



Fall 2009

News for NOMADS

NOMADS On a Mission Active in Divine Service

2010 Annual Meeting

Marion, North Carolina
Tom Johnson's Camping Center
October 4-9, 2010
See Page 9 for more info

2011 Annual Meeting

Forest City, Iowa
Winnebago-Itasca Travelers
River Oaks Rallygrounds
September 19-23, 2011
More details soon!

Weekly Email Updates
are sent every week,
usually on Friday.

Are you getting yours?

**Thanks NOMADS
for your support at
Annual Meeting!**

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Jim Sippel

Highlights of the September 2009 Board of Directors' Meeting

1. Newly elected Board members were welcomed: Terry Lair, representing the North-east Jurisdiction, and Jerrel Fielder, the new member-at-large.
2. Welcomed Marley Walker to his first meeting with the Board as chairman of the Disaster Response Committee.
3. Received the Program Administrator's report from Carla. The Board thanked Carla for the outstanding work she does and the dedication she has to NOMADS. Current membership total is 1025, a slight increase over last year.
4. Treasurer Cliff Johnson reported that NOMADS' finances are solid. It was noted that Duane Wakefield has agreed to begin serving as Assistant Treasurer, and Coke Helmstetter will advise and consult in the preparation of the annual 990 tax forms.
5. Received reports from all Committee chairs and Jurisdictional Representatives.
6. Received a report of IT Task Force chair Duane Wakefield, noting that after more than seven years of dedicated service as webmaster, Rudy Morris has tendered his resignation, but will continue to serve until the end of the year, or until a replacement is found, whichever occurs first. Duane then asked that a new Task Force be named, and the following were chosen: Carla Kinsey, Jerrel Fielder, Jeannie Coe, and Marley Walker.
7. The Promotions Committee chair Jane Waddock reported that Danny Thompson has agreed to develop and produce a new NOMADS DVD to promote the organization and that Mary Jo Reeves has agreed to coordinate the script-writing effort for the new DVD.
8. Marley Walker reported the successful DRC project at Cedar Rapids, IA, for 22 weeks this past summer: 113 NOMADS completed work on 26 homes and expended 6,935 hours of volunteer labor.
9. Grants Funding chair Bill Tarbell reported that to-date \$46,225 had been approved in grants to agencies.
10. The following new officers were elected for the coming 2009 – 2010 year: Jim Traviss, Chairman; Bill Tarbell, Vice-Chairman and Chairman-Elect; Shirley Hope, Secretary; Cliff Johnson, Treasurer; and Jane Waddock, Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee.

11. Approved the following committee chairs for the coming year: Carol Stoner, Nominating and By-Laws; Cliff Johnson, Finance; George Russell, General Concerns, Visioning, and Membership Recruitment and Retention; Jane Waddock, Promotions; Bill Tarbell, Grants Funding; Ed and Cora Hamilton, Funds Development; Marley Walker, Disaster Response; Jeannie Coe, Project Coordination; Rubye Russell, Sunshine; and Terry Lair, Newsletter.

I have been honored and privileged to serve on the NOMADS Board of Directors for the past four years. You have a talented and dedicated Board to lead the organization in the coming year, and an outstanding chair in Jim Traviss to lead it. I pray that God continues to bless NOMADS as they seek to serve Him by serving others.

My thanks and best wishes to all of you.

Arlyn Kiel, retiring chairman

Florida - FALL 2010

Would you like to have a couple of Florida project choices during the Fall of 2010? We will likely have Life Enrichment Center again in November, as we did last year, but are wondering about your interest for more?

Please let us know!

Our Board of Directors

DRAW NEAR TO GOD AND HE WILL DRAW NEAR TO YOU

James 4:8

Our LORD continues to be active in the daily operations of NOMADS. None of us should believe that he or she is in control nor believe that our lives are in our own hands. NOMADS began with God and continues to serve because of HIM. Sometimes we think that we know exactly how our LORD should run this organization. Sometimes we know that our ideas are HIS ideas. Sometimes we are wrong.

The Board and Carla try our best to serve our LORD and the members of NOMADS. There are occasions when serving one may not appear to be serving the other. Rest assured that if this occurs we will try to follow our LORD. We are concerned for the members of NOMADS and the agencies it serves, but we also know that our LORD knows what is best for each and every one of its members and the agencies as well as for the organization as a whole.

Carla carries out the Board's directions and acts according to the guidelines given her incredibly well. There is no friction between the Board and Carla and we are thankful for that. Carla anticipates many things which are being contemplated by the Board and finds ways to accomplish them without having to be told or guided. On behalf of the Board I would like to formally thank and praise Carla for her friendly and courteous response not only to the Board but to all who email or call her to obtain information or make suggestions and sometimes demands. Thank you Carla for all that you do.

As this world changes, our LORD knows which direction NOMADS should take. If we remain close to HIM then we will make decisions which are responsive to HIM. Please pray for NOMADS, the Board of Directors, Carla and the agencies whom we serve. With your prayers NOMADS will respond appropriately and follow the directions of our LORD, JESUS CHRIST.

