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Briefly

IN MEMORIAM

Hazel Jeanette Jackson, 88, widow of the Rev. **Tommy Jackson**, passed away Saturday, January 6, 2007 in Memphis. The family received friends on Wed., Jan. 10 at Raleigh United Methodist Church. Services were at the church at 2 PM. Interment was in Helen Crigger Cemetery in Munford, TN. Mrs. Jackson was a member of Raleigh UMC and Order of Eastern Star. She is survived by her sons, **Gene Jackson** of Somerville and **Jeremiah (Jere) Jackson** of Memphis; six step-grandchildren, eight step-great-grandchildren; and four step-great-great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Good Grief Foundation, Munford Funeral Home, Munford Chapel. Correspondence may be sent to her son, Jere Jackson, 5135 Blueridge Dr., Memphis, TN 38134.

BUSKIRK TO PREACH AT FOREST HEIGHTS UMC

Dr. Jimmy Buskirk, well-known evangelist, will preach at Forest Heights UMC, 863 West Forest Ave., Jackson, Tenn., on February 4-6. His theme will be "Leaning Into God's Future For Us." Times of services are: Sunday, Feb. 4, 10:55 AM and 4:00 PM; Monday, Feb. 5, Noon with lunch (donation) and 7:00 PM; Tuesday, Feb. 6, Noon with lunch (donation) and 7:00 PM. All are invited. Phone: 731-668-5209.

WESLEY HERITAGE TOUR TO ENGLAND, NOVEMBER 6-14

The Paducah District is sponsoring a Wesley Heritage Tour to England, November 6-14, 2007. Open to all clergy and laity of the Memphis Conference, the tour will visit major sites connected with **John** and **Charles Wesley**. Visits include the

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'Letters from Dad' group lays bare emotions in writing

Heartfelt missives express deeply masculine feelings to wives, kids, and loved ones

By **BERNIE ERRION**

Laying aside voicemail, e-mail, instant and text messaging, about 40 men have picked up pen and paper to write heartfelt, thoughtful letters to their family members.

Some letters will become personal expressions given as Christmas presents. Others will become final words.

"It's physically difficult to crank out four to five pages of handwriting in the day we live in," said John DeLockery of Collierville, Tenn. and a participant at this seminar based on the book "Letters From Dad" by Greg Vaughn.

But for four consecutive months he has met with this group at Collierville United Methodist Church to brainstorm and outline letters to his wife, children,



Merle Musser was one of the men who wrote letters to wives and children. Above, Merle and his wife, Kathy.

parents, plus a final letter to be read upon his death.

"When has a dad paused for one hour to think about his wife, children, parents and what they mean to him? Never. This seminar disciplines you to sit down and

think about that and then gives you the mechanics for writing the letters," said DeLockery.

Although he composed and spell-checked his letters on the computer, DeLockery copied them by hand onto paper. "My handwriting shows the level of importance and sacrifice to my sons, who know me," he said.

"You're not cheating if you use a computer because my handwriting is

illegible," said Norm Kennel of Collierville. "It's not difficult to write, once you've prayed and outlined the letter in your head. It's not the words you write, it's that you took the time to put your thoughts on paper. It doesn't have to be a masterpiece."

"With my 19- and 22-year-old sons, the letters allow me to say things I can't say to them face to face or they wouldn't get it if I tried talking to them. I can put my emotions in and write the letters at my peak, and they can read them in privacy," said DeLockery.

For Steven Brown of Jackson, Tenn., the seminar has readjusted his focus to be more open, positive and encouraging to his family.

"Men tend not to open our hearts and say things we should say. We think we've said I love

you by doing things. We tend to be in the correction or fix-it mode. We need to give our families a blessing and a vision for what we see that God can do in their lives," said Brown.

Seminar coordinator Merle Musser believes men sense that communication is an area of their lives that needs attention, especially communicating their feelings in written form.

"We say I love you, but it is far different when we put it on paper and give it to them," he said. "The goal is to start a continual pattern of letter writing. The seminar will be successful when the participants are habitually writing letters."

Vaughn's book suggests occasions for letter writing such as birthdays, graduations, Christmas, marriages, birth of a child, or other family events or milestones. Seminar participants hope to develop a pattern of regular letter-writing. Some men are also writing letters to daughters-in-law and sons-in-law.

To guard against loss, the men keep copies of each letter they write. "We can also re-read them and remember what we've said to them. It's our hope they will also re-read the letters," added DeLockery.

