



Footlights of the Foothills District

Volume 3, Issue 3
March 2008

Ice Cream, Chili, and Baseball

What do you suppose these three items have in common? Give up? For many people they are seasonal. Some people only think of ice cream during the warmer summer months. (Personally, I only think of ice cream during my waking moments.) Others only think of chili during colder winter months. Still others think about baseball during baseball season.

Are there seasons in which normal people (people outside the church) might be more likely to visit a church? Yes! Easter is one of those seasons. The spirit is upbeat. It is a traditional time to visit grandparents. It generally means spring is close at hand.

What is your church planning for Easter that will connect with people who do not often attend worship? How will you use this opportunity to extend radical hospitality to younger generations? How will you make your worship experience user friendly for people who do not know your traditions? How will you make anxious visitors feel welcomed and loved?

This could be a task for everyone. Trustees could look at the property and building through the eyes of a first time visitor. Would they know which door to enter? Do you need more signs? Are there saved parking spaces for visitors? Could they find the nursery or bathrooms easily?



Worship and music people could select music that is upbeat, energetic, hopeful, and easy to sing. Finance people could share information how your church is reaching out to change your community with your giving. Sunday School, education, and discipling teams might want to let visitor know about classes, small groups, and retreats. Is someone planning to post greeters at critical places to let visitors know they are welcome?

The angels were there to welcome the women who were first to arrive at the tomb. What better way for the church to share the Easter message than to welcome guests to our opportunities for celebration!



- Tom

Leadership Training on Radical Hospitality

Tom and Brent are leading 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, Feb 26	Fairfield County, Sugar Grove, 7 pm
Tues, April 1	Muskingum County, Zanesville Faith, 7 pm
Sun, April 6	Perry County, Somerset, 4:00 pm
Tues, April 8	Hocking County, Logan Immanuel, 7 pm

Two 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

Church Officer Training

New to your position? Looking for ideas on how to lead effectively? Attend the District Officer Training session. 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.

April 6 7 pm, Somerset (rescheduled after Lent)

JAM Seed Project Grows

Jackson Area Ministries' Garden Project in 2008 will expand into several new areas. The program will continue to provide vegetable seeds and tomato plants for families in southeast Ohio, however in addition to serving our 19 counties we will be providing tomato plants for persons in the New Orleans area. The plants will be purchased and distributed in Louisiana at the start of their growing season in March. JAM Garden Project also has made a commitment to include two Ohio urban areas in this years' seed/plant distribution.

Thanks to the generosity of churches and individuals etc. last summer 2,810 households were supplied seed potatoes, tomato plants and a variety of vegetable seeds.

If you are interested in participating this year send your inquiry to: JAM gardening, P.O. Box 603, Jackson, Ohio 45640. Phone: 1-888-237-3141 or e-mail at jamjar@bright.net Brochures, reports, bulletin inserts and other information are available from our office.

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

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



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; or 1-800-437-0028. Cost is only \$90 and space is limited!

Asbury Camp and Retreat Center

2144 Tyn Rhos Rd.
Thurman, OH
45685

Elementary Camp

June 15-20, 2008

Grades: Entering 4th - 6th

Host church: Simpson Chapel UMC

Deans: Rev. Sherron Courneen
and John Fields

Cost: \$ 200

Send Registration/Deposit check to:

Simpson Chapel UMC

P.O. Box 155

Rio Grande, OH 45674

For more information contact:

740-245-5392 (Sherron)

sherroncourneen@aol.com

614-378-8699 (John)

mudbug1981@yahoo.com

Junior High Camp

June 22-27, 2008

Grades: Entering 6th - 9th

Host church: Gallipolis Grace UMC

Deans: Kimberly Thomas and
Gwen McGuire

Cost: \$ 200

Send Registration/Deposit check to:

Grace UMC

Jr. High Camp

600 2nd Ave.

Gallipolis, OH 45631

For more information contact:

740-446-4542 (Kimberly)

brlyt@aol.com

740-256-1372 (Gwen)

gwn@ohiohills.com

Multi-Age Camp

June 28- July 3, 2008

Grades: Junior High and High School

Host church: Wheelersburg UMC

Deans: Rev. Perry Prosch and
Rev. Brian Dunham

Cost: \$ 200

Send Registration/Deposit check to:

Cluster Camp

c/o Wheelersburg UMC

P.O. Box 190

Wheelersburg, OH 45694

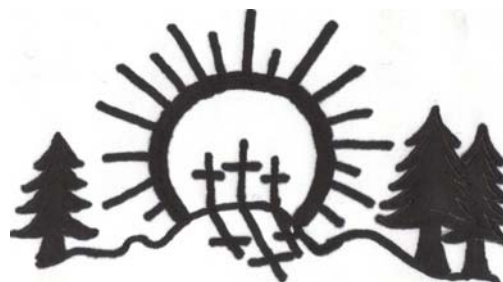
For more information contact:

740-574-2900 (Perry)

pprosch@verizon.net

740-992-0930 (Brian)

bidunham@verizon.net



Intro Camp

July 11-13, 2008

Grades: Entering 2nd - 4th grade

Host church: Richland UMC-Athens

Dean: Rita Snider

Cost: \$ 100

Send Registration/Deposit check to:

Richland UMC- Athens, OH

Intro Camp

60 Pomeroy Rd.

Athens, OH 45701

For more information contact:

740-593-6847 (Rita)

snider@eurekanet.com

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 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 937.372.2204



Discipleship University is an innovative learning environment that combines spiritual formation, presentation, and peer learning. Classes form each spring and fall. For more info, check out

www.gbod.org/du or call Mary McDonald at 615.340.1760.

