



The Foothills District Laity Link

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Titanic or Mayflower?

Diana Butler Bass recently published a book through Alban Institute studying American mainline protestant congregations. She discovered that the healthiest and most vibrant congregations had a way of knowing their story and living it out. This story – which is more than simply names and statistics of their history – injected energy and vision into their ministry. The story gives a sense of mission and purpose.

However, it depends upon the story. Her example is one of ships. Is our story the story of the Titanic or the Mayflower?

If our church resembles the Titanic, it is sinking after hitting disaster. Our leadership may be busy rearranging the chairs on the deck, but not addressing the real issues. What will that story do to our sense of mission and purpose?

On the other hand, if our sense of story is the Mayflower, how will that change our vision? We are on ships that are entering a new future and exploring a new place. We have been blown off course by unexpected storms. But we are not sinking. We are looking for a place to fulfill our mission. We are focused on land. We are giving birth to a new vision of ministry in a new place. We will be creating a new future. Would that be different sense of energy and excitement?

What is your church's story? Does it resemble the Titanic or the Mayflower? How would it change your Board meetings or your worship services, if you switched stories? What would you do differently?

In both stories we cannot avoid change. Change is happening. The only question is if we will manage change or allow change to manage us. Telling our story as a story of adventure and mission gives meaning and purpose to the decisions we make about the changes that happen around us.

Which ship represents your church's story?

- Tom



District & Conference News

Residency Program

Applications are being accepted for a West Ohio Conference program for new pastors who will be graduating from seminary by June 15, 2007. To launch the Residency Program, one Resident will be appointed to a congregation for two years to work as an

associate with a successful clergy. The goal of the Residency Program is to put into practice the lessons learned in the classroom. "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. An additional goal is to increase the percentage of clergy in the West Ohio Conference who can be effective in ministry. Students interested in serving as a Resident in the West Ohio Conference please submit your name and the following contact information plus your vita to Joyce Fry at the West Ohio Conference by **February 20, 2007**.

Apportionment Brochures Mailed

Each pastor received a mailing of enough brochures for their bulletins and a cd power point presentation to share with their key leaders answering questions about apportionments. Where is the money spent? What missions depend on our giving? How do apportionments enable you to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the elderly, and so much more. If you didn't get a brochure, ask your pastor for one. There are additional brochures at the district office, if you need more.

At Large Delegates to Conference

Because of the recent redistricting and the legislation that passed at the 2006 conference regarding youth and young adult lay members we need to adjust the way we select lay members at large.

We will need 33 total lay members at large, 7 of which must be youth or young adults. Unlike past years, you will not be automatically asked to serve because you served in that capacity the previous year. If you have an interest in attending this year's West Ohio Conference, June 10-14, you will need to submit your name to the district office via e-mail, snail mail, or phone. We will create a pool of interested people and try to have equal representation from each geographic area of the district. Persons serving as supply pastors will be given first consideration and then we will fill the vacancies with persons from the pool.

CONFIRMATION TOUR

If you have a Confirmation Class in progress, here is an opportunity for your group. On Saturday, March 3rd, at 10:00 a.m., your Confirmation Class can participate in a tour of Good Works, an outreach ministry to the homeless in the Athens area. It is located one mile off Rt. 682 on Luhrig Rd. just outside The Plains. The group will tour the Luhrig Rd. property and, if there is time, we will also tour 'The Timothy House.' Please e-mail Debbie Ketcham at tumc@thornvilleumc.org with the number attending 'Good Works' in case there are hand-outs." Following the Good Works tour at 1:00 p.m., Confirmation classes are invited to the Foothills District Office to meet with the District Superintendent, Tom Hanover and Asst. DS, Brent Watson.

Pastor Parish Relations Committee Training

This training is for PPR Committees and other key leaders. Select the date and location most convenient for you. Please contact the district office (see contact links below) to let us know the date, location, and approximate number of people coming so we can have adequate materials and seating for your team!

Jan 28	3 pm	McArthur
Jan 28	7 pm	Nelsonville
Feb 5	7 pm	Logan Trinity
Feb 6	7 pm	Gibisonville
Feb 11	3 pm	New Lex First
Feb 18	3 pm	Bremen First
Feb 25	3 pm	Malta
Feb 27	7 pm	Crooksville First
Mar 5	7 pm	Somerset
Mar 6	7 pm	Rolling Plains
Mar 13	7 pm	Zanesville Coburn

OHIO UM History Convocation

UM Historical Society of Ohio is sponsoring this convocation in celebration of the 300th anniversary of Charles Wesley's birth, Sat, April 21, 2007, Cornerstone UMC in Portsmouth. Featured speakers include Dr. Robin Knowles Wallace, Professor of Worship and Music, Methesco, and Rev. Millard Mead, East Ohio Conference. Leaders will also provide three workshops to assist local church historians in preserving the history of their local churches.

Registration materials will be mailed in late Feb. For additional info, contact Jim Barbee, (614.322.1010 or barbeejr@aol.com) or Carol Holliger (740.368.3285 or aoum@owu.edu).

Meigs Cooperative 35th Anniversary

The year 2007 has been designated to celebrate 35 years of ministry in the Meigs Cooperative Parish. We have planned several services throughout the year to celebrate this wonderful event. The first service will be a dedication of the new facility, the Mulberry Community Center, on February 4th at 3:00 p.m. This event will be an opportunity to dedicate the facility and showcase many of the current ministries that are ongoing.

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 / [<mailto:jamjar@bright.net>](mailto:jamjar@bright.net) / 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.

Scholarships Available

United Methodist Scholarships are now available for 2007. Packets are being mailed this week to pastors and college chaplains. The awards are targeted for members of the West Ohio Conference United Methodist churches. Interested persons should contact their local UMC pastor or college chaplain for details. Scholarships are based on available conference funds. The three scholarship opportunities include: student leadership, merit and an ethnic minority scholarship. All applications and required enclosures must be postmarked no later than April 1. Students selected to receive one of the above awards will be notified by June 30.

Free Copier

Canon Copier free to a good home. It's an older model Canon 6060 machine with a 20 bin sorting capacity. As far as we know it is in working condition. Recipient of the machine is responsible for loading and transportation from the District Office. It is not currently under maintenance contract. If interested, contact the Foothills District Office.

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

Pebble Beach Golf Links- www.pebblebeach.com

Foothills District:

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