



The Foothills District Laity Link

Volume 2, Issue 8

August 2007

Flies in Nelsonville

Cathy and I were sitting at a stoplight in Nelsonville when I noticed a fly perched on my windshield. I thought, "This should be interesting. How well can he hang on?"

There are several stoplights in Nelsonville, and we stopped at every one of them. The fly would turn to face the current of the breeze as we drove from one red light to the next. While we waited at the intersections, he would stand on four legs and use the other two to primp his wings. Cathy was sure he was fixing his hair.

The fly was pretty persistent. But then we reached the edge of town and the speed of traffic increased, he didn't make it past 45 mph.

At the same time I was pondering the health of many of our churches. We can be pretty persistent and stable as long as the world stays fairly stable and consistent around us. But when circumstances change radically, we struggle.

In recent years the pace of change is accelerated far above 45 mph. We can no longer stand on four legs while primping our hair. We have to find new places to stand and new ways to fly. If the Gospel only works in one world view, we would need to walk in robes and sandals like the first century. But most of us have discovered that God is a living God and connects with people in the 21st century, too. Can we adapt to the changing world and a living Gospel?

In the coming year Brent and I are focusing on radical hospitality. Hospitality first began when God invited us into creation that we might live and frolic in the wonder and beauty of all that God created. It is not our world. It is not our Gospel. But it is our privilege to embrace others and invite them into God's world and God's Gospel of infinite welcome.

How is your church flying?

- Tom



District & Conference 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.

Basic Administration Class

On Aug 22 Brent Watson and Sherri Rogers are leading a class on basic church administration relating to year-end reports, audits, charge conference forms, email communications, etc. Pastors who struggle with these tasks are receiving "special" invitations to attend. Lay persons who may assist with these tasks are welcome to attend as well. There is no cost to the class, but reservations are needed. Contact Sherri: 740.797.4581 or office@foothillsdistrict.org

Did you know?

- Members of the United Methodist Church can join the West Ohio United Methodist Credit Union. Membership is easy. The Credit Union offers checking, home banking, savings & certificate accounts, money market accounts, atm

access, loans, and credit cards. For more info, check out www.umethodist.com or call 800.373.1059.

- Recent newspaper headlines said, "**Ohio Lottery Reports Increase In Sales, Funds To Schools.**" Hopefully, at some point, Ohioans will begin to realize that an increase in lottery profits doesn't provide additional dollars to local school districts. An increase in lottery profits only replaces already allocated funds. In addition, many people are not aware that, according to an Ohio Department of Education official, lottery profits account for less than 6 percent of local, state and federal funds spent on public education in Ohio. All news media should include this information when reporting that an increase in lottery profits benefit schools!
- 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)

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.

Free Store Offers Hospitality Training

First UMC, Zanesville invites pastors and lay leadership to join in the fun of discovery as you learn ways your congregation can live even more passionately Jesus' ministry of radical hospitality in the 21st century. Rev. Brenda Buckwell Lifland will guide us through this time as we experience Benedictine spirituality of hospitality and rethink intimacy, community and small groups within congregations. RSVP by August 1, 2007 by calling (740) 452-7117 or emailing zanesfirstumc@sbcglobal.net

Cost: Please bring a "new item" donation to benefit the Free Store. Suggested Items: linens, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items, kitchen pans, dishes, glassware.

Did you know?

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.

Typically, the donor can designate through the Council on Development these gifts for any United Methodist purpose including their local church for things such as: the Operating Fund, Building Fund, and Endowment Fund.

For more info, contact Greg Traucht, gtraucht@wocumc.org or 800.437.0028.

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.

Apportionment Giving Up

Recent reports from Rev. Stan Sutton, Conference Treasurer, indicates that churches are giving generously and faithfully to the connectional ministries of the conference. Due to the hard work of many church leaders and the cost containment of realignment, the conference is re-establishing financial stability once again. The Foothills District leads the league with 36 churches who have already paid their conference apportionments in full. Thanks for your hard work and faithful giving.

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

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.

Foothills District Shirts Available

You can purchase shirts, hats, and a variety of other items with the Foothills District logo on them through www.queensboro.com. You will need to open your account and select your own items of interest. Ask for logo number 11044157. You can advertise the Foothills District wherever you go!

