



# AITP

## The Printout

The Nashville Chapter  
Of  
The Association Of Information  
Technology Professionals

January 2007  
Chapter Newsletter

### IT at United Methodist Publishing

Our first program in the New Year is about IT at the United Methodist Publishing House here in Nashville. Our speaker is Mr. John "Mike" Cunningham, Executive Director of Information Technology at UMPH.

The United Methodist Publishing House (UMPH) is the official publisher for the United Methodist Church. It is a multi-faceted organization consisting of publishing, wholesale, retail, and distribution operations. The UMPH operates a retail store chain of approximately seventy stores, inbound call centers accepting up to 2,000 calls a day, and a 130,000 square foot distribution facility.



John "Mike" Cunningham

The UMPH is the oldest and largest general agency of the United Methodist Church. It was established in 1789 in Philadelphia as the Methodist Book Concern. The Nashville operation was opened in 1854, and as the official publisher of the United Methodist Church, develops, produces, and distributes materials for home, church, and office. The UMPH provides official denominational church school curriculum, books, software, and a wide variety of multi-media resources and supplies.

Mike Cunningham is a long time employee of the UMPH. He started as a Computer Operator in 1974 and earned promotions to Analyst/Programmer, Programming and Technical Support Manager, Corporate Systems Manager, Management Information Systems Director, Technology Director, and, currently, Executive Director of Information Technology. Mike has seen many changes at the Publishing House and has participated in the majority of the technology improvements. Mike will tell us what the UMPH has done in the area of computers and telecommunications, including such applications as the Lucent Definity G3 Telephone switch, Cokesbury Internet Bookstore, and People Soft integrated applications.

Mike also serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Parthenon Federal Credit Union, which is a federally chartered, full-service, credit union with assets of approximately \$12 million. As Chairman, Mike led the strategy to convert the credit union from a manual operation to a computerized operation.

Mike has also progressed in academic circles, starting with an AS degree from Nashville State Technical Institute in 1976 to a BS degree from the University of Tennessee at Nashville in 1981, and to an MBA degree from the Belmont University Graduate School of Business in 1998. He also holds the CDP certificate.

Mike, his wife Nancy, and their two daughters, live in the Franklin area. They are active in Habitat for Humanity.

This should be an interesting program on how an established Nashville institution has changed to utilize modern technology.

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## AITP Nashville Roster

## Dinner Reservation and Cancellation Policy

<b>President:</b>	<b>Mary Simpson</b> Genesco Inc. 615/367-8083 fax: 615/367-7775 msimpson@genesco.com
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<b>Director of Publicity</b>	<b>Eddie Pardon</b> eddiepardon@gmail.com
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<b>Internet Information —</b>	<b>Web Sites</b>
Chapter:	http://www.aitpnashville.org
Headquarters:	http://www.aitp.org
Region 7:	http://members.tripod.com/aitpreion7

AITP  
P. O. Box 22038  
Nashville TN 37202

AITP members will be notified by electronic mail one week prior to the Chapter meeting. Reservations can be made by responding to the electronic notice or by calling *Mary Simpson at 615/367-8083 fax: 615/367-7775* Dinner reservations can be canceled up to 24-hours prior to the meeting without cost.

**Since the Chapter pays for reserved meals, No Shows will be billed at the reservation price of \$20.00 for Members, and \$30.00 for Guests \$15.00 for students.**

Members are responsible for their guests' reservations. *If you are a member and have not been receiving this notification, please contact Mary Simpson at:*

*615/367-8083 fax: 615/367-7775*  
[msimpson@genesco.com](mailto:msimpson@genesco.com).

### January Chapter Meeting:

Holiday Inn Select - Vanderbilt  
2613 West End Avenue  
Nashville, TN 37203  
(615) 327-4707

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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The holidays are now behind us for yet another year -- the fruitcake has been flung, the gifts have all been ripped open, the Christmas lights and decorations have carefully been stowed away, the gay apparel has been donned, and the unwanted gifts have been returned to the store. I love the holiday season and truly enjoyed spending time with my family and friends, not to mention having a break from work for a few days! Hopefully, things will now settle back down and become a little less hectic for us all again – until next year!

As your newly elected president, I'm looking forward to the 2007 year with much anticipation and quite a bit of trepidation! As I know you all do, too, I want great things for our Association! Actually, I want great increases for our AITP chapter - I hope working together we can increase our membership, increase our attendance at meetings, increase our presence in the Nashville area, increase our intenseness of purpose, increase our opportunities to share experiences and knowledge, and increase our successes in IT in the Nashville area!

Our December speaker, Rod Shean, spoke on the topic of "Luck" and how sometimes lucky situations appear to come about just by being in the right place at the right time and how there are other times that "luck" is really the result of proper/adequate planning. Rod emphasized that we could help our "luck" along by setting goals. These goals should be measurable, obtainable and very specific. These goals should be written and reviewed very often.

I don't know if I'll ever take Rod's excellent advice about setting, writing, reviewing and keeping goals; but, I would like to challenge us all as AITP members to do everything we can possibly do to make our Nashville AITP chapter better than it has ever been! It would be interesting to see what would happen if we all made it a personal goal to attend every possible member meeting and to invite at least one new person to attend with us! Let's take the challenge and make this our first group AITP goal!

