

News from the Foothills

2009 December

Volume 6 Number 12

FROM DENNIS' DESK

It's that time of year again. December has come and with it all the joys of Christmas. But what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards in the mail, turkey dinners with family and friends, snow in the yard, stockings hanging in the living room, and shouts of "Merry Christmas" to those who pass us in the streets? Is this really Christmas?

Obviously we all know that Jesus is really the Reason for the Season? Without Jesus there is no season.

Quite frankly- He is the reason for the church; for our lives; and for the hope of the world. But if Jesus is really the reason for our lives and churches, why aren't we celebrating and praising Him with the glory He deserves. Too often, it seems we spend more time dealing with what style of music is appropriate or whether it's a sin to take a cup of coffee into a sanctuary. Jesus is still the Reason.....isn't He?

Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew this was no ordinary baby. The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child.

"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children" (Galatians 4:4-5).

Jesus' birth brings salvation for all people, not just the people born under the law, but for all who follow God and obey the new law, Jesus Christ. God sent Jesus to unify the world and make everyone, no matter where they come from, heirs of God's eternal kingdom.

He really is the Reason for the Season!

May your Season be filled with the Gift of the Jesus born unto you!

Dennis

*****DISTRICT HAPPENINGS*****



WE'RE ADDING SOMETHING NEW!

If you own a computer and have ever used one of the older versions of Microsoft Office, you will be familiar with the little animated paper clip guy known fondly as

“The Office Assistant”. When you open your program, he pops up on your screen and with a bounce and a smile and is ready to answer any question you can think of that pertains to the “how-to’s” of the program you are working in.

Well, that just about sums up my job at the Foothills District Office. When you call your district office, more often than not, I am the “first responder” to all of those wonderful questions you have - and believe me, I get a lot of questions!

So it has been suggested that I do a column in the district newsletter to handle some of those FAQ’s. Those of you who know “Dear Abby” will relate, but instead of solving all the problems with your in-laws or other issues of a personal nature, I will deal with the questions you have about church organization/structure, administration, completing charge conference or year-end forms, and anything else you can throw at me. Come on – try me – it will be fun and informative! I love a challenge and I like to dig deep, so if you have a question for me you can e-mail me at office@foothillsdistrict.org or you may also send questions by mail to PO Box 67, The Plains, OH 45780. Just let me know it’s for the newsletter and I will respond as space and time permit.

Sherri L. Rogers, Office Administrator - Foothills District UMC

INFO FROM BRENT

1) Formational Prayer Seminar- January 13-16, 2009

The Sandberg Leadership Center at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, Ohio

Cost- \$475, Instructors- Terry Wardle, Lee Wetherbee, Jerrolyn Johnson

Formatinal Prayer (formerly known as inner healing prayer) is a ministry of the Holy Spirit, moving through a Christian caregiver, bringing the Healing Presence of Jesus Christ into the place of pain and brokenness within a wounded person.

2) West Ohio Medical Mission Team

January 14-17, 2010- Nuevo Progresso, Mexico (Cost-\$630)

For more information contact Joanne Powers jspowers@gte.net / 1-419-376-6017 or Margie Vogt mvogt@otterbein.edu /1-740-363-5223

3) Morgan County United Ministries in conjunction with World Vision (Appalachia) has a **Warehouse Club** where homeowners and non-profits can purchase home improvement and repair products at greatly reduced prices. The Warehouse Club makes home repairs possible without damaging your budget. There are no income restrictions for membership . A \$10 membership fee is charged for unlimited buying privileges for individual homeowners. 99% of the items are new and 1% are gently used materials. Your first visit is free! The Warehouse is located at 514 Main St, Malta, Ohio and the hours are Monday thru Saturday from 8:30-5:30 p.m.. For more information call 740-962-3400

4) **The Small Membership Church: Keys to Effective Ministry** (A vital workshop for pastors and laity)

Leaders- Ron & Bonnie Crandall as well as the Executive Secretary of the Rural/Urban Networks

