



Footlights of the Foothills District

Volume 2, Issue 12
December 2007

The United Methodist Way

Just a couple of weeks ago the Council of Bishops called together all the extended cabinets of conferences across the world for the first time since the uniting conference of 1969. Nearly 900 people gathered at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, to pray, worship, and think together about recovering the vitality of our Wesleyan heritage.

Bishop Rueben Job was commissioned to author a short work entitled, Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living (available at Cokesbury). In it, Job captures three simple rules that capture the United Methodist Way of living:

1. Do no harm
2. Do good
3. Stay in love with God

I've been reading the book as part of my morning devotions. Listen to these words from Job:

The words of Jesus and of Wesley suggest that doing good is a universal command. That is, doing good is not limited to those like me or those who like me. Doing good is directed at everyone, even those who do not fit my category of "worthy" to receive any good that I or others can direct their way. This command is also universal in that no one is exempt from it. (page 37)

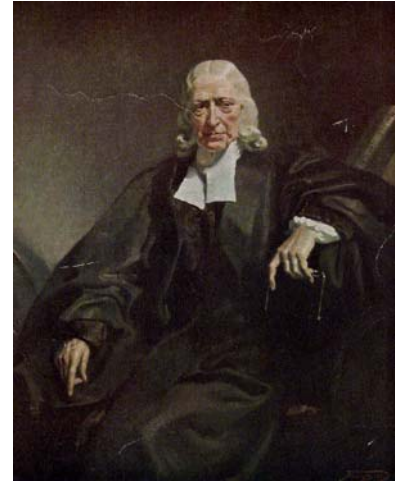
Sound like radical hospitality to you? Radical hospitality is doing good. It is offering grace to others, especially to others who may not or cannot return the good favor to us. After all, it is "while we were yet sinners that Christ died for us." (Romans 5:6) Where would we be without God's radical hospitality offered to us?

The United Methodist Way: three simple rules through which God can change the world. Is God changing yours?

-- Tom

New Newsletter Format Unveiled

Since the Clergy Connection and Laity Link have usually duplicated each other, we are merging the newsletters into one issue for both laity and clergy. As before, each issue will be posted on the web for your reading convenience. As before, when a new issue is posted, we will send an email with a link to the web site to all who have shared an email address with us. As before, you can still click on the icons in the left hand column to scan all the headlines at one glance.



Radical Hospitality North Katanga Style

Thanks to the Syracuse Charge (Asbury, Forest Run, and Minersville) in Meigs County, the Foothills District is contributing to radical hospitality in the North Katanga Conference in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Africa. The Syracuse Charge raised enough money to build a church, a parsonage, and purchase a sizable number of Bibles.

Churches across the Foothills District are invited to match their generosity with gifts for the Wings of the Morning airplane ministry. Wings of the Morning provides emergency transportation for many of the villages isolated from medical care by the rough terrain and poor roads. Gaston and Jeane Ntambo oversee this mission of the United Methodist Church.



You can send your gifts to the district office marked “Wings,” or send it to the conference office with your apportionment contributions. Mark it for “Hope for the Children of Africa – Gaston’s Plane, 101000GP” Together we can offer world changing grace on the other side of the globe! For more info, check out www.northkatangaumc.org/wingsmorn.html

Otterbein Winter Camp

Kirstin Shrom announced Camp Otterbein’s First Winter Camp for grades 3-12 over Christmas break featuring ice blocking, Iditarod, snow globes, skating, and more!

Grades 3-5 Dec 27-29

Grades 6-8 Dec 30-Jan 1

Grades 9-12 Dec 27-29

For more info check out www.westohiocamps.com or call the Camping Office 800.437.0028.

Leadership Training on Radical Hospitality

Tom and Brent will lead a series of seminars over the winter months on applying Radical Hospitality to the generations that live in your community. These seminars are for pastors and key leaders who want their churches to make a difference in their community and see their churches grow. Choose the date, time, and location most convenient for your group!

Tues, Jan 8	Athens County, Richland, 7 pm
Sun, Jan 27	Washington County, Tunnel, 3pm
Sun, Jan 27	Meigs County, East Letart, 7 pm
Tues, Jan 29	Vinton County, Pleasant Valley, 7 pm
Sun, Feb 10	Morgan County, Pennsville, 3 pm
Sun, Feb 10	Perry County, New Lexington First, 7 pm
Tues, Feb 26	Fairfield County, Sugar Grove, 7 pm

Three of the counties have the opportunity of an overnight retreat for laypersons that includes this training.

