



The Foothills District Laity Link

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April 2007

CREATING MOVEMENT

We all seem to be very good at sitting back and identifying needs, things that are wrong, or things we think should change. Most of the time, we're also pretty good at brainstorming ideas and solutions to address the identified problem or need. Where we seem to have the most problem is taking action, taking that first step, stepping out in faith, maybe outside of our "comfort zone".

I should know. I'm good at identifying needs. I'm even pretty good coming up with potential solutions. Where I excel, what I'm best at, is in **not** taking action, **not** taking that first step.

At home, I've come to realize, that if I want something done, it usually easier to "just do it" myself. At church, or in the community, it's a whole different story. I have probably heard, or have used, every excuse in the book. I'm not good enough . . . I'm too busy . . . I'm too tired . . . Let someone else do it . . . and the list goes on and on.

Luckily, I've also come to the conclusion that if I'm disappointed in how my "perfect world" is, compared to how I think it should be, it is **my** problem. If I expect to see a change, the first thing that has to change is **me**. It has to start with me taking action, with me stepping out in faith.

In *A Whole Life's Work – Living Passionately, Growing Spiritually*, Lewis Richmond says, "The good that people can do emanates and multiplies from the good that one person does." The good that one person does emanates and multiplies.

Remember what it's like to toss a stone into a glassy, still pond? The stone makes a splash, but the ripples keep moving outward. I think that is what Lewis Richmond was trying to tell us. If one person gets excited and takes action, the movement expands and touches others and keeps perpetuating itself. It creates movement.

I'd like to share a paragraph from Jack Canfield's book, *The Success Principles*:

Even today, in a town square in Germany, stands a statue of Christ, its hands blown off during the intensive



bombing of World War II. Though the townspeople could have restored the statue decades ago, they learned this more important lesson, instead placing a plaque underneath that reads, "Christ hath no hands but yours." God needs our hands to complete His tasks on Earth. But to become masters and do this great work, we all have to be willing to go through the considerations, fears and roadblocks.

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men"
Colossians 3: 23

If we desire to live a life having significance, making a difference in the lives of others, using our hands to do the Lord's work, we are going to have to take action and create movement. It works.

- Kristie Roberts, East Fultonham UMC, (Muskingum Co)

District & Conference News

Basic Lay Speaking Course

Basic Lay Speaking will be taught Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21, at Marietta Christ UMC in Marietta. Cost is \$15.00 which includes the textbook. Lodging is extra. The sessions are 7-10 p.m. with registration beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Friday and 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. The ten segments of the training will provide an introduction to the basic areas of ministry in which Lay Speakers may be called upon to serve. The sessions will be taught by clergy and laity who are members of the Lay Speaking Committee. **Attendance is required for both days to become a Local Church Lay Speaker.** For more info, contact the district office (office@foothillsdistrict.org or 740-797-4581). **Registration deadline is April 2.**

Advanced Lay Speaking Course

The Advanced Lay Speaking Course: Servant Leadership will be offered on Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21, at Marietta Christ UMC in Marietta. The COST is \$20 (lodging is extra).

This is an opportunity for Certified Lay Speakers to renew their certification and for Local Lay Speakers to become certified. The sessions are 7-10 p.m. with registration beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Friday and 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Rev. Karl Kumpf, retired pastor, will be teaching the course "Servant Leadership". There are materials that need to be ordered prior to the event and reading that will need to be completed prior to the first session, so get your registration in early! You will receive follow-up communication with directions to the church and reading assignment upon registration.

This course will qualify Local Lay Speakers to become Certified Lay Speakers. It will also serve as the course needed every three years for Certified Lay Speakers to renew their certification.

Attendance is required for the full session (both days) for certification. For more info, contact the district office (office@foothillsdistrict.org or 740-797-4581). Registration deadline is April 2.

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.

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 or 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.

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 harperc@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.

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

Church Vitality Indicator Resources

The Church Vitality Indicator (CVI) website now contains a database of more than 22,000 suggestions and resources for focused congregational planning, communication tools and Power Points. For more information and other resources for renewal and new church starts, contact Beverly Heavener at 615/340-7295 or www.cvindicator.com.

