



# The Foothills District Laity Link

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## **Brokenness**

Greetings in the name of our Lord from Gallia County.

When asked to write an article I fumbled for something to write about until a recent Sunday School lesson on brokenness. As we look around our little corner of the world, we realize how broken things really are. We see broken friendships, broken marriages, and broken families. In each situation we see the same aftermath, broken lives.



My wife and I along with many others participated in the Good Works Walk for the Homeless on January 13, 2007. There were five different walk routes dealing with different aspects of homelessness. The walk in which we participated dealt with finding employment while another dealt with housing. Each person in each walk group wore a tag around his neck. On one side of the sign was printed "I am a human being", and on the other side was printed a true, short story about a person who is or had been homeless. I am guessing approximately 200 persons participated in the walks; that represents 200 stories of broken lives. Broken persons are sometimes easy to recognize. They are the ones sleeping under bridges or on park benches or in their cars. Sometimes they are forced to beg for money on the streets.

What about the broken ones who are not easy to recognize. I am speaking of the ones in our churches. Three churches combined to form the church we attend. You may ask where the brokenness is in this. Some of us had to leave the church we attended for many years. This may have been the church in which we were saved or married. Someone may be able to say "This is the church my grandfather helped to build." Letting go of the attachments can create a kind of brokenness. We have been a merged church for about four years, and we can see the healing that is taking place. This has not been an easy time for us. We started as three churches meeting in one building. Through prayer and love for one another and trying to follow God's direction for us, we are learning to be one church meeting in one building. Let me say again that this has not been easy. There has been a lot of love plus a lot of give-and-take to make this

work. This is our story. The story about brokenness in your church may be quite different. If there is any brokenness in your church, take it to God in prayer. Follow His direction in seeking healing. Show each other love and above all, don't give up. Stay together and work it out.

"Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." I Corinthians 1:10

I will pray for your church; please pray for mine.

Dewey F. Smith, Jr.  
River of Life United Methodist Church  
Foothills District Lay Speaking Ministries Team, Chair

## **District & Conference News**

### ***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](mailto: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 Sherri Rogers, District Administrator.

## ***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!

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
Mar 19	7 pm	Gibsonville (rescheduled)

## ***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>](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.

## ***New Conference Web Site Unveiled***

The West Ohio Conference website has constructed a new website with some of the old useful tools such as indexes of pastors and churches as well as new features on current news like 2007 camping. Did you know Camp Otterbein is starting a blog? Campers may want to connect with their camp friends via the web site. Check out [www.westohioumc.org](http://www.westohioumc.org) Learn more about campus ministries, latest news, and future events!

## ***Lifewell Featured in West Ohio News***

The February issues of West Ohio News featured Lifewell in the centerfold. The Zanesville-based ministries are part of the new Foothills District. Lifewell-West Main targets children and youth in some of the neediest neighborhoods in the city. Lifewell Free Store recently opened out of Zanesville First Church offers clothing, household goods, and a warm welcome to anyone in need. Both of these ministries are staffed by volunteers from Zanesville churches and across the northern portions of our District.

If you do not receive the West Ohio News, you can see the stories on the new web site [www.westohioumc.org](http://www.westohioumc.org) and click on "news."

## ***Church Builders Club Call: Upton UMC***

Building on a strong foundation of prayer, this struggling inner city congregation in Toledo has flourished into a strong urban, multi-cultural congregation that is now landlocked and has outgrown the current facility. Kingdom Worship emerged as a second site in a small sanctuary setting on an expansive acreage of land in south Toledo.

While growth is coming, many of the new members are unable to give what the relocation will require. Many of the new members are former drug addicts and dealers, school drop outs, the unemployed, and ex-offenders. With the help of the West Ohio Church Builders Club, this congregation will be able to merge into one facility that has room for growth.

Foothills District churches have benefited from the Church Builders Fund in the past. This is our turn to reach out to churches across the conference. For more info, check out: [www.westohioumc.org/page.asp?PKValue=1181](http://www.westohioumc.org/page.asp?PKValue=1181)

## ***Conference adds New Church Start Consultant***

To underscore the importance of church multiplication, the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church has created the position of New Church Start Consultant. The Rev. Lori Lossie of Hilliard UMC has been selected for the post. "Any denomination that hopes to grow must start new congregations and satellites at a brisk rate if they hope to keep pace with the culture," said Lossie, lead pastor of Warehouse 839 - a satellite campus of Hilliard UMC. "I hope to help educate churches about new church starts, especially second sites," said Lossie. "I want to assist churches in the creation of a second site, as well as to provide resources to them as they develop." Lossie will continue as lead pastor for Warehouse 839 while she works as a part-time consultant for the conference. "Launched in the spring of 2003, the Warehouse 839 service draws over 300 worshipers each week," said George Howard, Conference Director of Connectional Ministries. "We know Lori can help other churches create and sustain such satellite ministries." Inquiries can be directed to Lossie at [llossie@wocumc.org](mailto:llossie@wocumc.org) <<mailto:llossie@wocumc.org>> or by calling the conference office at 800-437-0028.

## ***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 [harperec@peoplepc.com](mailto:harperec@peoplepc.com) <<mailto:harperec@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](mailto:ejgould@columbus.rr.com). Peg & Paul Stuckey are the Educational Opportunities Directors of Travel Ministry. You may contact them at [drstook@msn.com](mailto:drstook@msn.com). Our district coordinator is David Maze, 12 Circle Drive, The Plains, Ohio 45789, 740.797.2440 or [dandbmaze@verizon.net](mailto: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.

## ***Wanted: Lawyer-Missionary***

The United Methodist mission agency needs an immigration lawyer to provide legal counsel at up to three congregation-based immigration clinics in New York City. The attorney must have already passed the bar, or pass it in the first year of assignment. Bilingual skills and experience in law school asylum or immigration clinics would be beneficial but are not required. To apply or obtain more information contact Brenda Connelly, General Board of Global Ministries, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 320, New York, NY 10115, email [ccworker@gbgm-umc.org](mailto:ccworker@gbgm-umc.org) <<mailto:ccworker@gbgm-umc.org>>, or call 212/870-3819 or 828/294-2107.

## ***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](http://www.upperroom.org)

Interpreter- [www.interpretermagazine.org](http://www.interpretermagazine.org)

West Ohio Conference- [www.westohioumc.org](http://www.westohioumc.org)

United Methodist Church- [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org)

Volunteers in Mission- [www.gbgm-umc.org](http://www.gbgm-umc.org)

United Methodist Committee on Relief- [www.gbgm-umc/umcor](http://www.gbgm-umc/umcor)

Young People's Ministries- [www.gbod.org/youngpeople/youth/youth.htm](http://www.gbod.org/youngpeople/youth/youth.htm)

Young Adult Network- [www.gbod.org/youngpeople/yanet](http://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](mailto:mpoeth@wocumc.org)

Ministry in Motion- [www.ministryinmotion.net](http://www.ministryinmotion.net)

Congregational Resources Guide- [www.congregationalresources.org](http://www.congregationalresources.org)

Crosswalk – a website of Women's Devotional, UpWords by Max Lucado, News & Commentary and Make Me Laugh - [www.crosswalk.com](http://www.crosswalk.com)

Chain Links – [www.industrialchain.com](http://www.industrialchain.com)

## ***Foothills District:***

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Website: [www.foothillsdistrict.org](http://www.foothillsdistrict.org)

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