

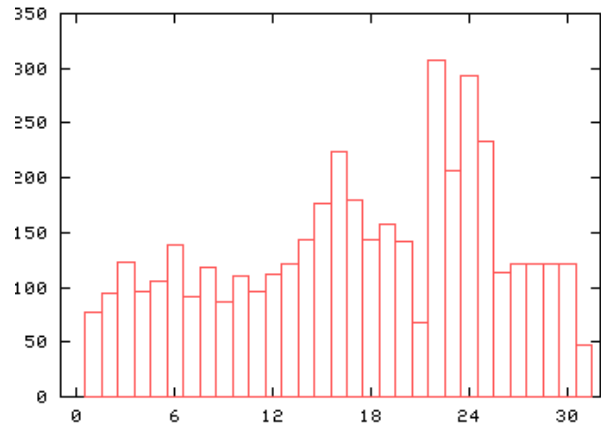


The Foothills District Clergy Connection

Volume 2, Issue 3

March 2007

This past week the Springdale (Arkansas) Daily News reported that the state legislature had reached a compromise in measuring body mass of every school student. Huliq.com reported a breakthrough satellite method in measuring the amount water vapor in earth's atmosphere. Earth Day Network ranked Fargo, North Dakota, as number one of 72 best cities in which to live. (None of the cities measured were in the Foothills District.) The Herald (Glasgow, England) reported that Glasgow University has developed an electronic pill that can conduct measurements as it passes through the body. This is breakthrough in detecting bowel cancer.



Measuring – it is a vital part of life. We measure our speed when we drive. We measure our time in our calendars. We measure the quality of our social lives while standing in line at the grocery store looking at the gossip magazines. We measure what we value.

How do we measure the effectiveness of our ministries? What do we value in our churches? What does God call us to value?

There are no simple formulas that fit each and every setting. I believe all healthy churches will grow. There are so many people in each of our areas that have no relationship with Christ and no connection to a church that all of us have a mission field right outside our doors. Growth can be measured in numbers of people that participate in mission, in worship, in nurture and education.

The Acts 2 data which measures membership, average worship attendance, baptisms, professions of faith, participation in learning groups, and apportionment giving is not perfect. But it is the best we have. It helps us focus on what we value. We value people – people being transformed by the grace of God. These data are signs of that transformation.

How is your church doing? How do you compare to the previous year? Pastors, this is why the year end reports are so critical. They help us measure the effectiveness of our ministries. Each number represents a person. If the data does not indicate growing fruitfulness, how can we work together to enhance your leadership and the health of your congregation? People in your community may depend on it.

NEWS

At Large Delegates to Conference

Because of the recent redistricting and the legislation that passed at the 2006 conference regarding youth and young adult lay members we need to adjust the way we select lay members at large.

We will need 33 total lay members at large, 7 of which must be youth or young adults. Unlike past years, you will not be automatically asked to serve because you served in that capacity the previous year. If you have an interest in attending this year's West Ohio Conference, June 10-14, you will need to submit your name to the district office via e-mail, snail mail, or phone. We will create a pool of interested people and try to have equal representation from each geographic area of the district. Persons serving as supply pastors will be given first consideration and then we will fill the vacancies with persons from the pool.

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 Sherri Rogers, District Administrator.

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>](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.

New Conference Web Site Unveiled

The West Ohio Conference website has constructed a new website with some of the old useful tools such as indexes of pastors and churches as well as new features on current news like 2007 camping. Did you know Camp Otterbein is starting a blog? Campers may want to connect with their camp friends via the web site. Check out www.westohioumc.org Learn more about campus ministries, latest news, and future events!

Lifewell Featured in West Ohio News

The February issues of West Ohio News featured Lifewell in the centerfold. The Zanesville-based ministries are part of the new Foothills District. Lifewell-West Main targets children and youth in some of the neediest neighborhoods in the city. Lifewell Free Store recently opened out of Zanesville First Church offers clothing, household

goods, and a warm welcome to anyone in need. Both of these ministries are staffed by volunteers from Zanesville churches and across the northern portions of our District.

If you do not receive the West Ohio News, you can see the stories on the new web site www.westohioumc.org and click on "news."

Church Builders Club Call: Upton UMC

Building on a strong foundation of prayer, this struggling inner city congregation in Toledo has flourished into a strong urban, multi-cultural congregation that is now landlocked and has outgrown the current facility. Kingdom Worship emerged as a second site in a small sanctuary setting on an expansive acreage of land in south Toledo.

While growth is coming, many of the new members are unable to give what the relocation will require. Many of the new members are former drug addicts and dealers, school drop outs, the unemployed, and ex-offenders. With the help of the West Ohio Church Builders Club, this congregation will be able to merge into one facility that has room for growth.

Foothills District churches have benefited from the Church Builders Fund in the past. This is our turn to reach out to churches across the conference. For more info, check out: www.westohioumc.org/page.asp?PKValue=1181

Conference adds New Church Start Consultant

To underscore the importance of church multiplication, the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church has created the position of New Church Start Consultant. The Rev. Lori Lossie of Hilliard UMC has been selected for the post. "Any denomination that hopes to grow must start new congregations and satellites at a brisk rate if they hope to keep pace with the culture," said Lossie, lead pastor of Warehouse 839 - a satellite campus of Hilliard UMC. "I hope to help educate churches about new church starts, especially second sites," said Lossie. "I want to assist churches in the creation of a second site, as well as to provide resources to them as they develop." Lossie will continue as lead pastor for Warehouse 839 while she works as a part-time consultant for the conference. "Launched in the spring of 2003, the Warehouse 839 service draws over 300 worshipers each week," said George Howard, Conference Director of Connectional Ministries. "We know Lori can help other churches create and sustain such satellite ministries." Inquiries can be directed to Lossie at llossie@wocumc.org [<mailto:llossie@wocumc.org>](mailto:llossie@wocumc.org) or by calling the conference office at 800-437-0028.

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>](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.

Wanted: Lawyer-Missionary

The United Methodist mission agency needs an immigration lawyer to provide legal counsel at up to three congregation-based immigration clinics in New York City. The attorney must have already passed the bar, or pass it in the first year of assignment. Bilingual skills and experience in law school asylum or immigration clinics would be beneficial but are not required. To apply or obtain more information contact Brenda Connelly, General Board of Global Ministries, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 320, New York, NY 10115, email ccworker@gbgm-umc.org <[mailto: ccworker@gbgm-umc.org](mailto:ccworker@gbgm-umc.org)>, or call 212/870-3819 or 828/294-2107.

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!

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
Mar 19	7 pm	Gibsonville (rescheduled)

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:

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

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

1x1 Schedule

The DS will meet with each pastoral leader beginning May 1. The dates and locations will be available in the next Clergy Connection. 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.

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

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