



The Foothills District Clergy Connection

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April 2007

Amazing Grace

Have you seen the movie, *Amazing Grace*, currently in the theaters? It is the story of William Wilberforce who led the long fight to make the slave trade illegal in the British empire. I will buy this one when it comes out on dvd. It was that good!

The movie takes its title from the hymn written by John Newton. Newton was a slave trader who repented of his ways and became Wilberforce's pastor. His passion and mission infected Wilberforce.

There is an intriguing scene where Wilberforce is sensing a call to ministry. His good friend, William Pitt who was to become Prime Minister, invites several friends to dinner with Wilberforce to persuade him to join his government. When Wilberforce announces God is calling him to ministry, the dinner guests ask why Wilberforce can't do both. Thus, Wilberforce begins a long career of service in parliament championing the abolition of slavery. It would take nearly 20 years for parliament to approve his legislation.



There is something resembling John Wesley here. Wesley is not in the movie. He died just after Wilberforce started his political career. What Wesley infused in the Methodist movement is an insistence on both. Personal holiness and social holiness are two sides of the same coin. Making disciples and transforming the world are linked together. Church growth without the purpose of God's transformation of the world becomes ingrown and self-serving. Transformation of the world without the discipling becomes just another political and social movement.

Is it time for United Methodists to do both?

The Council of Bishops are collaborating with the General Boards and Agencies of our denomination to call the church to "Live the United Methodist Way." It is part of their discernment of faithfully and effectively exercising their corporate leadership.

Congregations who live the United Methodist Way will develop effective ways to practice radical hospitality, passionate worship, faith forming relationships, and risk-taking mission. "They form disciples who practice both personal holiness and social holiness." Congregations intentional about this mission are generally characterized by Acts 2 kinds of fruit. They experience growth in many dimensions. It is not because of the organizational model. It is because of the character of the Holy Spirit.

Is your congregation living the United Methodist Way? Are you intentional about the core process? Are you thinking about both?

Brent and I hope and pray that charge conferences, PPRC trainings, and district meetings all become a part of helping your church live the United Methodist Way –

opening your church to the fruit of the Holy Spirit so that our world will experience Amazing Grace!

Tom

NEWS

Basic Lay Speaking Course

Basic Lay Speaking will be taught Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21, at Marietta Christ UMC in Marietta. Cost is \$15.00 which includes the textbook. Lodging is extra. The sessions are 7-10 p.m. with registration beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Friday and 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. The ten segments of the training will provide an introduction to the basic areas of ministry in which Lay Speakers may be called upon to serve. The sessions will be taught by clergy and laity who are members of the Lay Speaking Committee. **Attendance is required for both days to become a Local Church Lay Speaker.** For more info, contact the district office (office@foothillsdistrict.org or 740-797-4581). Registration deadline is April 2.

Advanced Lay Speaking Course

The Advanced Lay Speaking Course: Servant Leadership will be offered on Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21, at Marietta Christ UMC in Marietta. The COST is \$20 (lodging is extra).

This is an opportunity for Certified Lay Speakers to renew their certification and for Local Lay Speakers to become certified. The sessions are 7-10 p.m. with registration beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Friday and 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Rev. Karl Kumpf, retired pastor, will be teaching the course "Servant Leadership". There are materials that need to be ordered prior to the event and reading that will need to be completed prior to the first session, so get your registration in early! You will receive follow-up communication with directions to the church and reading assignment upon registration.

This course will qualify Local Lay Speakers to become Certified Lay Speakers. It will also serve as the course needed every three years for Certified Lay Speakers to renew their certification.

Attendance is required for the full session (both days) for certification. For more info, contact the district office (office@foothillsdistrict.org or 740-797-4581).

Registration deadline is April 2.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATES:

Keypad voting postponed for this year - Electronic-keypad voting for delegates and legislation at Lakeside will not occur this year. To ensure election integrity, the familiar electronic-scantron cards will be used at the 2007 annual conference. For more information go to: http://www.westohioumc.org/news_detail.asp?PKValue=24.

