

# The Arbor Vine

Ann Arbor District of The United Methodist Church  
Rev. Mark E. Spaw, District Superintendent

July 2015



Come enjoy a picture perfect day!\*

Ann Arbor District  
**PICNIC**  
Saturday, July 25th  
Noon - 3 pm  
**Tecumseh UMC**

Rev. Spaw is cooking hotdogs. Please bring a dish to pass if you can.

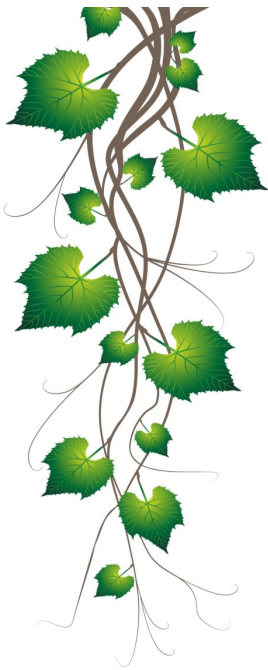
Live music.

Meet the new pastors on our district.

The only thing on the agenda is fun.

\*God reserves the right for it to rain. If so, that's ok, we'll move inside.

*Meet the new pastors at the District Picnic, July 25!*



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## DISTRICT NOTICES

### MISSIONARIES WHO ARE ITINERATING TO THE DETROIT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

David Paye Guinkpa, Missionary to Central Africa, October 5-9

Emmanuel and Florence Mefor, Missionaries to Zimbabwe, November 22-24

Contact Roberta King to schedule these missionaries to speak at your church.

You can reach her at 734-662-8020 or [garyandroberta@sbcglobal.net](mailto:garyandroberta@sbcglobal.net).

### ICE CREAM SOCIAL AT SHARON UMC

July 1, 5:00-8:00 p.m. at 19980 Pleasant Lake Road, corner of M52 and Pleasant Lake Road in Manchester. Contact 834-428-0996.

### ICE CREAM SOCIAL AT NORTH LAKE UMC

To be held at North Lake United Methodist Church on Saturday, July 11 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.. There will be ice cream, classic vehicles (including a 1958 Air Stream trailer), and 2 bounce houses – all for free. Located at 14111 North Territorial Rd. Chelsea, MI. For information please call Jo Page at 734-355-3391.

### CHICKEN ROAST COMING ON AUGUST 1

The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicken and Corn Roast will be held at North Lake United Methodist Church on Saturday, August 1, 2015 beginning at 3:00 p.m. until gone. The church is located at 14111 North Territorial Rd. Chelsea MI. In addition to half a roasted chicken there will be fresh corn on the cob, baked beans, coleslaw and rolls. Tickets at the door. Eat in or take home. Handicap accessible.

### COME TO THE UMW TEA PARTY

At the Chelsea Retirement Community, 801 W. Middle Street in Chelsea  
July 10, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

### A MOVE FOR HOUSE BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD

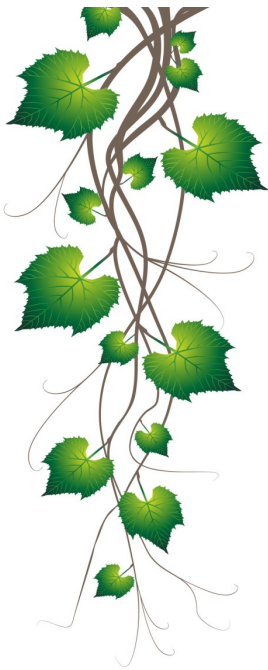
House By the Side of the Road has worked for years providing clothing and household items at no charge. They have now moved to 2051 S. State St, Ann Arbor MI 48104. The contact person is Roberta King, at 734-662-8020.

### ALTAR PARAMENTS TO A GOOD HOME:

The Novi UMC wishes to find a good home for four Altar Cloths: red, white, purple green. There are some stoles and lectern scarves, but not for every set. Call Deanna at 248-349-2652 if interested.

