

THE UNITED METHODIST MEN

The purpose of the United Methodist Men is to help men *declare the centrality of Jesus Christ* in their lives. The organization of United Methodist Men of the SC Conference has had a good year.

We are doing a lot of work with communications, relationships, and the spiritual health of the individual man. It is through personal and spiritual interaction that we will strengthen the life of one man, then a small group of men, then a congregation of men, then the men of the United Methodist Church. We are exploring a variety of spiritual growth opportunities that will lead men to become Wesleyan Men.

We are involved in work that will benefit only our church, or only our community. But we are also involved in work that will benefit persons across the state and nation; many we do not know personally, but know they are children of God.

Prayer, Scouting, and Feeding the Hungry continue to be major focuses of the United Methodist Men of the SC Conference. The SC Annual Conference hosts more remotes and covenant prayer groups of the Upper Room Prayer Line than any other conference. We donated over \$2000 to the Upper Room Prayer Line. The prayer line is routed to the SC Annual Conference during each year's session and calls are answered and prayers lifted up throughout the meeting. Training for this important ministry is always available. You are asked to be nothing more than a caring Christian on the other end of the phone line.

The Bishop's Awards of Excellence are presented to boy and girl scouts each year at Annual Conference. The United Methodist Church continues to lead all denominations in sponsoring scouting units.

Hunger relief with its potato drops and gleaning in various parts of the state is reaching out to those who are hungry, working through the Society of St. Andrew. If you would like to sponsor or participate in this program, please get in touch with one of the UMM Conference officers.

We presented the 2006 SEJ G. Ross Freeman Award, pastoral leadership award, to Rev. James Friday of John Wesley UMC in Greenville. This annual award recognizes a pastor who has shown outstanding devotion to men's ministry. If you think your pastor is worthy of this award, pursue it. Take the following steps:

Go to <http://www.ummsc.org/> on the web.

Look down the left side and click on G. Ross Freeman.

Review the criteria and print off an application.

Mark your calendar for the Feb 1st deadline each year.

If you have any questions, call the Conference President at 803-730-8577

Our Spiritual Retreat held in February at Springmaid Beach was again a very successful event. Our Spiritual Life Coordinator, L. W. Smith of Rehoboth UMC in Columbia always does a great job planning. Four men, all active in United Methodist Men and having truly declared the centrality of Jesus Christ in their lives, answered the call of God and became United Methodist pastors. They were the Worship leaders along with the G. Ross Freeman Award winner. Their names are Rev. David Anderson, Rev. Robert Huggins, Rev. Richard Jayroe, Rev. Richard McClary, and Rev. James Friday. The Wesley UMC Male Choir of Moncks Corner and Sweet Spirit of Greer provided the music. 2008 dates are February 15, 16, 17, 2008. It's men in ministry and yes, you can bring your wife.

United Methodist Men of the SC Conference are well represented in the leadership of the Southeastern Jurisdiction and National Associations of Conference Presidents and the General Commission of UMM. L.W. Smith is the SEJ representative to the General Commission of UMM. Our SC Conference past president, Bill Smith, is secretary of the SEJ Conference Presidents organization and also serves as secretary of the National Association of Conference Presidents.

When a child or teenager is the first of the family to come to Christ, 17% of the time the entire family follows; when a mother or wife is the first of the family to come to Christ, 34 % of the time to entire family follows; when the father or husband is the first of the family to come to Christ, 93 % of the time to entire family follows. Great Influence – Great Responsibility.

Robert E. Scarborough, Conference President
803-730-8577 rscarborough@hughes.net