



The Foothills District Clergy Connection

Volume 2, Issue 10

October 2007

Hospitality, Grace, and Diapers

“Why do you keep this kid around? I mean, all he does is create work for you.”

The young parents are looking at me as though I am idiot for asking such a stupid question. “Think about it. Your life before this baby was free and exciting. You went out together on weekends. You went to parties. You slept late, if you wanted to. But now?”

They are still staring with disbelief.

“What does this baby do for you? Does he have a job? Does he mow the yard? Does he help with the dishes? No, he cries and wants to be fed. He cries and wants his diaper changed. He cries and wants to be held. Why on earth do you keep him around?”

Usually, one of them feels it necessary to explain the obvious. “We keep him because he is ours. He is our baby. He comes from our love for each other. He’s our child.”

Such is the mystery of God’s grace. It is not because we are worthy or so important that God chooses to care about us. It is because we are God’s. We come from boundless depths of God’s grace.

That is what baptism is about. It is not something we do. It is a celebration of what God has already done in Jesus Christ 2000 years ago. It is a celebration of grace. That is why we baptize children. They belong to God. They reveal the heights, the depths, and the breadth of God’s love for the whole world. Jesus said, “Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” (Luke 18:16)

What about the other children in our towns and neighborhoods? Don’t they belong to God, too? Haven’t they come from the boundless depths of God’s grace as well?

Radial hospitality is the grace we offer when we seek to adopt the children of our community as God’s children placed in our care. They are not ours. They are God’s. They are not to be exploited or ignored. They are to be cared for and loved so they can grow into all that God has hoped and dreamed for them. How is your church offering radical hospitality to the children of your neighborhood?



Bishop Meets with Lay Leadership

Bishop Ough is heading a team of lay leaders to meet with the lay leadership of the churches of the Foothills District, **Monday, Oct 15, 6:30 – 9:00 pm, The Plains UMC.** The Bishop is bringing Bruce Boyd, Conference Lay Leader and owner of a publishing business, George Howard, Director of Conference Connectional Ministries, and Dr. Larry Wellborn, via video technology. Dr. Wellborn is most recently from the faculty at United Theological Seminary.

How did a few obscure, uneducated Galilean fishermen transform the world when they were no clergy? How can the faith of the first Christians transform the world of the 21st century?

This event is designed by lay leadership for lay leadership. It may be just the help you need for your own church. Fill up the van, race through the drive-through, and get a good seat for these insightful discussions about how God can work through your church!

District Raises Money for Wings of the Morning

The Syracuse Charge (Asbury, Forest Run, and Minersville) raised \$13,400 to build a new church building, a parsonage, and purchase Bibles for the North Katanga UM Conference in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In response churches across the district are raising additional money to support the Wings of the Morning air ministry of Gaston and Jeane Ntambo, also in the North Katanga Conference. Gaston flies his own plane (and Jeane is flight control and weather advisor) to provide transportation for medical emergencies in many of the isolated villages of the Congo. His current plane is small and requires very expensive fuel. A newer plane could serve more people each trip and use cheaper, more available fuel.



Some churches have used VBS offerings, children's SS offerings, and other special holiday offerings to match the generosity of the Syracuse Charge and make a difference on the other side of the world.

Your church can help, too. Send your offering to the West Ohio Conference with your regular apportionments and designate your gift for the Wings of the Morning with the Advance Special number #101000GP, Hope for the Children of Africa, Gaston's Plane. Or you can send your gift to the District office, and we'll forward it to the proper place. Either way, let us know how your church contributed. Can we match the Syracuse Charge's extravagant generosity?

Conference Moves to Perry County

The annual conference will come to New Lexington for the Commissioning Service for Lynda Lockwood, Sunday, Sept 30, 3 pm at the New Lex First UMC. Everyone is welcome.

Lynda was unable to participate in the commissioning service at Lakeside in June to the unexpected death of her sister. So the conference will come to Perry County. Bishop

Ough will preach and several conference leaders will participate in this momentous milepost in Lynda's journey.