***Church Conference agenda and forms  
will be available on the District Website:***

**[www.AADistrict.org](http://www.AADistrict.org)**



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# Spaw's Paws

Some thoughts from your D.S., Rev. Mark E. Spaw

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## "SUMMER DISTRACTIONS"

(I waited all winter)

We might as well face it: some summertime hazards seem to be here to stay. It is dangerous to ignore them, hoping they'll go away. As I sat in the sun the other day, first thinking, "Man, that sure feels good," remembering a long cold winter; then, without thinking, I said to myself, "That sun sure is hot." I had waited all winter to bask in the sunlight and here I was not five minutes into my basking when the complaining began. What's up with that! All winter I had thought of the warmth, the activities, the freedom, the joys of summer and my first encounter with my winter dream, I start complaining. Well, here are some other ailments, problems, and liabilities that seem to be with us every summer:

1. **LOW TEMPERATURE.** June, July and August frequently bring an astonishing temperature inversion. As the physical thermometer goes up, sometimes the spiritual thermometer goes down. (I'll get back to all that God stuff in the fall.)
2. **OVERCROWDING.** This problem occurs mainly on Sundays and weekends—overcrowding on the golf courses, lakes and rivers, and highways. I've noticed that this overcrowding is not a problem in most church parking lots.
3. **NO SEATING.** All the seats are taken. Baseball games, tennis matches, parks, ice cream parlors and outdoor concerts, not a seat to be found. Once again this is not a problem in most churches on a summer Sunday morning.
4. **SLEEPING SICKNESS.** The summer variety of this illness has nothing to do with the tsetse fly or tropical Africa. The symptoms include drowsiness and laziness. The brain and the backbone seem to be affected. This particular kind of sickness occurs mainly on Sunday mornings.

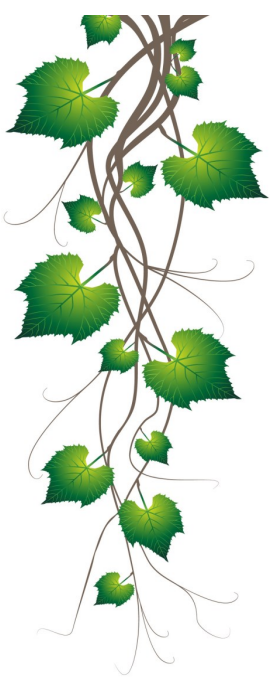
As we enjoy the summer months let's keep the complaining to a minimum, our spirituality active and engaged, our church participation and worship at a maximum, and not forget that winter storm warnings are only a few months away. God's blessings this summer as you renew, refresh and recharge. Seek out God's peace this summer and find healing for these ailments, problems, and liabilities. Have a wonder-filled summer!

God's Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "MARK". The letters are bold and slightly slanted, with a casual, personal feel.

Rev. Mark E. Spaw, D.S.

P.S. I'm looking forward to being with you on Saturday, July 25 at our annual District Picnic at Tecumseh UMC. Can't wait to cook you a hot dog!



## ***Conference Vote Announced June 10th***

*From "Detroit and West Michigan vote to create a new conference" on the Detroit Conference website, 06/10/2015.*

Three years after she first arrived in Michigan and began to hear stirrings about bringing together the Detroit and West Michigan conferences into one, Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey today [June 10, 2015] announced to the Area, "Dear friends, the vote is Detroit Conference 718 yes and 75 no; West Michigan 551 yes and 83 no. We have discerned that now is the time for our two annual conferences to become one!"

During a live webcast from the Area Ministry Center, Bishop Deb addressed hundreds who watched online and to the 75 persons assembled, "I want to personally thank you all for your willingness to participate in this 'journey', and I celebrate all that has happened along this 'journey'. I also celebrate today the exciting possibilities and challenges that are now before us." The Bishop asked for continued prayers for next steps as she begins to gather the area-wide Design Team together. Their task will be to take the concept of one, unified Michigan Conference and make it, with the help of many others, into a plan.

