



The Foothills District Clergy Connection

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Baseball and Acts 2

I love baseball. Of all the sports I played as a child, I played baseball the least. Maybe that is why I'm still fascinated by the game. Or maybe it is because I love to analyze the statistics.

Just last week the announcers revealed that Ken Griffey, Jr. had never hit a home run on that particular day of the calendar before. Sure enough, Junior hit one out. I guess when you have hit more than 580 home runs, there are not many days you have not hit one out.

Statistics are just statistics. They don't win ball games. (Just ask the Cincinnati Reds.) But they do provide some intriguing insight. If Junior hits a home run every day, but the pitchers give up two touchdowns in the last three innings; it is no wonder the Reds can't win.

Acts 2 is about more than just statistics. They are insight into the health and focus of our churches. They reflect the fruit of our ministries. What does it mean if we have inspirational worship services, but declining participation in small groups and Sunday School? What should we do if we have few or no baptisms and professions of faith each year? What do we need to change and grow?

It was a thrill to hear the stories of Acts 2 churches across our conference at Lakeside this past week. God is doing some wondrous things! And God wants to do those wondrous things in your church, too.

That's why this year Brent and I will focus on the core process element of radical hospitality. Every one of our churches has unchurched people in our community. How do we befriend them, get to know them, build trusting relationships with them? I invite every church to begin praying for the people outside their doors. They are not just a statistic. They are people for whom Jesus died. They could become the fruit of God's ministry through us. For whom will you pray?



- Tom

NEWS

Church Builders Club Targets Living Faith

Bishop Ough has announced the next Church Builders Club call is for Living Faith near Vincent in the Foothills District. They are a new church start begun in 1999, positioned to address the growth in Washington County expected due to the completion of the Blannerhasset Bridge bypassing Parkersburg. They are hoping to break ground on a new facility soon.

Each member of the Church Builders Club pledges at least \$25 per call for 2-3 calls per year to assist churches selected by the Bishop and Cabinet who are implementing plans for growth and expansion of ministries. 100% of your gifts go to the target church. Administrative costs are covered by your apportionments. To give to Living Faith, check out the conference web site: www.westhioumc.org/page.asp?PKValue=1181 or contact the District Office. We'll send you a brochure.

Basic Administration Class

Brent Watson and Sherri Rogers are leading a class on basic church administration relating to year-end reports, audits, charge conference forms, email communications, etc. Pastors who struggle with these tasks are receiving "special" invitations to attend. Lay persons who may assist with these tasks are welcome to attend as well. There is no cost to the class, but reservations are needed. Contact Sherri: 740.797.4581 or office@foothillsdistrict.org

Nothing but Nets

The UM Church is partnering with Sports Illustrated and the National Basketball Association to purchase bed nets for families in Africa. Malaria is one of the leading causes of death of children in Africa; one every 90 seconds. Children who survive experience health complications. Malaria is preventable. \$10 is all it takes to purchase a bed net to protect children from the mosquitoes who carry malaria.

Check out the websites: www.umc.org/nets or www.nothingbutnets.net
Churches that raise money for Nothing But Nets can use the General Advance Special number 982015. Get in the game and slam dunk malaria!

Did you know?

Your apportionment dollars help support nearly 1,000 mission personnel in 62 different nations around the world. A recent General Board of Global Ministries report highlighted mission initiatives in Zimbabwe, Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos as well as the training of pastors in Latin America and the Caribbean. Currently, the mission work of the church is limited by the funding received by GBGM. World service only receives 83.4% of local church apportionments. If God is calling your church to go to the ends of the earth, one of the ways you can answer that call is to fully fund your connection through World Service. Nearly 1,000 mission personnel are counting on you!

Free Store Offers Hospitality Training

First UMC invites pastors and lay leadership to join in the fun of discovery as you learn ways your congregation can live even more passionately Jesus' ministry of radical hospitality in the 21st century. Rev. Brenda Buckwell Lifland will guide us through this time as we experience Benedictine spirituality of hospitality and rethink intimacy, community and small groups within congregations. RSVP by August 1, 2007 by calling (740) 452-7117 or emailing zanesfirstumc@sbcglobal.net
Cost: Please bring a "new item" donation to benefit the Free Store. Suggested Items: linens, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items, kitchen pans, dishes, glassware.

Gambling Defeated

Congratulations people of West Ohio! Because of your faithful witness to legislators and the governor, the bill before the Ohio Legislature seeking to expand gambling is dead! Governor Strickland promised to veto the bill. The Speaker of the House, John Husted, has said the bill is dead. Never doubt the impact of your letters, emails and phone calls!

There's one more thing we need to do: email or write Governor Strickland to thank him for the following:

1. Taking a public stance against the expansion of gambling in the state of Ohio
2. Honoring the will of the people who overwhelmingly defeated the expansion of Gambling in Ohio this past November
3. Let him know that you will continue to support him in his opposition to gambling's expansion

Thank you for your continued witness against gambling. Once again, you have saved lives, families and communities from gambling's destructive consequences.

- Dee Stickley-Miner

Governor's Office

Mail:

Governor's Office
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6108

Phone/Fax:

General Info: (614) 466-3555
Fax: (614) 466-9354

Online:

[Contact the Governor](#)

Ministry Training: "Our Journey of Hope"

Mid Ohio Valley Health Ministry Council is sponsoring a one-day seminar on Saturday, July 14, 9 am – 5 pm at Marietta Memorial Hospital for clergy and lay persons on how to reach out and support cancer patients within your own church and community. For more info, contact Carol White (740.585.2425 or cwhitem@gmail.com).