February 22-24, 2010

Hinton Rural Life Center, Hayesville, North Carolina, 1-828-389-8336

www.hintoncenter.org

Cost- \$125 (registration), \$135 (Shared room and meals)

5) Congress on Evangelism - January 5-8, 2010

New Orleans

Contact information to register: www.congressonevangelism.org or 1-828-454-6814

6) Children's Ministry Forum - February 23-25, 2010

Raleigh, North Carolina

Contact information to register: www.gbod.org/ministries/children/forum09 or 1-877-899-2780 (ext 7143)

FREE CHRISTMAS TREE AVAILABLE

The First United Methodist Church in Athens, Ohio, is retiring a 9' Mountain King unlit, artificial Christmas tree that they have used in their Sanctuary. It is in good condition. If you would like to have it, please contact Sharon Fink at 593-3977, ext 11 to make arrangements to pick it up.

FREE KEY BOARD & ORGAN

Bill Marshall has a full key board to give away. There is no card set up, just straight key board with accompanying instruments built in. It is a MD-1700. It has organ, piano and many other instruments built in. There is a stand. If interested contact Bill at 740-949-1329.

Also have a nice Wurlitzer organ in good condition free to a church. It is owned by a lady who is moving from her home. She just had it serviced and everything checked out in working order. Church would need to arrange to have it moved. (It's in the Gratiot area) If interested, contact Chuck Norris at 740-452-3491.

GRANT MONEY AVAILABLE

Ohio's Wildlife Division provided a \$100,000 grant in 2008 for the processing fees of venison donations. The grant was matched by the Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry and the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks. In 2008, more than a 1000 deer were donated which supplied 220,000 meals. This year the goal is to double the amount of deer donated. For more information about this program contact Barbara Roundtree at 1-740-385 6813.

AUDITS & SAFE SANCTUARY

Every year each local church is required to do an audit (review) of your financial records in order to reasonably assure that good stewardship is being used in the handling and accounting of funds and other assets of the local church. It is an evaluation of the financial reports and records and the internal controls of the local church in order to verify the reliability of the financial reporting and the safeguarding of assets. It is meant to protect those charged with handling monies, to build trust and confidence in those who donate, to demonstrate financial responsibility and to assure there are checks and balances in place. In today's world it is vitally important that we demonstrate the highest standards in this area of our church's life.

Yearly Financial Audits for 2008- (The Audit was due this past March, 2009)

The following churches have yet to submit their audit to the District office:

Amesville

Athens Korean

Bethany (Meigs)

Canaanville

Carmel-Sutton

Clarks Chapel

Dresden

Ebenezer (Hocking)

Frazeysburg

Hockingport

Joppa

Living Faith

Logan Trinity

Nelsonville

New Lexington First

New Straitsville

North Bethel

Shade

Sugar Grove

Syracuse Asbury

Wesley Chapel

The Foothills District of the United Methodist Church values the children/youth of Southeast Ohio and beyond. In many of our local churches we offer Sunday School classes, after school opportunities and other special events geared to children. We want them to experience the love of Christ in a safe and secure environment. In addition, we offer ministries to children who struggle and who are in need of more structured environments where loving adults care for their needs. In 1999, The West Ohio Annual Conference passed a recommendation that every local church would obtain a copy of the book Safe Sanctuaries in order to develop a policy for their congregation. The local church's policy is important for the protection of everybody who works with the children and youth in our churches and communities, but especially for the protection of the children and youth! Each church should have a copy of their policy on file with the District Office.

Safe Sanctuary Policies (As of 11-27-09)

The following churches have not submitted a safe sanctuary policy to the District office:

Amesville

Athens Korean

Carbon Hill

Crooksville First Hope

Ebenezer (Hocking)

Ebenezer (Muskingum)

Haydenville

Joppa

Junction City Good Shepherd

Locust Grove

New Straitsville

Pleasant Hill White

Saltillo

Shawnee

Smith Chapel

Torch

Union (Athens)

BOOK SIGNING

Local author, Dr. Marilyn S. Murphree, will be at A New Beginning Bookstore, 1204 Brandywine Blvd., Zanesville, Ohio, Saturday, December 5 from 11:00-3:00 p.m. for book signing of her latest book, **A Teaspoon of Nostalgia**. A member of the Y-City Writers' Forum, she has written five other books. She has co-authored a novel, **The Yardstick of Comparison**. Numerous articles and short stories have appeared in national publications.

