



# Footlights of the Foothills District

Volume 3, Issue 2  
February 2008

“They’re just sitting on the money when there’s ministry to be done. I’m going to tell them they gotta get off their duffs and start investing in real ministry!”

While I appreciated the young pastor’s enthusiasm, I could hear the clash of values about money, ministry, and the church. Many of these value differences are shaped by our age and our life experiences. When we assume that our perspective is the only obvious one, then we often engage in many unnecessary conflicts unaware that it is our life experiences that limit our understanding.

Churches that practice Radical Hospitality learn to listen for those differences and learn to communicate through those differences. The mission of making disciples looks very different to a 72 year old widow who lives alone and gives her money generously to the church, as opposed to a 21 year old single male who has very little money, still lives with parents because he can’t find a steady job, and wants to donate time to repairing homes of flood victims. Is either wrong or right?

God calls both and all of the rest of us to Radical Hospitality. Making disciples means we overcome those barriers to connect others with the healing grace of Jesus Christ. How does your church do that in your community?



Brent and I are circuit riding across the district to assist and encourage your leadership team in your Radical Hospitality. While many of us may have few people of different ethnic origin, most of our communities have a variety of age groups. Come and plan with us how your church can increase your effectiveness in reaching across the generations.

Tom

## *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!

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
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.

Feb 22-23	Friendly Hills Grange Camp, Muskingum County
Feb 29-Mar 1	Camp Asbury, Gallia County
TBA	Hocking County

## *Church Officer Training*

New to your position? Looking for ideas on how to lead effectively? Attend the District Officer Training sessions. 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. Leadership includes Dawn Kuhn, from the West Ohio Conference, and Rachel Miller, from the West Ohio Credit Union as well as a number of other district and area experts.

Feb 17	3 pm, Marietta Gilman
April ?	7 pm, Somerset (rescheduled after Lent)

Watch for details to be announced soon!

## *Year-End Reports*

Please note...The district office has been notified that if your church submits the Year-End Conference Reports on-line, you'll need to mail "hard copies" to the district office. The computer system does not automatically send a copy of your report to the district office. In-office deadline for Year-End Reports is **February 4, 2008**.

## *Asset Mapping Training*

Brent is looking for 8-10 local church leaders from the Foothills District (both lay and clergy) to come with him for a day of dialogue and training in Asset Mapping on Thursday, March 6, 2008 in Ashland, KY. The event is being sponsored by the United Methodist Appalachian Ministry Network. The time frame will be 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Hillcrest-Bruce Mission in Ashland will host the event. Please let Brent know if you are interested. Thanks!

## *SEXUAL ETHICS SEMINAR*

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

Where? West Ohio Conference Center  
When? Jan 24, 2008 or Jan 25, 2008, 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? [sthomas@wocumc.org](mailto:sthomas@wocumc.org); [lcwilson@wocumc.org](mailto:lcwilson@wocumc.org)  
614-844-6200; 1-800-437-0028

## *Celebrating Church History*

Is your church celebrating a significant anniversary? Do you have a very fine church historian who deserves special recognition? The United Methodist Historical Society of Ohio would like to recognize these churches and historians at its annual meeting in April with special certificates. Churches celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup>, 100<sup>th</sup>, 125<sup>th</sup>, 150<sup>th</sup>, 175<sup>th</sup> and even 200<sup>th</sup> anniversaries will be recognized.

We are looking for the 2008 Church Historian of the Year for our conference. If you have a good candidate, please submit church histories or other historical documents this person has prepared or other evidence of his or her outstanding work. Please submit your nomination by March 1<sup>st</sup> to Rev. Lowell Peterson, chairperson of the West Ohio Commission on Archives and History, 1490 Autumnwoods Dr. Fremont, OH 43420, 419-334-6930 or [lepeter1@juno.com](mailto:lepeter1@juno.com).

## *2008 Mileage Rate*

The Internal Revenue Service issued the 2008 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business purposes. Beginning January 1, 2008, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car is **50.5 cents per mile**.

