

# Tidings



Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy... (Luke 2:10)

Dear Burke UMC Friend,

Just returned from the Board of Ordained Ministries interviews in Blackstone. Among those interviewed was our own Carl Perez. The "Vocation and Leadership" Committee passed Carl with fine recommendations; the "Practice of Ministry" and "Theology" Committees continued him for another year.

This is a challenging process, and you have helped guide other pastors (Judy, Janet and Bryson, for example) through it. We're thankful for Carl's ministry here, and we pray that he always know of our love and strength as he continues this journey.

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Weather predictions are for heavy snow. Therefore, our weekend schedule is:

- No LifeSign worship (Saturday)
- No 8:15 Sunday service
- No 9:30 service or Sunday School
- Yes - 11:00 am worship with Communion; Janet Salbert preaching, Communion also celebrated at services February 13 and 14
- No United Methodist Youth Fellowship activities Sunday evening
- Youth soup-making and distribution postponed until February 28.

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Virginia United Methodists have received a thank you letter from the Methodist Church in Haiti. Portions of the letter are below:

Jan. 28, 2010

On behalf of the Methodist Church in Haiti and the Haitian people, we thank you. Thank you all for your outpouring of love, support and Christian brotherhood in our great hour of need. Haiti has suffered a great tragedy, and to rebuild, recover and strengthen, it will take us all.

You have kept us in your prayers and we are grateful. You have sent donations through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). We thank you for your generosity. You have expressed your selfless interest in volunteering your time to come to Haiti to help with the recovery effort, and we look forward to welcoming you [in the future]. ...

In the short-term, the immediate needs of providing emergency aid of food, water, shelter and medical care are being addressed by UMCOR and a host of national and international relief organizations and technical specialists. With great appreciation for the outpouring of support, ...we thank you again for standing by us in this time of great need, and look forward to working in Christian partnership to build a better Haiti.

Blessings,

Rev. Gesner Paul  
President, Eglise Méthodiste d'Haiti

Our own UMCOR offering for Haiti has just passed the \$20,000 mark. Additional gifts are still coming in, and many people are making second or third contributions. Thank you for your generosity.

Thank you also to your generosity for our B5 program (Brick by Brick by Burke), through which we will sponsor and mentor a homeless family. We are already at the 40% level towards our goal! We have received \$6000 out of a needed \$15,000 to begin the process.

As you begin working on (or thinking about) income taxes, ask God to guide you in spending your refund.

May God bless you richly today.

#### COMING UP ...

LifeSign Worship	<b>Cancelled</b> February 6
Sunday Worship	<b>11:00 am worship <u>only</u></b>
Youth Fellowship	<b>Cancelled</b> February 7
Administrative Board	Tuesday, February 9
Ministries Council	Tuesday, February 16
Ash Wednesday Worship	Wednesday, February 17, 7:30 pm.

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All for now. More up-to-date information about Burke UMC news can always be found on our website - [www.burkeumc.org](http://www.burkeumc.org).

*Larry*

#### Our Mission

To make disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the world

#### Our Vision

We welcome everyone to learn, *celebrate* and share  
Christ's life-changing love.

#### Our Values

Radical Hospitality  
Passionate Worship  
Intentional Faith Development  
Risk-Taking Mission and Service  
Extravagant *Generosity*