Jackson Area Ministries Builds the Mission

In the last 30 years JAM has partnered with Calvary UMC for office and parking space. But now, both ministries need space to grow. JAM recently purchased land adjacent to the current parking area for the Calvary UMC. They have removed the house and are preparing to build space for office and warehouse of work camp materials. The estimated cost is between \$80-90,000.

Would you like help?

1. Pray for the JAM and the many who depend on these ministries.
2. Invite a mission speaker from JAM to talk to your church or small group
3. Recruit a team to volunteer help on the construction (or food for the workers).
Construction is planned to begin in the spring of 2008.
4. Include JAM in your mission budget or mission offerings.

For more info, contact Rev. Robert Davis, jamjar@bright.net or 888.237.4308 or check out the web site: www.frognet.net/~jorobin/



Bishop Visits Lifewell Free Store

Bishop Ough will visit the Lifewell Free Store on its first anniversary, Sunday, Oct 3. Store tours begin at 5 pm. Celebration dinner begins 6 pm. Service to honor the benefactors and volunteers begins at 7 pm. You are welcome to join the celebration. Please RSVP by September 30, 2007 to (740) 452-7117.

Conference Announces New Camp Director

Jill Kauppila Moore is the Director of Camps and Next Generation Leadership for the West Ohio Conference beginning Sept 2007. Jill worked for Lockheed Martin in Organizational and Leadership Development, and has previously served as Program Director and Trainer for the YMCA. She is moving from Lakeland, Florida with her husband Joe, and their two children Jordan (age 4) and Joshua (age 2.)



Jill is a graduate of Wright State University in Dayton (BA, Communication). She looks forward to applying her administrative skills, passion for camping and leadership development, and her commitment to God to continue shaping camps and ministry with youth and young adults.

Percept Demographics Available

You can gather census data and other demographic information about your community through Percept, thanks to a partnership with the West Ohio Conference. You have already paid for this service through your apportionments.

Check out link2lead.com and follow the simple instructions to register your church. You can use the information about your community to initiate some discussions about unmet needs in your neighborhood.

Conference and District Apportionment Data

The Conference is now publishing financial information on the conference web site including current status for apportionment participation. So if you want to monitor your church's progress or check out the conference's financial commitments, go to www.westohioumc.org and click on the "finance and benefits" tab. Information is generally updated monthly.

Clergy Spouse Information Posted

Information about the activities of clergy spouses in the Foothills District is posted on the web: www.foothillsdistrict.org Check out the latest details about picnics, lunches, and riverboat cruises.

Journals Available

2007 West Ohio Annual Conference Journals are available for ordering at [http://woconsole.brickriver.com/files/oImage_Library_FOADXU/Journal_Order_Form_\(2\)_TBTWE7F8.pdf](http://woconsole.brickriver.com/files/oImage_Library_FOADXU/Journal_Order_Form_(2)_TBTWE7F8.pdf).

Good Works Sponsors Lunch Dialogue

Good Works, Athens, invites interested participants to attend a lunch discussion on Ruby K. Payne's book, *Bridges out of Poverty*, each Thursday, 12 noon, at the Timothy House. For more info, contact Andrea goodworks@good-works.net or 740.594.3333.

Red Cross Honors Flynn

Rev. Doris Flynn of the Zanesville Coburn UMC has been selected by the local chapter of the American Red Cross to represent the Hometown Heroes FAITH IN ACTION award. She will be honored with other Hometown Heroes at a breakfast held at North Terrace Church of Christ at 7:30 AM on Friday, September 28. The public is invited to attend. Tickets are available at the door or can be purchased in advance at the American Red Cross office. Contact Tina Wickline at 452-6892 for further information.

