



News from the Foothills

March 2009

Volume 6, Number 3



FROM DENNIS' DESK



HELP!

Dennis has been taken hostage by a rogue group of wee little green people. Help us search for Dennis so we can once again hear his words of wisdom from the Desk of Dennis!

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

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:

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!

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.

A DAY AWAY IN LENT

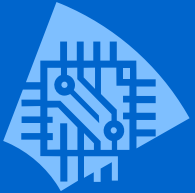
Even in the midst of ice and snow, we know spring and the Lenten season are coming. The West Ohio Conference, UMC, Spiritual Formation Area invites you to the first of a series of "Taste and See" events designed to give participants special ways of becoming more closely formed to the character of Christ. The focus of the content is *Streams of Living Water* by Richard Foster. The style of the day, after an overview lecture, will be experiential. On March 14 at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, three facilitators will lead us through experiences of the contemplative stream, the social justice stream and the sacramental stream. We invite individuals, small groups, and ministry teams to come and live into new experiences of spiritual formation. We will return to life and ministry refreshed and renewed by a day away for learning, sharing, and reflecting.

For a flyer on the March 14 event, "Taste and See: A Day Away in Lent," contact your district office.

SCHEDULE A CAMP SPEAKER

Want the kids and youth in your church to experience the benefits of UM Christian CAMPING?

Schedule a Camp Speaker to come help you ignite your church about the amazing



opportunities your West Ohio Camps have to offer.

Contact the Conference Camp Administrator/Registrar, Amy Matzenbach, at 614.781.2630 or 800.437.0028, x 204.

Speakers are trained to present a quick and engaging overview of your West Ohio Camps programs, including scholarship opportunities! They will also come ready to answer any questions before and after the service (displays are available to set up in a highly trafficked area)! We can tailor our presentation to meet your needs of time and space. Available dates are Sundays from January 25-May 31 with the exceptions of April 12 and May 10.

Take advantage of this opportunity! Your Conference Camping Professionals want to partner with you in raising up our Next Generations leaders for Jesus Christ.

Don't miss out! Dates will fill up...**reserve your CAMP SPEAKER today!!!**

Jill Moore, Director of Camps & Next Generation Leadership, West Ohio Conference
jmoore@wocumc.org 800.437.0028 www.westohioumc.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VIM TEAM

Volunteers are needed to form a mission team to work in Managua Nicaragua June 21-29, 2009. The team will work on a variety of projects that could include Bible Schools with school children; hospital visitation in maternity, pediatric and oncology areas; and maybe construction at a Christian school site. There will be time for worship, sightseeing and shopping in addition to work project time. We will also spend some time learning about the Methodist Evangelical Church of Nicaragua.

The team will leave from Columbus OH. Cost will be \$1200 per person which includes all team related expenses. The veteran team leader is Jack Reif who has been leading and participating on teams in Nicaragua since 1992.

For detailed information and an application form, please contact Jack Reif at jack.reif@zoomtown.com or by phone at 513-831-5550

JOB OPENING

The Foothills District is looking to employ a District Coordinator for Camp Francis Asbury from April 1st-September 30th, 2009. This position is funded through the Bostick Estate which can only support ministry in Gallia County. The salary is \$3500 plus \$500 for expenses. A background check is required. If interested in receiving an application please contact the District office.



COUPLES CONFERENCE

You are cordially invited to join us at Burr Oak State Park Lodge for 24 hours to ***REFRESH!*** your marriage relationship ***RELAX!*** with your husband/wife ***RECONNECT!*** as a couple

April 17-18, 2009

Begins at 7:00 PM on Friday and ends at 7:30 PM on Saturday

If you are a married couple who would like to spend 24 hours away to REFRESH yourselves as a couple, please register to become a part of the first 21st century Rolling Plains marriage retreat. Our plan is to offer you the opportunity to focus on your relationship along with others who are seeking to do the same thing. There will be times of fun and laughter, times of growth and guided conversations, times for just the two of you to spend together, and times to share meals with other couples.

Come away with us in the beauty of Spring at Burr Oak Lodge. Look for the registration table in the lobby, arrange for a baby-sitter if you need one, and get away together for a weekend that will REFRESH you both!

Because Burr Oak is a small lodge, only the first 60 couples will be able to attend. Register early!