Jan 11-12	Camp Otterbein, Hocking County
Feb 22-23	Friendly Hills Grange Camp, Muskingum County
Feb 29-Mar 1	Camp Asbury, Gallia County

Church Officer Training

New to your position? Looking for ideas on how to lead effectively? Attend the District Officer Training sessions scheduled for Jan and Feb. Meet with others who share your position and learn how to make a difference in your church. Training will especially target Trustees, PPR, Finance, and Admin Boards or Councils.

Jan 20	3 pm, Meigs County Coop
Jan 20	7 pm, Laurel Hills
Feb 17	3 pm, Marietta Gilman
Feb 17	7 pm, Somerset

Watch for details to be announced soon!

Thanksgiving JAM

Jackson Area Ministries (JAM) says thanks for the generous support of individuals and churches that helped the JAM Garden Project in 2007. Thanks to your gifts, 2,810 families across 18 counties in southeast Ohio benefited from an estimated \$562,000 worth of garden vegetables.

If you are planning your mission outreach for 2008, please keep this vital opportunity in your prayers. You can check out www.frognet.net/~jorobin/ for more information about the gardening project or other programs.

Book Explains Core Process

Bishop Robert Schnase of the Missouri Area has published, [Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations](#) to explain the core process to church leaders. With recognition of Bishop Ough's significant contribution to the concepts, Schnase illustrates and clarifies how focus on these five ideas can help a church recover its momentum in ministry. Pastors and key leaders may want to use this valuable resource to train others. The book is available from Cokesbury.

Builders Club Calls for Flooded Churches

The Fall West Ohio Church Builders Club Call goes to 11 churches in the Northwest Plains that suffered significant damage due to the August flooding of the Blanchard River and its tributaries. While Red Cross, Salvation Army, and FEMA responded to many of the needs of displaced persons in the area, there was little help for churches to replace more than \$500,000 of equipment. Insurance will cover only a portion of the costs.

Our own Living Faith received nearly \$20,000 from the latest Church Builders Club call. This is our opportunity to share with others who have already shared with us.

Donations can be sent to:

Conference Treasurer
West Ohio Conference
32 Wesley Boulevard
Worthington, Ohio 43085
Please designate: Ohio Flooding

2008 Health Care Insurance Rates

Conference Treasurer, Stan Sutton, has announced that the 2008 Health Care Insurance rates for churches will increase approx. 5%.

Single	\$ 7,092
2 person	\$14,052
3 or more	\$17,244
Medicare Supp	\$ 4,632



A calculator for individual rates is posted on the conference web site (www.westohioumc.org). Click the Finances tab. Deductibles and copays have been increased slightly and new vision and dental benefits have been added.

Conference and District Apportionment Data

The Conference is now publishing financial information on the conference web site including current status for apportionment participation. So if you want to monitor your church's progress or check out the conference's financial commitments, go to www.westohioumc.org and click on the "finance and benefits" tab. Information is generally updated monthly.

Clergy Spouse Information Posted

Information about the activities of clergy spouses in the Foothills District is posted on the web: www.foothillsdistrict.org Check out the latest details about picnics, lunches, and riverboat cruises.

Journals Available

2007 West Ohio Annual Conference Journals are available for ordering at [http://woconsole.brickriver.com/files/oImage_Library_FQADXU/Journal_Order_Form_\(2\)_TBTWE7F8.pdf](http://woconsole.brickriver.com/files/oImage_Library_FQADXU/Journal_Order_Form_(2)_TBTWE7F8.pdf).



Good Works has attended nearly all of the Foothills District charge conferences this season with materials, pictures, and stories of how you can help change the world for homeless people in our area. If you would like to schedule Good Works to come to your church to fill the pulpit, speak to a Sunday School Class, or share stories at a fellowship dinner; contact them at 740.594.9000 or goodworks@good-works.net.

They have a list of current needs, wishes, and service projects that will keep their ministry changing the lives of persons experiencing homelessness. Check out the list at the end of this newsletter.

