

**UMVIM, SC  
Leesville, SC  
August 1, 2006**



**United Methodist Volunteers in Mission**

- Chair, Rev. Tony Rowell, opened the meeting and welcomed the 57 folks in attendance. Patti Francis then shared a devotion with the group. The message of the devotion was that when God measures a man, he puts the tape measure around the heart. Tony then led the group in prayer,
- Bob Sargent is recruiting folks to have a devotional for each meeting. Please let Bob know if you are interested in participating in this monthly effort. He can be reached at [gunnersargent@aol.com](mailto:gunnersargent@aol.com) .
- Tony reminded folks that all teams must first be approved by the Core Group through Bobby Oliver and that team rosters need to be turned in to Bobby prior to the trip departure.
- The SEJ UMVIM rally was held June 28-30 at Lake Junaluska. There were over 300 folks in attendance. If you have never been, this is a wonderful retreat in a beautiful setting.
- Tony has ordered the UMVIM display which will be housed in a case for ease in traveling. This display will be available for presentations, meetings, etc.
- We received a flyer from Jan Jackson of Belmont UMC in Easley which spoke to a mission in Bolpur, India. Belmont has taken on the ministry of the Bolpur Methodist Church with the goal of building a new parsonage, furnishing it, and landscaping the property. They are planning a trip to this locale in January 5-21, 2007, and the cost of the trip is \$3,000. For further information, you may contact the church at 937.254.1788 or [bumcsecretary@sbcglobal.com](mailto:bumcsecretary@sbcglobal.com) .
- Tony will be leading an exploratory mission trip to Panama on March 13-23.
- Tony shared with the group that there is still plenty of work for teams in the Bahamas. Sites are in Abaco and in Nassau. Needs are for disaster relief and vacation bible school. Please contact Tony if you are interested in these opportunities.
- An opportunity exists to restore a Gothic church on the island of St. Thomas, VI . The work will include intricate restoration of the interior of the church. Please see Tony for further information.
- Bethel AME in Summerville is hosting some California teams to help with the work that is needed there. If you would like information on the work and open dates, please see Tony.

- Central UMC in the Anderson District needs some help in installing a new roof on the parsonage. The materials are being provided. Please see Tony if you are interested in this opportunity in Pendleton.
- Mt. Zion UMC in Timmonsville/Florence has been condemned and will need to be rebuilt. Currently this project is on hold.
- Tony reported that UMVIM, SC, still maintains a moratorium on teams traveling to Haiti for the travel warning is still in effect with the State Department. SEJ also maintains this posture for safety reasons. It has been reported that if anyone should encounter problems in Haiti, at this time, the State Department is not able to assist you. Please share this information with all concerned.
- Bobby Oliver reported on the Core Group meeting that was held at Virginia-Wingard UMC on Broad River Road in Columbia. Meeting was 7/18 and the group discussed:
  - team approvals, safety concerns in Haiti, and the adoption of the Operation Stephen project (more on this later in the minutes)
  - the ERT meeting that was held 7/15 (Billy Robinson will report on this later in the minutes)
  - Safe Sanctuary and SLED checks will become a requirement for all team members
  - UMVIM website is currently under construction by Barry Whitney of Grace UMC; Barry is looking for suggestions and ideas for inclusion on the site; you may contact Barry at [barrywhitney@comcast.net](mailto:barrywhitney@comcast.net) . You may also visit the website at [www.umcsc.org](http://www.umcsc.org) and then click on ministries, and scroll down to select UMVIM of South Carolina.
  - as of 6/1/06, all team fees have been reinstated. The per person fee for domestic teams is \$10, and for international teams is \$15.
  - team leader training will be Saturday, 9/23, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The training will be held at the SC UM Conference Center at 4908 Colonial Drive in Columbia. Cost of the training is \$30 for the team leader's manual. Please contact Bobby at [bobbyolivr@comcast.net](mailto:bobbyolivr@comcast.net) if you are interested in attending this session. Deadline for registration if 9/11.
- Lee McMillan, Treasurer, reported on:
  - the UMVIM, SC Endowment Committee. The Endowment will have a base of \$43,000 to ensure the future of our organization. From the base, 25% of the interest generated must be reinvested.
  - we currently have \$3600 in the operating account
  - please be reminded of the voluntary annual dues/donation of \$25 which helps to support our operating expenses; you may make this donation with Lee at our next meeting; checks should be made payable to UMVIM, SC.
  - please remember that friends and family may make honorariums/memorials to UMVIM, SC, also.
- Mary Carolyn Watson called to let us know that the deadline for the next newsletter is 10/1. Please send your stories to her at [mikewsr@pol.net](mailto:mikewsr@pol.net) . She also asked for your prayers for Dr. Mike at this time, and sent her regrets that they were not able to be with us this evening.