Dr. Murphree is a member of Coburn United Methodist church. She pastored two United Methodist churches for over seven years.

CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF SAVIOR WITH JONATHAN MARTIN.

Sugar Grove United Methodist Church is excited to bring Grammy Nominated and Dove Award Winning artist, Jonathan Martin, to you on Saturday, December 12th, 2009! This event will be held at the church which is located at 324 East Street, Sugar Grove, Ohio. Jonathan will be in concert starting at 6:00 pm. There will be no charge for this event, although a Love Offering will be collected during the concert.

For more information about this exciting event contact the church office at (740) 746-8846 or visit our website www.sgum.org .

OLDER ADULT MINISTRY GRANTS:

1) Intergenerational Ministry with Older Adults

Applications are available both in print form and on the Center on Aging and Older Adult Ministries' website- www.aging-umc.org

Submission deadline- January 15, 2010

Grant Funds are awarded in the Fall of 2010

Other contact information to receive procedures and criteria: Teri Kline- 1-877-899-2780 ext 7177 or tkline@gbod.org

2) Caregiving Ministry with Older Adults

Application available August of 2010

Applications are available both in print form and on the Center on Aging and Older Adult Ministries' website- www.aging-umc.org

Submission deadline- January 15, 2011

Grant Funds are awarded in the Fall of 2011

Other contact information to receive procedures and criteria: Teri Kline- 1-877-899-2780 ext 7177 or tkline@gbod.org

YEAR END REPORTING CLASS

January 7th, 2010, 7:00 p.m., at the Richland UMC in Athens, Ohio

Do you want to learn the ins and outs of W-2's, 1099's, annual audits, and the new year end reports? Come join our Conference Controller and Conference Statistician as they walk you through the forms and process for your year-end reporting.

(In case of snow, there will be a make-up date on January 14th, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the same location)

FUTURE EVENTS TO PLACE IN YOUR CALENDAR

I. Four-Part Series for Pastoral Leaders:

- 1) **January 26th, 2010- Visioning with Your Church** (Leader- Dennis Mohler)

Place- The Plains UMC

Time- 7:00-8:30 p.m.

- 2) **February 16th, 2010- Working with Key Leaders** (Leader- Brian Law)

Place- Rolling Plains UMC

Time- 7:00-8:30 p.m.

- 3) **March 16th, 2010- Creating an Atmosphere of Discipleship** (Leader- Clark Hess Jr.)

Place- Richland UMC

Time- 7:00-8:30 p.m.

- 4) **April 20th, 2010- Dealing with Change** (Leader- Brent Watson)

Place- Tupper Plains St Paul UMC

Time- 7:00-8:30 p.m.

II. Morning Retreat Time for Supply and Part-time Local Pastors

February 6th, 2010 (Saturday) at the Nelsonville UMC from 9:00 a.m.-noon

We will be discussing three topics:

- 1) Clarifying **our Call- Finding Our Confidence in Christ**
- 2) The Tyranny of the Urgent-How to grow closer to Christ as we manage our time and focus on our priorities
- 3) **Giftedness and Ministry- How can we lead and engage others in ministry.**

We will worship, pray and share together in order to encourage one another in ministry.

In case of snow, we will have a make-up date of Feb 13th at the same time and place

*****OTHER HAPPENINGS*****

2010 CHURCH ANNIVERSARIES

One of the duties of the Conference Commission on Archives and History is to assist local churches in preserving their records, compiling their history and celebrating their heritage. We do this in partnership with the United Methodist Historical Society of Ohio (UMHSO). Annually, the UMHSO recognizes the Local Church Historian of the Year and churches celebrating significant anniversaries in both the East and West Ohio Conferences. Each conference commission is responsible for gathering nominations for the historian of the year award and the church anniversaries.