Jim Traviss

Committee Chairpersons

By-Laws/Policy/Guidelines: Jim Traviss
Disaster Response: Marley Walker
Finance: Cliff Johnson
Funds Development: Ed and Cora Hamilton
General Concerns: George Russell
Grants Funding: Bill Tarbell
IT Task Force: Jerrel Fielder
Membership Recruitment and Retention: George Russell
Newsletter: Terry Lair
Nominating: Carol Stoner
Project Coordination (was Agency Selection): Jeannie Coe
Promotions: Jane Waddock
Annual Meeting 2010: Co-chairs: Bill and Wanda Kearney, Larry and Lovetta Bailey, Louise and Roland Davey
Annual Meeting 2011: Co-chairs: Jay and Bonnie Coble, Bill and Judy Schatz
Sunshine: Rubye Russell
Visioning: George Russell
Other Appointments: Alumni Liaison and Reunion Advisor-George Russell

NOMADS Board 2009-2010

Chair **Jim Traviss**
Vice Chair/Chair-Elect **Bill Tarbell**
Secretary **Shirley Hope**
Treasurer **Cliff Johnson**
Jurisdictional Reps:
Charles Townsend Western
Carol Stoner South Central
Jane Waddock North Central
Jim Traviss Southeastern
Terry Lair Northeastern
Jerrel Fielder
George Russell
GBGM Rev. Clint Rabb
PCC Chair Jeannie Coe
DRC Chair Marley Walker
Recording Secretary **Paul Hope**
Ex-Officio **Carla Kinsey**

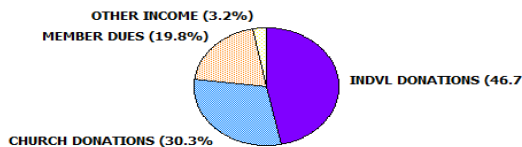
Financial Update

NOMADS FINANCES

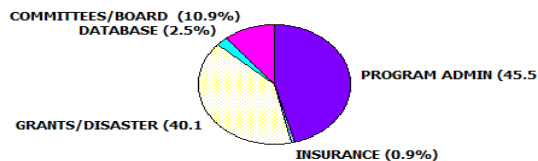
NOMADS Treasurer, *Cliff Johnson*

Please note from these two pie charts where NOMADS stand financially this Fall. Our income is approximately \$11,000 less than expenses so far, but those expenses are more because of increased commitments to Grants, which is up over \$12,000 from the previous year, thanks to the generosity of our members, who have contributed over two thirds of NOMADS income. We continue to be blessed as we share our time and skills. Next year look for an increase in expense for database and web service as we expand the NOMADS web site, and as we continue to increase our Grants and Disaster Response expenditures. As always, NOMADS is trying to be good stewards of the resources God has provided. Thanks to all who donate funds, skills, time and prayers. Also thanks to Duane Wakefield who graciously accepted the position of Assistant Treasurer.

INCOME AS OF OCT 31, 09
\$129,609



EXPENSES OCT09
\$140,742



Church Fundraising

As we look at church giving to NOMADS through October, we find we are about 12% ahead of last year. We think that is remarkable given the economic situation. We have more than 2 dozen new contributors this year, making our total number of contributors through October greater than the total for all of last year. Obviously, you have been making new contacts, and we thank you for that. We want to ask that you continue and even increase your efforts to contact new churches. There are 3 areas where we need to focus our efforts: speaking at our home churches, revisiting churches where we have spoken, and reporting our visits.

Through October we have had about 160 churches contribute to NOMADS. Given that there are probably between 400 and 500 home churches represented in NOMADS, you can see that there are still opportunities to have more home churches contribute.

It is also important to stay in contact with contributing churches if we hope to have the contributions continue. We recognize that often we will speak at a church as we pass through an area and perhaps not ever return there again. However, we would ask that you revisit churches each year when you can plan to do so.

Cora and I often do not know when you speak at a church. NOMADS received a \$4000 contribution from a first time contributing church this year, but we can't determine who spoke there or what other situation prompted this contribution. We would like to ensure that proper follow up is made in appreciation of support. Again, we mention that there is a form for reporting visits on the NOMADS web page. Click the **Funding** tab and go to the bottom of the page. You can download the reporting form there. Using this form is important for two reasons. First, it will decrease Carla's workload if the information about visits comes directly to us and she didn't have to forward it. Secondly, we publish a quarterly one page newsletter that goes to churches and organizations that have contributed or that have been contacted by NOMADS whether they contribute or not. Since it is not possible to revisit all the churches that we touch over the year, we feel that this newsletter helps to keep NOMADS before these congregations, giving them some idea about what their contributions are supporting. If you can't get the report form to us, sending us the name of the church, a contact name, and an e-mail address would be extremely helpful. By the way, if you would like a copy of this newsletter, let us know.

Again, we want to thank you for your efforts this year. We know how difficult it is when things get busy to respond to all the requests that come your way, but we feel that we need to be diligent not only in doing the Lord's work day to day but also making provision for that work to continue in the future. That is where our fundraising along with increasing membership becomes important.

Ed and Cora Hamilton, svsufficient@yahoo.com Funds Development Committee

Church Giving in 2009

The churches listed here (Alpha by City) have generously donated to our cause in 2009. We'll begin listing these in each quarterly newsletter, so you can see what an incredible impact your efforts in fund-raising are having on our ministry.

