

# A Moment in Macedonia

## Annual Conference

I am just back from our Annual Conference in Kisac, Serbia (near Novi Sad). About 50 people attended. The theme "We have freedom" was taken from Hebrews 10:19 - 24. Our Bishop from Zurich, Patrick Streiff, presided. Languages included Macedonian, Serbian, German and English. I gave two reports, one on my work and one on the work with children in Macedonia. There is also a report on the work with youth, but the president of the youth prepares that. A big part of the youth report described their wonderful opportunity to attend in August the European Methodist Festival in Bratislava, with sightseeing stops in Budapest and Prague.



Eighteen of us went from Macedonia by minibus. The drive takes about 11 hours.

## Special Celebration

On Sunday, September 2nd, we celebrated the 60th birthday of our senior pastor, Mihail Cekov, and his 32 years in the ministry, 16 of them in the former Yugoslavia and 16 in independent Republic of Macedonia. The children presented a drama based on the pastor's favorite Bible story of Joseph and his brothers. We also presented him with a gift, a pastel portrait, drawn by one of the youth who studies art at the university in Skopje.



**Presentation of the portrait**

## Women's Seminar

From September 3 - 7, we had a successful women's seminar, in Struga on the shore of Lake Ohrid in western Macedonia. The theme was "Talented for Life." Seminar leaders were a husband and wife team from Germany; Dr. Annegret Klaiber gave lessons on health and wholeness, especially pertinent to women, and Bible lessons were presented by retired Bishop Walter Klaiber. About 50 women attended from nearly all of our congregations. I led Tai Chi - style exercises each morning and evening and an afternoon of arts and crafts. The women also enjoyed an excursion to the UNESCO city of Ohrid. This was a special time of learning, worship, fellowship, songs, fun and relaxation - well deserved by these hardworking women.



# Thanksgiving for the Harvest – Sunday, Oct 7



The sanctuary was decorated with grains, vegetables and fruits which were later given to the poor.



The children presented their drama, based on the story of the ten lepers who were healed by Jesus (Luke 17:11-19).

Carol Partridge  
Zagrebacka 4,  
Strumica, MK-2400  
R. Macedonia  
e-mail: [carolpartridge@yahoo.com](mailto:carolpartridge@yahoo.com)  
web site: [www.carolpartridge.com](http://www.carolpartridge.com)



Communion was part of our Thanksgiving Sunday and I was priviledged to help serve it.

Thank you for your prayers and support. An easy way to give to the UMC in Macedonia is through this GBGM website:

<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/give/advance/>

You can designate your gift as follows:

Carol's support - # 13107Z

Christian Education Supplies - #14047A

Pastoral Support for Congregations - #14048A

Or make a check payable to Advance GCFA.

Be sure to write the appropriate number (above) on the check and send it to:

Advance GCFA  
P.O. Box 9068, GPO  
New York, NY 10087-9068

On September 2nd a tragic fire took the lives of three children and seriously damaged the main building of nearby Bansko center for physically disabled adults and children. Our Miss Stone Center (site of our Meals on Wheels program) prepared and delivered meals for the residents for two days without charge until other arrangements could be made.

