



News from the Foothills

December 2008

Volume 5, Number 9



FROM DENNIS' DESK

I came across this story from a colleague's newsletter, and thought that it was worth sharing with you this Christmas- this is one of my favorites!

There once was a man named Mr. Good Deeds who was so great and kind and good that the townspeople assembled to honor their great benefactor. Songs had been written and were sung in his honor, and gifts were given. The high point of the occasion was a message that they had asked him to give. Everyone had such a good time that it was decided to repeat the observance next year.

As the time approached the next year, the people were busy with preparations for a big banquet and a festive celebration. There was more food, more gifts, more music, and more celebration than ever. True, Mr. Good Deeds was more in the background than the year before, but the people did manage to give him time to make a brief speech.

Year after year, the celebrations just seemed to get bigger and better. The celebration of Mr. Good Deed's birthday had become a fixed part of the community life. It became an event that was more popular with each passing year. More and more people seemed to participate as the years went by. Of course, there was no time for Mr. Good Deeds to speak anymore, but he was always there. Fewer and fewer people noticed him or honored him because many of them didn't know him personally, and some of them didn't know him at all. They were just there for a good time.

One year, in the hustle and bustle of the preparation for the big celebration the people forgot to invite Mr. Good Deeds. He found himself looking in through the window at the celebration of his' own birthday. The people were all having a good time and the celebration continued, but the special one whose birthday was being celebrated was not present, and sadly, he was never missed.

This story should serve as a reminder to all of us to keep our focus clear as we prepare for our celebration of the birth of the One whom we honor. Advent is a time to prepare for His birthday. Let us not forget to invite the guest of honor to all our celebrations this month. Let us be determined to revere His day and not allow Christ to be the forgotten one this Christmas!

Hope your Christmas is a special and blessed one! Dennis



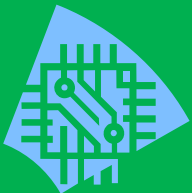
*******DISTRICT
HAPPENINGS*******



OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS

I am looking for other pastors or lay people who would like to canoe, kayak, camp or go backpacking together. We might even read a book before our “adventure” to promote our sharing together while we hike and/or paddle. If you love the out-of-doors and would like to get away every now and then (once a year, twice a year) please email or call me at the District office.

Thanks! Brent Watson



WEB EMPOWERED CHURCH WORKSHOP

FYI – we’ve scheduled a Web Empowered Church workshop in your district:

Saturday, March 14, 2009, Coburn UMC, Zanesville

John Bogard, Webmaster at Coburn is working with me on arrangements.

Will send you more details when we have them.

YEAR END REPORTS



Next week Yearend Reports (Certified Voucher, Statistician’s Report and Table III – Receipts) will be mailed from the West Ohio Conference Office. They are being sent to the address in which the current apportionment statement is being sent. In some cases they might be going to the church, the pastor or the treasurer. **Be sure to watch the mail for these!!!**

If these do not come to the appropriate person, please make sure that they are passed on to the correct individual and let me know so that the correct information can be entered into the database.

**ALL (3) THREE REPORTS MUST BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED!!!
Regardless of instructions, please send a copy of all 3 forms to me at the District Office.**

Online entry will be available again this year, but will not be allowed until January 2, 2009. The deadline for reports to be mailed is February 6. If you are doing the online version the deadline is February 9. Plan ahead so that no one misses these deadlines



TRAINING EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

The Foothills District will be offering a number of training events and workshops this Fall and Winter. Two dates and locations for each of these events have been arranged so that every church and interested person may participate. The first in the series of events will be:

“How to Minister to Military and Their Families”. This will be presented by.....Chaplain at the VA Hospital in Chillicothe. The dates for this seminar will be Nov. 20 at New Lexington First UMC at 7:00 p.m. in their Fellowship Hall. A second seminar will be held on November 24 at Albany UMC, also at 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Arthur Reed has served for 16 years at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Chillicothe as the Out-Patient Coordinator. He is married to Gail, his wife of 54 years.

