



The Foothills District Clergy Connection

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Radical Hospitality

What do you do when visiting another country and they stand to sing their national anthem?

I was visiting a family in Mexico. I had the opportunity to live with a pastor and his family for a week. It was part of our partner relationship with the Oriental Conference in eastern Mexico.



The oldest daughter gave up her bedroom. It had the best air conditioner. They gave me the most convenient times in the bathroom and the best seat at the dinner table. I accompanied them to school graduation of their son. They invited me to La Quinceañera, the traditional celebration of a girl's 15th birthday. (It is a little like a wedding without a groom.) For the week I lived with them, I belonged to the family. They made space and time in their lives for me to become part of them.

Radical hospitality is making room for others in our world, because God first made room for us in creation. Radical hospitality is embracing others as they are, because Jesus embraced people as they are. Radical hospitality is sharing the grace of God with people different from us, because the Holy Spirit graces people of all descriptions.

How does your church express God's grace through hospitality? How do you make room for new people in the ministries of your church? How do you embrace people as they are? How do you share the grace of God with people different from you?

In the upcoming charge conferences church leaders are invited to form strategies of radical hospitality. Pastors have already attended briefings to prepare for assisting key leaders in developing these vital steps.

Plan now to attend your charge conference and take a step forward in the ministry of radical hospitality.

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.westohioumc.org/page.asp?PKValue=1181 or contact the District Office. We'll send you a brochure.

Syracuse Charge Builds New Church

The Syracuse Charge – Asbury, Forest Run, and Minersville – in Meigs County has raised \$13,400 to build a new church, a new parsonage, and provide Bibles for the North Katanga Conference. Pastor Bob Robinson explains that they have been working on this project for several months. Gaston and Jeane Ntambo visited the churches in June while traveling among partner conferences.

Gaston Ntambo is the son of Bishop Ntambo of the North Katanga Conference in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He is also the sole pilot of Wings of the Morning, providing emergency flights for medical needs throughout the country. Jeane provides ground support and weather information, since there are no government services for these needs in most of the country.

Gaston and Jeane would like to purchase a slightly larger plane that will hold more patients and require less expensive fuel. For the many people in isolated villages, this is their only hope in times of medical crisis.

Can the Foothills District match the Syracuse Charge with a \$13,400 contribution to Wings of the Morning to help buy this new plane? For more info, check out www.northkatangaumc.org/wingsmorn.html.

Currently, on any average Sunday more than 10,000 people attend worship in Foothills District Churches. Would each church send \$1 for each person in attendance by the end of 2007? Send it to the Foothills District Office marked **WINGS**, and we can help relieve real suffering for people who need our help most. More information will come at the precharge conference briefings.

Did you know?

- General Board of Pensions is hosting a Clergy Benefits Academy, Ann Arbor, Nov 5-7, 2007, for clergy of any age who want to learn more about the pension program or your own personal pension benefits. For more info, check out www.gboph.org and click on “Events and Education.”
- The Meigs Cooperative Parish has the following available: Electric Stove with 10 Burners (Suggested donation at least \$50) and a Convection Oven (Suggested donation at least \$50)
- The Conference Council on Development now offers fund management for churches with endowment funds, parsonage escrows, or other types of long term investments. In addition, the Council on Development can help a local church process gifts of securities and estates for a local church. They will receive gifts,

assess the value of the gift, provide a receipt to the donor, liquidate the gift, pay the commission (brokerage fee), and remit the proceeds for its intended use. For more info, contact Greg Traucht, gtraucht@wocumc.org or 800.437.0028.

- Festival of Sharing has bulletin inserts you can use to inform your congregation about the many vital mission outreaches supported by FOS. The inserts are being emailed from the District Office. If you did not receive your copy, check with your friendly neighborhood District Office. You can bring your items to **Make a Difference Day** on Sept 29.

Camp Otterbein Changes Young Lives

Camp Otterbein is celebrating 50 years with a whole weekend of events on Sept 1 & 2. Reservations are needed for overnight stays and meals. Each year camp impacts hundreds of young lives.

And your support makes the difference. Would you consider adding Camp Otterbein to mission list for next year's budget, or take a mission offering, or select an idea for a weekend work project?

Donations will help repair roofs, vehicles, and furniture as well as provide training opportunities for staff. Work teams from Dresden, Reynoldsburg, Pickerington, and Hocking College are building cupboards, stairs, decks, and wheelchair ramps. For more info, contact Kirstin at Camp Otterbein 740-385-5712 or campotterbein@wocumc.org

Conference Employs New Staff

Dr. Gwendolyn C. Roberts is the new Director of Metro Ministries. She replaces Dr. Michael Johnson, who retired in June. Roberts comes from Indiana where she served as Executive Director of Metro Ministries, Inc. for the Indianapolis East and West Districts of the UMC. She was responsible for programs and missions for the greater seven-county Metropolitan area. "We are excited that she will provide a focus on the four metropolitan areas of Toledo, Cincinnati, Dayton and Columbus where a large percentage of the population lives," said George Howard, Director of Connectional Ministries for the West Ohio conference. "Her task is to develop and strengthen networks of local churches to reach those living in the metropolitan areas."