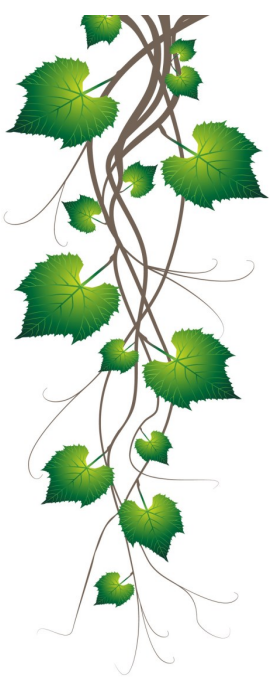
The union of the Detroit and West Michigan conferences must also be approved at the North Central Jurisdictional Conference convening in Peoria, IL in July of 2016. If the NCJ blesses the plan, it is expected to take 2-3 years before Michigan's two annual conferences take the final vote to dissolve and emerge as a single conference.

"I am very pleased the vote was affirmative – again thank you for that discernment," Bishop Deb continued. "However, I am fully aware that in many ways, the hard work begins now. It is a difficult and yet exciting task to try to create something new, and it will take a great deal of prayer, a creative spirit, many wise minds, and a willingness to 'let go' of some things we might hold dear."

This truly is a day of new beginnings!" Bishop Deb declared, "It's a day to remember all that's been ... and move on. It's a day to believe in what love is bringing ... and to trust that the God who brought us here, will continue to guide us into that new future with hope, with excitement, and with joy!"

### **JULY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

1 Tyler & Vanessa Kleeberger	6 Pam & John Beedle-Gee	18 Barbara Dawes
2 Tom Tarpley	8 Julie Zimmerman	19 Donna Galloway
2 Chris & Cathy Butson	8 Linda & Jim Tuttle	20 Pam Beedle-Gee
3 Cathy Rafferty	10 Tom Zimmerman	21 Sherry Foster
4 Betsy Bentley	10 Susan Norton	23 Chris Beaudoin
5 Amy & Eric Triebwasser	10 Kristen Parks	28 James Kummer
6 Robert Boley	10 Andy & Sarah Baek	31 Marsha Woolley
6 Jamie & Taek Kim	11 Linda Tuttle	



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# Revitup! For a Lifetime of Ministry

October 5-7, 2015  
Hilton Chicago/Indian Lakes Resort  
Bloomington, Illinois

New to ministry? Or have you been around awhile?  
Looking for new ideas? Trying to figure out the best approach?  
Want to be energized? Inspired? Informed?

**Put yourself at the top of your list!**

**Plan to attend revitup!...For a Lifetime of Ministry!**

- Find ways to reduce and manage your seminary and personal debt
- Gather practical tips for balancing life and ministry
- Network with other young clergy from across the denomination
- Participate in one-on-one consultations with class instructors/field experts (benefits consultants, pastoral counselors, financial planners, tax consultants, wills and estate planning experts, and more!)
- Go home with new ideas, resources and knowledge

*And...Earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs)*

Visit <http://www.gbophb.org/events/revitup/>

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## **New Support Available for Clergy**

Rev. Mark Spaw well understands the challenges and pressures on clergy within the Ann Arbor District in both professional and personal lives. Goodness knows, part of being clergy is helping members of our congregations deal with serious illnesses, deaths of spouses or children, accidents, and divorce, as well as many other painful issues. But when we are in need of someone to be present as these same difficult and painful issues arise in our own lives, to whom can we turn? Perhaps good friends, a clergy group, or your DS, but sometimes that feels awkward.

In response, Mark has asked me, Rev. Annelissa Gray-Lion, Deacon, to serve as 'Chaplain' for clergy in the District to provide emotional and spiritual support for clergy persons going through difficult life passages. This is a natural extension of my District role as Consultant on Spiritual Guidance and Faith Formation. In terms of process, Mark will make me aware of such situations and I will initiate contact. FYI, all such conversations are strictly confidential; no records or identifying information will be kept, beyond the numbers of individuals with whom I've met. What this simply means is I will be present in a pastoral way to those who wish it at no cost.

In addition, for those who might be interested in ongoing Spiritual Direction (listening deeply with others for the guidance of the Holy Spirit), I do offer spiritual direction to individuals for a fee. My background, training, and 10+ years of experience in Spiritual Guidance prepare me well for both of these roles. If you have questions about ongoing Spiritual Direction, please feel free to contact me directly at [lgraylion@gmail.com](mailto:lgraylion@gmail.com) I'd be happy to answer questions.