MaryCarolyn and Dr. Mike Watson will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on 9/1. Congratulations!

- Nick Elliott will be leading an exploratory mission team to Ecuador on 10/30 – 11/6.
- Kenny Maple, who is currently Paul Turner's assistant at Asbury Hills Camp, will be leaving for Warsaw, Poland for 5 months.
- Arlene Andrews reported that she led a team of 18 youth, to Nicaragua. The date of the trip was May 27 – June 3, 2006, and it was a wonderful trip for all of the youth! The youth were experienced Salkehatchie volunteers or had been a member of other church mission trips. The base was the campus of El Ayundante in Leon. They worked at various sites in the surrounding impoverished community. They led VBS for approx 350 preschool and school age children at 6 sites. They also led 3 soccer camps and devotionals for approx 60 youth and left the volunteer coach with plenty of new equipment. They worked hand in hand with members of Norcross UMC of Atlanta to construct a church building. Additionally, they contributed meals and helped serve people who live at the city garbage dump. Arlene and her team concluded "thanks be to God for this awesome experience". The website for this mission site is [www.nicamissions.com](http://www.nicamissions.com) .
- K.C. Carter presented the adopted project of Operation Stephen. Please read the attached document that really tells the story and future plans for this amazing effort. We appreciate K.C. sharing this with us. He will be leading another team to this area at the end of August. It is a good place to take a team for there are shower facilities and the teams prepare their own meals. Also, please visit the website for Missionary Supply Network at [www.missionarysupply.org](http://www.missionarysupply.org) .
- Lee McDonald reported on the efforts of the teams that traveled to Tlaxcala, Mexico. She reported that the structure that the people of this area have been praying for for 25 years has been begun – and the goal is to have the church finished by Christmas. 74 folks from SC helped in this effort this year. The floors, walls, and ceiling are complete and they are starting a pew drive now in order to eventually furnish the church. Shandon and Herbert Memorial UMC left monies for future construction on the church. The pastor of the Mexico church has now expressed an interest in going on mission trips with members of UMVIM, SC.
- Billy Robinson reported on the ERT efforts that have been going on. The organizational structure has been worked out so that in case of an emergency, the proper folks are contacted and groups organized for readiness. A meeting was held on 7/15 and the complete minutes of that meeting are attached to this message. The state has been divided into 4 regions with coordinators for each. These coordinators are in the process of putting together calling trees. Billy reminded us that each ERT member must have been certified in CPR and in First Aid. We will no longer be offering these courses through UMVIM but folks are encouraged to obtain this training through the local Red Cross. Billy will be trying to purchase communication devices for teams. And, each member of an ERT team must have an identifying badge. There was some mix-up in the pictures and names that were printed on the recent badges, but those will be corrected. Any questions can be directed to Billy at [brpraisejesus@aol.com](mailto:brpraisejesus@aol.com) .

