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## Missouri Mid-South Conference United Church of Christ

Serving  
Missouri,  
Arkansas,  
and Memphis,  
Tennessee

March 8, 2010

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## Other News

### ACM Search

We are seeking an [Associate Conference Minister](#) to share their gifts with us.

### Women's Retreat

Women, join us at Mo-Val for a retreat of spiritual renewal, fun and fellowship. Available: [flyer](#) and [informational brochure](#).

### Men's Retreat

Men, join us at Shannondale for fine fellowship and hard work. [More information here](#).

## Your Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing Make a Difference

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*By Conference Minister Jeff Whitman*

Last week I wrote about my visit to the Air Congo School in Mbandaka. A second project we visited that receives support from [One Great Hour of Sharing](#) is the Ikengo Agricultural project of the CDCC. On Wednesday, February 17, our group boarded a motorized dugout canoe for a one hour trip down the Congo River to the Ikengo Farm.

The Ikengo Agricultural project was established by our partners in the CDCC to provide food for the Congolese people, to employ Congolese children between the ages of 8 and 12 and provide them with an education and farming skills, and to provide a place where people can come and learn to grow their own food. The 25 acre farm includes an area where crops are grown and people come to learn how to better use their gardens for growing food.

A second project is the raising of livestock including pigs, chickens, ducks, and goats. Every year the farm hires 8 children who live at the farm for up to three years during which they attend the local school and learn basic agricultural skills. Your gifts to [One Great Hour of Sharing](#) and [OCWM](#) enable the people at Ikengo to feed the hungry and to teach people how to feed themselves.

## Mo-Val Announces Camps

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Camp Mo-Val and Outdoor Ministries are excited to announce camp dates for the summer season! Schedule is available as a [flier](#) to post in your church. All grades listed are the grade completed by this summer.

### For Younger Children

June 13-15 Discovery Camp – grades 1-2

June 16-19 Primary Camp – grades 2-3

July 11-17 Lower Junior Camp – grades 3-4

**Younger and Older Children Together**

June 20-26 Junior Camp – grades 3-5

**For Older Children**

June 13-19 Outback – grades 5-6

June 27-July 3 Upper Junior Camp – grades 4-6

July 11-17 Outback – grades 5-6

July 18-24 Upper Junior Camp – grades 4-6

**For Youth**

June 13-19 Campers in Leadership Training – age 15+

June 27-July 3 Outback G78 – grades 7-8

July 4-10 High School Camp – grades 9-12

July 11-15 Middle School Canoe Camp at Shannondale – grades 6-8

July 11-17 Campers in Leadership Training – age 15+

July 18-24 Outback G78 TREK – grades 7-8

July 25-31 Middle School Camp – grades 6-8

**Other Camps**

May 28-31 Family Camp – all ages

June 6-11 Adventures in Community – adults with developmental disabilities)

Sept 12-15 Over 50s Camp – age 50+

## Association Spring Meetings

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**Eastern Association**

Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2pm at St. Paul's, Hermann.

**St. Louis Association**

Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2-6pm.

**Western Association**

Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 9am at St. Luke's, Independence.

## Congo Partnership News

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The next meeting of the Congo Partnership Committee will be on Saturday March 27 at Columbia UCC in Columbia. Rev. Whitman will be showing slides from his trip to the Congo and the committee will begin to consider some proposals from our partners for some mission projects in Bokungu. Please consider joining us on the 27th to learn more about our partnership in the Congo and ways that you and your congregation can become involved. If you would like to have Rev. Whitman visit your church and talk about the partnership and show slides from his recent trip, please contact the conference office.

## Jamaica Partnership News

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In June 2010 four delegates from the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands will come to Missouri for a week-long visit. They will attend and participate at our Missouri Mid South Conference Annual Gathering in Springfield, Missouri. They also would like to tour some of the agencies related to our Conference. Let's make our friends feel welcome.

Our friends in Jamaica have invited us, a group of ten, to visit October 5-12 of 2010. Tentative plans include a trip to Pringle Children's Home and attending a regular Sunday morning worship. Carlton Senior is looking for a work project for us. Please call 573-764-3963 or e-mail [Charles Adams](mailto:Charles.Adams@umc.org) for more information or to sign up for the trip.

## Widening the Welcome

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The UCC Mental Illness Network (MIN) and UCC Disabilities Ministries (DM) will host a national gathering called **Widening the Welcome: Inclusion for All**, September 23-26, here in St. Louis. This gathering is for clergy, consumers, laity, families and mental health professionals, and will include these speakers: Dr. Nancy Kehoe, a sister and clinician at Harvard Medical School, author of *Wrestling with our Inner Angels: Faith, Mental Illness, and the Journey to Wholeness*; Dr. David Greenhaw, President of Eden Theological Seminary; Rev. Jan Fisler-Hoffman and Rev. Bob Molsberry, UCC Conference Ministers; Mr. Jeffrey Pollack Esq., Attorney in Cleveland; Dr. Craig Rennebohm, author of *Souls in the Hands of a Tender God*; and Rev. Alan Johnson, author of *Encounters at the Counter: What Congregations can learn about Hospitality from Business*. For more details and information, email [Alan Johnson](mailto:Alan.Johnson@umc.org), Chair of the UCC MIN.