The Historian of the Year and the church anniversaries will be recognized at the next annual meeting of the UMHSO on April 24, 2010 at First UMC in Akron Ohio. At that time, the UMHSO will recognize as Historian of the Year for the West Ohio Conference, the person selected and recommended by Commission on Archives and History, and also recognize churches of the conference which are celebrating significant anniversaries – 100, 125, 150, 175, or 200 years.

Please submit nominations for the 2010 West Ohio Historian of the Year and also to notify us if their church is celebrating a significant anniversary?

Nominations for historian, with rationale and supporting material, can be forwarded to me at the address listed below. The names of churches celebrating anniversaries can be sent to the same address or via e-mail (jbarbee001@insight.rr.com).

Thank you for your assistance in the recognition of those who are preserving the history and heritage of their churches.

Each year the United Methodist Historical Society of Ohio (UMHSO) recognizes local churches in the West Ohio Conference which are celebrating significant anniversaries of their founding. The recognition is for churches that are 100, 125, 150, 175 and 200 years old. Those churches celebrating anniversaries will be recognized with a certificate at the UHMSO annual meeting on April 24, 2010 at First UMC in Akron Ohio.

If your church is celebrating one of those anniversaries, please send the information to:

James R. Barbee, Chairman

Commission on Archives and History

2241-C Wesley Way

Reynoldsburg OH 43068

The submission deadline is April 1, 2010. If you need further information, please contact me at 614-322-1010 or jbarbee001@insight.rr.com.

Jim Barbee

CREATIVITY CONFERENCE

January 12-14, 2010

Orlando, FL

God's creative spirit is within each of us, but we don't always engage it, or know the appropriate ways to use it effectively. With the help of deeply committed Christians who work in the creativity industry, we have put together a conference that can really help you learn how to nurture your creative process and funnel that creativity into serving God through the church.

The CEO of Sea World and Busch Gardens, the VP of Advertising for Disney World, Alice Bass, author of *The Creative Life* and several Disney and Universal actors and entertainers will combine with some very creative and perceptive pastors to challenge us in using that

creative spirit for God's work.

This conference also includes a *Day at Disney*, done with reflective meetings throughout the day.

Join us at St. Luke's UMC in Orlando for a fun but intellectual, informational and inspirational experience!

Visit our website for [details](#) and [registration](#) or to download the brochure.

Keys to Leading in Our Shifting Culture

February 9-11, 2010

Sun City, AZ

Do you ever feel like you might be getting lost in the storm of changes swirling around you these days? Many clergy and other church leaders feel the same way and they want to come out of it heading in the right direction, and successfully lead their churches to their destination in the kingdom of God.

At Willowbrook UMC in this suburb of Phoenix, we will have three outstanding speakers who are forging powerful understandings of our culture today and how to lead our faith communities in these changing times.

George Barna, Phyllis Tickle and Walt Kallestad, along with a host of other supportive speakers, will bring us information and insights we desperately need to make sense of our roles as leaders of the faith today. This is a powerful three-day conference that can be life changing. Though it was created for church leaders, it will be helpful to anyone who wants to better understand the changing times we are living in.

Visit our website for [details](#) and [registration](#)

Leadership Nexus
7103 S Columbia Pl
Tulsa, OK 74136
(918) 477-7549

WAKE THE NATIONS CONFERENCE

I just wanted you to know about our upcoming conference in December. I hope you can make it with some of your youth to the Wake the Nations Conference put on by Worldview Warriors in **December 11 & 12 in Bellefontaine, Ohio** OR pass this along to people who may be interested in this great discipleship opportunity.

This conference will help, "Equip your students to Impact this Generation for Jesus Christ." We have many new workshops and speakers available this year as well. Our goal is for students to grab the Christian faith as their own. We teach them about Christ and how to put their faith into action. Some of the focus verses this year will be James 1:19 - 27 and Matthew 7:13 - 23.

Here's a link you can use to promote the conference in your church.

