

Foothills District UMC

“Every Church a
Mission Station --
Every Community a
Mission Field”

**The Foothills Dis-
trict phone number
has CHANGED!**

It is 888-868-1225

**The 797-4581 num-
ber will no longer
work after Jan 1.**

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Footnotes from the Foothills



January 2011

From Dennis' Desk

You've probably heard the story of the frog and the kettle of water. Place a frog in a kettle of boiling water and it will immediately jump out because it can tell that it's in a hostile environment. But place a frog in a kettle of room-temperature water and it will stay there seeking safety, content with its surroundings. Slowly, very slowly, increase the temperature of the water. This time the frog doesn't leap out; it just stays there, unaware that the environment is changing. Continue to turn up the burner until the water is boiling and you'll boil the poor frog - who will still be quite content perhaps, but nevertheless dead.

That could describe many of our churches, couldn't it?

“Where there is no vision, the people will perish,” Proverbs reminds us. Vision is one of the five human senses, but is also one of the guiding forces in the lives of believers and congregations. Without vision and insight, people would easily drift aimlessly with little purpose. There are times when vision appears less perfect. Often, when vision is limited or impaired, individuals or churches limit themselves to familiar areas and practices.

Most of our churches are seeking a place where there is no conflict or money problems, everybody supports the pastor and gets what they come looking for. A place of peace and comfort, security and blessing every day – unfortunately that place usually can only be found in a cemetery.

Too often, we prefer the safety and security of our church and are unaware that the environment is changing around us – and eventually, and far too often, we find that contentment – unfortunately by then, we're dead.

A God-vision will ensure that congregations focus on life transforming ministry. A God-vision provides congregations with a new lease on ministry. Churches with little vision tend to struggle over time to maintain viable ministry. With new vision comes discovery of new mission fields and ministry opportunities. It is true that where there is no vision, the people perish. It is also true that where there is a Godly vision, the people flourish.

As you and your church start out in 2011 - What is your vision for your community? For your congregation? For the betterment of God's Kingdom?

For that - we need a God-Vision.

Dennis



Workshops in January

Attention Pastors and Church Leaders in the Foothills District

We will be holding winter workshops for all clergy and laity in the Foothills District. The workshops will be held in two locations with the same six workshops being offered at each location. The first series of workshops will take place on **Sunday, January 16th from 2:00-4:30 p.m. in Zanesville at the Central Trinity UMC**. The second series of workshops will be held on **Sunday, January 30th from 2:00-4:30 p.m. in The Plains at The Plains UMC**. We will hold a snow make-up date in Logan at Logan Trinity UMC on February 20th from 2:00-4:30 p.m. if either of the first two dates get canceled due to snow.

You will have the opportunity to attend two workshops at each location. The following topics will be offered:

Leading Transformational Bible Studies

Youth Ministry in a Smaller church and how to create local partnerships in youth ministry

A Healing Ministry that reaches out to the Community

Inviting, Welcoming, Accepting and Following Up on New People

Preaching to Make a Difference

Stewardship and Making Realistic Budgets (How to make the two meet)

Please put these workshops in your calendar and we hope to see you there!!

Second Timothy Church Events for January & February

Event 1 - Second Timothy Church Pastors are invited to come on **January 18th at 7:00 p.m. here at the Foothills District Office**. The topic for the event will be, **"Creating a Missional Church versus a Maintenance Church"**, and it will be led by Rev. Jim Jennings. We need to know how many will be coming, so please **RSVP by January 14th**.

Event 2 - Second Timothy Church Pastors on **"Involving People in Ministry"** presented by Pastor Diann O'Bryant will be held on **February 26, 2011 from 10:00-11:30 a.m. at the District Office**. How often in our smaller churches we struggle to involve more people in ministry or keep the few who are involved from being burned out!

Please come hear some fresh perspectives on the excitement that comes when people see themselves in ministry and the difference they make for Christ's sake. What motivates people to want to give their time, energy and resources in ministry? All Second Timothy Pastors are invited to attend! Please **RSVP by Feb 21st**.