JAM Garden Project 2007

Since the early 1970's, Jackson Area Ministries, Jackson, Ohio has sponsored a significant garden project, providing seeds and plants for families or individuals in the 15 counties of southeast Ohio. The mission of the program is to offer seed potatoes,

tomato plants, and vegetable seeds to each participant with the intent that they can "grow their own garden". Four to five new counties will be added for the 2007 growing season, bringing their anticipated goal to 3,000 growers. Many of our ORV congregations, Sunday school classes, United Methodist Women groups, youth groups and individuals have made this program highly successful. If you are interested in participating this year, please send your inquiry to: jamjar@bright.net or JAM Gardening, PO Box 603, Jackson, Ohio 45640 / 888.237.3141. A brochure, complete report, bulletin insert and other information can be provided from their office as well.

VIM Team forming for Russia: July 5-16, 2007

The West Ohio Conference endorsed VIM Team to Samara, Russia for 2007 is urgently in need of volunteers in order to have enough to make a viable team. The work involves construction on the United Methodist Orphanage, and various activities with the children which includes presenting a Bible School. The cost for this trip is \$2900. A possible extension is planned for July 16-21 with an additional fee. If you are interested in joining this team, it is very important that you make your commitment by March 15, 2007. For more information, please contact the team leader, Carol Harper, 513-377-1407 or e-mail Carol at harperec@peoplepc.com <<mailto:harperec@peoplepc.com>>

Holy Land Pilgrimage: January 8-17, 2008

Hundreds of Ohio United Methodists, under the leadership of Bishops Bruce Ough and John Hopkins, will embark on a Holy Land spiritual pilgrimage in January 2008. You will visit special holy sites such as the site of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, his hometown of Nazareth, The Garden of Gethsemane, the site of his first miracle in Cana of Galilee, the Mount of the Beatitudes and the Garden Tomb where you will have communion together. You will sail the Sea of Galilee where Jesus and his disciples sailed in their primitive boats. You will reaffirm your baptism at the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized. Also planned are visits to contemporary mission sites including the Bethlehem Bible College. Educational Opportunities, a Christian travel ministry, has safely led Holy Land spiritual pilgrimages since 1974 and will be your leaders for this trip. Will & Emily Gould are the Conference Coordinators. They may be contacted at ejgould@columbus.rr.com. Peg & Paul Stuckey are the Educational Opportunities Directors of Travel Ministry. You may contact them at drstook@msn.com. Our district coordinator is David Maze, 12 Circle Drive, The Plains, Ohio 45789, 740.797.2440 or dandbmaze@verizon.net Here's hoping that many of you will plan now to be a part of this spiritual pilgrimage that will help the Scriptures come alive and help you come alive in faith, hope and love.

Becoming a People of Prayer

GBOD and Aldersgate Renewal Ministries are sponsoring a conference on prayer on Sept 21-22, 2007, featuring Terry Teykl, Marjorie Thompson, Suzette Caldwell, Vance Ross, and many more. For more info or to register, check out www.GBOD.org/PeopleofPrayer

Church Vitality Indicator Resources

The Church Vitality Indicator (CVI) website now contains a database of more than 22,000 suggestions and resources for focused congregational planning, communication

tools and Power Points. For more information and other resources for renewal and new church starts, contact Beverly Heavener at 615/340-7295 or www.cvindicator.com.

Media Grants

A Matching Media Grants Program is available from UM Communications to help congregations promote and/or publicize activities. Go to www.IgnitingMinistry.org to apply online or call 877/281-6535.

Celebrating Anniversaries

Is your church celebrating a significant anniversary? Congratulations! The United Methodist Historical Society of Ohio would like to recognize your church with a certificate and acknowledgement at its April 28th meeting in Portsmouth. If you cannot make the meeting, they will be glad to mail you the certificate. If you are interested, contact Rev. Lowell Peterson at 419-334-6930 or lepeterson1@juno.com.

New "Serve" on Web Site

The United Methodist Church web site (www.umc.org) adds a new feature for people interested in volunteering service or offering volunteer opportunities. Check out the web site and on the horizontal bar, look for the tab "serve." It will take you to a new page where you can search for opportunities based on location, skills required, or type of ministry. Beginning with our founder, John Wesley, The United Methodist Church has maintained a long history of service and good works. The people of The United Methodist Church continue to make a difference by volunteering both locally and globally.

Executive Director

Executive Director is sought for Toledo Area Ministries, a ministry of 125 congregations whose mission is to be the Church in the World - Meeting Human Need, Creating Community and Working for Justice. For information and application go to www.tamohio.org.