Faith Circle	UMC	Abingdon	IL	Loveland	UMC	Loveland	OH
Grace	UMC	Alamogordo	NM	First	UMC-Nobia Frey	Marietta	GA
Altoona	UMC	Altoona	FL	Martin	UMC	Martin	MI
Amity	UMC	Amity	AR	Mason	UMC	Mason	OH
Community	UMC UMM	Annawan	IL	Silver Creek	UMC	Masonville	IA
Anthony	UMC	Anthony	FL	First	UMC	Mercedes	TX
Arcadia	UMC	Arcadia	OH	First	UMC	Moorestown	NJ
Abbottsville	UMC	Arcanum	OH	GBGM	of the UMC	New York	NY
First	UMC	Auburn	IN	Aldersgate	UMC	Nixa	MO
Christ	UMC	Baltimore	OH	North Rose	UMC	North Rose	NY
East Cross	UMC	Bartlesville	OK	Living Hope	UMC	Norton	OH
Seybert	UMC	Bellevue	OH	Orion	UMC	Orion	IL
Birch Run	UMC	Birch Run	MI	Wesley	UMC	Ottumwa	IA
First	UMC	Bowling Green	OH	Ovilla	UMC	Ovilla	TX
Calvary	UMC	Brownsburg	IN	Oxford	UMC	Oxford	OH
Buck Creek	UMC	Buck Creek	IN	First	UMC	Park Hills	MO
Carlisle	UMC	Byron Center	MI	Hubbard	UMC	Park Rapids	MN
Cadiz	UMC	Cadiz	KY	Pearsall	UMC	Pearsall	TX
Cambridge	UMC	Cambridge	MN	Zion Evangelical	UMC	Pekin	IL
Florence	UMC	Camden	NY	Petoskey	UMC UMW	Petoskey	MI
Cape Elizabeth	UMC UMW	Cape Elizabeth	ME	Grace	UMC	Piedmont	SD
Grace	UMC	Carey	OH	Heritage	UMC	Pierson	MI
Carrollton	UMC	Carrollton	IL	First	UMC	Pontiac	IL
Mt. Zion	UMC	Catawissa	PA	First	UMC Men	Port Huron	MI
St. Paul's	UMC	Cedar Rapids	IA	First	UMC	Rapid City	SD
First	UMC	Clarion	IA	Roanoke	UMC UMW	Roanoke	IL
Clinton	UMC	Clinton	IL	Bethany	UMC	Rochester	MN
Clinton	UMC UMM	Clinton	IL	Aldersgate	UMC	Rockford	IL
Bethany	UMC	Columbia	IL	Aldersgate	UMC UMW	Rockford	IL
First	UMC	Columbus	NE	First	UMC UMM	Romney	WV
First	UMC	Columbus	TX	Silver Creek	UMC	Rowley	IA
First	UMC	Crossville	TN	Rowley	UMC	Rowley	IA
Fairview	UMC	Danville	VA	Ruskin	UMC	Ruskin	FL
Christ	UMC UMW	East Moline	IL	State Street	UMC	Saginaw	MI
First	UMC	East Peoria	IL	Santee	UMC	Santee	CA
First	UMC UMW	Ebensburg	PA	Seneca Castle	UMC	Seneca Castle	NY
Edon	UMC	Edon	OH	Sherrill	UMC UMW	Sherrill	IA
Epworth	UMC	Elgin	IL	First	UMC	Sinton	TX
Bethany	UMC	Ellicott City	MD	Southport	UMC	Southport	IN
First	UMC	Eustis	FL	Stephenson	UMC	Stephenson	MI
Fairmont	UMC	Fairmont	MN	Sussex	UMC UMW	Sussex	WI
Community	UMC	Fentress	TX	Calvary	UMC	Syracuse	IN
Christ	UMC	Fort Collins	CO	Tahlequah	UMC	Tahlequah	OK
Bethany	UMC	Fort Wayne	IN	First	UMC UMW	Tahlequah	OK
St. Luke	UMC-Upper Room	Fort Worth	TX	Eylau	UMC	Texarkana	TX
First	UMC	Franklin	TN	New Covenant	UMC	The Villages	FL
Faith	UMC	Genoa	IL	Tishomingo	UMC	Tishomingo	MS
Good Hope	UMC	Good Hope	IL	Asbury	UMC	Toledo	OH
Gorham	UMC	Gorham	NY	Mt. Vernon	UMC	Trinity	NC
Gratiot	UMC	Gratiot	OH	Asbury	UMC	Tulsa	OK
Living Water	Bible Church	Guttenberg	IA	Marvin	UMC	Tyler	TX
Liberty Hill	UMC	Hartwell	GA	Union City	UMC	Union City	MI
Piney Grove	UMC	Hot Springs	AR	Uniopolis	UMC	Uniopolis	OH
Houghton Lake	UMC	Houghton Lake	MI	Van Buren	UMC	Van Buren	OH
Zoar	UMC	Huntingburg	IN	Luster	Chapel Church	Vandalia	IL
Grace	UMC	Jacksonville	IL	First	UMC	Vandalia	IL
Janesville	UMW	Janesville	IA	Walker	UMC	Walker	IA
First	UMC	Johnson City	TX	Walnut Creek	UMC	Warsaw	IN
St. Lukes	UMC	Kansas City	MO	First	UMC	Waskom	TX
Christ	UMC	Lafayette	IN	First	UMC	Watertown	SD
First	UMC	Lafayette	LA	Main Street	UMC	Waynesboro	VA
First	UMC	Lake Alfred	FL	Hoffman	UMC	West Milton	OH
First	UMC	Lake Charles	LA	Westminster	UMC	Westminster	SC
St. Michael's	UMC-Craft Group	Lake Havasu City	AZ	White Salmon	UMC	White Salmon	WA
Phillips	UMC	Lakewood	CO	Whitehouse	UMC	Whitehouse	TX
Phillips	UMC UMW	Lakewood	CO	Bethel	UMC	Wildwood	MO
Asbury	UMC	Lansing	MI	Canaan	UMC	Winston-Salem	NC
League City	UMC	League City	TX	St. John's	UMC	Winter Haven	FL
Leakey	UMC UMW	Leakey	TX	First	UMC	Winterset	IA
Otterbein	UMC	Lebanon	OH	First	UMC	Woodstock	IL
Leo	UMC	Leo	IN	First	UMC	Worthington	MN
First	UMC	Lindstrom	MN	First	UMC UMW-UMM	Yuma	AZ