## ***Cleaning out your files this Summer?***

**Consider these Record Retention Guidelines from  
the General Council on Finance Administration**

<b>Document</b>	<b>How Long to Keep (Minimum)</b>
Articles of Incorporation, amendments, bylaws	permanently
Certificate of incorporation and corporate records to the state	permanently
Tax returns	permanently
Work sheets and related backup documents for tax returns	7 years
Minutes	permanently
Annual corporate reports	permanently
Property records	permanently
Contracts and leases in effect	permanently
Insurance policies (including expired policies)	permanently
Insurance letters/correspondence	permanently
Audit reports of CPAs and financial statements	permanently
Employment applications (for current employees)	permanently
Bank statements and reconciliations	7 years
Canceled checks for standard transactions	7 years
Invoices from vendors	7 years
W-2 or 1099 forms	7 years
Housing allowance forms	7 years
Business correspondence	3 years
Employee personnel records (after termination)	3_ years

Some of the suggested retention periods are for legal reasons, while others are based on practical considerations. You may want to keep some records longer than the table suggests.

It is an excellent idea for your organization to discuss and adopt a record retention policy. The above table gives you some suggestions on items to be included in the policy and time periods to be used.

When developing a record retention policy, it is important to think about where those files will be kept, how secure those files will be, and the conditions under which files will need to be stored (heat and particularly dampness can be very destructive to files).

Some of the reasons to keep files and records include legal requirements, potential relevance in future litigation, and the needs of the organization, as well as historic importance. It goes without saying that should there be threatened litigation or an investigation on a certain subject matter, particular care should be given that no file or document relating to that matter be destroyed.

Tax returns and governmental reports affecting tax liability should be kept permanently. However, most backup records, such as receipts documenting income deductions need only be kept for seven years. The Internal Revenue Service calls for a six-year statute of limitations. The IRS has three years from the date of when the income tax return is filed to question or audit it. If the IRS can prove an omission of at least 25% of income, the time period doubles to six years.

CONNECTIONAL GRANTS are intended to assist local congregations in the Ann Arbor District in a program, ministry, or project that the church would find difficult, if not impossible, to do without assistance. Greater weight will be placed on projects and programs that go beyond the church's present budgetary needs. Grants are given both for new and innovative programs.

Ann Arbor District Board of Missions and Church Extension

## APPLICATION FOR CONNECTIONAL CHURCH GRANT FOR 2015

Connectional Church Grants are intended to assist local congregations in the Ann Arbor District in a program, ministry, or project that the church would find difficult, if not impossible, to do without assistance. Greater weight will be placed on projects and programs that go beyond the church's present budgetary ability. Grants are given both for new and innovative programs.

Total Grant Budget for 2015 is \$13,000.00. Grant amounts are limited by the number of churches that apply.

Send this completed form to Connectional Church Grant c/o Dennis Just: 3280 Byron Rd. Howell, MI 48855

Connectional Church Grants will be awarded at the annual meeting of the Ann Arbor District Board of Missions and Church Extension.

If the request is granted your Church will be notified two weeks prior to our fall annual meeting.

We urge you to have a representative in attendance at the annual meeting to receive your grant.

**Application Deadline: September 13, 2015**

Attach any additional sheets if necessary

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Description of project \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Desired goals of project \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Proposed total cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Projected date for use of project \_\_\_\_\_

List anticipated sources

Funding

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate last year's support for:

Detroit Conference apportionment \$ \_\_\_\_\_ %

Mission and Ministry \$ \_\_\_\_\_ %

District Board of Missions and Church Extension \$ \_\_\_\_\_ %

This request was adopted by administrative board/church council

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

*pastor*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

*administrative board/church council chairperson*

Ann Arbor District Office  
of the United Methodist Church

900 S. Seventh St. Suite 1

Ann Arbor MI 48103

**Return Service Requested**



**The Arbor Vine**

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