

**THE SENEGAL ADVOCATE**  
Newsletter for the Senegal Initiative  
January 2009

Dear friends of the Senegal Mission Initiative, a program of the General Board of Global Ministries:  
We send you warm greetings at the beginning of a new year. Thank you for your interest and care for our brothers and sisters in the land of Senegal.

This newsletter contains news and information of the following:

1. Good News! Pastor's Salaries Met!
2. Senegal Consultation, April 17-18, 2009, Oak Creek Community UMC, Milwaukee
3. Rev. Patrick Friday Reports:
4. January Trips Planned
5. Partnership Churches Needed - January Intent Important
6. Giving Report - Help Wanted!
7. Senegal - In Mission Together - Tony Fuller, Consultant
8. Senegal Consultation Registration Form

1. Good News! Pastor's Salaries Met!

As reported in the last couple newsletters, there was concern on the Senegal side about enough funds to pay the pastor's salaries in 2008. The pastors were actually told in November not to expect pay checks in November and December. Fortunately, with a few phone calls and a last minute grant from the General Board of Global Ministries in New York, enough money was found to pay the pastors their salaries in 2008. We thank those who sent in money in November and December - over \$7000 - for making Christmas much brighter in Senegal than it looked to be in early November.

2. Senegal Consultation, April 17-18, 2009, Oak Creek Community UMC, Milwaukee

Plans are moving along for our first combined, "national" Senegal Consultation hosted by the Oak Creek Community UMC near the Milwaukee Airport on Friday, April 17 through 3:00 PM Saturday, April 18, 2009. Registration and contact information can be found at [www.occumc.org/sengal/](http://www.occumc.org/sengal/) or by contacting Rev. Paul Armstrong, 8675 S. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Oak Creek, WI 53154.

Our agenda looks like this:

Friday, April 17	Saturday, April 18
10 Registration	8:30 Worship - Karen Urejeh
11 Opening Worship - Rev Polster	9:30 General Session - Karen U.
12:15 Lunch	Rev. Friday & Fuller
1:30 General Session - Rev Bleck & Friday	11:30 Lunch
3:30 Breakout Sessions	12:30 Breakout Sessions
5:00 Dinner	2:00 Worship - Rev Friday
7:00 Worship and Concert - Rev Bleck	3:00 Leave for Home

Breakout Sessions include: In Mission Together - Rev. Friday; Senegal Trip Planning - Rev. Paul Armstrong; Senegal Trip Reports - Advocates; Senegal Outreach Ministries - Karen Urejeh; Senegal Evangelism Ministries - Rev. Joseph Bleck; Senegal Wellness and Nutrition - Dr. Jeff Strong

Our speakers are Rev. Stephen Polster, Assistant to the Bishop, Wisconsin Conference with welcoming address; Rev. Joseph Bleck, Superintendent of Senegal Mission Initiative, Pastor of the United Methodist Church in Dakar, Senegal; Missionary Karen Urejeh, Financial Administrator of the Senegal Mission Initiative; and Rev. Patrick Friday, Director of In Mission Together, GBGM, New York

Registration forms can be found and printed from the website at [www.occumc.org/sengal/](http://www.occumc.org/sengal/)  
We are hoping for 100 folks to come in support of the Senegal Mission Initiative. Register today to encourage us along!

3. Rev. Patrick Friday Reports:

Joy and Thanks! Patrick is so happy that enough Advance money came in to cover the pastors' salaries for 2008. He expects their mood will be much cheerier when he goes to see them the end of January than it would have been if they had not been paid. So Patrick expresses his sincere thanks for all who helped end the year well for the Senegalese pastors.

His good news is that a replacement for Karen has been found for her February retirement. Paul Messer and his wife Kitty are preparing to go to Senegal. Paul will be going with Rev. Patrick Friday and Tony Fuller to Senegal January 23 to be introduced and work with Karen Urejeh on transition issues. Paul will oversee the financial and budget aspects of the Senegal Mission and will help with visiting teams from overseas.

Rev. Friday is excited to see the number of partnership churches who have already committed for the next three years. We are off to a good start.

Rev. Friday is leading a trip to Senegal the end of January. The new financial administrator will be introduced. Teaching of the pastors will include tithing and budgeting and a course that Rev Bleck will be deciding that the pastors want or need. Consultant Tony Fuller will discuss partnerships and set boundaries for the partnership and determine the order in which Senegal churches will become partners with US churches. We want as many US churches as possible to have registered their "Intent of Partnership" by this January trip as an encouragement to the Senegal churches.