Belpre Rockland Looking for Bells

Rockland UMC is looking to purchase a set of hand bells for a hand bell choir. If you have something of interest, contact Carolyn Berry (carjacberry@yahoo.com).

SEXUAL ETHICS SEMINAR

Make-up day for **clergy**...if you missed May 23, 2007

Where? West Ohio Conference Center

When? January 24, 2008 _____ **OR**
January 25, 2008 _____ (check **ONE**)
9:30 a.m. -- 3:30 p.m.
(coffee and tea will be ready at 9:00 a.m.)

Cost? \$12.00 (to cover lunch, materials, and expenses)
(\$20.00 after January 11)

Make checks payable to "West Ohio Conference"
Please write "ethics" on the memo line

Questions? stthomas@wocumc.org; lcwilson@wocumc.org
614-844-6200; 1-800-437-0028

SOWER VIM Builds Houses

SOWER VIM is constructing 8 houses in 2008 in the Henderson Settlement area of southeast Kentucky. A few of the houses have already broken ground. If you'd like to support SOWER with financial contributions or volunteer labor, contact Ralph Brandon by phone (740-344-5581) or email at rcbrandon@ee.net.

Free Resource Guide

Looking for something, but not sure where to find it? Ministry in Motion has produced a 50 page Resource Guide that just might have what you need. And it's FREE! You need adobe acrobat reader (also free) to read the document. Check it out at:
http://www.ministryinmotion.net/christian_ministry_resource_guid.html

Convocation on Development Seminar in Orlando

The Eighth UM Convocation on Development: "Funding Ministry in a New Economy" is scheduled for Jan 22-25, 2008, in Orlando, Florida, and features leaders such as Michael Slaughter, Dan Dick, David Bell, Don Joiner, Sandra Lackore, Marie Lang, Wayne Barrett, and several more. For more info, check out
www.gbod.org/development-convo

Clergywomen's Consultation 2008

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry announces that the **United Methodist Racial-Ethnic Clergywomen's Consultation 2008** will be held in Los Angeles, CA, January 3-5, 2008. The first registration deadline is October 31, 2007. To register visit www.gbhem.org/recc.

The Church Has Left the Building

The North Central Jurisdiction Town & Country/Urban Network of the United Methodist Church is sponsoring "The Church Has Left the Building," Jan 8-10, 2008, Crowne Plaza, Detroit Metro Airport, featuring Dan Dick, Doug Pagitt, Faith Fowler, and more. For more info, check out www.njcumcurban.org or contact Sharon Hausman.

Year End Giving

Thanks to generous provisions in the tax code, you can give to your church or favorite ministry in ways that can benefit your tax planning and bless others, too. Securities, retirement accounts, life insurance, your will and others may be tools you may wish to use to help underwrite needed ministries. Check it out with your favorite attorney or accountant. Or you can contact Greg Traucht, Council on Development of the West Ohio Conference. He would be delighted to connect you with sound advice and capable assistance.

Mr. Greg Traucht
32 Wesley Boulevard
Worthington, Ohio 43085
1.800.437.0028
gtraucht@wocumc.org

Ohio Council of Churches Announces Convocation

The 2008 Ohio Ministries Convocation is scheduled for Jan 28-29, 2008, at the University Plaza Hotel in Columbus. Featured speakers include Dr. Jeremiah Wright, Jr., Dr. Katharine Rhodes Henderson, and Dr. Bernice Powell Jackson. For more info or to register, check out www.ohcouncilchs.org

Did You Know?

Did you know that your offerings through your Conference Connections support 931 mission personnel around the world in 61 different nations through the General Board of Global Ministries? Your efforts to reach 100% participation in Conference and District apportionments do make a huge difference for many people who depend on your generosity. Thanks for sharing Christ with the world through your giving!