The seminar will discuss how to minister to military personnel and their families during pre-deployment, deployment and post-deployment. He will also discuss how to care for Veterans and their families

In February there will be two **“Enhancing Your Ministry”** Seminars. There will be a number of topics to choose from including:

Innovative Children’s Ministry

Life Changing Youth Ministry

Contemporary Worship

Developing the Leaders Around You

How to Share your Faith in a Non-threatening Way

Bridging the Gap Between Us and Them (Being an Externally Focused Church)

Finances and Ministry

Clergy Tax Questions

You may choose 2 topics as these will be offered back to back; the first session from 2:00-3:30 p.m. and the second from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Refreshments will be provided in between sessions. Dates and locations for “Enhancing Your Ministry” are **February 8** at Coburn UMC in Zanesville from 2:00-4:30 p.m. and **February 22** at Belpre Rockland UMC from 2:00-4:30 p.m.

There will be **“Key Leadership Training”** in March for the following groups:

Pastor-Staff Parish Relations Committees

Administrative Board/Council Chairs

Finance Chairs, Financial Secretaries and Treasurers

Laity who wish to explore their call to Ministry

These dates will be **March 8** at Somerset UMC from 2:00-3:30 p.m. and **March 22** at Athens Richland UMC from 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Please take note of these important dates, publicize them in your church bulletin and get as many people as you can from your church to take advantage of these wonderful opportunities!



Patricia (Pat) Watson, mother of Brent Watson, died November 14. Brent is the Assistant to the DS of the Foothills District. A memorial service will be held at Hilltop UMC (1930 W. Galbraith Rd., Cincinnati) at 11am on Saturday, November 29. Friends are invited to greet and visit with the family at a luncheon to be served following the service. Condolences may be sent to Brent and Susie at 135 Byers-Winters Rd., Wellston, OH 45692.



SUGAR GROVE UMW TO HOLD “COOKIE WALK”

by Linda Schluer

In support of their pledge to mission work, the Sugar Grove United Methodist Women have been holding a “Cookie Walk” annually for 4 years. A “cookie walk” is an event where a huge variety of delicious, decorated and specialty holiday cookies, made by the ladies of the church, are offered for sale to the public. At Sugar Grove, we strive to make it a truly festive event where our guests stroll through a large area of beautifully decorated tables laden with many kinds of sumptuous and scrumptious home made Christmas cookies. Cookies of all kinds are displayed on holiday table ware, glittering trays, and glass plates and cake stands adding to the spirit of the occasion. Helpers, donned in sanitary gloves, place the various cookies in special “take-home” containers as they are selected by the shoppers, who then progress to the check out area where cookies are weighed, paid for and a “thank-you” gift is given to each customer.

Many repeat customers have shared their appreciation of the Cookie Walk as an opportunity for busy folks to purchase a large variety of lovely and delicious, home made Christmas cookies to serve in their homes, at parties and to give as gifts to office associates, clients, friends and relatives, and eagerly look forward to each year’s event. Cookies are sold by the pound and this group strives to make the price reasonable at \$4 per pound.

Everyone is invited to save hours in the kitchen and join us on Saturday, December

13, from 9:00 to 2:00 at Sugar Grove United Methodist Church in the village of Sugar Grove, just off Route 33, between Rockbridge and Lancaster, for this year's "Cookie Walk."



Kline Memorial UMC in Logan has 22 children's choir robes in various sizes for sale. They are red with white overlays. They are \$10 each + shipping or you may make arrangements to pick them up. Call Elizabeth at 385-4069 for more information.



We are looking for information on local Christian Contemporary/Rock bands within the district who might be willing to travel short distances to perform at local church youth events. If your church has a band or you have a connection to a band, please get that information to the district office and we will make it available to all of our churches.



The Foothills District Office has three #6, black ink cartridges for a Canon printer that we no longer have in use. If your church can use these, please let Sherri know.

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

S.O.W.E.R.

Sharing Our Witness - Enriching Relationships

Sowing the Seeds of Christian Love in Southeast Kentucky

The SOWER VIM project has been a part of constructing 9 homes for families in the Henderson Settlement service area and is now in the planning phase for house number 10 in 2009. The approximate cost of materials to build one of these houses from the ground up is approximately \$36,000. The SOWER VIM Project needs to have at least the majority of the \$36,000 in materials costs covered by pledges of support before late January 2009 to be able to commitment to building this next house. The SOWER VIM Leadership Team is requesting that the churches of West Ohio prayerfully consider supporting this worthwhile project financially with a pledge of support prior to the January '09 decision time. Those



that have served on SOWER work teams understand how much the volunteers get out of the experience as well as the level of need in the Henderson Settlement service area. As an example of the need, the last available data put the average annual income for a family of four in Bell County, KY at ~\$22,000. The average income in the Henderson Settlement Service area of southwestern Bell County is well below this figure. West Ohio Conference churches are invited to participate in this rewarding project with your prayers, your volunteer labor, and your financial support.