Finally, Rev. Friday looks forward to seeing representatives from your churches at the Senegal Consultation in April at Oak Park, Wisconsin, near the Milwaukee airport. He has much to report on the role of partnership churches in the In Mission Together program of which he is the Director. Having just been in Senegal a couple months earlier, he will share what the longer range goals of the mission in Senegal are, and how we can help them progress from being a new mission start to an established self supporting church a couple decades down the line. He is bringing Rev. Joseph Bleck over from Dakar, Senegal, and hopes many can come to hear and see what is happening in Senegal today.

#### 4. January Trips Planned

Rev. Paul Armstrong of the Oak Creek Community UMC near Milwaukee, WI is on his way to Senegal as I write this with a medical VIM team.. Most of his group work in medical professions and he hopes to help Dr. Bashir with some medical screening trips during the visit to Senegal. When they return, they will be happy to share their experiences with you. Give Rev. Armstrong a call to schedule a great mission program for your church. (414)762-4600

Rev. Patrick Friday is leading a group of people to Senegal the last week of January. The group will mostly deal with mission administrative details and pastoral training and partnerships.

If you would like to go to Senegal, please call or e-mail, as we would like to begin planning 2010 trips to Senegal now. Ideal group is nine people and costs around \$3000 per person for 10 days.

#### 5. Partnership Churches Needed - January Intent Important

We are very happy to welcome Sheboygan Falls UMC, the churches of the Appleton Circuit in Wisconsin, and Stevens Point St. Pauls UMC to the list with Port Washington Grand Avenue UMC, WI, Lodi and PoySippi as churches signed up to be In Mission Together Partners with churches in Senegal, yet to be assigned. St Paul UMC in Manitowoc and Trinity UMC in Wilmette, IL will be on the list to be assigned partners when I visit Senegal the end of January as they hope to be signed up soon.

Partnerships involve financial support, full for \$3600 per year, half at \$1800 or a quarter at \$900 per year, developing a simple mission plan with your Senegal church, communicating with your partner over living conditions, cultural and religious differences, and what is going on in your local churches, and eventually some personal visits between churches. If interested, contact Tony Fuller at [fullersandra@att.net](mailto:fullersandra@att.net) for more information and a "Letter of Intent" form.

We are particularly interested in knowing as many churches as possible who might partner with a Senegal church as we prepare for the January trip. It would be nice to have a partner for all 11 pastors by the end of 2009. Six committed, 2 promised, and 3 to go!

#### 6. Giving Report - Help Wanted! - as of October 1 - Update from Last Newsletter

Understanding the situation in the United States economically and how local churches struggle to meet their budgets by the end of the year, we still keep mission giving in front of us. Since our last newsletter, this is what is reported in Advance Giving for Senegal:

Advance #	Title	# Gifts	Dollars
12594A	Senegal Mission Initiative	12	7220
14517A	Agricultural Program	3	375
14518A	Christian Education	0	0
14522A	Micro-Credit	2	1000
14524A	Prison Ministry	1	200
14525A	Wellness Program	0	0
14526A	Women's Skill Center	1	10
14529A	Youth	2	298.25

We hope that part of your Lenten and Easter offerings can be used to help our Senegal friends and their ministries as the United Methodist Church grows in that land. Of special concern is the Wellness program, run by Dr. Bashir, which has a child feeding program and medical screening for folks in outlying villages who seldom see doctors. For some unknown reason nothing has been designated towards Dr. Bashir's Wellness Program for the last six months.

7. Senegal "In Mission Together" - Tony Fuller, Consultant

The Senegal Mission Initiative joined the General Board of Global Ministries "In Mission Together" program in 2008. The "In Mission Together" program strives to form partnership churches between the fledgling churches of Senegal with supporting churches in the USA. Besides monetary support, the program encourages communication between partner churches, exchange of ideas and cultural differences, the development of a mission exchange plan, and personal visits through VIM trips. Rev. Tony Fuller has joined the "In Mission Together" team as a Consultant for Senegal. He can be contacted to visit your church about the program at fullersandra@att.net , PH:920-982-6526, PO Box 301, New London, WI 54961.

8. Senegal Consultation Registration Form - April 17-18, Oak Creek Community UMC, Oak Creek, WI

Friday/Saturday	\$80.00	Name:			
Friday Only	\$40.00	Address:			
Saturday Only	\$40.00	City	State:	Zip:	
TOTAL: \$	_____	Phone;			
		E-Mail:			

Please Tear off Form and send with a check to:  
Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church, 86775 S 13<sup>th</sup> St., Oak Creek, WI 53154  
Hotel information will be sent with confirmation