Convocation on Development Seminar in Orlando

The Eighth UM Convocation on Development: "Funding Ministry in a New Economy" is scheduled for Jan 22-25, 2008, in Orlando, Florida, and features leaders such as Michael Slaughter, Dan Dick, David Bell, Don Joiner, Sandra Lackore, Marie Lang, Wayne Barrett, and several more. For more info, check out www.gbod.org/development-convo

2007 Schooler Institute on Preaching

The Methodist Theological School in Ohio is sponsoring an institute on preaching: "Across the Great Divide," Oct 14-16, 2007, featuring Rev. Dr. John W. Kinney, Dean of the School of Theology at Virginia Union University. Workshops feature Steven Harsh, Sarah Heaner Lancaster, and Lisa R. Withrow. For more info, check out www.mtso.edu

Clergy Finance Letter

Concerned about the financial support for your pastor? Want to be current on recent tax law changes for clergy? Check out the Clergy Finance Letter edited by clergy finance guru Wayne Barrett and contributing editors: Donald Joiner, Frederick Leasure, and Peggy Patterson (www.clergy-financial.com)

Your Offering Changes the World

Pastors recently received a packet from UM Communications about opportunities your church can impact the world through special offerings for Africa University, support of missionaries in 125 countries, UM Student Loan program, and much, much more. The packet included colorful posters and directions to order additional materials such as bulletin inserts, dvd, and more. For more info, check out the web site www.umcom.org or call 888.346.3862.

I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church!

Paul Nixon is the featured speaker at a workshop for all pastors and church leaders at the Kings Island Resort and Conference Center in Mason, Ohio, Tuesday, Nov 13, 2007. Cost is \$30 per individual or \$75 for three from the same church. Check out www.eventbrite.com/event/67745629

VIM Team Leader & Spiritual Guide Training

Putting together a mission team? This one-day seminar is for you! You'll share your experiences and learn the ins and outs of building a mission team from both the team leader and spiritual guide perspectives: October 13, 2007, 9:30-3:30, West Ohio Conference Center, 32 Wesley Blvd., Worthington, OH. For more details and registration visit http://woconsole.brickriver.com/files/olmage_Library_FQADXU/10-13_VIM_Training_SEF2LYBA.pdf.

UMCOR Early Response Team Training

Training will take place October 13, 2007, 9:30-3:30 at the West Ohio Conference Center, 32 Wesley Blvd., Worthington, OH. For more information and to register visit http://woconsole.brickriver.com/files/olmage_Library_FQADXU/10-13_ERT_Training_JIV9MJAS.pdf.

MTSO Offers Harding Scholarship

Methodist Theological School in Ohio is announcing the 3rd Annual National Competition for the Harding Scholarship (full tuition and \$10,000 stipend). For more info, check out the website: www.mtso.edu or call 1.800.333.6876.

Women of Appalachia Conference

The 9th Annual Women of Appalachia Conference will be held Oct 19-20, 2007, at the Ohio University Zanesville branch campus. Featured leaders include Meredith Dean, Sharon Hatfield, Dan Levenson, Richard Greenlee, Priscilla Hewetson, and Ellen Ford. For more info, check out www.zanesville.ohiou.edu

Did you know

CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) is celebrating its 60th anniversary. Each year more than 2,000 communities across the US sponsor CROP Hunger Walks to raise money for local hunger fighting initiatives. Nationally, over \$4 million is raised each year. Celebrate the birthday and sign up for a CROP Hunger Walk in your town. Or call 888.297.2767 find a CROP Walk near you!

UPCOMING DATES

Sept 29, 2007	Make a Difference Day at The Plains
Oct 2, 2007	District Golf Outing @ Eagle Sticks, Zanesville, \$35 per player.
Oct 3, 2007	Bishop Ough @ First anniversary of Lifewell Free Store at Zanesville First
Oct 6, 2007	Festival of Sharing at Otterbein College, 8:30 am – 2:00 pm
Oct 6 & 20, 2007	Advanced Lay Speaking Class
Oct 7, 2007	Bishop Ough @ Meigs County Coop
Oct 15, 2007	Bishop Ough meets with laity @ The Plains, 6:30-9:00 pm
Nov 27, 2007	Treasurer's Training by Stan Sutton, place to be announced
April 4-5, 2008	Basic and Advanced Lay Speaking Classes

IMPORTANT ADDRESSES

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Every Church a Mission Station * Every Community a Mission Field