## *The Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation*

July 29-August 3, 2008 is an experience of disciplined Christian community emphasizing holistic spirituality -- nurturing body, mind, and spirit. The program is meant for all those who hunger for deep spiritual experiences, both lay and clergy persons. For more information visit [www.westohioumc.org/page.asp?PKValue=1522](http://www.westohioumc.org/page.asp?PKValue=1522)

## ***VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION NEWS:***

The husband of Lorna Jost, Administrator for UVMIM in the North Central Jurisdiction, manages the **Haiti Solar Oven project**. He is pulling together a team for Feb 26 - March 10, in a hurry! If any of you know of folks interested in a trip to Haiti and particularly a different type of trip (not block construction, but oven construction and teaching their use). Since it is difficult to have an orientation from afar, mature team members are requested! Location is Bainet, just west of Jacmel on the south coast. Contact him immediately at [rjost@brookings.net](mailto:rjost@brookings.net) or 605-692-3391 with your interest. Cost is \$1750 which includes the project funds.

**VIM trip to Southeast Asia, July 3 - 16, 2008** - Are you interested in joining a team that will go to Vietnam and Cambodia this summer? We will continue the important work of training pastors in Vietnam but will have ample opportunity for involvement with the mission of the churches there. The last four days will be spent in mission exposure in Cambodia. This is a great opportunity to learn and serve with our brothers and sisters in Christ in southeast Asia. Team leader is Terry R. Heck, 937-848-2909 (w); 937-395-1776 (h); or [pastor@bellbrookumc.org](mailto:pastor@bellbrookumc.org). Or contact Shirley Cadle at 513-831-4804; or [shirleycadle@aol.com](mailto:shirleycadle@aol.com). Experience Southeast Asia. Experience the difference in your life and the power of shared ministry.

**Indiana/Illinois Flood Response** - WATSEKA: Volunteers are needed now to help with the home cleanup. You must call the Watseka UMC BEFORE coming with #'s of volunteers and dates (phone: 815 432-4903). This is a city decision to have all church volunteers to go through their own denomination locally and then be referred to the ECO (emergency office) through ESDA. Bring clean up equipment if possible: i.e. shovels, rubber gloves, masks, brooms, mops, rubber boots, garbage bags, hand sprayers for bleach. Check in at the UMC when you arrive in town for orientation and release forms. You will then be directed to the ESDA office for job assignment. PONTIAC: Call the Pontiac UMC for updates and needs: 815-842-1157.

**Volunteers needed in Monticello area** - Monticello and White County Pastor Brian Beeks has indicated that teams of volunteers will be needed to help with the cleanup and recovery of the homes damaged by flood waters in the North Indiana Conference. Approximately 200 families have been displaced by the flooding. A number of other families have damaged homes but have been able to remain in them. Volunteers will be needed for the next 6 months if not longer. Contact the Monticello UM Church office Mon-Fri; 8-4 to schedule a time, ask questions, and indicate your willingness to serve. Contact information: 574-583-5545 or email: [bbeeks@montiumc.com](mailto:bbeeks@montiumc.com).

**KATRINA** - Two missions have been scheduled for 2008. We are registered for 20 people in New Orleans March 9th and 20 people in D'Iberville, Mississippi October 12th. Registrations for the March mission need to be in immediately. The Louisiana storm center requires each individual have insurance. We need a deposit of \$100 by February 10th in order to purchase Insurance through Board of Global Ministries. Mission will be primarily construction. We need someone to plan and prepare meals for our group. The fee will be \$200 which includes travel down and back and meals while we are there. Dave Tharp at 419-422-0246 or [dtharp6821@aol.com](mailto:dtharp6821@aol.com).

Mary Micikas, Individual Volunteer has started her volunteer work in **Guatemala** around Lake Atitlan. She needs work teams to come down and help work on an approved project of the Methodist church of Guatemala. They are converting an abandoned Methodist church into a clinic and community multi-use building in the village of San Juan La Laguna. Contact [Mary.Micikas@gmail.com](mailto:Mary.Micikas@gmail.com).