As the men present their letters, they are "seeing how something so simple as letter writing is powerful to create feelings of love, warmth and restore relationships," said Musser.

Senior Pastor Harry Durbin, also a seminar participant, added that the letter-writing process has caused the men to examine their own spiritual walks with God.

Presenting the letters has varied from romantic trips or dinners to simply sitting at the kitchen table. Some letters have been

(Continued on page 4A)

LETTERS FROM DAD KICK-OFF, JANUARY 28

Collierville United Methodist Church
454 West Poplar Avenue, Collierville, Tenn.

Chili supper at 6:30 p.m.

Seminar dates are Feb. 27, March 27, April 17, May 15.

For more information, contact Collierville UMC office, 901-853-8383, or call Merle Musser at 901-853-0107.

THE BOOK: "Letters from Dad" by Greg Vaughn is published by Integrity Publishers. It's available in hardback and soft cover from bookstores.

THE WEB SITE: At lettersfromdad.com, you can locate seminars, post messages and obtain materials and information.

Identity theft, internet scams target older adults

The world is changing and it seems that those most at risk today are older adults. Technology can be a wonderful thing, but when the click of a computer key can empty a bank account, it can also be your worst nightmare.

The Memphis Conference Older Adult Design Team is offering a seminar to alert older adults and those who work with older adults to the dangers of identity theft, scams, internet addiction and more. Featuring two speakers well-acquainted with the pitfalls seniors face, the 9AM-2 PM seminar will be hosted by Jackson, Tenn.'s First United Methodist Church on Thursday, March 8.

The \$15 per person registration fee will include lunch (scholarships are available). First UMC is located at 200 South Church Street in Jackson.

The two main sessions are:

- **VULNERABILITY IN OLDER ADULTS: BEHAVIORAL ADDICTIONS**
SPEAKER: DR. TERESA CUTTS
How much is vulnerability and gullibility leading to gambling,

spending or internet addiction among older adults? Is it a big problem? How do you recognize when a hobby becomes "too much," and how do you talk to older adults about it?

Dr. Teresa Cutts is a Clinical Psychologist and Associate Director of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center's Office of Community Affairs. In 2005, she became the Memphis Senior

Scholar, Methodist InterFaith Health Program.

•IDENTITY THEFT, FRAUDS AND SCAMS

SPEAKER: GERALD WILTSHIRE

What is identity theft, how do you prevent it, and what do you do if it happens to you? Are you confused by all the junk mail in your mailbox and the "great offers" you see on the Internet ev-

eryday? What can you trust?

Gerald Wiltshire is the Financial Crimes Investigator with the Jackson, Tennessee Police Department. He is a computer forensic analyst and a sworn Special Deputy U.S. Marshall with the U.S. Secret Service Economics Crime Task Force, Memphis Office.

There will be a Round Table Discussion: Be prepared to share

what your group has done in the past year as well as plans you have for the future. Please bring copies of your schedule of activities, newsletter or any other handouts that might be helpful to others.

Please register by Monday, February 26. No walks-in, please.

If you have more questions, please call the Rev. Aтура Hampton, 731-664-8480, or Luci Cromer, 901-755-0803. •

Older Adult Ministries Seminar: Registration Form

Payment deadline: February 26, 2007—no walk-ins, please

___ Group* ___ Individual

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Church: _____ Email: _____

Please return registration form with your check made out to "Older Adult Ministries." Mail to: Memphis Conference, 24 Corporate Blvd., Jackson, TN 38305-2315 *Please list all participants with addresses & phone numbers on separate sheet.

Bishop Wills' Confirmation Rally, March 17

On Saturday, March 17, young people attending the Bishop's Confirmation Rally at Forest Heights United Methodist Church in Jackson, Tenn., are asked to bring with them two pairs of flip-flops for the mission project "Soles for Souls." The shoes, any size, will be distributed among United Methodist mission agencies for use by children, youth, adults and seniors.

"Happy Feet: Stepping Into Discipleship" is the theme of this year's rally. Registrations, \$10 per person, must be in the Program Ministries office by **February 9**. The day begins at 10 AM and concludes at 3 PM. Make checks payable to Memphis Conference and mail to: Confirmation Celebration, 24 Corporate Blvd., Jackson, TN 38305-2315. Scholarships are available. For information, call the **Rev. Aтура Hampton**, 731-664-8480. Advance registration is required. (One adult/seven youth)•



L-R: Rev. Birgitte French, Jamie Fowler, Hannah French and Rev. Martha Wagley show the gifts from Fostoria UMC.