Event 3 - Inviting All Laity in our Second Timothy Churches

We will be holding a class at each of the following locations on **"Spiritual Gifts and Ministry- How to find a sense of fulfillment in your life!"** Please come to this small group setting as we explore the desire in all of us to live out God's unique ministry for our lives. We often find ourselves set-

ting for simply being on a committee that doesn't accomplish much, feeling frustrated or obligated because someone asks us to do something we really don't want to do. Yet God has gifted us in very specific ways in order to live out his dream for us and to minister to those he brings into our lives. What joy and fulfillment comes when we say "Yes!" to that which God is calling us! We hope to see you at one of these church locations!

Feb 1 (7:00 p.m.) at Glouster UMC

Feb 7 (7:00 p.m.) at S. Zanesville

Feb 10 (7:00 p.m.) at Gibisonville

Feb 13 (3:00 p.m.) at River of Life

Feb 17 (7:00 p.m.) at Barlow UMC

Retreat Opportunity for Pastors



WHAT? A RETREAT

WHO? Supply Pastors, Part-time Pastors and Certified Lay Speakers who may be considering becoming pastors in the future.

WHEN? **March 12**, beginning at 3:00 p.m. and concluding at 11:30 a.m. on **March 13**.

WHERE? Friendly Hills Grange Camp in Zanesville, Ohio.

We want you to take some time away to be refreshed, renewed, revitalized and restored. The District office is willing to help you secure a lay speaker for your Sunday morning worship service(s) or you can make those arrangements yourself. The cost is \$30 but we will be asking the churches to pay the fee and scholarships will be available so that those who want to come can attend.

We need your reservation by March 4.

We will be joined by a wonderful retreat leader- Ellsworth Kalas. He taught for many years at the Appalachian Local Pastors School, he has been a presenter on DISCIPLE videos and is the author of the Christian Believer study among many other accomplishments. (For more information in Dr. Kalas, see the December newsletter)

UPCOMING YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS

Foothills District Youth Ministry Networking Event...

January 15, 2011 2:30-6:00 pm
Rolling Plains UM Church
Our goal is to gather as many Youth Ministers (full time, part time, and volunteer) from the Foothills District together for a time of networking, fellowship, support, encouragement and affirmation.

Schedule of Events:

2:30 p.m. arrive and get acquainted through introductions, games etc.
3:00 p.m. worship and devotional
3:30 p.m. Our Mission explained
4:00 p.m. Brent Watson
4:30 p.m. Q & A, brainstorming
5:30 p.m. Dinner together
6:00 p.m. Finished, but feel free to hang out and talk



Confirmation Retreat

March 11-13 at Camp Otterbein.

The Youth Symposium

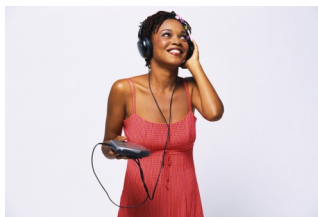
at Ohio Northern University on Tuesday, April 12.

NEEDED - FOR CAMPUS MINISTRY

The Campus Ministry at the Rio Grande University is in need of the following items for their campus center. If you can help with any of these please let Brent know at the District office or email David Young at pastrday@yahoo.com or call David at 1-740-245-9140. Thanks!

Wish List:

4 couches
2-3 chairs
Music players
DVD, VHS TV
Video Games and controllers



TORNADO RECOVERY STILL IN PROGRESS

We in the West Ohio Conference have been fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers who have been generous enough to donate 615 hours of labor to tornado disaster recovery efforts in the Foothills District. Volunteers have not only brought their own mission teams, but they have brought people from 6 different denominations with them - this has truly been a connectional ministry.

As of December 30, 2010 we have had approximately \$12,700 worth of labor donated and the volunteers have made sacrifices of time and money to help. I am proud to be a part of such an organization. There has been a lot accomplished, but there is much more to do - **volunteers are STILL NEEDED**. Call me at 740-989-2801 or 740-440-0909 to volunteer or set up a work team.

I would like to THANK all the volunteers, the district office and the conference for all of the help, support, labor and most importantly, your prayers.

Roger Thatcher
Foothills District Disaster Coordinator



WHO: College Students & Staff **WHEN:** March 6-12, 2011
WHERE: Orlando, FL **COST:** \$150 per person (travel not included)

Bring your campus group, or come as an individual and join us for this unique hunger relief mission opportunity. We will glean/harvest fresh fruits and vegetables. The food we save will be donated to local food banks and feeding agencies. This spring break, help feed those who are hungry in the central Florida area.