Media Grants

A Matching Media Grants Program is available from UM Communications to help congregations promote and/or publicize activities. Go to www.lgnitingMinistry.org to apply online or call 877/281-6535.

Celebrating Anniversaries

Is your church celebrating a significant anniversary? Congratulations! The United Methodist Historical Society of Ohio would like to recognize your church with a certificate and acknowledgement at its April 28th meeting in Portsmouth. If you cannot make the meeting, they will be glad to mail you the certificate. If you are interested, contact Rev. Lowell Peterson at 419-334-6930 or lepeterson1@juno.com.

New "Serve" on Web Site

The United Methodist Church web site (www.umc.org) adds a new feature for people interested in volunteering service or offering volunteer opportunities. Check out the web site and on the horizontal bar, look for the tab "serve." It will take you to a new page where you can search for opportunities based on location, skills required, or type of ministry. Beginning with our founder, John Wesley, The United Methodist Church has maintained a long history of service and good works. The people of The United Methodist Church continue to make a difference by volunteering both locally and globally.

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:

- 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

April 20-21, 2007: Basic and Advanced Lay Speaking in Marietta

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

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

FACTS and FIGURES by "Tater"

Bishop Ough asked me how we were doing. The following is the results of that inquiry. Some are to celebrate in and others to be concerned with. I want to thank all those who have supported this ministry in the past and pray more find God working in their lives to support this ministry in the future.

MEALS for MILLIONS CONTRIBUTIONS 2001-2006

YEAR	AMOUNT
2001	\$16,570.61
2002	\$25,436.70
2003	\$9,961.13
2004	\$10611.94
2005	\$20,410.58
2006	\$10,831.68

The Society of St Andrew provided 381,860 pounds of food to Ohio in 2006. Your Meals for Millions giving pays the shipping of this food. As you can see we are not doing well

in our Meals for Millions giving. This is a disappointment but we can change our decline of giving. One dollar a week from every church in our conference will give us a jump start in the right direction. The church should set the example for its members.

YEAR	# EVENTS	# VOLUNTEERS	# POUNDS
2000	16	51	37,050
2001	38	217	178,259
2002	68	291	225,273
2003	84	1,000	200,000
2004	42	385	313,638
2005	55	1,089	273,332
2006	64	1,034	272,052
TOTAL	367	3,033	1,499,604

We have gleaned/salvaged 1,499,604 pounds of food, which provided 3,498,812 servings of food to the hungry of West Ohio. As impressive as that sounds we left tons of food in the fields and many areas in our conference untouched. In 2007 we have salvaged, as of this day 21,284 pounds or 63,852 servings of food to the hungry. I encourage everyone to pray; pray at meal time to remember the hungry; pray when you get up and when you go to bed to remember the hungry; pray in your church worship and in your group meetings to remember the hungry; and then pray again.

What does God require of me, but to seek justice, show compassion, and walk humbly with my God.

Need to know more about how you can help feed the hungry or need a speaker for your group or worship? Tater can be reached at: 419-833-3325 or email tatergeo@roadrunner.com.

[Links](#)

Upper Room Ministries- www.upperroom.org

Interpreter- www.interpretermagazine.org

West Ohio Conference- www.westohioumc.org

United Methodist Church- www.umc.org

Volunteers in Mission- www.gbqm-umc.org

United Methodist Committee on Relief- www.gbqm-umc/umcor

Young People's Ministries- www.gbod.org/youngpeople/youth/youth.htm

Young Adult Network- www.gbod.org/youngpeople/yanet

InfoServ- 1-800-251-8140 (Up to the minute information about United Methodists)

Congregational Health Ministries- Maria Poeth mpoeth@wocumc.org

Ministry in Motion- www.ministryinmotion.net

Congregational Resources Guide- www.congregationalresources.org

Crosswalk – a website of Women’s Devotional, UpWords by Max Lucado, News & Commentary and Make Me Laugh - www.crosswalk.com

Chain Links – www.industrialchain.com

Foothills District:

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