



The Foothills District Clergy Connection

Volume 2, Issue 5

June 2007

Did I ever tell you about the time I visited Aunt Charlotte? (It's not her real name and she wasn't my aunt.) We spent most of the time talking about her garden, not an unusual topic in northwest Ohio. On the tour we walked by a new tree which she explained was a sweet plum tree. It was small with a few blossoms, but it was interesting to hear the excitement in her voice as she described her anticipation of watching it grow and bear fruit.

A couple of months later she approached me at church, excitedly telling me about that sweet plum tree. She had just picked some very juicy dwarf pears. Then she paused for effect to see if I got it. It wasn't a sweet plum tree after all. It was a pear tree. The fruit reveals the character of the tree.

Fruit reveals the character of a church, too. Healthy churches bear fruit that reveal the character of their leaders. They bear fruit that reproduce the nature and spirit of the source of its life. That is why we pay attention to fruit.

At Annual Conference this year, we will talk a lot about fruit. Acts 2 is our expression for the fruit that was demonstrated in the early church. Check out your Bible for these verses:

Acts 2:41: baptisms and new members

Acts 2:42: discipling groups and worship

Acts 2:44: extravagant generosity of giving and stewardship

Acts 2:45: extravagant generosity of giving and stewardship

Acts 2:46: worship

Acts 2:47: new professions of faith

Consequently, we pay attention to similar fruit in the early 21st century. What baptisms, new members, new professions of faith, worship attendance, participation in small groups and classes, and generosity of giving characterizes our church? Do we produce the fruit that reveals God's spirit of health?

No, it is not a perfect system. No, we cannot simply compare the fruit from one church to another as if to declare one church better than another. But we ought to examine the fruit we do produce. What does it reveal about our nature and character? Acts 2 gives us God's call to effective ministry and mission wherever we are.

Is your church fruitful ... or just fruity?



NEWS

ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATES:

Miracle Offering

Remember the Miracle Offering for the Global AIDS Fund and our own conference AIDS Task Force to minister to the victims of HIV/AIDS at home and abroad. Can we hit our target of \$1.00 per member in West Ohio?

The **Youth Delegates** to Annual Conference are asked to meet daily for lunch together, Monday, June 11th - Wednesday, June 13th. The Youth luncheons will be in the Aigler Room of the Fountain Inn. You must pre-register for the lunches. Please visit www.westohioumc.org/page.asp?TableName=oPages_6KF3UU&PKValue=1311 for registration information, or contact your local district office. Youth are also welcome to attend the evening gatherings which will take place at the Train Depot, each evening beginning at 10:00 p.m. Everyone is Welcome!!

Every member of Annual Conference is encouraged to drop off a 10# bag of potatoes the **Potato Truck**, which will be parked in the driveway of the Otterbein North Shore Retired Living Community. Otterbein North Shore is located at 9400 North Shore Blvd., on the way into Lakeside. The Potato Truck will be accepting donations all day on Saturday, and Sunday, as well as Monday morning. The West Ohio UMM's organization would like to thank you in advance for donating to this worthwhile project.

An abbreviated Annual Conference Schedule is available at <http://www.westohioumc.org/page.asp?PKValue=1052>.

One Place - a sacred space for meditation and prayer - is located in the Green Room at the Fountain Inn and will be open Sunday 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.; Monday thru Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.; and Thursday from 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Volunteers are needed for one hour shifts in the Prayer Room - commit to the same hour each day if possible. Go to www.mysignup.com/oneplace.

Making a Good Move Seminar

(for all ministers who are receiving a new appointments this year), will be held on June 6, 2007, 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., at Aldersgate UMC in Huber Heights. Cost is \$50 (includes lunch/materials). For more information visit http://wosite.brickriver.com/page.asp?TableName=oPages_6KF3UU&PrimaryKey=oPages_6KF3UU_ID&PKValue=1346.

Leadership and Anxiety

The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (LMPC) will conduct a seminar on **Leadership and Anxiety in the Church: A Family Systems Perspective**, on October 2, 2007 at David's United Church in Kettering, OH. The seminar will be led by Richard Blackburn, LMPC Executive Director. For more information visit http://wosite.brickriver.com/page.asp?TableName=oPages_6KF3UU&PrimaryKey=oPages_6KF3UU_ID&PKValue=1371

Camps

Please pray for our Foothills District camps this summer:

Camp Otterbein- June 17-22 & July 29-August 3 & June 24-29. Check out the camps section of the District web site: www.foothillsdistrict.org

Camp Asbury-

Elementary Camp

- June 17-22, John Fields (Simpson Chapel UMC) 614.378.8699 or mudbug1981@yahoo.com

Junior High Camp

- June 24-29, Kimberly Thomas (Gallipolis Grace UMC) 740.446.4542 or brlyt@aol.com

Intro Camp

- June 29-July 1, Rita Snider (Richland UMC) 740.593.6847 or snider@eurekanet.com

Multi-age Camp

- July 8-13, Perry Prosch (Wheelersburg UMC) 740.574.2900

Jackson Area Ministries Work Camp

- July 21-27, Brent Watson 740.797.4581 or bwatson@foothillsdistrict.org

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!

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.

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:

June 5 – South Zanesville – Bob Evans on Maysville Pike
June 19 – East Meigs Co. – Krider's Kountry Kitchen
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 10-14, 2007	Annual Conference at Lakeside
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 6, 2007	Festival of Sharing at Otterbein College
November 27	Treasurer's Training by Stan Sutton, place to be announced

1x1 Schedule

Have you signed up for your 1x1? The DS is coming to a location near you. The dates and locations are on the web site, but you need to call or email Sherri to find which appointments are still open. Those who do not sign up before June 1 will be assigned an open slot.

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.gbgm-umc.org

United Methodist Committee on Relief- www.gbgm-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.wnba/lynx

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