“It started off as just a way to get some community service done, but today it turned into something special I will never forget.”

Let's Do Something About Hunger ~ TOGETHER
HARVEST OF HOPE ~ 800-333-4597
sosahoh@endhunger.org ~ www.endhunger.org

COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENT

Hold the date of Saturday, March 5, 2011, for a Council on Development Training Event to cover:

- Planned Giving
- Stewardship
- Leadership Development
- Endowment Programs

More information and registration will be available after January 1, 2011.

July 4-7 - Foothills District Summer Camp at Camp Otterbein

Foothills District at Camp Otterbein will take place July 4-7 this summer with the possibility of an additional night! Because of the 4th of July being a Monday, camp will begin that Monday evening with a family picnic. Campers will also have the option of only staying thru Wednesday night or adding Thursday night (an additional \$70). We believe the shorter camp will be a plus for kids who are leery about being gone a full week their first time at camp or those seeking a less expensive camp experience. Please do what you can to get the dates on your church calendars and start thinking about recruiting adult volunteers and interested youth.

Fantastic 4th Mid-week Retreat - July 4-7

Entering grades 3-5,6-8

Fee: M-Thursday =\$200

Cabins

How much outdoor fun can you pack in 3-4 days? A LOT! Choose from many activities at camp: hiking, crafts, fishing, or even Giant 4-square! We will worship, swim, have home-in-the woods time with a Bible Study and a cookout! Choose to leave camp on Thursday after dinner or stay for the Jam Party and Friday's Water Carnival and Mudpit.

For Middle School, join in team challenges on the adventure trail, cookouts, Blob time, and other camp fun. Choose to leave camp on Thursday after dinner or stay for the Jam party, go mountain biking and scale the Climbing Wall on Friday.

Fantastic 4th Mid-week Retreat - July 4-7

Entering grades 9-12

Fee: M-Thursday =\$220

Cabins

Face the challenge of the High Ropes course and a "Mission Impossible" at Old Man's Cave. We'll worship together, experiment on the Adventure Trail, and have Bible Study. Leave camp on Thursday after dinner or stay for Thursday night's Jam Party followed by a Night Owl's late night adventure complete with pizza and Capture the Flag. Cookout lunch and kayak at camp when you wake up.

Foothills Friday Option - July 8th

Fee: \$70

Entering grades 3-5, 6-8, 9-12

Campers who want to add a Friday option to their mid-week retreat must also sign for this event.

See above descriptions for added programming based on age group.

Programming in partnership with Foothills District.

AND SPEAKING OF CAMP...

We want to hear your Camp Otterbein stories. The Camp Otterbein Development team is seeking stories to tell at our monthly "gatherings" for 2011. The "gatherings" will be taking place at Northwest UMC in Columbus on the third Thursday of the month from 7 until 8 p.m. Also, "gatherings" can be arranged to take place at your local church. We are especially looking for "defining moment" stories. If you're a pastor or someone involved in full-time Christian service, did Camp Otterbein play a major part in your call to ministry? If you're a lay-person, can you recall a person or event at camp that helped you in your decision to become a Christian or grow in your Christian faith? We will be gathering stories and hope to compile them by February 15. Please contact Jim Freshour at pjfreshour@yahoo.com or call him at (614) 267-6127 for further information. We truly believe your story could make all the difference in the world.

THANKS FROM CHURCH WORLD SERVICE!

Dear Friends,

The 2010 Festival of Sharing was a huge success! Here are several communities in Ohio where Kits and Blankets have been shipped since the Festival in October:

Felicity United Methodist
 Common Ground Free Store in Delaware
 Grove City Churches Homeless Ministry
 Nast Trinity United Methodist in Cincinnati
 Community Refugee Immigration Services (CRIS) in Columbus

This is only possible because of the dedication of the Festival of Sharing Committee and local churches like yours. Thank you!