## ***Churchwide Special Sundays with Offerings***

The second Special Sunday of the year, One Great Hour of Sharing, will be observed March 2. This offering undergirds the program costs of UMCOR. UMCOR receives no money from general church apportionments. See the January/February 2008 issue of Interpreter magazine for information about One Great Hour of Sharing or [www.umcom.org](http://www.umcom.org)



## *Camp Speakers Available for Your Church!*

Camp directors and other members of the Conference Camping Team want to visit you and tell your congregation about the 2008 West Ohio Camping opportunities for elementary, middle and high school age (as well as counseling and volunteer opportunities for adults!). Speakers are available to deliver a 10-minute, dynamic presentation about WOC Camps to your congregation during your service(s). The presentation includes the new 2008 camping video, as well as a display, and brochures. They will be available for Q&A before, in-between and after services. To schedule a Camp Speaker, please contact Amy Woods at 614/781-2630 or 800-437-0028 x 204. Please choose a Sunday between February 11th and May 18th. (Schedule your speaker soon - camp registration begins in February!)

## *Celebrate the Spirit with Song*

Choir Camp 2008 for 4th-7th grade singers will be held at Camp Otterbein March 7-9, 2008. Each church or camper can have an opportunity to share with voice, drama, and instrumentation. Camp Otterbein staff will lead energetic activities and serve wonderful food! Please contact Amy Woods at the Conference Office with questions or to register for this event at [www.westohiocamps.com](http://www.westohiocamps.com); or 1-800-437-0028. Cost is only \$90 and space is limited!

## *Foothills District Riverboat Cruise*

Clergy Spouses are sponsoring a district-wide 3 hour Riverboat Cruise aboard the Valley Gem out of Marietta, Sat. May 3, departing 10:30 am. The cruise includes a lunch buffet. Cost is \$33.25 per person. Refunds cannot be issues. Trip is for adults only. Reservations and payment are due to the District office by March 3. For more info contact Cathy Hanover @ 740.797.4023 or [chanover@verizon.net](mailto:chanover@verizon.net)

## *Valentine Party*

Clergy Spouses are hosting a Valentine's Day party for all clergy – active and retired – and spouses, if you got one. This is not for couples only. Feb 16, 5 pm @ OU Inn in Athens. Cost is \$25 per person. Reservations and payment to District Office by Jan 30. Childcare will be provided by the Wesley Student Center at Athens First UMC. For more info contact Cathy Hanover @ 740.797.4023 or [chanover@verizon.net](mailto:chanover@verizon.net)

## *Pre-General Conference News Briefing*

Our elected delegates and as well as conference communicators will gather Jan. 24-26 to get an overview of key issues facing the 2008 General Conference. To see what they'll be doing check out the conference website: [www.westohioumc.org](http://www.westohioumc.org)

## *A New United Methodist Hymnal*

In April General Conference will consider the recommendation for a new hymnal. This is the first of several research questions from the General Board of Discipleship on which hymns or songs you would like to see included. This survey will allow you to suggest titles to be considered for inclusion:

- Up to five titles from the current United Methodist Hymnal.
- Up to five titles from The Faith We Sing.
- Up to five titles not in either collection.

Final date to complete this survey is January 31, 2008. Check out [ww.gbod.org/worship](http://ww.gbod.org/worship)

## *Tax Seminar*

There's tax filing and there's CLERGY TAX FILING. Do you want to know some of the finer points for yourself and your church? Dawn Kuhn, our conference controller, will lead an information seminar on the subject. **March 3, 2008, at the Conference Center 9:00 a.m. to noon.** Please R.S.V.P. by February 29, to the Office of Ministry: [stthomas@wocumc.org](mailto:stthomas@wocumc.org) or 800-437-0028 or 614-844-6200.

## *Fight Like A Man*

West Ohio Conference United Methodist Men Gathering, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Saturday, July 26, featuring [Todd Braschler](#) and [David Adams](#), Executive Secretary, General Commission on UMMen, @ Methodist Theological School in Ohio, 3081 Columbus Pike, Delaware, OH 43015 For more info, Contact John Sherer, Gathering Director at [Shererjw@aol.com](mailto:Shererjw@aol.com) 937.372.2204