Congratulations

Maribeth Snyder, pastor at Cannelville, gave birth to a son, Caleb Paul, on June 7, 07.

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!

Wanted

Dayton Grace United Methodist Church, an urban congregation serving a diverse neighborhood, is seeking candidates for the position of Director of Children's Ministries. This is a part-time position. Interested parties should contact Pastor Marla Brown via telephone at 937-278-4731 or e-mail at marla@graceumc.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:

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

August 22, 2007 Basic Administration Class @ District Office, 4:30 pm

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

Sept 15, 2007 Sexual Ethics Make-up Day

Sept 29, 2007 Make a Difference Day at The Plains

Oct 2, 2007 District Golf Outing @ Eagle Sticks in Zanesville

Oct 3, 2007 Bishop Ough @ First anniversary of Lifewell Free Store at

Oct 6, 2007 Zanesville First
Festival of Sharing at Otterbein College
Oct 7, 2007 Bishop Ough @ Meigs County Coop
November 27 Treasurer's Training by Stan Sutton, place to be announced

Precharge Conference Briefings

(These are mandatory for pastors. Lay persons are welcome. Pick the time and place convenient for you.)

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

Foothills District Missions

- 1) Good Works, Inc
P.O. Box 4
Athens, Ohio 45701 (Homeless, Families in Transition from Welfare to Work)
1-740-594-3339
www.good-works.net goodworks@good-works.net
Contact: Keith Wasserman

- 2) Morgan County United Ministries
P.O. Box 303
McConnelsville, Ohio 43756 (Elderly in Need, Families in Transition From Welfare to Work)
1-740-962-2679
www.mcum.net mcum@mcum.net
Contact: Dan Evory or Melanie Baldwin

- 3) Meigs Cooperative Parish
260 Mulberry Ave, P.O. Box 171
Pomeroy, Ohio 45769 (Elderly in Need, Families in Transition from Welfare to Work)
1-740-992-7400
meigscooperative@charterinternet.com
Contact: Keith Rader or Brian/Jenni Dunham or Nancy Thoene

- 4) God's Net
260 Mulberry Ave., P.O. Box 171
Pomeroy, Ohio 45769 (At Risk Youth)
1-740-992-0261
godnet@starband.net

Contact: Keith or Dee Rader or Jenni Dunham

5) Belpre Area Ministries
P.O Box 101
Belpre, Ohio 45714 (Elderly in Need, Families in Transition from Welfare
to Work)
1-740-423-8725
rjwiblin@earthlink.net
Contact: Ray Wiblin

6)C.A.R.E Outreach Ministry (Vinton County)
395 East High St
McArthur, Ohio 45651 (Elderly in Need, Families in Transition from Welfare
to Work)
1-740-596-2394
careoutreach@horizonview.net
Contact: Gary Blair or Walt Goble

7)Amesville Cooperative Parish
P.O. Box 68 (Elderly in Need)
Amesville, Ohio 45711
Contact: Frank Hare1-740-448-6401 or Kenneth Vernon 1-740-448-4755

8)Lifewell @ W. Main
P.O Box 2154
Zanesville, Ohio 43702 (At Risk Youth)
1-740-450-7650
www.thelifewell.com senorablau@msn.com
Contact: Gay Blau

9)Lifewell Free Store
857 Putnam Ave
Zanesville, Ohio 43701 (Elderly in Need, Families in Transition from
Welfare to Work)
1-740-452-7117
thelifewell @ First UMC Free Store zanesfirstumc@sbcglobal.net
Contact: Marilyn Moody or Brenda Buckwell Lifland

10)Smith Chapel Food Pantry
1333 East Front St
Logan, Ohio 43138
Contact: Dannie Devol (1-740-385-5474) or Rick Bennington (1-740-385-6544)
(Elderly in Need, Families in Transition from Welfare to Work)

[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:

Physical address- 47 Johnson Rd., The Plains, Ohio, 43780

Mailing address- P.O. Box 67, The Plains, Ohio, 43780-0067

Website: www.foothillsdistrict.org

Tom Hanover- hanover@foothillsdistrict.org

Brent Watson- watson@foothillsdistrict.org

Office- office@foothillsdistrict.org