SOWER is a West Ohio Conference VIM project in conjunction with Henderson Settlement, Frakes, Kentucky, which is a component of the Red Bird Missionary Conference. The SOWER project is run in conjunction with Henderson Settlement's Work Camp Program to enhance the lives of the people of Southeast Kentucky by improving their housing situation. The Work Camp Program has traditionally repaired existing housing to raise the quality of life for the owner families but a number of years ago it was realized that new housing was also needed. This decision was reached because 1) in some cases the existing housing had deteriorated to the point that replacement would be more cost effective than repair, 2) the family had lost their home, or 3) lived in substandard rental housing which could not be worked on.

Work weeks for the house construction have been put on the Henderson Settlement schedule in May, July, and August of 2009. The Build Schedule, Frequently asked Questions about Henderson Settlement/The SOWER VIM Project, and a registration/donation form are included in the following pages of this document.

Please send all pledges [any checks should be made out to the West Ohio Conference UMC], volunteer registrations or questions to:

Ralph & Carolyn Brandon
SOWER VIM Team Leaders
231 McMillen Dr.
Newark, Oh 43055
740-344-5581
SOWER@wocumc.org

In Christ's Service, Ralph & Carolyn Brandon
SOWER VIM Team Leaders

YOUTH GROUP PROPOSALS



My name is Joe Edinger and I work with the Millersburg United Methodist Youth. Our church is located in the Three Rivers Conference in Holmes County, OH. Our youth group consists of about 40 youth and we typically have 15 - 20 in attendance each Sunday. Our Youth Group is composed of students in grades 6 - 12 but our faithful attendees are typically the younger youth. We are working on that and pushing for a firm commitment from our youth for this week. In the past we have been successful for out of town projects. It is the local ones that they work hard to find excuses for!

Over the last 5 years we have annually attended the Group Workcamp Missions in a variety

of states. This year we would like to try something new and hope to recruit other youth groups to join us in our project. Depending on how God wants to develop this project, we will eventually have a plan for the last week of June. If this project is successful we can allow it to grow over the years.

Our Proposal(s): Youth Group Exchange -

1. - We are willing to come to your town and assist you with a project in your town. We can do simple construction (have built lots of porches on trailers), winterize, paint, work Bible Schools, sports camps, yard work, and other similar projects. We can basically sleep about anywhere (like to be in one place as a group) and we can provide our own tools, adult chaperones, and transportation.
2. - Then we would like to have your group come to our town and help us with projects. We have a large common's area at church (AC) with showers and a kitchen OR we have a nice cabin with a pond in the woods in the middle of just about nowhere!
3. - The thought is that we would provide the materials for the work when youth come to our town and you would provide the materials needed for the work in your town. The home youth group would verify that the site is safe, a Christian environment, and that a plan is in place to finish any projects if they are not able to be done by the youth.
4. - Meals would be provided by the home youth group. In other words, we take care of everything when you come here and you take care of everything when we go there.
Saturday, June 20th - Youth Group A Travels and arrives are destination for evening.
Sunday, June 21st - Worship together and commission the work for the week

Meet your team and visit the worksites

Mission project in the community (pass out water, carry bags, wash car windows and etc. at Wal-Mart or Grocery Store) - Accept NO payments but can offer a card or flyer from home church.

Monday, June 22nd - Wednesday, June 24th - Complete projects, evening fellowship and recreation. Travel to Group B destination afternoon/evening. Visit your new worksites if time allows.

Thursday, June 25th - Saturday, June 27th - Complete projects, evening fellowship and recreation.

Sunday, June 28th - Worship together at Group B's church then depart for home.

Plan B - Holmes County Mission Trip

Sunday, June 21st - Travel to Holmes County and check-in between 2 and 3

Orientation and Group orientation

Meet your team and visit the worksites

Monday, June 22nd - Friday, June 26th - Complete projects, evening fellowship and recreation.