Charlie Apigian left some really big shoes to fill! He did a fantastic job as president this past year. He's a big proponent of change and offered up some very innovative ideas, along with a ton of enthusiasm! I'm looking forward to continuing to look to change and also to working with you all this year in my new role; however, since I'm not quite as creative as Charlie, I'm really looking forward to hearing your thoughts, ideas, dreams and suggestions in ways we can improve our AITP chapter! So, please, don't hesitate to let me know what you're thinking - pass along those great ideas of yours and get involved with the chapter! There are a couple of great Board positions still available!

Happy New Year!

Mary Simpson  
AITP President  
[msimpson@genesco.com](mailto:msimpson@genesco.com)

## AITP February Student Conference

The Nashville Chapter of AITP is again sponsoring a one-day Student Conference hosted by High Tech Institute. The Second Annual Student Conference and Contests will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2007. It will be at the High Tech Institute facilities at 540 Royal Parkway in Nashville.

The event will include two seminars and six contests. The morning seminar is "Developing Your Career Connections" presented by Tim Fusco, and the afternoon seminar is "Resume Writing" by Telse Saunders. These seminars should be of great interest to all students looking to enter the real world of employment.

The six contests are Database Design, .Net Programming, Network Design, PC Troubleshooting, Graphic Design, and Web Design. The contests will give students an opportunity to hone their skills in these areas. Contest teams may be either one or two persons. There will be a debriefing session after the contests are completed so students can see where they went right or wrong.

The Student Conference and Contests event was first held in February 2006. There was general agreement that it was a "fun" event, and that we should hold it again. The timing is such that it gives students a chance to practice their contests prior to the National Student Conference held around April 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Conference is open to all college students regardless of whether they belong to a college AITP chapter. The registration fee, which includes all contests and lunch, is \$30 for AITP student members and \$40 for non-AITP student members. If you know a college student taking IT courses who is not an AITP member, you may want to share this information about the Student Conference with them.

Additional information is available on our web site: [www.aitpnashville.org](http://www.aitpnashville.org), or by calling the Conference co-chairs: Dr. Gerald Marquis at TSU (615-963-7096) or Donna Womack at High Tech Institute (615-232-3757).

# Calendar of Upcoming Events 2007

Date	Event	Location	Information
January 11	Chapter Meeting	Holiday Inn Select-Vanderbilt	IT at United Methodist Publishing Mike Cunningham, Executive Director of Information Technology
February 8	Chapter Meeting	Holiday Inn Select-Vanderbilt	How to Get the Most from Your Software Vendor Christopher Daugherty, Solutions Architect, Computer Associates
February 24	Student Conference	High Tech Institute	Dr. Gerald Marquis 615-963-7096

## SPEAKERS

We are always interested in good speakers to make presentations at our AITP Chapter Meetings. If you know someone who is interested in making a presentation on a topic, on their company, or company's products, please contact Paul Saunders at (615) 367-1717 or [Paul@SaundersSystems.com](mailto:Paul@SaundersSystems.com).

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### Welcome New Members

Jonathan Polly  
IT Specialist  
Dept of VA  
(615) 867-5974  
E-mail: [jm\\_polly@comcast.net](mailto:jm_polly@comcast.net)

John Viall  
Chair, School of Information Technology  
ITT Technical Institute  
(615) 884-1610  
E-mail: [jviall@itt-tech.edu](mailto:jviall@itt-tech.edu)

### WELCOME TO AITP!

Please send any changes to: Joan Julius, Membership Director  
[Joan.Julius@cgi.com](mailto:Joan.Julius@cgi.com)  
CGI Information Systems & Management Consulting, Inc.

### Congratulations to our new AITP Board Members

The Nashville Chapter of AITP held Board Member Elections at the December meeting. Mary Simpson has been voted in as Chapter President, Beverly Gibson was voted in as Treasurer, and Ella McGill was re-elected as AITP Secretary. There are still some appointed positions open. We are still looking for our next Newsletter Director and a new Director of Meeting Arrangements. Please contact any of the board members if you are interested in one of these positions, or would like to become more involved with AITP.

### AITP Newsletter Available On Line

The AITP Newsletter is available on our website at [www.aitpnashville.org](http://www.aitpnashville.org).  
If you would prefer to view the AITP Newsletter (along with other AITP information) on line rather than receiving a printed copy, please send an email to: [gpmarquis@yahoo.com](mailto:gpmarquis@yahoo.com)  
Please include your name and address information so you can be removed from our mailing list.

### High Tech Institute Advisory Board

High Tech Institute is looking for people to serve on their IT Program Advisory Board. If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact Donna Womack at High Tech Institute. Phone (615)232-3757, e-mail [dwomack@hightechinstitute.edu](mailto:dwomack@hightechinstitute.edu)

### AITP Student Conference

This February the Nashville Chapter of AITP will once again be hosting a one day student conference. The conference will include two seminars, and six programming contests. Please see page 4 in this newsletter for more details on the conference.

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**Contact Mike Eischen for more information! 367-7068**



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