



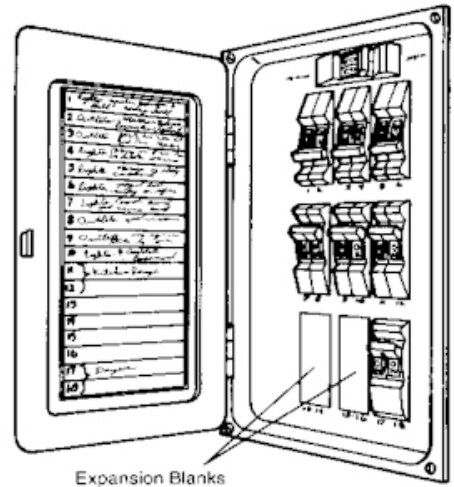
# Footlights of the Foothills District

Volume 3, Issue 1  
January 2008

“How do you turn on the power gradually?”

There was a power outage in our neighborhood last weekend. We went without electricity for about 10 hours. Thanks to a propane fireplace, we avoided a serious drop in temperatures. We did realize how dependent we are on power to turn on lights, cook food, and more.

When the power company showed up to work on the transformers in the neighborhood, he asked me to turn off the main breaker. He didn't want all of the electrical demands to hit the transformer at the same time. Then he said, “Bring the power up gradually.”



How do you do that? It is a breaker switch. It is either on or off.

Some churches would like to turn on the power gradually, slowly, so we can continue to control the changes. Unfortunately, the Holy Spirit does not always wait for our comfort levels, and ministry happens whether we are ready or not.

The Holy Spirit certainly did not wait for Bethlehem to be ready for the first Christmas. The political powers were undoubtedly unprepared. Only a few shepherds, some foreign travelers, and a young couple were open to experiencing the power. And they were transformed!

What are the chances your church will experience transforming power in this new year? Could it be possible your community will encounter transformation through your church's witness and service? I suspect it will have little to do with control and more to do with faith and readiness.

Are you ready? Throw the switch and watch for the power!

-- 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!

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!



Good Works Sixth Annual Walk for the Homeless is Saturday, Jan 19, 8:30 am – 1:00 pm beginning and ending at Athens First UMC. Each participant is asked to find sponsors to donate for participating in the walk. The funds will support the ministries of Good Works and raise awareness for Ohio's rural homeless. For more info, call Cory at 740.594.3339 or check out [www.walkforthehomeless.net](http://www.walkforthehomeless.net)

## *Erin Campbell Comes to Logan*

T-KUP Women's Ministries is sponsoring three sessions featuring Erin Campbell ([www.waterrthroughtheword.com](http://www.waterrthroughtheword.com)) on Jan 11 & 12 on "Becoming a Woman of Captivating Influence. Tickets are \$20 for all sessions, snacks, and Saturday meals. For more info contact Teresa Davis 740.332.0415 or the T-KUP church office 740.385.4069.

**Did you know that,** Healthcare is a dramatic and ever increasing cost of our times. We know that healthcare provisions are important for all of us. This is also true for the retired ministers in our Conference.

**Healthcare** expense is also an increasing part of the West Ohio Conference Board of Pensions budget. This year the cost for retirees is \$4.4 million. The 2008 cost is estimated to be \$4.9 million. Retirees' healthcare costs in 1993 totaled \$1,537,633. That represented 1.6 percent of apportionments. 2007's \$4,962,000 figure represents 25 percent of apportionments. Conference Treasurer R. Stanley Sutton reports that in 2006 health insurance was the biggest expense of our annual conference. "We spent \$14.6 million, exceeding our giving to Conference Benevolences, World Service and all second mile giving – combined.

**What can be done?** We need help from our constituents; gifts to help bolster and fund the need. Gifts through the Council on Development designated for the Ministers' Retirement and Healthcare Fund assist in meeting this increased cost of healthcare. Donors to the Council on Development gave generously over three decades to lessen the unfunded liability of ministers' pensions. The new challenge is to meet the increasing costs of healthcare for our retired pastors and their spouses, and anticipate meeting the costs for the healthcare insurance for pastors currently serving our churches. They will someday retire, and this is the time for us to prepare to meet their needs.

### **Ways to give:**

- A bequest through a Last Will and Testament
- Donor Advised Fund
- Life Insurance
- Long-term Capital Gain Property such as stocks, bond, mutual funds, and real estate
- Charitable Gift Annuity
- Cash

Please let us know if we may serve you.

#### **COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENT**

Greg Traucht [gtraucht@wocumc.org](mailto:gtraucht@wocumc.org) (800) 437-0028 ext. 212

Darlene Krick [dkrick@wocumc.org](mailto:dkrick@wocumc.org) (800) 437-0028 ext. 224

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

## ***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.

## *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

## *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)

## *Capitol Area Sponsors Church By Size Seminars*

Capitol Area Districts are sponsoring Church By Size Seminars featuring Dr. Doug Anderson beginning January 8-9 for mid-sized churches (ave worship attendance 100-175) and larger churches (ave worship attendance exceeding 175). For more info, contact Capitol Area North District (614.222.0602) or [www.capitolareanorth.org](http://www.capitolareanorth.org).

## *Church Leaders Mailing*

Pastors just recently received their packet from UM Communications with order info for the Special Offerings such as One Great Hour of Sharing, Souper Bowl of Caring, UMCOR, Africa University, Black College Fund, and more. Plus there are some great deals through the TechShop! If you missed the packet, check out [www.umcom.org](http://www.umcom.org)

## *Tunnel Seeks Upward BB Referees*

Tunnel UMC is looking for men and women from Junior High to retirees willing to serve as referees for their Upward Basketball program starting in January. Games are on Saturdays, January – March. A heart for kids is far more important than knowledge of basketball. For more info, contact Mike King (740-373-2631) or email [mkingmarietta@hotmail.com](mailto:mkingmarietta@hotmail.com).

## Copper Thieves Target Churches

Our friends at Church Mutual Insurance note an increase in copper thefts, especially around churches where air conditioning units, gutters, and wiring are vulnerable. If you have experienced such a theft, contact area recycling centers. Scrap metal yards are instructed to keep records of individuals that bring in materials. Other prevention tips:

- Request law enforcement officials patrol your facilities regularly
- Install motion sensor lighting near outside equipment
- Trim trees and shrubs away from outside equipment
- Don't leave ladders outside
- Install fencing or cages around equipment

For more info on crime prevention, check out [www.churchmutual.com](http://www.churchmutual.com)

## 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 7, 2008</b>	Deadline for District and Conference Apportionments
<b>Jan 8, 2008</b>	Leadership Training at Richland, 7 pm
<b>Jan 11-12, 2008</b>	Hocking County Retreat @ Camp Otterbein
<b>Jan 14, 2008</b>	DCOM Exec Committee
<b>Jan 19, 2008</b>	DCOM East Team & South Team Interviews
<b>Jan 20, 2008</b>	Officer Training at Meigs Co Coop, 3 pm
<b>Jan 20, 2008</b>	Officer Training at Laurel Hills, 7 pm
<b>Jan 21, 2008</b>	DCOM North Team & West Team Interviews
<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 17, 2008</b>	Officer Training at Somerset, 7 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**

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

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