



The Foothills District Clergy Connection

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February 2007

Titanic or Mayflower?

Diana Butler Bass recently published a book through Alban Institute studying American mainline protestant congregations. She discovered that the healthiest and most vibrant congregations had a way of knowing their story and living it out. This story – which is more than simply names and statistics of their history – injected energy and vision into their ministry. The story gives a sense of mission and purpose.

However, it depends upon the story. Her example is one of ships. Is our story the story of the Titanic or the Mayflower?



If our church resembles the Titanic, it is sinking after hitting disaster. Our leadership may be busy rearranging the chairs on the deck, but not addressing the real issues. What will that story do to our sense of mission and purpose?

On the other hand, if our sense of story is the Mayflower, how will that change our vision? We are on ships that are entering a new future and exploring a new place. We have been blown off course by unexpected storms. But we are not sinking. We are looking for a place to fulfill our mission. We are focused on land. We are giving birth to a new vision of ministry in a new place. We will be creating a new future. Would that be different sense of energy and excitement?

What is your church's story? Does it resemble the Titanic or the Mayflower? How would it change your Board meetings or your worship services, if you switched stories? What would you do differently?

In both stories we cannot avoid change. Change is happening. The only question is if we will manage change or allow change to manage us. Telling our story as a story of adventure and mission gives meaning and purpose to the decisions we make about the changes that happen around us.

Which ship represents your church's story?

Tom

NEWS

New Pension Program Begins

The new pension program CRSP began Jan 1, 2007. Every licensed and ordained pastor will either have to pay into the program or sign a notarized statement opting out of the program. For an opt out form, contact Beth Gibbs at bgibbs@wocumc.org

Increase Giving in Your Church

David Bell, UMC Center for Christian Stewardship, will lead workshops across the conference for pastors who want to improve their church's stewardship. Rev. Bell's experience includes stewardship consultation, organizational management, leadership development, and non-profit fundraising. All workshops run from 9 am to 3:30 pm.

Cost is \$25 per person which includes lunch and all materials.

Jan 31	Jackson Christ UMC
Feb 1	Normandy UMC, Dayton
Feb 6	Grove City UMC
Feb 7	Bowling Green First UMC

Contact Julie Bassett in the Conference Center to register before Jan 19.

32 Wesley Boulevard
Worthington, Ohio 43085
1.800.437.0028
Fax 1.614.781.2642

Residency Program

Applications are being accepted for a West Ohio Conference program for new pastors who will be graduating from seminary by June 15, 2007. To launch the Residency Program, one Resident will be appointed to a congregation for two years to work as an associate with a successful clergy. The goal of the Residency Program is to put into practice the lessons learned in the classroom. "We want our sharp, young graduates to gain real world, on the job experience with the close supervision of experienced pastors who have demonstrated an ability to make and equip disciples who transform the world," said Rev. Joyce Fry, assistant to the Bishop. An additional goal is to increase the percentage of clergy in the West Ohio Conference who can be effective in ministry. Students interested in serving as a Resident in the West Ohio Conference please submit your name and the following contact information plus your vita to Joyce Fry at the West Ohio Conference by **February 20, 2007**.

Year End Report Forms

Have you received your year end report forms yet? If not, contact Jack Frost in the Conference Center (800.437.0028). They are due very soon!

These forms are critical in that they help us discern what churches are growing in their Acts 2 fruit. So take care to see that the information is accurate and prompt.

CONFIRMATION TOUR

If you have a Confirmation Class in progress, here is an opportunity for your group. On Saturday, March 3rd, at 10:00 a.m., your Confirmation Class can participate in a tour of Good Works, an outreach ministry to the homeless in the Athens area. It is located one mile off Rt. 682 on Luhrig Rd. just outside The Plains. The group will tour the Luhrig Rd. property and, if there is time, we will also tour 'The Timothy House.' Please e-mail Debbie Ketcham at tumc@thornvilleumc.org with the number attending 'Good Works' in case there are hand-outs." Following the Good Works tour at 1:00 p.m., Confirmation classes are invited to the Foothills District Office to meet with the District Superintendent, Tom Hanover and Asst. DS, Brent Watson.

Methodia

UM Communications offers a variety of resources for pastors and leaders anyone can use. Check out the web site: www.umcom.org. Does your church have a web site and can use some free resources? Would you like some more stories to use in your preaching? Or could you use some ideas about how our connections make the mission happen around the world?

Urban Ministry Training

United Theological Seminary, Dayton, is offering a certificate program (non-degree) of continuing education for urban ministry leadership. Classes begin in February. Participants can begin in any quarter thereafter. Check out the new Roots and Wings program web site: www.united.edu

Requesting a Charge Conference

Charge Conferences may be called by the District Superintendent or the pastor with written consent of the District Superintendent (para 246.7). Or a church conference may be called following a written request by the pastor, the church council, or 10% of the professing membership (para 248). Pastors, if you are requesting a charge conference, please send a letter or email. The DS may not always understand when receiving requests from laypersons. The request should include date, time, place, agenda for the charge conference, and what arrangements you have made with the DS for leadership.