Order of St. Luke Reorganizes

There will be a meeting of the Order of St. Luke's on Tuesday, January 15, 2008, 10:30 a.m. at Sugar Grove United Methodist Church located near Ada, Ohio. The church address is 4945 E. State Route 81, Ada, OH 45810. For further information please call or e-mail Barbara Lee at 419.738.3402 or bjcwapak@bright.net

UPCOMING DATES

Nov 27, 2007	Treasurer's Training by Stan Sutton, Athens Richland, 7 pm
Dec 1, 2007	Clergy Spouse Christmas Party, Lui Lui's in Athens, meet at the District office 11:15 am
Dec 1, 2007	District UMW Christmas Party, Old Dutch Restaurant, Logan
Jan 8, 2008	Leadership Training at Richland, 7 pm
Jan 11-12, 2008	Hocking County Retreat @ Camp Otterbein
Jan 14, 2008	DCOM Exec Committee
Jan 19, 2008	DCOM East Team & South Team Interviews
Jan 20, 2008	Officer Training at Meigs Co Coop, 3 pm
Jan 20, 2008	Officer Training at Laurel Hills, 7 pm
Jan 21, 2008	DCOM North Team & West Team Interviews
Jan 27, 2008	Leadership Training at Tunnel, 3 pm
Jan 27, 2008	Leadership Training at East Letart, 7 pm
Jan 29, 2008	Leadership Training at Pleasant Valley (Vinton) 7 pm
Feb 4, 2008	Mentor and Guide Training at District Office
Feb 10, 2008	Leadership Training at Pennsville, 3 pm
Feb 10, 2008	Leadership Training at New Lex First, 7 pm
Feb 16, 2008	Valentine's dinner for all clergy and spouses (if you have one) at OU Inn, 5 pm
Feb 17, 2008	Officer Training at Marietta Gilman, 3 pm
Feb 17, 2008	Officer Training at Somerset, 7 pm
Feb 22-23, 2008	Muskingum County Retreat @ Friendly Hills Grange Camp
Feb 26, 2008	Leadership Training at Sugar Grove, 7 pm
Feb 29-Mar 1, 08	Gallia County Retreat @ Camp Asbury
April 4-5, 2008	Basic and Advanced Lay Speaking Classes, Logan Immanuel
May 21, 2008	Clergy Session
June 8-12, 2008	Annual Conference

IMPORTANT ADDRESSES

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
Email: Tom Hanover - hanover@foothillsdistrict.org
Brent Watson - watson@foothillsdistrict.org
Sherri Rogers - office@foothillsdistrict.org
Merv Davis - treasurer@foothillsdistrict.org

Every Church a Mission Station * Every Community a Mission Field



Current Needs:

- New or used Bunk Beds (frames and mattresses)
- New twin bed mattresses
- A generator
- Copy paper (white and colors)
- Late model truck in good condition for Good Works service projects
- New durable washing machine for The Timothy House
- New refrigerator (20 cubic feet) for The Timothy House
- New toy box (ask us about size)
- New pillows for The Timothy House
- Door mats (4 by 6) and (3 by 5)
- Plain paper laser fax machine
- Riding mower for the Good Works property and Samaritan Projects
- Batteries (AA) and (AAA)
- Working gas powered chain saws (we heat Hannah House with wood)
- Matches/ "fire-starters" for wood stoves
- Used digital cameras
- Carpet Cleaning Machine
- Used washing machines
- New gas powered grass trimmer
- New Vacuum cleaner
- Leather look (vinyl) couch and love seat for the Timothy House
- Plastic mattress covers for twin and double beds.

Service Opportunities

1. Painters --we have several painting projects
2. Carpet installers – we are seeking a volunteer to help us lay carpet
3. Person to refurbish our cabinets and countertops in kitchen
4. A volunteer who knows how to repair tile flooring
5. Someone who can help build us new bunk beds.

What we are seeking for the people we serve:

- \$10.00 gift cards from gas stations and food stores for our Christmas party for Friday Night Life.
- New Hats, gloves, scarves and socks (adult and children)
- New shoes – a gift certificate to a Shoe Department Store
- Inexpensive watches
- Phone calling cards
- Cash gifts for cab fare (it now costs us \$6.00 to send someone one way across town)

Good Works wish list:

- 6 new USB keyboards for our computers

- New dressers (or used in good condition)
- New windshield for an old ford pick-up truck (talk with Paul)
- Risograph copy machine
- Easel with a white board and flip chart
- A button/badge maker
- More gravel for our driveway on Luhrig Road
- Sound equipment for the new stage and amphitheater
- DVD movies of good family films
- New twin size mattresses (10)
- Small desk lamps
- Bike locks that take keys.
- New picnic tables for the Luhrig Road property