



The Justice & Witness Insider

Issue 30

May 2010

Monthly Snapshot

The JWM Insider offers a monthly glimpse into the world of Justice and Witness Ministries. Learn more about our mission, staff, exciting projects, upcoming events and more. Get to know our ministry on a more personal level.

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May Birthdays:

- Ferne Clements 5/16
- Barbara Baylor 5/19
- Annie Congress 5/27

Faith Communicators Gather in Chicago



by Jessie Palatucci

Communicators from across the faith spectrum gathered in Chicago last month for the Religion Communication Conference. Several members of UCC staff participated in this once-in-a-decade interfaith event, a unique opportunity to learn about new and retreat old technologies, and explore how they impact our work as organizations communicating with the public and across faiths.

Much discussion was held about social media and its impact on the world. Rev. Otis Moss III gave a stirring speech calling on religious institutions to recognize “Moses is Dead,” but that the Joshua generation lives. Demanding that churches recognize the shift in thinking that a new generation presents and encouraging us to move boldly to embrace, rather than fight it.

Despite the many positives, there was something lacking in the experience for me as a young adult. While the views, opinions and desires of my generation were discussed at length, not a single young adult was invited to lead a plenary. To speak about the need of the church to wel-

come new generations of believers without inviting young adults to speak for themselves, about technologies they helped bring to the forefront, feels insincere to me. It is a problem I continue to see surface throughout the life of the church.

The bright spot of the event was a presentation by Jeff Cole, who offered honest, researched insights into new technologies and their users. You can get his insights by watching his plenary: <http://www.rccongress2010.org/news/jeffcoleplenary.shtml>.

We lift our cup of coffee in thanks to you!!



by Jan Resseger

Through the **UCC Coffee Project**, <http://www.ucc.org/justice/coffee-project/>, congregations and members of UCC Congregations purchased 37 tons of fairly traded coffee, tea, chocolate, sugar and snacks during 2009.

At fellowship hour after church and in fundraising projects, UCC congregations joined hands with communities in the developing

world to ensure that small farmers and their families gain more control over their lives, earn a fairer share of income, have access to credit and technical support, and gain a trading partner they can trust, a fair trade organization called Equal Exchange.

We're on the web!
ucc.org/justice



Joblessness and the Economic Crisis

Check out JWM's Economic Crisis webpage <http://www.ucc.org/justice/financial-crisis/> to follow what is happening to the economy, conditions faced by families and workers during these difficult times, and what we need to do to create jobs and build a sound economy that benefits all people.

Franklinton Center at Bricks



by Hudson Barksdale

Volunteers

The Board and staff of Franklinton Center at Bricks are thrilled to welcome Mary and Bill Ruth, who will be full-time volunteers at the historic UCC conference and retreat center for the next 6 months. The couple are United Church of Christ "Partners in Service" volunteers working in their eighth long-term placement.

Mary and Bill will be working on fundraising, database manage-

ment, communications and other places where their wealth of experience will be most helpful.

Mary and Bill make their home in Burlington, North Carolina and they consider themselves "not only retired but re-fired!" They have volunteered at Silver Lake Conference Center in the Connecticut Conference, at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta and at the national setting of the UCC in Cleveland, where they compiled a best practices database manual and enhanced the Wider Church Ministries communications program.

Black Preaching and Worship Conference CDs

Franklinton Center at Bricks announces the availability of CD's of the Black Preaching and Worship Conference held recently at the Center.

The titles are:

- *Historical Context of Black Congregational and Christian Churches*, Rev. Ervin Milton, Facilitator
- *Worship w/* Rev. Henry Simons preaching
- *Worship w/* Rev. Carlos Correa preaching
- *Relevance of Black Preaching*

and *Worship in the UCC, Black Preaching Styles*

- *Future of Black Pastors and Churches in the UCC* by GMP Rev. Geoffrey Black
- *Relevance of Race and Justice in the UCC*, Rev. Karen G. Thompson, Facilitator
- *Devotional*
- *A Model for Nurturing Black Churches and Pastors*
- *Worship w/* Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins preaching

The CD's are \$5 each or \$25 for the entire set. To order, contact the Center at 800-345-1850 or email eem5050@aol.com, or barksdah@ucc.org

Subscriptions of the inaugural StillSpeaking Magazine are available at www.ucc.org/magazine

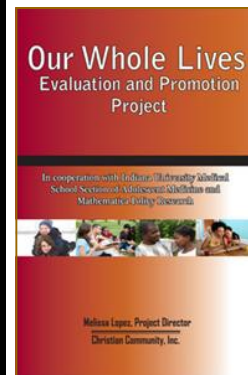
Wonderful Opportunity

by Ann Hanson

Our Whole Lives – Sexuality and Our Faith is in the beginning stages of being evaluated. The evaluative process will be taking place over the next few years. It is being done by the BEST evaluators in the country and will be the most extensive evaluation of a comprehensive sexuality education program EVER done. The evaluation is one of the best opportunities we, in the UCC

and elsewhere, have had to encourage people and churches to become engaged in providing the Our Whole Lives life-saving and life-affirming information to youth, their parents and the entire church community.

For more information, please go to: <http://www.churchstuff.com/sexuality/ourwholives.aspx>



Immigrant Rights Sunday
May 2, 2010

The first Sunday in May, **May 2nd**, has been designated Immigrant Rights Sunday within the UCC. Justice and Witness Ministries and Wider Church Ministries are urging congregations to lift up immigrants on this day. Visit: <http://www.ucc.org/justice/migration/ImmigrantRightsSunday.html>

JWM Files Comment on Fed Ed Law



by Jan Resseger

Faithful persistence, not flashiness, is necessary for justice advocacy. The UCC's Justice & Witness Ministries recently filed a formal statement with the U.S. House Education & Labor Committee, that is beginning to consider the reau-

thorization of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (currently called *No Child Left Behind*). The JWM statement advocates less testing and more resources allocated for equal opportunity. JWM opposes the Administration's proposals to reform struggling schools through "off with their heads" firing of entire staffs of teachers, closing schools and moving children, and increasing privatization. Visit: <http://www.ucc.org/justice/public-education/pdfs/UCC-Comment-on-ESEA-Reauthorization.pdf>

Pulitzer Prize Winning Cleveland Columnist

Pulitzer prize winning columnist of Cleveland, Connie Schultz, lifts up the UCC's commitment to sexuality education and justice in her April 28 column: "*Parents, if you don't have **The Talk** with your kids, someone else will.*" http://www.cleveland.com/schultz/index.ssf/2010/04/parents_if_you_dont_have_the_t.html

