



The Foothills District Laity Link

Volume 2, Issue 7

July 2007

Where Have I Seen God at Work ?

Tom asked me to write a small article on where I have seen God at work in my life. It would probably be easier to write where I have not seen God's touch in my life as I would have far less material to choose from. As the son of a Methodist pastor, I was made acutely aware of the hand of God in matters of the Church and of His absence (not really absence, just our lack of recognition of his presence). The day-to-day "coincidences" ceased to be "coincidences", once I opened my eyes to what God was doing in my and others lives.



My bedroom window faces the morning sun and I wake most days to birds chirping and the morning light trickling into the bedroom. I am reminded of a sermon I heard that put God's plan of the universe in perspective. We were asked if we felt the universe was far more complicated than our watch and if we took the components of our watches and put them in a shoebox, how long would we have to shake it before it became a functioning watch again? How then can we believe the universe just happened? But nature is far too easy of a topic to point out the hand of God.

In my life, I have moved more than I really wanted to, but each move has allowed me to experience another opportunity of God's leading. When I changed companies and relocated we left a church as their youth leaders. We looked at a church within the radius of my work that was pastored by a man who had been a leader at a scout camp I had attended. Unknown to us, they were in need of a youth leader and the church perfectly fit our needs. Oh, and the house we purchased near that church was one I found while looking at another across the street.

Lately though I have seen God's hand in the life of a friend as he progresses toward becoming a licensed local pastor. When we first came to this church, my friend would take his turn at being a liturgist and I would feel embarrassed for him as he struggled with readings and prayers. As time has passed, I have grown to envy his relationship with God and his progress toward being a pastor. I see in his life the unmistakable touch of God's leading that he has paid attention to and followed. I guess that is the real key, paying attention to God's leading and following it. I'm sure we can "explain" away a lot of the things that happen to us as "coincidences." But if we take the time to look, I believe they are opportunities that God has placed before us. We can choose to take these opportunities or ignore them.

For me the recognition part will always be the hardest as I grow to be confident in my own abilities and fail to pay attention to God's leading. However, it is comforting to know that God is full of opportunities and never gives up on us.

God Bless
Paul Medaugh
Dresden UMC
District Sup't Committee

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

Basic Administration Class

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

Nothing but Nets

The UM Church is partnering with Sports Illustrated and the National Basketball Association to purchase bed nets for families in Africa. Malaria is one of the leading causes of death of children in Africa; one every 90 seconds. Children who survive experience health complications. Malaria is preventable. \$10 is all it takes to purchase a bed net to protect children from the mosquitoes who carry malaria.

Check out the websites: www.umc.org/nets or www.nothingbutnets.net Churches that raise money for Nothing But Nets can use the General Advance Special number 982015. Get in the game and slam dunk malaria!

Did you know?

Your apportionment dollars help support nearly 1,000 mission personnel in 62 different nations around the world. A recent General Board of Global Ministries report highlighted mission initiatives in Zimbabwe, Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos as well as the training of pastors in Latin America and the Caribbean. Currently, the mission work of the church is limited by the funding received by GBGM. World Service only receives 83.4% of local church apportionments. If God is calling your church to go to the ends of the earth, one of the ways you can answer that call is to fully fund your connection through World Service. Nearly 1,000 mission personnel are counting on you!

Free Store Offers Hospitality Training

First UMC 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.

Gambling Defeated

Congratulations people of West Ohio! Because of your faithful witness to legislators and the governor, the bill before the Ohio Legislature seeking to expand gambling is dead! Governor Strickland promised to veto the bill. The Speaker of the House, John Husted, has said the bill is dead. Never doubt the impact of your letters, emails and phone calls!

There's one more thing we need to do: email or write Governor Strickland to thank him for the following:

1. Taking a public stance against the expansion of gambling in the state of Ohio
2. Honoring the will of the people who overwhelmingly defeated the expansion of Gambling in Ohio this past November
3. Let him know that you will continue to support him in his opposition to gambling's expansion

Thank you for your continued witness against gambling. Once again, you have saved lives, families and communities from gambling's destructive consequences.

- Dee Stickley-Miner

Governor's Office

Mail:

Governor's Office
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6108

Phone/Fax:

General Info: (614) 466-3555
Fax: (614) 466-9354

Online:

[Contact the Governor](#)

Ministry Training: “Our Journey of Hope”

Mid Ohio Valley Health Ministry Council is sponsoring a one-day seminar on Saturday, July 14, 9 am – 5 pm at Marietta Memorial Hospital for clergy and lay persons on how to reach out and support cancer patients within your own church and community. For more info, contact Carol White (740.585.2425 or cwhitern@gmail.com).

2007 School of Christian Mission

The 2007 SOCM features “Music and Mission” with a focus on Israel & Palestine in the mission study at Ohio Northern University. Leaders include Thelma Johnson, Char Ough, Margaret Mallory, Marcia Florkey, and Bishop Craig.

Week school: July 16-19

Weekend school: July 13-15

Sample Day: July 14

For more info, contact Jeanne Schierloh (937.434.3107 or djschierloh@sbcglobal.net or check out the website: www.westohio.socm.com)

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.

Church by Size Seminars

Doug Anders is leading five seminars in Findlay in the coming year:

Extending the Church Family: Ministry in a Small Church (less than 100 in worship)
9/17-18/07 and 3/3/08

Mastering the Middle: Ministry in a Mid-Sized Church (100-175 in worship)
9/19-20/08 and 3/4/08

Beyond the Barrier: Ministry for Becoming a Large Church (175-250 in worship)
11/12-13/07 and 3/5/08

Building a Terrific Team: Staff Ministry in a Large Church (250 plus in worship)
10/3-4/07 and 3/6/08

Leading a Church Staff: Tools for Effective Lead Pastors (250 plus in worship)
10/4-5/07 and 3/7/08

Cost is \$159 per person not including housing. For more info, contact Maumee Watershed District Office 877.628.6339 or maumeewatershed@wocumc.org.

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!

Planning a VIM trip to Mexico?

Bishop Garcia of the Oriental Conference in Mexico requests that leaders planning mission trips to Mexico contact Willie Berman, the Conference's VIM Coordinator (wberman@prodigy.net.mx or 1.956.648.8712). There are a number of projects needing assistance and Willie can help coordinate volunteers to all of the mission opportunities.

Clergy Benefits Academy

General Board of Pension and Health Benefits is sponsoring this event, Nov 5-7, 2007, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. For more info and registration materials, check out www.gbophb.org and click on "Events & Education."

Churches Help Returning Service Members

United Methodist congregations have provided over 10 million phone card minutes for members of our armed services serving in Afganistan and Iraq. Recently UM leaders met to develop plans on how to further minister to service members and their families;

especially when service members return home. For some more ideas, check out:
http://www.gbhem.org/chaplains/mltchapguideltem.asp?item_id=68.

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:

July 10 – West Hocking Co. – The Village Café in Laurelville
July 17 – Washington Co., Marietta area – Shoney's in Marietta
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

June 23, 2007	Basic Administration Class @ District Office, 9:30 am
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
Oct 3, 2007	Bishop Ough @ First anniversary of Lifewell Free Store at Zanesville First
Oct 6, 2007	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

godsnet@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

Amesville, Ohio 45711 (Elderly in Need)

Contact: Frank Hare 1-740-448-6401 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:

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

Website: www.foothillsdistrict.org

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Brent Watson- watson@foothillsdistrict.org

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