<http://worldviewwarriors.org/events/WTNtourPromo.mp3> It's audio and it's pretty short. Plus, you should be able to find more on the Worldview Warriors events page too. Hope you can make the conference with your students. Motel info. can be found there as well.

We are here to help you in anyway we are able. We have free podcasts, blogs and other material you can use and they are available at www.worldviewwarriors.org. You can also direct people to Worldview Warriors facebook page as well as to my own for further discipleship. If you have any questions please contact me or call the church host, Eric Cook 937-593-0981.

CHURCHWIDE APPEAL FOR PHILIPPINES DISASTERS

The Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table, meeting in Lake Junaluska, N.C., in early November made an urgent appeal to the people of The United Methodist Church to ease the suffering of our sisters and brothers in the Philippines. Recent flooding and subsequent landslides have claimed lives and caused great suffering. The death toll exceeds 1,000 because of four successive typhoons and the related health issues that followed. With more than 9 million persons affected, an estimated 1.3 million persons are displaced while the economic and agricultural impact is still being assessed.

The **Churchwide Appeal for Philippines Disasters** will provide humanitarian relief and support the ministries and congregations of The United Methodist Church in the Philippines. We hope you will designate a Sunday to give your congregation an opportunity to participate in this churchwide appeal. Please direct gifts made through local churches to the conference treasurer's office, marked **Churchwide Appeal for Philippines Disasters, No. 818-002-PHP**. Your conference treasurer will forward contributions to the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA). You may also donate online at UMCapeal.org.

A bulletin insert may be downloaded at UMCapeal.org/bulletin.

Our United Methodist brothers and sisters desperately need our support. More than 200,000 United Methodists in 1,372 local churches in the Philippines pray that we will stand beside them through these storms.

In Christ,

Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, President - The Council of Bishops

Bishop John Hopkins, Chairperson - The Connectional Table

THANK YOU!

What a blessing it is to be part of a church which publically proclaims that harm to our neighbors outweighs any promise of money and jobs from a predatory enterprise. United Methodists across Ohio did amazing work and ministry to keep casinos out of our state. We did this in the midst of economic uncertainty which made predatory casinos more appealing. Our witness was not always easy or popular. But the church did not bend to fear and greed. It is with sincere gratitude that we offer our thanks to you.

Issue 3 did not win because we were ineffective. Penn National and Dan Gilbert spent over \$35 million dollars developing deceptive ads to exploit the collective fear about the current economic crisis. Sadly, it was successful and we must now live with the presence of predatory casinos in our midst. We know they will indeed harm our neighbors and communities. It is this truth that has kept us vigilant in our public witness opposing predatory casino gambling. We have been successful in stopping the introduction of casinos for 19 years. This means a whole generation of children born in 1990 and after, have been growing up in households safe from the ravages of gambling addiction that casinos would have brought to Ohio. This is a lasting victory for each of these families. The sadness comes in knowing the next generation of children is now at risk from all the negative social forces that casinos and pathological gambling produce.

It is time for us and our congregations to commit to doing all the good we can in all the ways we can. We can learn how to be in ministry with addicts and their families. Addiction brings increased domestic violence and child neglect. We can learn how to reach out to and be in ministry with those who have been abused. Because suicide attempts will increase, we must know what prevention services exist in our community. We must also learn how to minister in the midst of suicide. As addicts and their family members lose hope, the church needs to be present offering pathways to healing and restoration. Now is the time for us to prepare so that we can be ready to serve our neighbors. We must also be ready to act again if we are faced with further attempts to expand predatory gambling in our state.

Even in defeat, our efforts were not in vain. Our witness spoke of the deep and abiding love God has for all people. We put into practice our faith which calls us to do no harm. That witness can never be nullified even with the passage of Issue 3. In the face of greed and fear, we were courageous enough to proclaim the centrality of love and care of others. People heard that message. God continues to call us to deepen our faith, be present where brokenness seeks to crush life and raise our prophetic voice to do no harm. The church cannot be defeated when we remember the call of Jesus to bind the wounds of others and stand up against unjust practices which seek to harm others. We will continue in our ministry and witness because that's what God calls us to do. Together, we will make a difference in the lives of others and transform our world to be more like the Kingdom of God.