2007 School of Christian Mission

The 2007 SOCM features "Music and Mission" with a focus on Israel & Palestine in the mission study at Ohio Northern University. Leaders include Thelma Johnson, Char Ough, Margaret Mallory, Marcia Florkey, and Bishop Craig.

Week school: July 16-19

Weekend school: July 13-15

Sample Day: July 14

For more info, contact Jeanne Schierloh (937.434.3107 or djschierloh@sbcglobal.net or check out the website: www.westohio.socm.com)

Ethics Training Makeup

For pastors who did not attend the Ethics Training at Clergy Session, there is a make up session in the Foothills District on Sat Sept 15, 9:30 am – 12 noon @ Logan Immanuel. Rev. Cean Wilson will lead a team of trainers to raise our awareness and develop skills for developing healthy and safe relationships within the church. All pastors who did not attend in May are expected to attend. Staff members and lay volunteers are welcome. For more info, contact your friendly neighborhood District Office.

Church by Size Seminars

Doug Anders is leading five seminars in Findlay in the coming year:

Extending the Church Family: Ministry in a Small Church (less than 100 in worship)
9/17-18/07 and 3/3/08

Mastering the Middle: Ministry in a Mid-Sized Church (100-175 in worship)
9/19-20/08 and 3/4/08

Beyond the Barrier: Ministry for Becoming a Large Church (175-250 in worship)
11/12-13/07 and 3/5/08

Building a Terrific Team: Staff Ministry in a Large Church (250 plus in worship)
10/3-4/07 and 3/6/08

Leading a Church Staff: Tools for Effective Lead Pastors (250 plus in worship)
10/4-5/07 and 3/7/08

Cost is \$159 per person not including housing. For more info, contact Maumee Watershed District Office 877.628.6339 or maumeewatershed@wocumc.org.

Revitalizing Small Membership & Rural Churches

Methodist Theological School presents the 6th Annual Mission and Evangelism Institute, Sept 30-Oct 2, 2007, on the Delaware, Ohio, campus. Featured speakers include: Julia Wallace, Director of Small-Membership Church and Shared Ministries for the General Board of Discipleship, and Robert Tannehill, Emeritus Academic Dean at MTSO. For more info, contact Dr. Joon-Sik Park: jpark@mtso.edu or 740.362.3367 or check out www.mtso.edu.

Leadership Institute Oct 4-6, 2007

Church of the Resurrection features Adam Hamilton at the Leadership Institute. If you enjoyed his teaching at annual conference, check out the website: www.cor.org/catalyst

Will You Hear Me Now?

The West Ohio Unity Task Force is sponsoring a conversation about homosexuality and the church on Friday, Oct 12, 9 am – 4 pm at Methodist Theological School of Ohio north of Columbus. Thomas W. Porter, Exec Director of JUSTPEACE Center for Mediation and Conflict Transformation will facilitate the proceedings. Our own Rev. Paul Risler is one of the afternoon presenters. This event is limited to 200 persons. For more info, contact Grace Gerber, 800.437.0028 or ggerber@wocumc.org.

Foothills District Shirts Available

You can purchase shirts, hats, and a variety of other items with the Foothills District logo on them through www.queensboro.com. You will need to open your account and select your own items of interest. Ask for logo number 11044157. You can advertise the Foothills District wherever you go!

Planning a VIM trip to Mexico?

Bishop Garcia of the Oriental Conference in Mexico requests that leaders planning mission trips to Mexico contact Willie Berman, the Conference's VIM Coordinator (wberman@prodigy.net.mx or 1.956.648.8712). There are a number of projects needing assistance and Willie can help coordinate volunteers to all of the mission opportunities.

Clergy Benefits Academy

General Board of Pension and Health Benefits is sponsoring this event, Nov 5-7, 2007, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. For more info and registration materials, check out www.gbophb.org and click on "Events & Education."

Churches Help Returning Service Members

United Methodist congregations have provided over 10 million phone card minutes for members of our armed services serving in Afganistan and Iraq. Recently UM leaders met to develop plans on how to further minister to service members and their families; especially when service members return home. For some more ideas, check out: http://www.gbhem.org/chaplains/mltchapguideltem.asp?item_id=68.

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:

July 10 – West Hocking Co. – The Village Café in Laurelville
July 17 – Washington Co., Marietta area – Shoney's in Marietta
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. – at Lori's in Logan

June 23, 2007	Basic Administration Class @ District Office, 9:30 am
August 22, 2007	Basic Administration Class @ District Office, 4:30 pm
July 22-28, 2007	Local Pastors School at Widewater Retreat Center
Sept 15, 2007	Sexual Ethics Make-up Day
Sept 29, 2007	Make a Difference Day at The Plains
Oct 2, 2007	District Golf Outing
Oct 3, 2007	Bishop Ough @ First anniversary of Lifewell Free Store at Zanesville First
Oct 6, 2007	Festival of Sharing at Otterbein College
Oct 7, 2007	Bishop Ough @ Meigs County Coop
Nov 27, 2007	Treasurer's Training by Stan Sutton, place to be announced

Precharge Conference Briefings

(These are mandatory for pastors. Lay persons are welcome. Pick the time and place convenient for you.)

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

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

Every Church a Mission Station * Every Community a Mission Field