Our GRANTS FUNDING program

Grants Funding Committee Report

Your Grants Funding Program is meeting our goal of helping hosting agencies and their NOMADS teams accomplish their missions to the glory of our LORD. The Program is providing funding to purchase materials for projects at agencies or in community outreach, to help pay for RV utilities, and to build RV parking spaces.

In 2009, the Program funded 77 requests totaling \$54,525. To date, for Winter-Spring 2010 projects, we have received 62 requests from 34 agencies totaling \$56,682.67.

Your Grants Funding Committee has received the recommendation from the Jurisdictional Project Coordination Committee member and approved requests for \$20,875 from 15 agencies for 2010 Period 1 projects.

The Grants Funding Program budget for 2010 is proposed to be \$75,000. It is only a result of your extreme generosity that NOMADS are able to help agencies fund their projects.

Thank you and Blessings to you,
Bill Tarbell, Chair

Summer-Fall 2009 Funded Agencies

Langley UMC, Langley, Arkansas
Page Community UMC, Page, Arizona
TMM Family Services, Tucson, Arizona
First UMC, Hawthorne, Florida
Reynoldswood Christian Camp, Dixon, Illinois
Camp Lake Stephens, Oxford, Mississippi
Camp Jo-Ota, Clarence, Missouri
Aldersgate Camp, Greig, New York
Camp Casowasco, Moravia, New York
Dale Corinth UMC, Dale, Texas
William Taylor UMC, Luling, Texas
Ocean Park Retreat Center, Ocean Park, Washington
Randle UMC, Randle, Washington
UM Circle J Ranch Camp, Ten Sleep, Wyoming

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

2009 was a banner year for NOMADS. We funded 77 grants to Methodist organizations for a total of \$54,525. This was a new record. Yet the needs get greater and the number of grant requests continues to grow. Louise and I are proud to say NOMADS continue to meet the challenge.

You will be receiving or may just have received a letter in the mail and I ask you to consider making a contribution to the Annual Giving Campaign so we may continue to serve those who need us the most.

Yours through service,
Louise and Roland Davey

Additional Giving

Additional grants for projects during 2010 are in the approval process with our Grants Funding and Project Coordination committees. If you are leading projects that will be receiving funding, we'll let you know about this via email. *Thanks!*

Alternative Gift Card

Are you looking for a gift for someone special? Consider the NOMADS Alternative Gift Card. You can make a donation to NOMADS in honor or memory of loved ones, then print out a card from our website telling your friend or family member of your donation.

To print out the card, go to our website (www.nomadsumc.org), click on the Promotional box, go to Promotions Info Packet, then to Item 7, Alternative Gift Card, and follow the directions there. If you don't have computer access, contact Jane Waddock at 217-935-9865 or 7167 Sunset Dr, Clinton, IL 61727.

Project Related *Food for Thought*

It Is ALL About Communication!

Jeannie Coe

Back in the "old" days of NOMADS, communication with the team leader and team members was pretty much limited to one (maybe two) letters to the team with updated information about the Agency, maps, etc. No one had cell phones or emails. And this formula obviously worked since NOMADS just celebrated a 21st anniversary! However, now that we do have cell phones and electronic communication like email, please use it to begin to build your team before you even arrive! That goes for Team Leaders as well as Team Members. For team leaders, this is a good way to get to know about your team's skills as well as limitations. If their skill sheet is outdated (I still see some with a Trotwood, OH address and we left there almost 6 years ago!), you can email them the form and ask them to fill it out ahead of time. Chances should be very good that their skills have improved and that they have some new ones in the past 6 years! As well, it is okay to send an email asking about your team members' physical abilities and health limitations. That information is part of the health form that we typically get from team members when they arrive at the project. To facilitate your planning for team work, knowing that information before you get to the project can be helpful when you first meet with the Agency personnel.