## Mission Moments

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### **New Melle Passion Play**

The players of the New Melle Community Passion Play will present the story of the last days of Christ for the 29th year. The script and music, based loosely on the cantata "Then Came Sunday," have changed many times over the years, reflecting the talents of changing directors and cast. The New Melle Community Passion Play will be presented at the New Melle Sports & Recreation Center's main building at 4700 Highway Z in New Melle. Performances are scheduled on two weekends, October 23-24 and 27-28. Contact: [NewMelleCommunityPassionPlay@umc.org](mailto:NewMelleCommunityPassionPlay@umc.org)

then again on Saturday March 28 at 7pm and Sunday March 28 at 2 and 4:30pm. Please join us for one of these performances. All seating is free. For additional information and large group reservations call Donna Curdt at 636-236-3251.

### **Habitat for Humanity**

A consortium of 23 St. Louis area UCC congregations are joining with Habitat for Humanity in 2010 to build two homes in the Old North St. Louis Neighborhood near Crown Candy Kitchen. Rev. C. Dwayne Dollgener, chairperson of the group, pointed out that UCC volunteers have helped build over 20 homes with Habitat in St. Louis in recent years. "This cooperative ministry enables us to work side-by-side with aspiring homeowners to make a better life for their families, develop affordable housing, and stabilize neighborhoods," he said. "We see this ongoing local mission project as a wonderful way to put our talents and treasure to work." The UCC volunteers will start putting in floor joists and walls in April and be finished with painting and landscaping by the end of June. In the process UCC congregants will donate 300 person-days in volunteer time and \$60,000 for building materials.

### **Rev. Paul Leabengayer Service**

The Rev. Paul Laubengayer, former pastor of Holy Ghost Evangelical UCC died last week. As of Friday evening Memorial Service was expected to be in the chapel at Laclede Oaks Retirement Home, where he lived the last several years, at 11am next Saturday.

### **First Congregational (Memphis) Featured in Print**

Rev. Cheryl Cornish and the members at First Congregational UCC in Memphis were featured in an article in the March 9 Christian Century entitled, "Free-Wheel offering." The article talks about the congregations work with Anthony Siracusa and their mission project "Revolutions" to use bicycles to reach out to the children in their community. We join in celebrating the bike ministry at First Congregational UCC.

## **Staff Preaching**

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**March 17** Jack Seville at Church of the Master

**March 21** Jeff Whitman at Bethany, Berger

**March 21** Jeff Whitman at St. Johns, Berger

**March 28** Jeff Whitman at St. Johns, Casco

**March 28** Jeff Whitman at St. Johns, Mantels

## **Community & Agencies Calendar**

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Calendar available with details on [MMS website](#).

**Mar. 10** St. Louis Ministerium  
**Mar. 12** Fish Fry at Immanuel's, Holstein  
**Mar. 12-13** Committees on Ministry Retreat in Jefferson City  
**Mar. 13** Bread for the World Workshop at Parkway, St. Louis  
**Mar. 13-14** Sacred Harp Convention at St. Johns, Pinckney  
**Mar. 14** Sausage Supper at Calvary, St. Louis  
**Mar. 14** Brad Urban's Installation at Carondelet  
**Mar. 14** Sausage Dinner at Femme Osage  
**Mar. 19** Fish Fry at St. John's Evangelical, St. Louis  
**Mar. 20** Candlelight Dinner at St. Luke's, Independence  
**Mar. 20 & 21** New Melle Passion Play  
**Mar. 21** Sausage & Beef Dinner at Friedens Peace, New Melle  
**Mar. 21** Sausage Dinner at St. Martin's, Dittmer  
**Mar. 25** Jeff. Co UCC Communion & Brunch  
**Mar. 27** Lenten Workday at Camp Mo-Val  
**Mar. 27 & 28** New Melle Passion Play  
**Mar. 28** Kansas City Metro Men's Chorus at St. Luke's, Independence

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**Apr. 1** Maundy Thursday  
**Apr. 1** Journey to the Cross at Frieden's Peace, New Melle  
**Apr. 2** Good Friday – Conference Office Closed  
**Apr. 4** Easter Sunday  
**Apr. 6** Interim Ministry Mtg. at First Cong., Webster Groves  
**Apr. 6** St. Louis Ministerium at St. Martins, Dittmer  
**Apr. 8** North County Clergy at Bethel, Florissant  
**Apr. 10** Western Association Spring Meeting at St. Luke's, Ind.  
**Apr. 10** Trivia at St. Peter's Evangelical, Florissant

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