

# Daily Bread

2008 Alabama—West Florida Annual Conference · Wednesday, June 4

## About "The Daily Bread"

- A complete wrap up (including today's events and news) and bulletin insert will be available online at [www.awfumc.org/ac2008](http://www.awfumc.org/ac2008) following Annual Conference.
- Additional daily updates, photographs, videos, and information about the conference are available at [www.awfumc.org/ac2008](http://www.awfumc.org/ac2008).
- DVD copies of many of the special events and worship services may be ordered through Frazer UMC using the order form in your delegate packet.



## Conference Worship Inspires Many

The sanctuary at Frazer Memorial UMC in Montgomery was filled to capacity on Sunday evening as representatives from the almost 700 United Methodist churches in central/south Alabama and northwest Florida gathered for the 2008 Alabama - West Florida Annual Conference.

Over 60 youth from a number of conference churches participated in a mass choir, leading the assembly in worship under the direction of James Keith Posey of Gulf Shores UMC (Gulf Shores, Ala.).

Bishop Goodpaster delivered the sermon, "Amazing Love - Great Grace" based on Acts 4:31-33, reminding those present to teach the resurrection. "When great



grace gets a hold of you, watch out," he said. "When great grace comes, get ready for God's new thing!"

### Special Moments

On Monday, the conference paused to honor 28 clergy and clergy spouses who died in the last year, remembering them with a moving sermon by Rev. Donald Smith. The conference also celebrated the ordination of 13 individuals at FUMC of Montgomery as Bishop Robert Morgan preached an inspiring sermon at the Service of Ordination.

The St. James UMC (Montgomery, Ala.) praise

band provided the musical backdrop for an evening of celebration and honor on Tuesday night. During the service, Shawn Bakker, the Director of the Advance for Christ and His Church, spoke to those in attendance in observation of the organization's 60th anniversary. "The Advance channels funds to more than 100 countries, and has raised \$1 billion dollars in the last 60 years. Thank you for helping us to advance hope in the name of Christ."

The Service of Commissioning and Sending Forth Service will take place today at 1:30 p.m.



James Keith Posey leads the youth choir in the powerful opening worship service of the 2008 Alabama—West Florida Annual Conference.

## Delegates Share Amazing Love with Ganta Hospital

This year's Annual Conference Special Mission Offering has been designated for the Ganta United Methodist Hospital in Liberia.

Prior to Annual Conference, Bishop Goodpaster challenged the people of Alabama—West Florida to

raise \$60,000 to assist the hospital, in honor of the 60th Anniversary of The Advance.

On Tuesday night, Bishop Goodpaster announced the conference exceeded his goal by raising over \$69,000!



(L-R): Bishop Goodpaster, Samantha, and Shawn Bakker display the painting Samantha made of the Ganta United Methodist Hospital in honor of Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster. This year, Samantha has helped to raise \$1,200 in her local church and the Mobile District for the 120-bed hospital in Liberia.

# Conference Highlights

## Warner Bible Study

Dr. Lacey Warner of Duke Divinity School led a Bible study each morning during this year's Annual Conference.



Using her extensive knowledge of Wesleyan history, her teachings enriched all those in attendance.

## Bullards Receive Award

John and Mary Ellen Bullard of FUMC Montgomery were recognized as the recipients of the 2008 Kresge Award given by the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation. The Bullards were nominated by Huntingdon College in honor of their years of support.

## Conference Celebrates Newly Ordained Clergy

### Elders

*Allen Sterling Boykin, Jr.  
James C. Cook  
Alan Trevor Ferguson  
Alan Gantzhorn  
Virginia Elaine Gallaspy Hagenbuch  
Lennie A. Howard  
Charles Kevin Kelly  
Geoffrey Douglas Lentz  
David Rolan McAlister  
Patrick Michael Quinn  
Jean W. Smith*

### Deacons

*Nancy Dianne Hart  
Reed Haigler Hoppe*

## Hamilton Urges Conference to 'Lead Beyond the Walls'

During three teaching sessions on Tuesday, Rev. Adam Hamilton of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City inspired the annual conference to be bold in leadership. A highlight of the conference for many, his presentation emphasis centered on developing a congregation with a heart for the unchurched.



Rev. Adam Hamilton spends time sharing the story of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection on Tuesday.

# In Business Matters...

- Dr. Steve Furr of Jackson, Ala. was named the new Conference Lay Leader.
- 22 Retirees were honored by the Conference on Monday, together serving for 639 years.
- The Conference voted to donate its \$9,703.60 check from profits of the United Methodist Publishing House to the Central Conference Pension Initiative.
- On Tuesday, Mary Ann Pickard was honored upon her retirement as the AWF Conference Archivist, a position she has held since 1976.
- Skipperville UMC, Skipperville, Ala., was honored by the AWF Conference Commission on Archives and History on Tuesday as the recipient of the Local Church Heritage Award.
- Mary Esther UMC (Fla.) was honored as *A Church for ALL God's Children*
- Irving Santos and John Webb received the Denman Evangelism Awards for lay and clergy, respectively.
- The first class of the Rural Church Initiative at Huntingdon College was recognized on Tuesday.

# A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words



Irving Santos (L) proudly displays his Denman Evangelism Award. Santos is serving as a lay pastor within The Grace Place UMC in Mobile, Ala.



Throughout the conference, the friendly faces of Frazer UMC staff and volunteers have served as living embodiments of God's Amazing Love and Great Grace! Many more photographs are available online at [www.awfmc.org/ac2008](http://www.awfmc.org/ac2008)