Okay now for you team members, you don't have to wait for your team leader to ask! If you know that you will have a special situation like you or your spouse will have just had surgery and will have limitations, or you will be a day late arriving or need to leave a day early, or you have dietary concerns, or whatever, let your leader know ahead of time. Bottom line is that team leaders can easily deal with most issues as long as we know ahead of time; but NOBODY LIKES SURPRISES! It really is all about communication - let's work to make sure that we communicate ahead of time! Let's leverage our electronic communication and cell phones to help build the team before our RVs even roll!

Local Drive In NOMADS

On occasion we have NOMADS who live near an Agency that is having a NOMADS project. Those NOMADS sign up for the project as "Drive Ins", i.e. they are part of the team but will drive to the Agency daily as opposed to arriving with their RV. This situation does not happen very often and is contingent on things like will there be enough work to do to keep the regular team size plus the drive ins busy. If you do sign up to participate as a Drive In on a team, you are considered to be fully a part of the team and are expected to participate at the same level as if you were parked there in your RV. That means you are planning to work everyday and will be there for devotions and team meetings as well as team social events. Of course, obviously there may be an occasion when another obligation may take you away for a short period of time; however, if you are signing up as a Drive In, you are signing up as a regular team member for the whole project. We don't mean to preach here but we do want to make sure that Drive Ins know what they are signing up for. And FYI, we are glad you are driving in!

QUALIFICATIONS TO BE NOMADS LEADERS

NOMADS does not work without effective team leaders. Thank you for your interest in becoming a team leader. In order to serve as a NOMADS leader, you need to (1) have worked several different NOMADS projects, (2) been recommended to become a leader by your team leaders, and (3) receive leader training. Because we do a lot of work electronically, leaders should also have email capability. Team leadership is NOT for everyone; it does involve a great deal of work and planning both before and during the project. It can be a very challenging task requiring you to be a good logistician as well as a good leader. You have to be able to work well with others; you have to be able to make decisions, and you have to be flexible. Leader Training is done annually at the NOMADS Annual Meeting. We also have a group of NOMADS leader trainers who can do small group or individual training. That individual training can be coordinated through the NOMADS Program Administrator. Because things/policies change, if you do not lead a project over a 2 year period you will automatically be removed from the NOMADS Leader List. Retraining would then be an option should you want to get back on the list.

Hosting Agencies that Provide Housing

Some of our Agencies do provide housing for NOMADS who do not have an RV. The housing situation can vary widely from staying in someone's home to a fully equipped small apartment to a cabin with limited/no cooking facilities. Understandably, we all have different levels of what is acceptable for us based on our individual needs. Obviously if you are considering going on a project and using the Agency provided housing, you want to know the specifics about what is being offered and what is included. If this applies to you, please contact Carla for information as to how to contact the Agency and who to talk to. Normally we ask individual NOMADS team members to not contact an Agency but rather leave that to the team leader; however, this is one situation where you need to be able to ask the questions rather than having Carla or your team leader asking them for you. That way you can determine what accommodations are available at the time of the project so that you can make an informed decision as to whether to participate. If you decide to use Agency housing, let Carla know that you want to sign up for the project. Once that is approved, it will be your responsibility to contact the Agency again to let them know you *will be* using their housing so they can reserve it for you. As the project period gets closer, it is always good to call again to make sure that they are expecting you and that nothing has changed.

Disaster Response Update

From Marley Walker

As I write this we are into our 7th week of work at our disaster sites in Galveston and Moss Point. Our teams in Galveston completed work on three homes and the families are moving into their homes for the first time since hurricane IKE hit the area. Another home is being rebuilt by our team there now with a goal of having it ready before Christmas.

In Moss Point work has been completed on 5 homes and the teams are working on two more as you read this.

There are a couple of things that are consistent at both of our DR sites. One, we need more help; there are openings for the rest of this year and also for the winter months. Please consider signing up to work, even a week of your help will be appreciated and is needed, hopefully however you can give more than a week of your time.

Eight homes completed so far, just think how many more we can get done in time for Christmas or Easter if we had YOUR help.

The second thing that is consistent at each DR site is how important it is to remember we are rebuilding lives as well as homes, as we work around the home owners we must remember to listen, demonstrate God's Love through our deeds and be careful not to say or do things that would be upsetting to the very people we are there to help. UMCOR in one of their training courses teaches volunteers to "Do No Harm".

Our leaders also understand that the host agency deals with the recovery project every day since the hurricane hit, it is not up to us to tell them how to do their jobs. They will often have insight into the issues of rebuilding that we are not aware of, what they need from us is support and encouragement for the 24/7 work they are doing. Remember we get to leave and move on to another project or go home, they are home.

We must be mindful that the families are often depressed, distressed and in need of not only a place to live but also someone that will just listen. Remember we are there for them, not to tell them of our experiences, we cannot fully understand what they have gone through.

Nancy and I are at Sager Brown for the UMCOR Academy. It is a weeklong training program, which we were invited to attend and we are honored to have been selected for this program. It will help us a great deal in our work with the NOMADS disaster committee work. There will be many UMC conferences represented so we also see this as an opportunity spread the word about NOMADS and maybe recruit new members.