Cost per couple is \$230, with a non-refundable \$75 deposit, due before March 16. The balance of \$155 is due before April 5. Please make your checks payable to Rolling Plains Church. 3 meals on Saturday, private room, activities, and a heated pool are included.

If you have questions please call the church office at 453-4192

Rolling Plains UMC, 3350 Moxahala Park Rd., Zanesville Ohio

CLERGY SESSION INFO

The link for more information for the 2009 Clergy Session is
<http://www.westhioumc.org/clergysession>





LAY SPEAKER SUNDAY

The Foothills District Committee on Lay Speaking has designated June 14th (the Sunday after the West Ohio Conference at Lakeside) as Lay Speaker Sunday. It is our desire that there be a Lay Speaker in every pulpit in our District. We will be mailing you an informative bulletin insert on Lay Speaking to be placed in your bulletin that day. We want to highlight this important ministry in our District and to encourage others to become a Lay Speaker as well. You can find available lay speakers on our website or by calling the District office. We will not be assigning lay speakers to every church but will allow you to make that arrangement with a particular lay speaker. Please call Brent at the District office if you have questions or need help. Thanks!

GOOD WORKS



Because of the struggle many of our friends in poverty are having with food, (especially healthy and nutritional food) we are intending to increase and accelerate our garden projects. beginning in March and April.

This spring, we intend to enlarge our garden at Good Works on Luhrig Road and also begin a community garden on the lot we own at 100 Central Avenue. Hopefully, we will also launch a new initiative to plant small gardens at the homes of the seniors and widows we are building friendships with.

I am writing to ask if you might be able to help us with some of the following needs.

If not, could you pass these needs on to friends you know who might be able to help us?

- **Fencing that is 4 ft tall or higher (cattle fencing)**
- **Chicken wire**
- **Posts (6 ft tall). Preferably metal posts (called T-posts)**
- **Hoses**
- **Chicken feed**
- **Old egg cartoons (cardboard preferred)**
- **a rooster**

- **Pump to move water from a cistern to our fields**
- **Large plastic cistern (500- 1000 gallon)**
- **Shovels, hoes, garden sheers, rakes, hand gardening tools.**
- **Rear tine tiller (preferably 6 horsepower or higher)**
- **Top soil**
- **Old hay (any old hay)**

If you have items like these or other items you can offer us as we expand our farming projects, contact us.

We are also looking for another Macintosh computer (system 10.3 or higher). If you know someone who has one, could you let us know? Thanks!

OTHER ON-GOING NEEDS

ground beef, regular coffee and filters, paper towels, toilet paper, dish soap, liquid floor cleaning soap, liquid laundry detergents, Spray disinfectant, Hand sanitizer, athlete's food spray, deoderant, disposable razors, food handling gloves used paper grocery bags, All sizes of zip lock bags, de-Icing Salt and Long handled ice scraoers. Thanks!

Love is a verb, Keith Wasserman Good Works, Inc., P.O. Box 4, Athens, Ohio 45701



TRAINING MODULES OFFERED

We are excited to offer training modules for the leaders within your church. This process motivates each participant to explore his or her unique, God-given toolbox in the discovery of all the possibilities. We explore how the different personalities interact, work through stress-paths, and discovery how working with our gifts can be the greatest tool of all. The modules can be set-up for multiple days or evenings or for presentation over a weekend, perhaps as a retreat. Metro Ministries will provide the instructor, the presentation, and masters of the handouts and worksheets. We will also meet with you to design the program around your resources and help you with the promotion. The hope is to provide a wealth of resources for future ministries and teams within the church.

To provide a taste of what the entire presentation will cover a sampling program is available to be offered to your cluster group or leadership development team.

Please take time to pray and discuss this opportunity to discern how God would have you proceed. For questions or to schedule an event or sampling, my contact information is Darcy M. Boblit-Dill, Intern – Metro Ministries of the West Ohio Conference, email: ddill@woh.rr.com ; cell phone: 937-638-4413; or fax: 937-498-9771. Or, if you would like to contact Gwen Roberts, Director of Metro Ministries at her e-mail address of groberts@wocumc.org.

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

BISHOP OUGH'S PASSION PLAY PILGRIMAGE



An exciting opportunity awaits West Ohio Conference United Methodists July 20, 2010 when Bishop & Mrs. Bruce Ough lead an Oberammergau Passion Play Pilgrimage.

