

THE UNITED METHODIST MEN

Making Jesus Christ the center of a man's life is the purpose of the United Methodist Men. The work in which the organization of United Methodist Men of the SC Conference is engaged has brought us closer to this goal during the past year.

Our spiritual well-being is a top priority. The good attendance at our Spiritual Retreat held in February at Springmaid Beach was an indication of the importance of our understanding the benefits of walking with Christ. Rev. Jeff Kersey and Rev. James C. Lane were the Retreat Speakers. In addition, there were breakout sessions on a variety of subjects and training for local church UMM officers. Thanks once again for an outstanding program organized by our Spiritual Life Coordinator, L. W. Smith of Rehoboth UMC in Columbia. 2009 will be another opportunity for the men at your church to connect with men across the conference. It's men in ministry and yes; you can bring your wife.

We had great success with a Man In the Mirror event on Saturday, December 1, 2007. We expected 65 men, but 115 showed up.

We expect great success with another Man In the Mirror event May 15, 16, 17, 2008. This report is being written prior to the event; therefore an update will be necessary to announce the results.

We continue to work with communications and relationships. It is through personal, 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 using a variety of spiritual growth opportunities that will lead men to put Christ in the center of their lives.

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 \$3000 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 2007 SEJ G. Ross Freeman Award, a pastoral leadership award, to Rev. Jeff Kersey of Mt. Horeb UMC in Lexington. 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, call the Conference President at 803-730-8577.

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 President of United Methodist Men of the Southeastern Jurisdiction. Our SC Conference past president, Bill Smith, is a vice president of the SEJ Conference Presidents organization and also serves as secretary of the National Association of Conference Presidents.

Let me repeat a statistic that I offered in last year's report. 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 the entire family follows; when the father or husband is the first of the family to come to Christ, 93 % of the time the entire family follows. Great Influence – Great Responsibility.

Robert E. Scarborough, Conference President