A Christmas present for Memphis First Church

Memphis First Church gathered for its first Christmas since an Oct. 6 fire destroyed the sanctuary.

During the service, Pastor Martha Wagley shared a very special Christmas gift. Fostoria United Methodist Church in Michigan sent First Church a present. Tucked in a large box was a letter, photographs, a box of tissues, a candle and a quilt. The letter told the story of how Fostoria UMC experienced the loss of its building to fire. The photos showed the church before the fire and the new church they had recently

built. The beautiful purple and blue quilt, made by the Fostoria UMW, was hand tied by the congregation during a worship service with this inscription stitched on the back, "Eye of God Quilt Block, Tied with our Prayers and Love." The candle was to be used to light the way for First Church during the Advent season, Christmas Eve and beyond. And the tissues were to dry the tears of the Memphis First congregation as it mourns the loss of its beloved sanctuary and moves into the new year. •

'Letters from Dad'

(Continued from page 1A)

placed in special keepsake boxes, elegantly wrapped, and one was placed inside the glove box of a restored 1970 Volkswagen Bug.

Some have been read by the writer to the recipient, while another was received during a private church retreat.

Regardless of the delivery method, the response has been the same — feelings of being loved and special.

"I was taken back by the amount of time and thoughtfulness that my dad put into writing and presenting this letter," said Aaron Musser, 24, of Lynnwood, Wash. "He used words that were meaningful to me and told me he was proud of my accomplishments, which he listed."

"My daddy loves me more than I thought he did because he wrote about me in two typed pages," said 10-year-old Kari Kennel, a fourth-grader at Collierville Elementary School.

Added Kari's mom, Kim Kennel: "He wrote from his heart, remembering our past 15 years together and looking forward to the future. I'll treasure the letter forever. It made me feel loved and special." •

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Briefly

(Continued from page 1A)

New Room in Bristol, City Road Chapel in London, the Old Rectory in Epworth, Christ Church in Oxford, Coventry Cathedral and St. Mary de Crypt in Gloucester. The cost is \$2,198 from Nashville and includes airfare, daily breakfasts and dinners, deluxe motor coach, entrance fees and guided sight-seeing. A deposit of \$250 will secure your place on this tour. For more information or a tour brochure, contact the Paducah District Office at 270-442-0077 or email, padumc@comcast.net.

DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY OFFERS ONLINE COURSE IN FEBRUARY

Across the country, DISCIPLE Bible Study is making a difference. But some churches don't know how to make DISCIPLE explode into a movement. On Feb. 5-23, an online course called "Maximizing DISCIPLE in Your Church" is being offered. It doesn't replace DISCIPLE training events, but it will help churches multiply groups, reach the unchurched, and train new facilitators. Go to www.beadisciple.com.

FELLOWSHIP OF UMS IN MUSIC AND WORSHIP ARTS, JULY 16-19

The Biennial National Convocation of The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts will meet July 16-19, in St. Louis. Speakers and leaders include outstanding resources in the areas of dance, congregational singing, preaching, visuals for worship, choral music, organ music, age level music, handbells, contemporary worship, and more. Registration is open now along at www.fummwaconvo.org.

IMMIGRATION CONFERENCE AT LAKE JUNALUSKA, FEB. 1-3

A conference on immigration will be held February 1-3 at Lake Junaluska, NC. Plenary Speakers will be **Bishop Timothy W. Whitaker**, Florida Annual Conference. **Bishop Hee-Soo Jung**, Northern Illinois Annual Conference. **Dr. Amy Oden**, Wesley Seminary, Washington DC, and **Dr. Francisco Canas**, Executive Director, National Plan for Hispanic/Latino/a Ministries.

It's time to begin preparing AC/GC resolutions & petitions

By SANDRA BURNETT

It is still several months until the 2007 Memphis Annual Conference, but plans are already being made. It is not too early to begin thinking about resolutions or petitions you would like to submit.

This year there will probably be two types of resolutions and petitions to be considered; those that deal with concerns within our Annual Conference and those that you may wish to be submitted to General Conference.

Although our conference does not have detailed guidelines for submitting resolutions, you will need to pay attention to the General Conference guidelines if you are submitting resolutions or petitions that you would like the Memphis Annual Conference to support for consideration by the 2008 General Conference that will meet April 23-May2, in Fort Worth, Texas.