Matt Stevens and Nick Kiger
 Church World Service



SAVE THE DATE: CCDA REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN COLUMBUS, OH

City Vision Presents:

"GOING BEYOND CHARITY TOGETHER"

Featuring Dr. John Perkins, Founder of CCDA

Hosted by: The Upper Arlington Lutheran Church at Mill Run
 3500 Mill Run Drive, Columbus, OH 43026

For more info visit <http://ccda.org/regional-conferences>

March 2011
 4 & 5

Wesleyan Studies Summer Seminar at Asbury

Asbury Theological Seminary and Asbury University announce their first annual Wesleyan Studies Summer Seminar to be held **June 2011**.

This seminar is being established to develop and support research, writing and publication in the broad field of Wesleyan studies. The seminar will promote the work of serious researchers in the following ways:

- Making the scholarly resources of Asbury Seminary and Asbury University available to each participant.
- Fostering dialog between

researchers and the faculty of Asbury Seminary and University who have expertise in the researcher's field.

- Creating an environment for conversation, study and networking among scholars in the field of Wesleyan studies. There are no tuition charges for the seminars, and participants will have access with full privileges not only to the B.L. Fisher and Kinlaw libraries (including significant electronic databases) but also to their special collection holdings in Wesleyan and Methodist studies. The staff of the Wesleyan Studies Sum-

mer Seminar will also help to make arrangements for free housing at the Asbury Inn for each participant throughout the seminar. Asbury Seminary will pay the airfare for international researchers. Beyond this, all other personal expenses (travel and food for example) will be the responsibility of the researchers, though the Seminary will provide a common meal on the evening of each seminar.

For more information or to apply, [click here](#).

FOOTHILLS DISTRICT
UMC

“EVERY CHURCH A
MISSION STATION --
EVERY COMMUNITY A
MISSION FIELD”

PO Box 67
47 Johnson Rd.
The Plains, OH 45780-0067

Phone: 888-868-1225

Fax: 740-797-4582

E-mail: office@foothillsdistrict.org

**Lay Speaking
Spring Classes
Scheduled:**

**March 4-5, 2011
Basic Lay Speak-
ing**

**March 5 only
Advanced Lay
Speaking**

**At Rolling Plains
UMC in Zanesville**

**Advanced Course
title to be an-
nounced.**

**Check us out on the Web:
www.foothillsdistrict.org**



Prayer Concerns

Bill O'Brien, Lay Speaker, eye surgery Jan. 19th.

Condolences:

Family of Bishop Edsel Ammons who passed away on Dec. 24. Bishop Ammons served West Ohio from 1984 through 1992.

WANTED: Unused bulletins. Quantity doesn't matter, we love left-overs! Contact Marilyn Moody at Zanesville First UMC at 740-452-7117 or by e-mail at zanesfistumc@sbcglobal.net

The National Exploration event, scheduled for Nov. 11-13, 2011, in St. Louis, is for young adults 18-26 years old who are considering a call to ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church. For more information, contact Brent Watson at the Foothills District office.

United Seminary in Dayton: March 28, 2011—The first annual *Light the Fire Church Renewal Conference* will feature Dr. Leonard Sweet. His keynote address will be “Evangelism and Discipleship in a TGIF (Twitter, Google iPhone, Facebook) world.” For more information or to register, contact Jackie Nowak at jnowak@united.edu

MTSO—Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Scholarship deadlines for Fall 2011 students are approaching! New students have two options. We host the annual Harding Scholarship competition each February for entering fall students with a 3.6 GPA. The winning student receives full tuition plus a \$10,000 stipend for three years. The [Harding Scholarship](#) application deadline is February 1, 2011. All degree programs and all denominations welcome to apply.

MTSO offers nearly fifty additional full-tuition scholarships. The [Premier Scholarship](#) priority application is March 1, 2011.

January Open House

January Open House is Wednesday, January 19, 2011. Come to MTSO to meet with admissions, financial aid, take a campus tour, and visit one or two classes:

- New Testament - The Gospel of Mark
- Pastoral Care - Theories of Counseling and Psychotherapy

To register for this free event, please email admit@mtso.edu with your contact information.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Office Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Lunch 12:00-1:00 p.m.

E-Mails: Office—office@foothillsdistrict.org

Dennis Mohler, DS—mohler@foothillsdistrict.org

Brent Watson, ADS—watson@foothillsdistrict.org

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

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

Kristie Roberts—Co-Lay Leader-layleader@foothillsdistrict.org

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

Roger Thatcher, Dist. Disaster Response Coordinator-rwtjct@yahoo.com