We thank all of you for your support of the disaster response program in the NOMADS and would love to hear from you if you have any questions about our projects before you call Carla to sign up. God Bless, Marley Walker, DR Chair

Did you ever want to be in Films? During the week of 2 November the NOMADS Disaster Response team at Galveston had two extra members. Aline and Emmanuel from France were visiting and traveling in the U. S filming a documentary on volunteers in the United States.

Volunteerism is not something the French are familiar with so Aline and Emmanuel wanted to learn all they could about how it is done in the States and take that experience back home to be shown in public settings. They are independent film makers so they travel around France charging a fee for people to see what they have learned while here. In this county we would most likely refer to what they do as a Travelogue series.

They took part in all the daily activities of the team, they were included in all our devotions and meetings, attended church with the team, learned how to paint, Emmanuel tried his hand at some carpentry work, he did well, helped with clean up while doing a lot of filming of our team.

Aline played the accordion and flute while Emmanuel played the guitar and sax, both of them sang so the team had special entertainment often during the week.

They slept on cots in the church, so they were present to film our members arriving, departing and even one couple having breakfast in their RV.

Aline reported that "they never experienced God's love in the way the NOMADS show it each day to each other and to those we do not even know". Until joining our team they had been filming AmeriCorps workers in Colorado and so to experience volunteering without compensation was hard at first for them to understand and they wanted to know why we do what we do. "In France people only work if they are paid" is what Aline says. It was fun to have them as part of the team, watch them grow and learn about what we do. They have promised to send us access to the parts of the film that show the NOMADS when it is ready in the spring.

We wish Aline and Emmanuel safe travels.



Fall 2009
 News for NOMADS feature page

NOMADS at Heart

From Terry Lair

The NOMADS Annual Meeting for our 21st year is now in the memory banks of the 363 participating NOMADS at Ceraland in Columbus, Indiana. Each morning began early with breakfast and Gene Wengert's Bible study. Tom and Carol Lee Iverson along with Gary Prichard got us all singing and smiling before each guest pastor's devotions. The daily themes help to sum up what NOMADS is all about.

Tuesday's theme was "NOMADS ARE GOOD FRIENDS". Can't imagine any other organization that has so much greeting and hugging going on as ours. At Session One the new board members were announced. Terry Lair is the new Northeast Jurisdiction Representative and Jerrel Fielder is our new Member At Large. The Silent Auction had an all-time record of 438 items and everything was sold. Between it, the Country Store and the lively Live Auction, \$25,000 was raised toward the General Fund. Forty-five tables of eight filled the gym with good food and friendly conversation at the Potluck Supper. The evening then ended with the booming baritone voice of Dane Bailey, The Singing Auctioneer.

Wednesday's it was "NOMADS DO GOOD WORK". After Session Two of the Annual Meeting the 2 gyms and 2 pavilions were the sites for 12 seminars available to help us hone our skills from team leading, to promotions of NOMADS, to painting and electrical work. Gym 2 was packed for our catered banquet which was followed by an evening of double entertainment. Our hearts melted to the music of Joyce Elliot's harp playing. Then we all went back in time as we laughed with "George Burns and Gracie".

"NOMADS ARE GOOD NEIGHBORS" was Thursday's theme with Bible study, eating, singing, worship and more board reports all done with our good friends. The seminars with friends also helped us to see that we all have some of the same difficulties and concerns with dry walling, body movement, team leadership, and even plumbing. Don't think anyone left without learning something new. The BBQ pork dinner sounded simple till we looked at all the tables full of finger foods. No one went away hungry as they enjoyed the captivating singing of Connie Strange, our entertaining vocalist.

"NOMADS REMEMBER" was a moving memorial to the ten NOMADS we lost in the past year on Friday. Then Jim Traviss, our new board chair, closed our Annual Meeting for 2009 and old and new friends began to wrap up hoses and cords as they prepared to get back on the road, heading in all directions but filled with great memories. Hopefully we can all gather together again in Marion, NC on October 4-9, 2010.

2012 Annual Meeting

Yes, it may seem like a long time yet until the 2012 Annual Meeting but it's not if you have seen all the work that goes into one. Right now we need volunteers to chair or co-chair the whole affair. These volunteers do not have to live in the northeastern part of our country but that is where the 2012 event is scheduled to occur. And this meeting does not have to be in the fall but it could be. It would be the chair's choice.

Please let me, your Northeast Representative, know if you would be interested in chairing our 2012 Annual Meeting. We need someone now to find a location and choose some committee chairs. I personally will be there to help in every way possible. Think and pray about using your talents in this way. Then call or e-mail either Carla or myself just as soon as possible. We'll be waiting to hear from you.

