel. God has provided the path and the plan, we are just doing all in our power to walk the path with Him.

Pastor Ronnie Collins is a 2004 Denman Award Recipient and leads the Out of the Box Youth & Worship Center. He is the associate pastor at First United Methodist Church in Hillsville, Va., and blogs at www.ImageBearerBlog.com.

Vibrant Churches Resource Now Easier to Use

The Vibrant Churches Resource has been a popular resource since its launch in 2010. The resource continues to grow with churches’ stories of how God has blessed and grown their congregation in recent years. As this resource has grown, so too has the need to organize and categorize these articles for easier search and use. Articles are now tagged according to church size, location, worship style,

ministries, etc. The articles are also archived and organized by topic and Annual Conference.

You are encouraged to review these articles and use their ideas and encouragement as inspiration in your own ministry. Please note that the photos and article content are the property of the churches who submit them, so please contact them before re-printing or quoting.

Recognition Award Materials Now Available Online

Nomination and informational materials for Recognition awards are now available on The Foundation for Evangelism website. These materials may be downloaded and copied for use by conferences, churches, and individuals.

Harry Denman Evangelism Award

Link: FoundationForEvangelism.org/recognition/harry-denman-evangelism-award/

Nominations for this award are sent directly to your annual conference. Award guidelines, brochure, and nomination forms are available in PDF format.

Deadline is set by and awards presented by the annual conference. Please contact your annual conference for more information.

Distinguished Evangelist of The United Methodist Church Award

Link: FoundationForEvangelism.org/recognition/distinguished-evangelist-award/

Deadline: June 1, 2011

Culture of the Call Church Award

Link: FoundationForEvangelism.org/recognition/culture-of-the-call-church-award/

Deadline: April 1, 2011

Nominations for these two awards may be sent to DCollins@FoundationForEvangelism.org or mailed to:

Nominations
The Foundation for Evangelism
PO Box 985
Lake Junaluska, NC 28745

Congress on Evangelism Inspires, Empowers

January 4-7, 2011 was a powerful time of connection, rejuvenation, and evangelistic growth for the individuals who attended the Congress on Evangelism at Myrtle Beach, S.C. For several years, The Foundation for Evangelism has given a grant for young leaders to attend the Congress, and for the last 3 years has given a grant for Hispanic-Latino leaders to attend the Congress on scholarship. Without this financial assistance, many say they would not be able to attend the event, and their lives and ministry would not have been positively affected.

Rev. Sarah Miller of New Horizon Church in Haines City, Fla., attended the Congress for the first time this year. "I would not have been able to participate without the Foundation's assistance. It was a such a blessing to receive the scholarship!" She went on to say that from the event, "I



took away the affirmation that evangelism takes time and that's ok. As God's Spirit moves, we will move. As God's Spirit forms us, we will be able to form others." Rev. Shay Hall of Buckhorn-Ebenezer Charge in Sanford, N.C., stated "This is a great resource for finding practical ways to put evangelism into action and really helps focus you on the central mission of the church; making disciples for Jesus Christ."

Rev. Len Calhoun of Marticville-Mt. Nebo Charge in Pequea, Pa., a scholarship recipient in 2010, attended the conference again this year. He said the most valuable thing for him was the opportunity to network with others who are passionate about evangelism. "As I grow older, and attend more conferences, I am realizing that relationship is key and more important than 'stone carved strategy.'"

The Foundation Welcomes New Trustees

In April three new trustees will join the Foundation board. These new trustees are from varied backgrounds including communications, technology, and health care. They bring a wide array of expertise.

Cathy Farmer of Jackson, Tenn., previously served as the Director of Communications for the Memphis Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. A graduate of Vanderbilt University, she has also been involved in public relations, TV media, newspaper, and taught English at Lambuth University. Presently retired, Farmer is married to David R. Farmer.



They have two adult children, David H. Farmer and Alexi Greene.



Dr. Michael Hoon Yang is a Distinguished Adjunct Professor of EDISON Academy at Handong Global University (HGU), Pohang, Kyungbook, Korea. Prior to this, he was a consultant to the Rothschild Recovery Fund Group. He is also founder and former CEO of Bescom, Inc.,

the first commercial video on demand (VOD) service for Korea Telecom's residential customers. Yang has worked in other technology and engineering fields. He is a member of the Executive Committee for the United Methodist Council (USA) on Korean American Ministries (UMCKAM), and is a Lay Elder at Korean Community Church of New Jersey (UMC).



Dr. James W. Holsinger, Jr., M.D., Ph.D., of Lexington, Ken., is the Charles T. Wethington Jr. Endowed Chair in the Health Sciences at the University of Kentucky, he has also served as the Secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. A graduate of Duke University Medical School,

Holsinger served in a variety of academic and administrative appointments at universities and at the federal government level. Dr. Holsinger retired from the U.S. Army Reserve as Major General in 1993 after 31 years. He has also been active in The United Methodist Church, previously serving as the Virginia Conference Lay Leader, President of The Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church, and a member of the Executive Committee of the World Methodist Council. Holsinger is married to Dr. Barbara Craig Holsinger, and they have four daughters.

Re-accreditation (continued from page 3)

from The Foundation for Evangelism, has helped the institution, and many like it, gain notoriety amongst their academic peers. These chairs of evangelism (9 in the United States and one each in Germany, Africa, and Russia) provide sound theological teaching to prepare pastors for ministry in a local church, and train them to help persons experience God's transforming love through Jesus Christ.

Dr. Stephen Gunter, Professorship Director at The Foundation for Evangelism commented, "Full accreditation at Reutlingen School of Theology for a 10-year term is extremely difficult to receive in the German

educational system. This extended accreditation is the by-product of generations of investment by the Evangelical Methodist Church of Germany - stretching back 150 years.... to Achim and his colleagues, we say, "Well done, good and faithful servants!"

Mrs. Jane Wood, interim executive director for The Foundation for Evangelism also praised the institution's accomplishment saying, "we send hearty congratulations to Dean Dr. Jörg Barthel, the faculty including Professor Achim Härtner, and the staff of RTS for this amazing accomplishment."

Offer Them Christ

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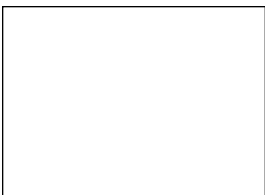
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