Director of Spiritual Ministries

Twin Towers Senior Living, located at 5343 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati 45224 has this full time position. Twin Towers is part of Life Enriching Communities, a leader in providing housing and quality services for more than 700 senior adult residents. Specific duties of the Director of Spiritual Ministries would include directing the staff of chaplains in spiritual outreach, pastoral care, preaching, and other ministries connected with Twin Towers. Send your resume to Executive Director, Rene Sharp, or contact her at 513.853.2000.

UPCOMING DATES

Brent's Breakfasts

Brent and Tom are meeting for breakfast with whoever wants to show up. There is no set agenda. It is an opportunity to pick each other's brains. It is purely voluntary. You can attend as many as you want. You are responsible for the cost of your own breakfast. All breakfasts are scheduled to start at 8 am. Here are the dates and places:

April 3 – Fairfield Co. at Frisch’s in Lancaster
 April 17 – Morgan Co. at the Old Corral in McConnellsville
 May 1 – Gallia Co. at Bob Evans in Gallipolis
 May 15 – Vinton Co. at Momma Rennies in McArthur
 June 5 – South Zanesville – location not determined yet
 June 19 – East Meigs Co. – Krider’s Kountry Kitchen
 July 10 – West Hocking Co. – location not determined yet
 July 17 – Washington Co., Marietta area – location not determined yet
 Aug. 14 – East Perry Co., Crooksville area – Hunter’s Run at 6 mile turn
 Aug. 28 – South Athens Co. at Bob Evans in Athens
 Sept. 4 – East Hocking Co. – location not determined yet

April 20-21, 2007: Basic and Advanced Lay Speaking in Marietta
May 23, 2007: Clergy Session. This will be an all day session!! It will have a mandatory sexual ethics training/renewal piece in the afternoon.
May 6, 2007: Foothills District Spring Conference at The Plains, 3 pm.
June 10-14, 2007 Annual Conference at Lakeside
July 22-28, 2007 Local Pastors School at Widewater Retreat Center

1x1 Schedule

The DS will meet with each pastoral leader beginning May 1. The early dates and locations are listed below. You can sign up for the date and time most convenient for you. Those who do not sign up before June 1 will be assigned an open slot.

May 1	June 2	June 25	July 2
May 7	June 6	June 26	July 3
May 15	June 18	June 29	July 6
May 18	June 19		July 9
May 30	June 23		July 10

There are more dates in July, Aug, and Sept. Locations are scattered around the district. Call or email Sherri to schedule a time best for you.

Precharge Conference Briefings

(These are mandatory for pastors. Lay persons are welcome.)

Aug 14, Tues 10 am	Zanesville Faith
Aug 15, Wed 6:30 pm	Logan Immanuel
Aug 18, Sat 10 am	Moxahala
Aug 20, Mon 3 pm	Tunnel
Aug 20, Mon 6:30 pm	Athens Richland
Aug 22, Wed 3 pm	District Office

Links

Upper Room Ministries- www.upperroom.org

Interpreter- www.interpretermagazine.org

Volunteers in Mission- www.gbqm-umc.org

United Methodist Committee on Relief- www.gbqm-umc/umcor

West Ohio Conference- www.westohioumc.org

United Methodist Church- www.umc.org

Ministry in Motion- www.ministryinmotion.net

Lewis Center for Church Leadership- www.churchleadership.com

Monday Morning Insight- www.mondaymorninginsight.com

The Alban Institute- www.alban.org

www.leadershipjournal.net

www.injoy.com

Rev magazine- www.onlinerev.com

www.gbod.org/leadership

www.cufflinks.org

Incubator- www.l3incubator.com

Percept- www.link2lead.com

Pastoral Seasons as Life and Ministry- www.psalматы.org

Pohly Center for Supervision and Leadership Formation- www.united.edu/pohlycenter/

Christian Coaches Network- www.christiancoaches.com

International Association of Coaches- www.certifiedcoach.org

www.crosswalk.com

Congregational Resources Guide- www.congregationalresources.org

Pastors Retreat Network- www.pastorsretreatnetwork.org

Please send us any links on the web that will encourage leadership amongst our pastors

IMPORTANT ADDRESSES

Foothills District: Physical address- 47 Johnson Rd., The Plains, Ohio, 43780
Mailing address- P.O. Box 67, The Plains, Ohio, 43780-0067
Website: www.foothillsdistrict.org

Email: Tom Hanover- hanover@foothillsdistrict.org

Brent Watson- watson@foothillsdistrict.org

Office- office@foothillsdistrict.org