



# Connections

Highlighting the shared ministry of the people of  
The Wyoming Annual Conference

## New Tools for Youth Outreach

*Online community new destination for United Methodist teens*

There is a new place on the web for youth in your church. It is a place where they can connect with other United Methodist Youth, and where they can reach out to others in their community who are seeking answers about questions of faith. This new website [www.orangefloat.org](http://www.orangefloat.org) is the latest effort of the Igniting Ministry team at United Methodist Communications. The name was selected by the thousands of youth, including a group from our conference, attending Youth 2007.

"Orange Float won over some of the more conventional names," said Susan Crawford, director of Igniting Youth for United Methodist Communications. The name is derived from the site's orange design and the movement of the flash. "The home page has constant floating movement," she said. "It's a tool for local churches to reach out in their community and put this URL on their invitations for teen seekers looking for more information."

OrangeFloat.org serves as a "meet us/learn more" site where teens can find out what it means to be part of a dynamic

youth faith group and to be a United Methodist. They make their own tile and post it in a Mosaic, view videos by UM teens, and read UM teen answers to everyday faith questions.

The website is one part of the Igniting Youth program designed to help local churches offer a teen-relevant United Methodist welcome that, in context, shares the values and inclusiveness of The United Methodist faith community, and actively invites seeker teens to journey into a relationship with Jesus Christ. It also offers local churches new teen-specific training and teen-relevant tools to encourage teen-to-teen community outreach.

In addition to the website, there is a teen welcoming handbook; a wall poster project to help visualize an event and jump-start planning; live group online training through a "Month of Sunday's Challenge;" and a library of free downloads for local church teen community outreach.

For youth and youth leaders, these teen resources together serve as community evangelism tools. Stepping into your community and engaging seekers teens can

be as simple as a door hanger campaign, or a open invitation to participate in an outreach project, such as yard cleaning for elderly neighbors.

To learn more about Igniting Youth and the materials you can access, go to the Igniting Ministry website at [www.ignitingministry.org/ya/index.aspx](http://www.ignitingministry.org/ya/index.aspx).

### "Opening Ourselves to Grace" Workshops in January

Mary Ricketts will lead this all day event, which will help us develop spiritual disciplines. It will be offered twice: first, at Vestal United Methodist Church on January 15 and again at Dorranceton United Methodist Church, in Kingston, PA, on January 22. The primary focus will be the spiritual disciplines. Attendees will:

- spend time discussing their own devotional practices and exploring how they can grow deeper in their relationship with God;
- explore an exciting new resource that could be used in the local church to introduce the concepts of spiritual disciplines and mutual accountability;
- explore ways to reduce the stress of their ministry and daily lives through intentional exercises to bring them into an awareness of God's presence.

These workshops are open to both clergy and laity. Incorporated in the program is an excellent new DVD from the Great Rivers Annual Conference, which will be available for local church use. A brochure is available on the conference web site at [www.wyomingconference.org/EdOpps](http://www.wyomingconference.org/EdOpps). The Shared Leadership Table is the host.

### VH1 Joins Nothing But Nets Campaign

UMNS — An irritating human-sized mosquito plays it for laughs to highlight a serious issue in a new public service announcement created by VH1 for Nothing But Nets, a global, grassroots campaign that provides insecticide-treated bed nets to prevent malaria, a leading killer of children in Africa. The announcement premiered Nov. 5 on VH1, VH1 Classic, VH1 Soul and VH1.com as part of VH1's partnership with Nothing But Nets to raise awareness and engage individuals in the battle against malaria. The people of The United Methodist Church are founding partners of the Nets campaign.

In addition to airing on VH1, VH1 Classic, VH1 Soul, and VH1.com, the announcement will run on Jumbo Trons at NBA, WNBA and MLS games throughout 2007 and 2008. Visit [www.NothingButNets.net](http://www.NothingButNets.net) to view the PSA. It only costs \$10 to provide an insecticide-treated bed net that can prevent this deadly disease. Visit [www.NothingButNets.net](http://www.NothingButNets.net) to send a net and save a life.