You and your people will want to be a part of this historic pilgrimage. Many of your people know the powerful, moving story of this Passion Play and have hoped to have the opportunity to witness this magnificent presentation. They now not only have this cherished opportunity but will be privileged to share this experience with our Bishop and fellow West Ohio Conference United Methodists.

So now is the time for you to be a part of this historic pilgrimage. Host pastors may secure brochures and the Passion Play DVD from Educational Opportunities - set a date to view the DVD and share Passion Play information. Be sure to personally invite people you believe have a high interest in this pilgrimage.

BASIC INFORMATION

Date: July 20, 2010

Event: A nine day pilgrimage in the heart of Europe centering on the Oberammergau Passion Play but including visits to Innsbruck, Salsburg and magnificent, historic castles and cathedrals. You will stay in a picturesque village in the Wipptal region of Austria in a chalet type family hotel.

Cost: \$2998 plus \$298/348 round trip airfare from an Ohio city to our international departure city plus \$298 for the Passion Play ticket. Regular fees are in addition.

Your basic cost includes Round Trip International Airfare, Deluxe Motorcoaches, First Class Hotels, Guided Sightseeing, Entrance Fees, Breakfast & Dinner daily.

Extensions: Four 7 day extensions are available: Italian Pre-Tour including Rome, Florence, Assisi, Siens, Pisa and Venice) \$1898

Switzerland including Bern, Geneva, Gruyere, Lausanne, Matterhorn and Lucerne) \$1698; Vienna-Prague including Vienna, Vienna Woods, Prague, Heidelberg and Worms) \$1798 or Village Stay Extension - Stay on in your village and explore the surrounding region \$898.

Earned Trips: 7 full-paying passengers earns a trip 15 full paying Passion Play ticket purchases earns a ticket.

Brochures & DVD: Call EO 1-800-247-0017 to secure brochures - Alpine Wonders and Oberammergau Passion Play (PP10 -072010W) and a magnificent DVD.

Conference Coordinators: Will & Emily Gould. Call them at 614 336-4127 or email them -ejgould or wgould@columbus.rr.com

Food For Thought: The price of this pilgrimage may be higher than we would wish but this opportunity only happens every 10 years and it will undoubtedly never be more reasonable than it is now. You and your people may well be more able to enjoy the pilgrimage now - and you'll be with our Bishop and fellow United Methodist Christians.

Let us know what we may do to assist you. Call us at 937 433-4190 (386 441-1514 February & March)> Email us at pegnpaul@woh.rr.com.

Peg & Paul Stuckey

EO Directors of Travel

Ministry



HEAVEN AND EARTH SHALL KISS

February is designated as Black History Month. These 28 days are set apart to remind us of the journey and the contribution of African-Americans in this country. It is a month set aside for learning and re-learning the hard, painful lessons of American racism. It is a time set apart to celebrate those African-Americans who pioneered, persevered, preached and persuaded in our long, still evolving, march toward civil rights.

But, this Black History Month is different. February 2009 is different. It is the 200th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's birth, whose Emancipation Proclamation

pointed our country in the right and just direction. It is the 100th anniversary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), formed in response to white mobs burning the homes and businesses of black residents in Springfield, Illinois in 1908. And, it is the first month of Barack Obama's presidency – the first black American to be so elected. This Black History Month is different.

The psalmist, praying for the restoration of God's favor, writes:

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.

Psalm 85:10-11

As a nation, we somehow understand that the election of Barack Obama transcends the affiliation of political parties and ideologies. It transcends the current economic crisis. For a nation, and for many across the world who still look to the United States as the singular beacon of democracy's ideals and promises, President Obama's election is an answer to the psalmist's prayer. It is the kiss of righteousness and peace. It is the meeting of love and faithfulness. It is the coming together of heaven and earth.

The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church was in session last November when our nation went to the polls. During worship the morning after Barack Obama's election, Bishop Jeremiah Park of the New York Area reflected on the significance of the election for persons like himself – a Korean-American who immigrated to this country seeking the fruits of democracy. He concluded his homily with this statement:

Rosa Parks sat so that Martin Luther King, Jr. could march.
Martin Luther King marched so that Barack Obama could run.
Barack Obama ran so that our children can fly.

O, Lord, may it be so. May we fly. May we continue to overcome. May heaven and earth kiss.