## *Children's Ministry Director*

Walnut Street UMC in Chillicothe, Ohio is seeking a Full-Time Director of Children's Ministry for an exciting, innovative, and growing children's program. Must have a passion for children, and a passion for Jesus Christ to share. Curriculum writing skills, creativity, and volunteer management skills needed. Position could start immediately or could be delayed until June, if necessary. Email resume to: [wsumc@WalnutStreetUMC.com](mailto:wsumc@WalnutStreetUMC.com)

## *I Wonder...*

A Lenten devotions program developed by the Society of St. Andrew, a national nonprofit, faith-based hunger-relief ministry, is available for use by churches during the season of Lent. All materials are free and a sample packet can be ordered for review before placing a congregational order. Orders can be placed online at [www.endhunger.org/lent.htm](http://www.endhunger.org/lent.htm), by email at [church@endhunger.org](mailto:church@endhunger.org), or by phone at [800-333-4597](tel:800-333-4597).

## Called to Serve?

West Ohio Conference has launched its search for candidates for its second resident. Rachel Billups from the Foothills District is the first resident, currently serving on staff at Greenville EUM in the Miami Valley District. Residency provides the opportunity for a recent seminary graduate to serve the first two years of their post-seminary ministry as an associate pastor along-side an experienced pastor. For more info, contact Rev. Joyce Fry at [jfry@wocumc.org](mailto:jfry@wocumc.org) or 800.437.0028.

## 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](http://www.ministryinmotion.net/christian_ministry_resource_guid.html)

## Training for Guides and Mentors

Interested in helping someone answer the call to ministry leadership as a pastor? The District Committee on Ministry is training lay persons and pastors to serve as guides and mentors to persons in the candidacy process. Mentors must be ordained elders in good standing. Guides may be lay persons or clergy. For more info contact your local neighborhood district office (740.797.4581).

Feb 20 @ The District Office (Mentor Training, 3-5 pm; Guide Training 6-8 pm)

## Mid-Ohio Valley Emmaus & Chrysalis Dates

### Emmaus

Women's Walk      May 1-4      Men's Walk      May 15-18

### Chrysalis Flights

Girls      June 20-22      Boys      June 27-29

Gatherings are 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, 7 pm at Marietta Christ UMC. For more info, check out [www.midohiovalleyemmaus.org](http://www.midohiovalleyemmaus.org)

## UPCOMING DATES

<b>Jan 27, 2008</b>	Leadership Training at Tunnel, 3 pm
<b>Jan 27, 2008</b>	Leadership Training at East Letart, 7 pm
<b>Jan 29, 2008</b>	Leadership Training at Pleasant Valley (Vinton) 7 pm
<b>Feb 4, 2008</b>	Deadline for Year End Reports
<b>Feb 10, 2008</b>	Leadership Training at Pennsville, 3 pm
<b>Feb 10, 2008</b>	Leadership Training at New Lex First, 7 pm
<b>Feb 16, 2008</b>	Valentine's dinner for all clergy and spouses at OU Inn, 5 pm
<b>Feb 17, 2008</b>	Officer Training at Marietta Gilman, 3 pm
<b>Feb 20, 2008</b>	Mentor and Guide Training at District Office
<b>Feb 22-23, 2008</b>	Muskingum County Retreat @ Friendly Hills Grange Camp
<b>Feb 26, 2008</b>	Leadership Training at Sugar Grove, 7 pm
<b>Feb 29-Mar 1, 08</b>	Gallia County Retreat @ Camp Asbury
<b>April 4-5, 2008</b>	Basic and Advanced Lay Speaking Classes, Logan Immanuel
<b>May 21, 2008</b>	Clergy Session @ Columbus Convention Center
<b>June 9-12, 2008</b>	Annual Conference; Laity Session June 8, 7 pm

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

Email: Tom Hanover - [hanover@foothillsdistrict.org](mailto:hanover@foothillsdistrict.org)  
Brent Watson - [watson@foothillsdistrict.org](mailto:watson@foothillsdistrict.org)  
Sherri Rogers - [office@foothillsdistrict.org](mailto:office@foothillsdistrict.org)  
Merv Davis – [treasurer@foothillsdistrict.org](mailto:treasurer@foothillsdistrict.org)  
Gaylynn Smart – [layleader@foothillsdistrict.org](mailto:layleader@foothillsdistrict.org)

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