No work on Wednesday afternoon and evening - Visit the Mohican State Park for Canoes, Go Karts, Trails, and Swimming

Friday evening - Mission projects in Community

Saturday, June 27th - Travel home after breakfast

With no exchange we will split costs for entertainment, materials and recreation. We do have some grant sources available here to offset materials.

Still interested?

Well you are still reading! Pray on this project and pass it on to your youth leaders and youth group members. If you would like to help create a project for this June with your youth. Call me at 330-231-4459 or e-mail EDINGERS@ROADRUNNER.COM

Joe Edinger, Millersburg United Methodist Youth Group

2009 CONGRESS ON EVANGELISM



“Leading in the Wesleyan Way” January 6-9, 2009 at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN. Worship Leaders are: Rev. Tyrone Gordon, Rev. Mike Slaughter, Dr. Maxie Dunam. Bishop William Hutchinson, Jonathan & Pam Dow. Setting The Spiritual Compass led by: Bishop Robert Schnase, Dr. Paul Borden, Dr. Terry Teykl

Navigating the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations led by:

Introduction – Bishop Robert Schnase

Radical Hospitality - Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey

Passionate Worship – Rev. Mike Slaughter

Intentional Faith Development - Rev. Karen Greenwaldt

Risk Taking Mission & Service - Bishop Richard Wills

Extravagant Generosity – Kent Millard

Denmen Lecturer is Dr. William Abraham

Small Group Workshops include: Ministry With Youth – Rev. Terry Carty

Wesleyan on the Web – Clif Guy and Chuck Russell

Emmaus & Chrysalis – Tom Albin

Confirmation – 2 part series – Chris & Gloria Hughes

7 Myths – Craig Kenneth Miller

Prayer Ministry in the Local Church – Dr. Terry Tekyl

Evangelism on a Dime – Joe Connelly

Campus & Young Adult Ministry – Nikki Alexander

On Mission with God (Aldersgate Renewal Ministries) – Rev. Gary Moore. For more information, to download brochures/flyers or to register, check out their website at www.CongresOnEvangelism.org

Greetings, Friend!



With tremendous gratitude for Stephen Bryant and for his work as World Editor of The Upper Room, it is with mixed feelings that we announce the end of his term effective June 2009. As published in the Book of Discipline (§ 713), all of the positions in the program agencies that are elected (General Secretary, Deputy General Secretary, Associate General Secretary, Treasurer), may not hold the same position for more than twelve years. Steve Bryant has been in the position of World Editor for Upper Room Ministries for eleven years, therefore his term will end in June 2009.

In preparation to fill this critical position, we have engaged the services of an Executive Search Firm, DHR International. All potential applicants, including internal applicants, will be referred to Nick Slee, Senior Vice President.

If you wish to express an interest in this position, or know someone who may be qualified, you may contact Nick Slee by one of these methods. Attached is a brief summary of the position requirements.

Email: nslee@dhrinternational.com

Phone: 312-782-1581

Mail: DHR International

10 South Riverside Plaza

Suite 2220 Chicago, IL 60606



Dear Friends:

Greetings! The General Board of Discipleship wants you to know that Burning Bush, Discipleship University's core curriculum, was officially launched on October 9. DU is designed to assist congregational leaders to focus and align their efforts for making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. As a part of DU, Burning Bush is a key strategy of GBOD for addressing revitalization of congregations, thus supporting the Council of Bishops' vision pathways. Our first peer learning group included teams from four of the five jurisdictions. They began a two-year process to design and implement a discipleship plan in their congregations.

The second peer learning group will begin on April 30, 2009, and is designed for large membership churches with a weekly average attendance in worship of 250 or more. The registration fee is \$225.00 per team member (3-5 persons on a team) per weekend. We are accepting applications for the group beginning next spring through January 15, 2009. Application information and forms are available through our web site, www.gbod.org/du.

We hope that you will help spread the word about this opportunity for development of spiritual leadership for fulfilling the mission of the church. We invite you to join us in praying that God will continue to guide this effort, so that the world might be transformed in Jesus' name.

You will find more information about Discipleship University and Burning Bush on our website. You can also call Mary McDonald at (877) 899-2780, ext. 1760, or e-mail Mary at mmcdonald@gbod.org.

Grace and peace,



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

Every Church a Mission Station • Every Community a Mission Field