VIM Team Leader Training

March 3, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm at the West Ohio Conference Office. Form is available at www.westohioumc.org. Are you called to lead a mission team? Do you want to know how? West Ohio Conference Volunteers in Mission is ready to assist you learn the ins and outs of gathering a team for service in Ohio, in the United States or anywhere in the world. You are invited to join Dee Stickley-Miner for a day of education, fellowship and spiritual growth. Servant Leadership principles form the foundation of this team leader instruction. This particular training will incorporate specific information for youth mission teams. The session will include instruction for those wishing to serve as Spiritual Guides on mission teams: how to be effective spiritual leaders, appropriate ways to share leadership, creating a worshipful mission atmosphere, etc.

United Methodist Scholarships

Packets are being mailed this week to pastors and college chaplains. The awards are targeted for members of the West Ohio Conference United Methodist churches. Interested persons should contact their local UMC pastor or college chaplain for details. Scholarships are based on available conference funds. The three scholarship opportunities include: student leadership, merit and an ethnic minority scholarship. All applications and required enclosures must be postmarked no later than April 1. Students selected to receive one of the above awards will be notified by June 30.

Ohio United Methodist History Convocation

April 21 at the Cornerstone UMC in Portsmouth. The theme of the meeting will be the celebration of the 300th anniversary of Charles Wesley's birth. Charles Wesley, "the

poet laureate of Methodism”, wrote over 6000 hymns. The convocation will include speakers, workshops and the annual business meeting of the society. The program is for church historians and other persons interested in the history of the UMC. You do not have to be a member of the society to attend. Dr. Robin Knowles Wallace, professor of music and worship at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Delaware, will be the featured speaker. There will be two workshop sessions offering workshops on Wesleyan England, preservation of historical materials and management of church records and documents. There will be an optional tour of historic Methodist sites in the Portsmouth area. For additional information, contact: Jim Barbee at 614-322-1010 or barbee@aol.com ; or Carol Holliger at 740-368-3285 or aoum@owu.edu.

2006 CD Journals

The Journals are currently at the publisher. Expected delivery is sometime in February.

Mattress Ministry

Gethsemane UMC in Pickerington announces its recently formed **Mattress Ministry: Comforting the Poor**, a service that provides mattresses to those in need. Donations of new and very gently used mattresses of any size, new mattress pads and sheets are needed. Those wishing to donate items can contact the church office at 614/759-8088 or gethsemaneumc@sbcglobal.net.

Meigs Cooperative 35th Anniversary

The year 2007 has been designated to celebrate 35 years of ministry in the Meigs Cooperative Parish. We have planned several services throughout the year to celebrate this wonderful event. The first service will be a dedication of the new facility, the Mulberry Community Center, on February 4th at 3:00 p.m. This event will be an opportunity to dedicate the facility and showcase many of the current ministries that are ongoing.

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 / <mailto:jamjar@bright.net> / 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.

Free Copier

Canon Copier free to a good home. It's an older model Canon 6060 machine with a 20 bin sorting capacity. As far as we know it is in working condition. Recipient of the machine is responsible for loading and transportation from the District Office. It is not currently under maintenance contract. If interested, contact the Foothills District Office.

UPCOMING DATES

Pastor Parish Relations Committee Training

Is your church caught in the "Happiness Trap?" Select the date and location most convenient for you. Please contact the district office (see contact links below) to let us know the date, location, and approximate number of people coming so we can have adequate materials and seating for your team!

Jan 28	3 pm	McArthur
Jan 28	7 pm	Nelsonville
Feb 5	7 pm	Logan Trinity
Feb 6	7 pm	Gibisonville
Feb 11	3 pm	New Lex First
Feb 18	3 pm	Bremen First
Feb 25	3 pm	Malta
Feb 27	7 pm	Crooksville First
Mar 5	7 pm	Somerset
Mar 6	7 pm	Rolling Plains
Mar 13	7 pm	Zanesville Coburn

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:

Feb. 13 – North Perry Co. at the Snack Bar in Somerset
Feb. 20 – Washington Co. at the Redwood in Belpre
March 20 – West/Central Perry Co. at the Top Hat in Junction City
March 27 – North Athens Co. – location not determined yet
April 3 – Fairfield Co. at Shoney's in Lancaster
April 17 – Morgan Co. at the Old Corral in McConnelsville
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

February 28-March 1, 2007: Children's Ministry Forum '07 Conference,

Birmingham, AL. For more information go to www.gbod.org/children/forum07-home.html.

April 25, 2007: Ecumenical Legislative Advocacy Day, Columbus, OH.

For more information contact Tom Smith, 614/885-9590 or tsmith@ohcouncilchs.org.

June 14-26, 2007: VIM Team to Kielce, Poland to put on a VBS Sports Camp.

For more information contact Ron Fontenot at ronbo3@prodigy.net or 618/628-8262

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 a location near the center of the district, 3 pm.

June 10-14, 2007 Annual Conference at Lakeside

July 22-28, 2007 Local Pastors School at Widewater Retreat Center

[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

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

Ministry in Motion- www.ministryinmotion.net

Incubator- www.l3incubator.com

Percept- www.link2lead.com

Pastoral Seasons as Life and Ministry- www.psalms.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