The deadline for submitting resolutions to the 2007 Memphis Annual Conference is 30 days before the beginning of the June 3-6 conference at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson, Tenn. Your resolution must be in the Program Ministries office, 24 Corporate Blvd., Jackson, TN 38305-2315 no later than May 3.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PETITIONS TO 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE
"Any organization, clergy member, or lay member of The United Methodist Church may petition the General Conference...." (§507, *The Book of Discipline*)

FORMAT FOR PETITIONS

1. All petitions must be submitted digitally: by e-mail, 3.5-inch diskette, CD, or through the General Conference website.
2. Petitions must be typed, double-spaced. Microsoft Word or any other software that allows files to be saved as rich-text format (RTF) may be used.
3. The top of each page of the petition should read as follows:

Page Number: (i.e. – "Page 1 of 4"); Suggested Title: (i.e. – "Establish Quorum"); Discipline Paragraph or Resolution Number: (i.e. "Discipline No. 506"); Financial Implications: (i.e. – "Financial Implications: 'None' or 'Yes'")

4. The bottom of the final page of the petition should include:

Date; Signature of the Petitioner; Identification of the Petitioner: (i.e. – "Member of Local Church"; "Secretary of Annual Conference"); Phone; Fax Number; E-mail Address.

"Each petition must be signed by the person submitting it, accompanied by appropriate identification, such as address, local church, or United Methodist board or agency relationship."

Telephone numbers must also be included. "Each petition submitted must identify the individual submitting it, accompanied by identification as above, and must contain a valid digital mail return address by which the submitter can be reached. Electronic signatures will be accepted in accordance with common business practice. (§507.3, *The Book of Discipline*).

CONTENT OF PETITION TEXT

To Amend or add to the *Book of Discipline* or *Book of Resolutions*:

5. "Each petition must address only one issue if the Discipline is not affected; if the Discipline is

affected, each petition must address only one paragraph of the Discipline, except that, if two or more paragraphs in the Discipline are so closely related

that a change in one affects the others, the petition

may call

less accompanied by supporting data that address the issue of anticipated financial requirements of the program." (§507.4, *The Book of Discipline*)

9. Rationale for the petition may be included and may not exceed fifty (50) words for each petition.

SENDING PETITIONS TO THE PETITIONS SECRETARY

10. "Petitions must be post-marked by a national postal service no later than 180 days prior to the opening session of the General Conference." (§507.5, *The Book of Discipline*) This date is October 26, 2007. "If petitions are transmitted by a means other than a national postal service, they must be in the hands of the Petitions Secretary no later than 180 days prior to the opening session of the General Conference."

(§ 507.6, *The Book of Discipline*) This date is October 26, 2007.

11. Petitions (3.5 inch diskette or CD) mailed via U.S. Postal Service should be mailed to:

Gary W. Graves,
Petitions Secretary
United Methodist General
Conference
P. O. Box 187
Beaver Dam, KY 42320-0187

12. Petitions (3 hard copies required and 3.5-inch diskette or CD) submitted via commercial overnight carriers (Federal Express, UPS, DHL) should be sent to:

Gary W. Graves
Petitions Secretary
United Methodist General
Conference
302 N. Lafayette Street
Beaver Dam, KY 42320

13. E-mail petitions should be e-mailed to petitions@umpublishing.org

14. Petitions may also be submitted within the General Conference website. •



for the amendment of those paragraphs also to make them consistent with one another." (§ 507.2, *The Book of Discipline*)

6. State action desired, i.e., "Amend ¶ No. ___"; "Add new sub-paragraph after ¶ ___"; "Delete ¶ ___ and substitute the following..."; "Add new paragraph..."; etc."

7. Use **bold** for proposed additions and **strike through** for proposed deletions. If more convenient, double underlines may be used for proposed additions and single underlines for proposed deletions. Do not submit petitions that have been prepared by using the "track changes" feature.

8. "All petitions submitted to the General Conference, except those submitted by individual members of The United Methodist Church and local church groups, which call for the establishment of new programs or the expansion of existing programs will be invalid un-

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Expert on leadership to speak at Christ Church, Feb. 8

Dr. John C. Maxwell will discuss his new book *Talent Is Never Enough* as part of the 2nd annual Dorothy and Kemmons Wilson Speaker Series. The free

event is set for Thurs., Feb. 8, at 7 PM. in Seabrook Hall, 4488 Poplar Ave., Christ UMC, Memphis.

Called the nation's foremost expert on leadership, Maxwell is

committed to developing leaders of excellence and integrity in both the secular and Christian communities. He is the founder of INJOY Stewardship Services,

and he also founded EQUIP, a non-profit organization that helps effective Christian leaders fulfill the Great Commission in every nation. •