Bruce R. Ough
February 2009

UNITED METHODIST NOMADS



We represent the United Methodist NOMADS mission volunteers and are calling on you and your office for help. As you can imagine, it is difficult to contact every UMC and we find we need to do so. Hence, our call to you. NOMADS has been around for 20+ years and we have around 1,000 members, but each year we lose members due to health problems, death, age, and other issues. We are always in need of new members and financial support for projects but find that most UMCs don't even know we exist!! We are asking you, through your office, to distribute this newsletter to each UMC in your district. We are asking that you be our Lifeline. If you need more

information about NOMADS contact us or go on line at www.nomadsumc.org. God bless you as He speaks to you in this need.

Ed and Cora Hamilton, NOMADS National Church Fundraising Chairpersons
12945 Deer Park Road, Greenfield, OH 45123
937-763-1919 or 937-763-8239 svsufficient@yahoo.com



ARTIST TO SPEAK

I am Chuck Rudisill, a professional artist living in the Pittsburgh, PA area. I have been painting professionally for over 18 years, and have sold and given away over 150 original oil paintings. I have painted many churches through out the United States.

I am trying to market my God given talents to area churches throughout the country. I feel that i have been given this artistic talent to paint, and therefore must do something about it along this journey of life, of being blessed. It is a great joy to see parishners of the church once they see the painting, it is very uplifting and extremely touching.

I would like to speak to anyone who would have interest in me doing an original oil painting of your church(s). My prices are very reasonable, and also willing to donate a painting along the way, should the volume be of decent size.

You can view my paintings at this link (<http://www.hellopittsburgh.com/art/Chuck%20Rudisill.Cfm>). As you can see in most of my paintings, i try to show the grace of God in each painting with moods and lighting.

I would very much like to hear from you.

Warm regards,
Chuck Rudisill



D.C. SEMINAR

Topic: Human Trafficking and Justice Today

**Sponsored by West Ohio Conference
United Methodist Women and
Board of Christian Social Witness
(Let Justice Roll)**

Tour Leaders: Sarah Beach and Sue Stutz

SEMINAR: – *The seminar will take place at The United Methodist Building. 100-110 Maryland Avenue, NE Washington, adjacent to the US Supreme Court and across the street from the Capitol, and will consist of lectures, discussions and an opportunity to meet with representatives from your legislative district. Seminar agenda usually includes field trips to places that connect people to the seminar topic.*

WHO CAN ATTEND? – *The trip is open to all interested adults.*

PLENTY OF FREE TIME: – *There will be opportunities to explore the city. You will receive a packet of sight seeing information.*

TRAVEL INFORMATION: – *Travel will be via modern, comfortable motor coach, making frequent rest stops and for lunch.*

ESTIMATED COST: – *Cost based on DOUBLE OCCUPANCY WILL BE approximately \$700.00. Please send to Sue Stutz a \$200.00 deposit made out to WOCUMW due immediately . Final payment is due August 1, 2009. The cost is based on a full bus and may vary with fuel costs. If bus transportation is not required the cost is estimated to be \$550.00*



DEVELOPING CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

The Heinrich Center for Wellness Ministry and Education
United Theological Seminary
“Spirit Led, Renewing the Church”
4501 Denlinger Rd., Dayton, Ohio 45426

Thursday and Friday
March 19 & 20, 2009
8 am – 5 pm

Concord United Methodist Church, Englewood, Ohio
For additional information, call 937-529-2282
Or e-mail sberry@united.edu
Registration Deadline March 13th

HOLD THE DATE

Spiritual Leaders Conference
August 17-20, 2009
“Mystery in a nutshell: Sharing in God’s Glory”
Colossians 1:26-27

Leaders:

Bishop Rueben Job, Amy Oden, Bishop Hee Soo Jung and Bishop Bruce Ough.
More Information Coming Soon!



DEAR JUDICATORY LEADERS,

This is a reminder that the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center is offering our *Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders* on **May 4-8, 2009**, in **Maumee, Ohio**.

This would be a valuable leadership training event to promote among both clergy and lay leaders in your judicatory. **Please feel free to forward this brochure** via email to such folks in your network of contacts.

Thank you for considering this educational opportunity. We hope that you will be able to utilize this training event as a way to further strengthen your pastors, your congregations and individual members.

Best wishes for God's continued blessing in your ministry.

Ginny Hrushka, LMPC Assistant for Communications
Lombard Mennonite Peace Center
101 W. 22nd Street, Suite 206
Lombard, IL 60148
ph: 630 627-0507
fax: 630-627-0519
www.LMPeaceCenter.org

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

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