In gratitude,

Bishop Bruce Ough
Bishop John Hopkins
Rev. John Edgar
Rev. Paul White

Rev. Dee Stickley-Miner
Ms. Belinda Wing
Mr. Tom Smith
Mr. George Howard

SCIENCE AND FAITH TO BE EXPLORED IN 2010 MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

WILMORE, KY (October 8, 2009) – Ministers are met by questions that may seem a galaxy away from what their training prepared them to expect.

“Can scientists and the Bible both lead us to understand the origins of the cosmos?”

“Can our genetic makeup predispose us to conditions such as depression or alcoholism?”

“How important to the mission of the gospel is acknowledging the beauty of creation and caring for its goodness?”

Asbury Theological Seminary is bringing together a team of scientists, pastors and theologians to help ministers with biblical responses to issues of science and faith. Through this team effort called Q3, pastors, youth workers, counselors, educators and others in full-time ministry will profit from online resources and conference workshops.

The Q3 ministers' conference, “Ministry Celebrates the Wonders of God's World,” is March 9-11, 2010, at the Asbury Seminary Wilmore, Kentucky campus. Registration is open.

Conference participants will discuss topics including creation and evolution, God's providence in the world, and lessons that can be learned for ministry from the historical relationship between science and faith. Dr. Owen Gingrich, Harvard University professor emeritus of astronomy and the history of science, will be keynote speaker.

“Q3 will aid ministers in leading the people they serve to a deeper knowledge of God as Creator and the world as God's good creation,” said Q3 Director Dr. Michael Pasquarello III, Asbury Seminary Granger E. and Anna A. Fisher professor of preaching. “Ministers can find help in Q3 for evangelistic outreach to people with scientific professions

or aptitudes, and pastors to young adults can learn ways to guide those who sense God's call to prepare for scientific vocations.

"Science can help us," added Pasquarello, who has studied issues of science and faith for 30 years. "It doesn't provide all the answers, but it can provide a more up-to-date framework that will give us more knowledge of the creation to work with, that will contribute to making our theology fresh and real for us and those whom we serve. And we can say, 'Yes, the world is open to God's work and presence.'"

Q3, funded by a grant from the Templeton Foundation's Science for Ministry Initiative, is named after the "Questions" it will address on a schedule across the next "3" years. In 2011, Q3 will turn its focus to the nature of human beings as creatures wonderfully and carefully made in God's image and, in 2012, to the nature of the church as the new creation of God and visible sign of God's presence in the world.

Registration is \$49 per person before February 1, or \$99 after February 1. For groups of five or more and Asbury Seminary students, registration is \$49 per person. For information and to register, visit aburyseminary.edu/q3, call 877-776-3646 or e-mail ginny.proctor@asburyseminary.edu.

About Asbury Theological Seminary:

With multiple campuses, Asbury Theological Seminary is an interdenominational graduate school of theology committed to teaching the unchanging truth of historic Wesleyan Christianity through the most dynamic means available. Asbury offers a variety of degrees, including the master of arts, master of divinity, master of theology, doctor of ministry and doctor of philosophy in intercultural studies, biblical studies. Current enrollment nears 1,600 students, representing 94 denominations and 29 countries. For more information, please visit asburyseminary.edu.

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: Dennis Mohler, D.S. - mohler@foothillsdistrict.org

Brent Watson, Asst. D.S. - watson@foothillsdistrict.org

Sherri Rogers, Office Admin. - office@foothillsdistrict.org

Merv Davis, Treasurer/Bookkeeper – treasurer@foothillsdistrict.org

Gaylynn Smart, Lay Leader – layleader@foothillsdistrict.org

Dewey Smith, Co- Lay Leader – layleader@foothillsdistrict.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Lunch: 12 - 1 p.m.

*Every Church a Mission Station * Every Community a Mission Field*