Sandra Stone-Dalton, "Sam" is the Health Care Coordinator beginning September 4, 2007. Sam has a degree in education from Ohio University and has almost 15 years of experience in the health care field, most recently at OhioHealth, where she was an account manager. She has completed the HIAA group life and health insurance courses A, B, and C. Sam is also an avid gardener. If you have questions about health care insurance, ask for "Sam."

SFTBHT

Are you taking a special offering for "Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow" this fall? Would you like bulletin inserts to interpret the significance of this mission? The District Office will send you a digital copy via email in the next few weeks. Pick a Sunday of your choice and share the ministry with your congregation.

Billups sent to Greenville as first clergy “resident”



Rachel Billups of Logan, Ohio has been appointed as a clergy “resident” to the Greenville Evangelical United Methodist (EUM) Church. This is the first clergy resident to be hired and funded by the West Ohio conference of the United Methodist Church and is modeled on the idea of medical residents who practice in a hospital.

“We want our sharp, young graduates to gain real world, on the job experience with the close supervision of experienced pastors who have demonstrated an ability to make and equip disciples who transform the world,” said Rev. Joyce Fry, assistant to the Bishop.

Billups, a graduate of Duke Divinity School in Durham, NC, will serve at Greenville EUM for two years. Her salary and benefits will be funded by proceeds from the *Strength for Today...Bright Hope for Tomorrow* fund raising initiative.

Greenville EUM Church is located in Greenville, the county seat of Darke County. Over the past 10 years the church has grown from an average attendance of 118 to 622 -- nearly 530 percent growth rate. The church offers three distinct services every Sunday. They are presently involved in a capital campaign to raise funds to relocate and build a new church building, said Fry.

Billups is from southeastern Ohio, and her home church is South Perry UMC near Logan. She is also a graduate of Anderson University in Indiana.

“As a United Methodist, I inherit an ecclesial tradition that not only affirms the faith of our foremothers and fathers, but also embraces the faithfulness of our contemporary pastoral witnesses,” said Billups.

Fry said the goal of the residency program is to put into practice the lessons learned in the classroom. An additional goal is to increase the percentage of clergy in the West Ohio Conference who can be effective in ministry.

The West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church lists about 1200 churches in a geographic area that includes Toledo, Dayton, Cincinnati, Columbus, and southeastern Ohio to Marietta. Approximately 250,000 people in the West Ohio Conference are members of a United Methodist church.

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.

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

Advanced Lay Speaking Class

Pat Trout will teach the advanced Lay Speaking Class on "Preaching" Oct.6 and Oct. 20 at Rolling Plains UMC in Muskingum County. Lay speakers have received info, but if you have questions call your friendly neighborhood District Office.

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.

Volunteers in Mission: 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, Worthington, OH. For more details and registration visit http://woconsole.brickriver.com/files/olmage_Library_FQADXU/10-13_VIM_Training_SEF2LYBA.pdf.

Interpreter Magazine Seeks Subscriptions

This year Interpreter magazine enrollment forms will be sent directly to pastors to update their subscription lists. As soon as leaders and officers are selected, send your enrollment forms in to UM Communications. Free subscriptions are possible because of generous support to the World Service Fund in the conference apportionments.

District Golf Outing

The 19th Annual District Golf Outing is scheduled for Oct 2, 9 am tee time, shot gun start at Eagle Sticks in South Zanesville. Cost is \$35 per player which include green fees, cart, continental breakfast, and prizes. Send your checks and teams to Merv Davis at the District Office. Make checks payable to the Foothills District. FORE!



WOMEN'S TIME AT OTTERBEIN

Ladies, are you ready for a time of renewal, relaxation, and refreshment? Then *Women's Time* is for you! We'll enjoy the beautiful fall colors and scenery at Camp Otterbein while studying God's word, singing praises, and having some fun and fellowship time too. The dates are October 12-14, 2007. Need more info—call Sue Penix at 698-6236. Come join us.

Looking for Lay Writers

Have a message to share? Enjoy writing? We are looking for lay persons who would like to share a message of where they see God at work in about 300 words to be published each month in the Laity Link. Send your submission to office@foothillsdistrict.org. Your witness can encourage all of us.

Leipsic Lecture Series Features Bullard

Rev. Dr. George Bullard is Strategic Coordinator for The Columbia Partnership and Project Director for Lake Hickory Learning Communities' Sustaining Pastoral Excellence process. He is the featured guest at the Leipsic Lectures Series, Oct 1, 9 am. For more info, contact the Northwest Plains District Office 1.800.589.7828.

2007 United Nations Seminar

Sponsored by the West Ohio Conference United Methodist Women and the Board of Christian Social Witness, this trip still has open seats. It is scheduled for Sept 30 – Oct 6 and costs range from \$540 to \$770. The trip departs and returns to the Conference Center in Worthington. For information contact trip organizers, Rosetta and Henry Schaffner at 937-859-1626, or by e-mail at roseyc@juno.com (Rosetta) or hank.schaffner@ncr.com (Henry).



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:

Aug. 28 – South Athens Co. at Bob Evans in Athens

Sept. 4 – East Hocking Co. – at Lori's in Logan

Sept 15, 2007

Sexual Ethics Make-up Day @ Logan Immanuel, 9:30 am

Sept 16, 2007

Strength for Today Special Offering

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

IMPORTANT ADDRESSES

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Every Church a Mission Station * Every Community a Mission Field