



# The Foothills District Clergy Connection

Volume 2, Issue 5

May 2007

---

Can I ramble a minute? So what's new, you ask?

One of the tasks on my plate right now is the Cabinet Report for Annual Conference. I am nervous about how this might come together. There are a lot of details I cannot control. So I surveyed the conference journal to see what I could learn from past year's cabinet reports. I discovered they are barely mentioned.

It reminds me of a debate on one of those radio talk shows about the relevance of preaching in today's world. (It was obviously not the Larry King Show.) A number of callers had indicated they could not remember a single sermon they had ever heard. The debate ended, though, when one caller noted that he had been married for 37 years and could not remember most of the meals his wife had prepared for the family. But he certainly would have been worse off, if he had not consumed every one of them.

One of the joys of this superintending role is to listen to the spiritual journeys of people who are exploring their call to ministry. Some are looking at the role of a pastor and others are looking at other exciting adventures. Frequently, they remember the significant relationships of parents, teachers, mentors, and friends. It is not usually the words that were said, but the relationships that encouraged and cared.



That is why the concept of radical hospitality becomes so important to the ministry of a church. It is not the sermons or the signboards that engage the world of real people. It is the relationships of grace and caring that grabs their attention. Words will be noted briefly in the legal records of appropriate proceedings. But it is the faces and personalities that will be treasured as people walk their spiritual journeys.

What relationships is your church cultivating with normal people in the real world outside your walls? What will people remember about your church? Do they experience hospitality? Are their lives changed by God's grace through your caring?

Heads up! Brent and I are focusing our attention on radical hospitality for the coming year. It is the inevitable response of the disciple when he/she experiences the radical hospitality of God's grace in Jesus Christ.

- Tom

## **NEWS**

Congratulations to Rick and Anita Birk on the birth of their son, Owen James, Feb 12.

Prayers and sympathies to Bill Shepler on the death of his mother, Verna Shepler, March 17; and to Bart Ankrom on the death of his father, Junior Ankrom, March 20.

## ***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](http://www.westohioumc.org/news_detail.asp?PKValue=24).

### 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?

### Conference Child Care

The deadline for signing up for child care during Annual Conference is May 18. To sign up go to the conference web site and check under events, annual conference, and child care or click here: [www.westohioumc.org/page.asp?PKValue=1270](http://www.westohioumc.org/page.asp?PKValue=1270)

## ***Evans Celebrate Ministry***

Stacy and Cheryl Evans are celebrating 34 years of ministry in the West Ohio Conference and invite you to join them on Sat. May 19, 2-5 pm at First UMC in Nelsonville. You are also invited to share a card, story, email, picture, anecdote, etc for their scrapbook album. Please send those to

Mrs. Richard (Judy) Barber  
PO Box 282  
Murray City, Ohio 43144  
[rbarber@ohiohills.com](mailto:rbarber@ohiohills.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, visiting holy sites such as Bethlehem, Nazareth, The Garden of Gethsemane, Cana of Galilee, the Mount of the Beatitudes and the Garden Tomb. For more info, contact our district coordinator: David Maze, 12 Circle Drive, The Plains, Ohio 45789, 740.797.2440 or [dandbmaze@verizon.net](mailto:dandbmaze@verizon.net)

## ***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](http://www.GBOD.org/PeopleofPrayer)

## *Campolo to Speak at Athens First*

Tony Campolo, professor emeritus at Eastern University and founder of the Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education (EAPE) is coming to Athens on May 10, 7:30 pm. EAPE is an organization that develops schools and social programs in various third world countries and in cities across North America. He is the author of 33 books, his most recent being, *Letters to a Young Evangelical*. Members of our Trinity and Brown Bag classes enjoyed studying his book *20 Hot Potatoes Christians Are Afraid to Touch*.

Dr. Campolo is also well-known as a media commentator on religious, social and political matters, having guested on television programs like *The Colbert Report*, *Nightline*, *Crossfire*, *Politically Incorrect*, *The Charlie Rose Show*, *Larry King Live*, *CNN Dayside*, *CNN News* and *MSNBC News*. He co-hosted his own television series, *Hashing It Out*, on the Odyssey Network, and presently hosts *Across the Pond*, a weekly program on the Premier Christian Radio Network in England. He is also a highly respected and sought after guest on radio stations across the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand.

## *Conference Employs Youth Consultant*

Rev Tammy Jo Reiser of Waynesville has been named Youth Consultant for the West Ohio Conference of the UMC. She will be raising the awareness of youth and young adults as an urgent mission for United Methodist churches.

"The need is immediate! Youth workers across the conference are the unsung heroes in the trenches, and I so look forward to connecting and celebrating the good work they do and identifying the work we must accomplish to reach a generation," said Reiser, who feels our culture is in danger of losing the faith of our youth. She is currently pastor at Waynesville United Methodist Church and will continue in that position while working part-time for the conference.