Thank You!



Thank you for your generous support of the Free Store. We have had 10,621 shoppers and over 1266 families. Nearly 40 people volunteer time to staff the ministry. Come visit us at Zanesville First UMC on Tues, Wed, or Thurs from 10-1.

Thanks for your donation towards the purchase of chairs and tables at Camp Otterbein. Please continue to pray for our ministry and all who benefit from our programs and facilities. We are grateful to have the support of caring people such as you!



Roots and Wings for Ministry

United Theological Seminary in Dayton is offering a number of continuing education experiences from one-day seminars to a complete Doctor of Ministry program. Check out www.united.edu

Thinking about Building

Jack Phillips, Stewardship Consultant, provides fundraising expertise for smaller churches (attendance of 75 or less). His program, *Excel Capital Campaign*, utilizes all of the elements larger churches use including training materials, planning guides, newsletters, bulletin inserts, on-site planning sessions, and unlimited phone/email access to your consultant. For more info, contact Jack Phillips at 614.798.8943 or jackphillips@columbus.rr.com

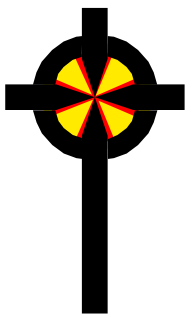
School of Congregational Development

The General Board of Discipleship and the General Board of Global Ministries developed this experience 10 years ago to equip pastors and key leaders to learn how to create disciple-making congregations. This year there are two simultaneous schools in Orlando, Florida, and Grand Rapids, Michigan, July 31-Aug 5, 2008. Some scholarship help is available from George Howard (gHoward@wocumc.org or 800.437.0028). For more info on the school, check out www.scdumc.org

Celebrating Church History

Is your church celebrating a significant anniversary? Do you have a church historian who deserves special recognition? The UM Historical Society of Ohio is recognizing these churches and historians at its annual meeting in April. Churches celebrating their 50th, 75th, 100th, 125th, 150th, 175th and even 200th anniversaries will be honored.

In addition the Historical Society will honor the 2008 Church Historian of the Year. Please submit your nominations by March 1st to Rev. Lowell Peterson, chairperson of the West Ohio Commission on Archives and History, 1490 Autumnwoods Dr. Fremont, OH 43420, 419-334-6930 or lepeteron1@juno.com.



Come away ~ **To a Lenten Retreat** ~ a time to pray ~ a time to reflect ~ a time to learn ~ a time to deepen ~ a Holy Sabbath ~ talking with Jesus ~ through his prayer ~ in his language ~ Aramaic ~ dance ~ song ~ meditation ~ walking ~ nature ~ art ~ labyrinth ~ sharing ~ chanting ~ steal away ~ to Jesus ~ we come ~

Sat. ~ March 15 ~ 2008 ~ 9 am ~ 2 pm ~ \$45

Camp Francis Asbury ~ Rio Grande ~ SE Ohio

Rev. Sherron Courneen, MDiv, MA. UM Minister, Chaplain, Writer, Teacher of the Aramaic Jesus Work and Dances of Universal Peace. For registration and directions: sherroncourneen@aol.com or 740-245-5392

Retreat and Getaway

Garry and Bev Hogue have a guest room especially equipped for a quiet retreat and getaway, and a special clergy rate of \$50 per night. Check out their website: hoguewild.com

Southern Ohio Emmaus Community:

Spring 2008 Walks:

Women: April 3-6 Men: April 17-20

Fall 2008 Walks:

Women: September 25-28 Men: October 2-5

Tentative Dates for 2009:

Women: May 14-17 Men: May 21-24

Women: September 10-13 Men: October 1-4

Unless otherwise noted, all Walks are to be held at Camp Akita, Logan, Ohio.

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 4th Tuesday, 7 pm at Marietta Christ UMC. For more info, check out www.midohiovalleyemmaus.org

UPCOMING DATES

Feb 22-23, 2008 Muskingum County Retreat @ Friendly Hills Grange Camp
Feb 26, 2008 Leadership Training at Sugar Grove, 7 pm
Feb 29-Mar 1, 08 Gallia County Retreat @ Camp Asbury
April 4-5, 2008 Basic and Advanced Lay Speaking Classes, Logan Immanuel
April 6 Leadership Training at Somerset
May 21, 2008 Clergy Session @ Columbus Convention Center
June 9-12, 2008 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
Email: Tom Hanover - hanover@foothillsdistrict.org
Brent Watson - watson@foothillsdistrict.org
Sherri Rogers - office@foothillsdistrict.org
Merv Davis - treasurer@foothillsdistrict.org
Gaylynn Smart - layleader@foothillsdistrict.org

Every Church a Mission Station • Every Community a Mission Field