Your Northeast Area Representative, **Terry Lair**

Other Areas of Involvement

NOMADS in the RV Show at Mercedes

NOMADS will again be represented at the All Valley RV SHOW in Mercedes, Texas. Many NOMADS work in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas in the winter. There are lots of prospective NOMADS there, too. Olan and Lola Halbert have arranged to have a booth at the Mercedes RV Show January 14 - 16, 2010. It's important to present "Retirement with a Purpose" to all those RV-ers. If you are going to be in the area and are willing to share the NOMADS opportunity with others, please contact Lola Halbert at ohalbert@sbcglobal.net or call 281-795-0234. We'd like to have four NOMADS at the booth on 4 hour shifts during the show hours of 9:00 - 5:00. Wouldn't you like to share your story about NOMADS?

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Good News! Our membership is 1064 as of November 15. We think this is the highest our membership has been for several years. You have been telling the story. But in order to hold steady come March 31st, when our dues cycle ends, we will need at least 1100 members. The reason is we lose about 100 members each year through death, ill health and non-renewal. So let's keep telling the story and reaching new people for NOMADS. Let's shoot for 1200 by March 31! *George Russell* Membership and Retention Chair

National Publications Coordinator Needed

The Promotions Committee is seeking a National Publications Coordinator to help in publicizing the NOMADS story. The responsibilities of the Coordinator as stated in the committee descriptions are: 1) to contact National Methodist and RV Publications about placing articles about NOMADS. 2) to follow up with these contacts by preparing (or arranging to have prepared) and submitting articles, advertisements, etc. as appropriate. This Coordinator will be a member of the Promotions Committee and will have the support of other committee members in carrying out these responsibilities. This position is an integral part of Promotions as we seek to tell our story to our fellow Methodists, to other RVers and to the people in the communities we serve.

Share Your Photos and Videos Do you have quality photos or videos from projects that could be used in our new DVD? At the Annual Meeting, the Promotions Committee selected Danny Thompson to begin work on our new DVD. Danny will not be able to travel to all our projects so in order to get a representation of several different areas that we serve, we are asking that you submit your best photos for consideration. Photos submitted via email must be at least 300dpi and saved as a jpeg. CDs are also acceptable. Send via email to: dannymt1@bellsouth.net or janenick99@verizon.net. Send CDs to Jane Waddock, 7167 Sunset Dr., Clinton, IL 61727. **Please include the names of people and project/location in your photos.**

ESCAPEES BOF (Birds of a Feather)

At the present time we have 77 SKP (Unit) numbers in our NOMADS - BoF and continue to grow, as persons interested in giving back see the information and join our NOMADS organization. We have folks tell us all time that had it not been for the information on NOMADS in the Escapees magazine, they would have not known about us. We welcome all Escapees members to join our BoF, as we are looking forward to having some drop-in work sites when we leave Escapade next September and head to North Carolina, and the NOMADS annual meeting. The Escapade is Sept. 11 - 17 and the NOMADS annual meeting is Oct. 4-8, so we will have two weeks for drop-ins as we travel across the country. We'll let you know as plans firm up on these drop-ins. If you are an Escapee and a NOMAD, please join us.

For more information contact Carol Stoner via e-mail.

Welcome NEW NOMADS!

Please join me in welcoming our new NOMADS. If you need contact info for any of them, please let me know. They are listed in order of date joined.

- Nancy Busch - Gainesville, FL
- Donald and Diane Mulder - Lake Stevens, WA
- Dennis and Sharon Noe - Eureka, IL
- Ken and Shari Glass - Cedar Grove, NC
- Bob and Linda Macoy - Downingtown, PA
- Don and Paula Patrick - Midland, MI
- Wayne and Regan Wooley - Bethlehem, GA
- Ralph and Virginia Wiggers - Crossville, TN
- Fred and Connie Koser - Elizabethtown, PA
- Mike and Roxy Meilicke - Wautoma, WI
- Larry and Evalyn Beasley - Madison, SD (IN)
- Polly Adkison - Houston, MO
- Karl and Connie Kirkman - Waterville, OH
- Bill and Carolyn Gast - Dexter, IA
- Joyce Livermore - Belle Plaine, IA
- David and Paula Sanders - New Braunfels, TX
- Roger Normand - Effingham, IL
- John and Bonnie Archer - Maple Grove, MN
- Denny and J Patterson - Alma, KS
- Gary and Mary Korneman - St. Joseph, MO
- Charles and Joyce Olsen - Johnson Lake, NE
- Gail Husbands - Wedowee, AL
- Dale and Elaine Weaver - Ottumwa, IA
- Edward (Ted) Saunders - Ramona, CA
- David and Marilyn Hays - Knox, IN
- Roger and Nita Hearst - Superior, MT
- John and Karen Roller - Galion, OH
- David and Sue Pierce - Ocean Shores, WA

Gather together

Michigan Blue Water Area NOMADS

Four NOMAD couples who live in the blue water area of MI had a lunch get-together on Tuesday Oct 7th at the Richmond Family Diner in Richmond, MI. Those in attendance were Frank & Lucy Monzo, Tom & Jean Norager, Dale & Jane Ropp, and John & Joyce Williams. We had fun getting acquainted, talking about projects, and finding out each others backgrounds, how long we have been Nomads, talking about our rigs, and figuring out how we knew each other. We all enjoyed the lunch. We decided that we are going to get-together again next May (after we return from winter projects). We would like to invite any Nomads in Macomb and St Clair Counties in MI to join us. For more information please contact: John & Joyce Williams at 586-242-4584 or e-mail them at kkat-tbear@juno.com.

