

## United Methodist Reporter—November 7, 2008

In this issue:

### NEWS/FEATURES:

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SENIORS IN CYBERSPACE: [Older adults who have ventured into cyberspace](#) have found that blogging, online communities and other Internet-based activities are helping them develop new connections. Amy Forbus has the feature.

Q&A ON MISSION TRIPS THAT MATTER: [Preparing your heart for a mission trip](#) is as important as packing your bag, says author Don Richter. He spoke recently with Mary Jacobs.

'AMIGAS' MISSION IN JUAREZ: Thirty-eight women from across the U.S. participated recently in a [mission trip to Juarez](#), where they constructed two buildings for a church. Mary Jacobs was one of the "Amigas" and has an essay about it.

MILITARY CHAPLAINS: By representing their own faith and guaranteeing religious freedom for all troops, [United Methodist military chaplains](#) attend to the spiritual care of soldiers all over the world. By UMNS' Kathy Gilbert.

CHURCH IN PLANNED COMMUNITY: A new UMC in Tennessee [made sure that they were included at the table](#) when a planned community was being developed. A United Methodist News Service story by Kathy Noble.

MISSION POSSIBLE: [Kids on a mission to make a difference](#) by doing God's work are participating in Mission Possible Kids chapters in 17 states. A UMNS feature from John Gordon.

### COMMENTARIES:

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VALUE OF A NICKEL: A gift of a coin from a young girl reminds UM Pastor Melissa Yosua-Davis that [even when we have little](#), we are called to give.

BURDENED BY BUSYNESS: [Too often, the holiday season distracts](#) from rather than enhances our approach to Christmas, says Shannon Vowell.

GETTING PAST RACIAL ISSUES: As he looks back on a 40-year friendship, Bishop Woodie White realizes that he and his friend had indeed reached a point when [race was no longer a factor](#).

WARDING OFF WORRY: [Fear and panic can stifle creativity](#) and close the door to the Spirit's wisdom—and can lead to our biggest mistakes in ministry, says Bishop Robert Schnase.

### MUSIC/ART/RESOURCES:

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PRAYERS FOR A PRIVILEGED PEOPLE: Walter Brueggemann's prayers that contemplate violence, sickness and poverty offer an honest reflection of faith [while acknowledging American privilege](#), says Sarah Ehrlich Thullen.

MAINLINE OR METHODIST? [Has Methodism tried too hard to conform](#) to the larger American culture? That's the thesis of a new book, *Mainline or Methodist?* Andrew Thompson has the review.

ON 'W.': Oliver Stone's film *W.* conveys the worldview of its director, but beyond the politically charged subject matter, it's [really not much to fuss over](#), Bill Fentum says in his review.

HISTORY OF HYMNS: "[On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand](#)" conveys the feeling of excitedly marching forward toward eternal life, says Michael Hawn.

IT'S FOR LIFE: A workshop leader provides suggestions for [getting more out of Sunday school](#), both as the student and as the teacher. Boyce Bowdon has the story.

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