- Joe Watson reported that we will be loading another container for Haiti in September. We are in need of kits to enclose with this shipment. The instructions for kits are included in this message.
- Rev. John Kulp reported that 2800 youth had participated in the Salkehatchie program this summer.
- Dr. Hal Crosswell asked that we keep the Haitian pastor in our prayers as he was in a serious car accident.
- There being no further business, the group joined hands and the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

NOTE: I apologize but, at this time, I did not have the complete information on hand to update the following chart.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia Carson

| <b>Trip Date</b>      | <b>Leader</b>                       | <b>Church</b>               | <b>Destination</b>  | <b>Other</b>                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 2/26 - 3/4            | K. C. Carter                        | Buncombe Street             | Pass Christian, MS  |                                      |
| 3/6 - 3/12            | Bobby Oliver                        | Grace UMC                   | Jackson, AL   | has openings                         |
| 3/17 - 3/24           | Kenneth Phelps                      | Bethel Park/Main Street     | Louisiana   | has openings                         |
| 3/18 - 3/24           | Alan Parker                         | Shiloh UMC                  | Van Cleave, MS  |                                      |
| 4/1 - 4/8             | James Peavey                        | Aldersgate UMC              | Pass Christian, MS  |                                      |
| 4/9 - 4/15            | Danny Thompson & David Garrison     |                             | Pascagoula, MS  |                                      |
| 4/8 - 4/12            | Rev. Jerry Hill                     | Buncombe Street (youth)     | Pass Christian, MS<br>Ocean Springs, MS / St. Paul's UMC      |                                      |
| 4/23 - 4/29           | Jake Clark                          | Rock Hill UMC               | UMC   |                                      |
| 4/25 - 4/30           | K. C. Carter                        | Buncombe Street             | Pass Christian, MS  |                                      |
| 5/13 - 5/19           | Alan Parker                         | Shiloh UMC                  | Van Cleave, MS  |                                      |
| 5/22 - 7/4            | Lee McDonald                        | Shandon UMC                 | Tlaxcala, Mexico  |                                      |
| 6/5 - 6/14            | Billy Robinson                      | North UMC & Pond Branch UMC | Tlaxcala, Mexico  |                                      |
| 6/14 - ?              | Lee McDonald                        | Andrews Chapel UMC          | Tlaxcala, Mexico  |                                      |
| 5/27 - 6/3            | Arlene Andrews                      | Virginia Wingard UMC        | Leon, Nicaragua   | Salkehatchie team                    |
| 6/4 - 6/17            | Katrina Patton                      | Bethany UMC                 | Moss Point, MS  |                                      |
| 6/9 - 6/24            | Rev. Tony Rowell                    |                             | Panama  |                                      |
| 6/13 - ?              | Jerry Washabau                      | Union UMC                   | Zimbabwe  |                                      |
| 6/16 - ?              | Jerry Washabau                      | Union UMC                   | Zimbabwe  |                                      |
| 6/17 - 6/25           | Rev. Michael Bingham                |                             | Ocean Springs, MS   |                                      |
| 6/19 - 6/26           | Caroline Dennis & Rev. Noble Miller |                             | Amazon - Evangemed  | has openings (\$2500)                |
| 6/23 - 7/1            | David Essex                         | Herbert Memorial UMC        | Tlaxcala, Mexico  |                                      |
| 6/25 - 7/1            | Dr. Bob Smoak                       | Pine Hill UMC               | gulf coast  | Has openings<br>has medical openings |
| 6/16 - 6/25           | Janis Collins                       | Grace UMC                   | Bolivia   |                                      |
| 7/1 - 7/8             | David Essex                         | Herbert Memorial UMC        | Tlaxcala, Mexico  |                                      |
| 7/16 - 7/22           | Dr. Robert Smoak                    | Pinehill UMC                | D'I berville, MS  | Has openings                         |
| 7/24 - 7/30           | Bill Youngblood                     | Mt. Hebron UMC              | Blackfoot Indian Res, MT                                      |                                      |
| 7/29 - 8/5            | Rev. Jerry Hill                     | Buncombe Street             | Mexico  |                                      |
| spring/summer ongoing | Carl Quickmire<br>Ed Goodsen        | Simpsonville UMC            | UMC Relief Ctr (SC) or Merci Center (NC)<br>Asbury Hills Camp |                                      |
| 1/2007                | Bob & Joan Suda                     | Cateret Street UMC          | Costa Rica  | Has openings (\$1500/person)         |