Arkansas NOMADS met at Mt. Eagle on Nov. 8, for a week of work and fellowship. Mt. Eagle is in the center of the state near Clinton, AR., and is located on a mountain, near the Little Red River Valley, and is reached by Hwy 110 off of U.S. Hwy 65. Mt. Eagle is on the NOMADS drop-in list and is planning to apply for a project next fall.

There were 6 R.V.s in the recently upgraded RV park, with one of our group staying in one of the cottages. Connie Masters from Heber Springs brought her tractor, so she could help with some of the landscaping work that needing doing since the ice storm. The other NOMADS worked on the office/parsonage which is a rustic log cabin. We worked on maintenance on the exterior of the building. The Arkansas NOMADS present were Cecil & Doris Jones from Royal, Jerry & Becky Fay (new NOMADS) from Hot Springs Village, Paul & Kathy Bauer from Cherokee Village, Ron & Charlene Glasgow from Garfield, Dan & Virgie Brown (new NOMADS) from Rogers, and Howard & Carol Stoner from Texarkana.

Not only did we get a lot of work done, but had great fellowship. The Sunday that we arrived, we had NOMADS from Perryville stop by, and the director of Mt. Eagle, Lu & John Harding, provided a tractor and wagon for a hayride. The following Tuesday, we went into Clinton to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries by having dinner at El Rosita Mexican Restaurant. On Thursday night we had pot luck at the director's home.

2010 NOMADS ANNUAL MEETING

Oct 4-9, 2010

Tom Johnson's Camping Center
Marion, North Carolina

Organizers: Bill & Wanda Kearney, Roland & Louise Davey,
Larry & Lovetta Bailey www.tomjohnsoncamping.com

The 2010 Annual Meeting will be held at the Tom Johnson Rally Park adjacent to the Tom Johnson Camping Center in Marion, NC—40 miles ENE of Asheville, NC and 124 miles west of Charlotte, NC. Marion is at the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains near the Great Smokey Mountains National Park. The Annual Meeting will begin on Monday, October 4th and conclude on Friday, October 8th. NOMADS may arrive at the Rally Park as early as THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 and must depart on or before MONDAY, OCTOBER 11th. You can make your reservations for these dates on the 2010 Annual Meeting Reservation Form, which will be available next summer.

Two major events will be happening in the area (in addition to the Annual Meeting): the leaves will be turning in the higher elevations and the NASCAR Banking 500 will be held at Lowe's Motor Speedway near Charlotte on October 16th. Many campgrounds fill up during this time of year so if you plan to spend extra time in the area; make your reservations at another area campground months in advance.

P.S. Be looking for your 50's attire to bring along!

Winter Texas NOMADS Luncheon 2010

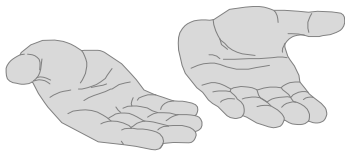
Mark your calendars now - Save the Date!!! We will have a catered lunch at the Mercedes UMC on Saturday, 23 January. All NOMADS (active or alumni) and friends of NOMADS are welcome. Lunch will be at noon but we will start gathering about 11. There will be door prizes, an auction, great food and fellowship. If you are working on a team during period 1, we would prefer that the team RSVP as a group. Otherwise, you can RSVP Olan and Lola Halbert at ohalbert@sbcglobal.net or 281-463-8298.

Florida Mini-Reunion - February 19th at the Life Enrichment Center, 4991 Picciola Rd, Fruitland Park, FL 34731. Lunch will be at 12:30. Cost is \$8 per person, CASH at the door only. RSVP to Ron and Becky Hoblit by Feb 5th (352-326-8118 or 352-406-8742). They have room for RV parking for the luncheon, and overnight camping, if desired, must be arranged through LEC at 1-866-862-2677 (option 2). Looking forward to seeing everyone there!



P.O. Box 3508
Shawnee, KS 66203
Toll free: 1-866-466-6237 or
1-866-4-NOMADS
Email: director@nomadsumc.org

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.NOMADSUMC.ORG



Devotional Thought

by Carolyn Morris

NOMADS are generous folks! Any of you who have attended the silent and live auctions at Annual Meeting know of the fun we have giving money to the organization for items that vary from really nice to funny! 2 Corinthians 9:12-13 tells us, "This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else."

This scripture tells the story of many NOMADS. Your witness on projects

constantly shares the gospel to others in need.

Your support of NOMADS financially enables many projects to have much needed materials through the grants offered to agencies. Your encouragement for your local churches to also contribute continues to tell NOMADS stories.

Some NOMADS are not in a financial position to give financially. There are other ways they can help through service on projects and through telling the stories to others about NOMADS.

Annual pledges for the year provide continuous help for administrative expenses. Periodic donations are always welcome.

Signing up for projects as leaders or

workers provides the labor agencies simply cannot afford.

Let us each consider how God leads us to use the gifts given to us to help share the gospel of his son Jesus. How we praise God for his gifts to us to enable us to be generous! May generosity overflow from us to God's people during the coming months.