Reiser is a graduate of United Theological Seminary in Dayton and holds a Certificate of Youth Ministry Studies from Fuller Theological Seminary. Reiser has accumulated nearly two decades of youth ministry experience, including teaching and speaking work with other United Methodist conferences, the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship Youth Specialties, and other youth training events. For more information, contact Reiser at [TammyJo@waynesvilleumc.org](mailto:TammyJo@waynesvilleumc.org); [tjreiser@wocumc.org](mailto:tjreiser@wocumc.org); or **513.288.1167**; Waynesville United Methodist Church; PO Box 634 Waynesville OH 45068

## *Giving Resources*

Pastors recently received the Church Leaders Mailing complete with posters and inserts for the special Sundays of 2007. If you have misplaced your packet or you need additional resources, go to [www.umcsgiving.org](http://www.umcsgiving.org) or call UM Communications (888)346-3862.

## *GBGM Recruiting Missionaries*

The General Board of Global Ministries is recruiting missionaries with the theme: "The Face of Today's Missionary: Is It Yours?" Personnel are needed for work in evangelism, church development, education, medical care, agriculture, legal services, and financial administration. A majority, although not all, assignments are outside the United States. For more info, check out the web site:

[gbgm-umc.org/global\\_news/pr.cfm?articleid=4457&CFID=1771909&CFTOKEN=90085868](http://gbgm-umc.org/global_news/pr.cfm?articleid=4457&CFID=1771909&CFTOKEN=90085868)

## *Verizon Wireless Partners with Churches*

Purchasing a Verizon cell phone can trigger a Verizon donation to your local church. Chris Schmedes, Director of Sales for Flexicom, a premium retailer for Verizon, has announced Giving Back Matters, a program for organizations to earn money for phone services everyone uses. Flexicom says they will donate \$15 for every purchase registered through their UM web link to UM ministries - \$5 to the local church, \$5 to church development, and \$5 to hunger outreach in West Ohio. Check out the website: [www.mybrandnewphone.com](http://www.mybrandnewphone.com)

## **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:

May 1 – Gallia Co. at Bob Evans in Gallipolis  
May 15 – Vinton Co. at Momma Rennies in McArthur  
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

**May 19, 2007:** District Church Location and Building Committee Training, 10-11:30 am at District Office.

**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

**June 23, 2007** Basic Administration Class @ District Office

**August 22, 2007** Basic Administration Class @ District Office

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

**Sept 29, 2007** Make a Difference Day at The Plains

**Oct 6, 2007** Festival of Sharing at Otterbein College

**November 27 or 29** Treasurer's Training by Stan Sutton

## *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](http://www.upperroom.org)

Interpreter- [www.interpretermagazine.org](http://www.interpretermagazine.org)

Volunteers in Mission- [www.gbgm-umc.org](http://www.gbgm-umc.org)

United Methodist Committee on Relief- [www.gbgm-umc/umcor](http://www.gbgm-umc/umcor)

West Ohio Conference- [www.westohioumc.org](http://www.westohioumc.org)

United Methodist Church- [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org)

Ministry in Motion- [www.ministryinmotion.net](http://www.ministryinmotion.net)

Lewis Center for Church Leadership- [www.churchleadership.com](http://www.churchleadership.com)

Monday Morning Insight- [www.mondaymorninginsight.com](http://www.mondaymorninginsight.com)

The Alban Institute- [www.alban.org](http://www.alban.org)

[www.leadershipjournal.net](http://www.leadershipjournal.net)

[www.injoy.com](http://www.injoy.com)

Rev magazine- [www.onlinerev.com](http://www.onlinerev.com)

[www.qbod.org/leadership](http://www.qbod.org/leadership)

[www.cufflinks.org](http://www.cufflinks.org)

Incubator- [www.l3incubator.com](http://www.l3incubator.com)

Percept- [www.link2lead.com](http://www.link2lead.com)

Pastoral Seasons as Life and Ministry- [www.psalmats.org](http://www.psalmats.org)

Pohly Center for Supervision and Leadership Formation- [www.united.edu/pohlycenter/](http://www.united.edu/pohlycenter/)

Christian Coaches Network- [www.christiancoaches.com](http://www.christiancoaches.com)

International Association of Coaches- [www.certifiedcoach.org](http://www.certifiedcoach.org)

[www.crosswalk.com](http://www.crosswalk.com)

Congregational Resources Guide- [www.congregationalresources.org](http://www.congregationalresources.org)

Pastors Retreat Network- [www.pastorsretreatnetwork.org](http://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](http://www.foothillsdistrict.org)

Email: Tom Hanover- [hanover@foothillsdistrict.org](mailto:hanover@foothillsdistrict.org)  
Brent Watson- [watson@foothillsdistrict.org](mailto:watson@foothillsdistrict.org)  
Office- [office@foothillsdistrict.org](mailto:office@foothillsdistrict.org)