



Footlights of the Foothills District

Volume 2, Issue 11
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Ice Cream Hospitality

I love ice cream. Surprised?

During cabinet days a couple of us often walk uptown to a nearby ice cream establishment for a dip of heaven. We are known as the “Fellowship of the Scoop.”

Can you guess how many ice cream places we walk past to get to our favorite? Why would we do that?

One day one of our “Fellowship” had another meeting over the lunch hour and could not walk with us. As we walked in, we were greeted with the usual warm welcome. We have come to expect that. After all, we are regulars. Our server not only recognized us, but remembered the usual order of the friend who was not with us. Now that is hospitality!

Hospitality is a special gift people give to each other out of grace. It first began when God created all that existed and invited the human race to live in that specially made creation. That is grace. That is hospitality.

When churches invite people to become part of their church family by offering the grace of hospitality, they are participating in God’s work. God gets excited when people do that.

Unfortunately, our world is used to people offering something for “free,” but has strings attached. It is like that \$10 check you receive in the mail, if you sign up for a \$90 membership. Many people are cynical, if not suspicious, of grace.

That is why radical hospitality is not offered because we want something in return, such as offerings or membership. Radical hospitality is offered, because God has already blessed us with overwhelming, unlimited, boundless grace. How is your church family offering hospitality to your community?

Tom

New Newsletter Format Unveiled

Since the Clergy Connection and Laity Link have usually duplicated each other, we are merging the newsletters into one issue for both laity and clergy. As before, each issue will be posted on the web for your reading convenience. As before, when a new issue is posted, we will send an email with a link to the web site to all who have shared an email address with us. As before, you can still click on the icons in the left hand column to scan all the headlines at one glance.

Radical Hospitality North Katanga Style

Thanks to the Syracuse Charge (Asbury, Forest Run, and Minersville) in Meigs County, the Foothills District is contributing to radical hospitality in the North Katanga Conference in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Africa. The Syracuse Charge raised enough money to build a church, a parsonage, and purchase a sizable number of Bibles.

Churches across the Foothills District are invited to match their generosity with gifts for the Wings of the Morning airplane ministry. Wings of the Morning provides emergency transportation for many of the villages isolated from medical care by the rough terrain and poor roads. Gaston and Jeane Ntambo oversee this mission of the United Methodist Church.



You can send your gifts to the district office marked "Wings," or send it to the conference office with your apportionment contributions. Mark it for "Hope for the Children of Africa – Gaston's Plane, 101000GP" Together we can offer world changing grace on the other side of the globe! For more info, check out www.northkatangaumc.org/wingsmorn.html

Lay Speakers Review Program

All lay speakers are invited to attend one of four meetings to give feedback on the Foothills District Lay Speaking program. Choose the time and location most convenient for you.

October 25 6:30 p.m.- Logan Trinity UMC

October 30 6:30 p.m.- South Zanesville UMC

November 8 6:30 p.m.- Meigs Cooperative Parish's Mulberry Community Center

November 11 3:00 p.m.- Marietta Gilman Ave UMC

For more info, contact your friendly neighborhood District Office.

Nehemiah Training in Logan

Nehemiah Leadership Institute will be offered in a series of three one-week sessions: Nov 12-16, 2007; Jan 28-Feb 1, 2008, and April 7-11, 2008 at the Logan Immanuel Church. Cost of the total program is \$850. Persons from the Foothills District can receive a \$200 discount. Nehemiah Leadership Institute develops leaders by helping people learn new skills for ministry. Contact Brent Watson for more info.

Free Store Celebrates First Anniversary



Bishop Ough visited on the first night and the celebration continued the following week with a picnic in the parking lot. God's miracle of abundance and hospitality are an amazing place of grace.

If you would like to be a part of this vital ministry to the Zanesville community, bring your donations to the lifewell Free Store @ First UMC between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday or call for an appointment 740 452-7117.

If you would like a speaker to come to your church and share with your UMW, mission teams, or even provide a worship program please call 740 452-7117. There are many real life accounts of God's prayer and miracles at work in ordinary folks and we would be honored to share them with you. We look forward to partnering with you as we share God's miracles of love.

Sacrament Class

Brent Watson and Tom Hanover will lead a class for supply and licensed pastors who wish to sharpen their understanding and communication about the meaning of the sacraments of communion and baptism on Sat. Nov 3, 10 am at the District Office. Many pastors will interview with the District Committee on Ordained Ministry over the winter months. The class will help pastors prepare for those interviews as well as enhance their pastoral leadership in the churches. For more info, contact your friendly neighborhood district office (740.797.4581).

Otterbein Winter Camp

Kirstin Shrom announced Camp Otterbein's First Winter Camp for grades 3-12 over Christmas break featuring ice blocking, Iditarod, snow globes, skating, and more!

Grades 3-5 Dec 27-29

Grades 6-8 Dec 30-Jan 1

Grades 9-12 Dec 27-29

For more info check out www.westohiocamps.com or call the Camping Office 800.437.0028.

Butler Co Migrant Families

Approximately \$5000 has been donated as of 10/16 to meet the needs of the Hispanic families whose lives were affected by the September raids in Butler County. This will aid five families for about ten weeks. If you are able and willing to donate \$100, that amount will help one family for about one week. The money would then be used for utilities, rent, medicine, and more. Donations should be sent to Cindi Dietrich's attention at the Ohio River Valley District Office identified as "**funds for migrant families**". Please, tell a friend, tell your church, or commit yourself to "adopt" the needs of a family for a week, or for a month, as they face this situation.

2008 Health Care Insurance Rates

Conference Treasurer, Stan Sutton, has announced that the 2008 Health Care Insurance rates for churches will increase approximately 5%. There are slight variations for the various levels. Specific rates and a calculator for individual rates will be posted on the conference web site soon. Deductibles and copays have been increased slightly and new vision and dental benefits have been added. Watch for the full announcement to come soon.



Conference and District Apportionment Data

The Conference is now publishing financial information on the conference web site including current status for apportionment participation. So if you want to monitor your church's progress or check out the conference's financial commitments, go to www.westohioumc.org and click on the "finance and benefits" tab. Information is generally updated monthly.

Clergy Spouse Information Posted

Information about the activities of clergy spouses in the Foothills District is posted on the web: www.foothillsdistrict.org Check out the latest details about picnics, lunches, and riverboat cruises.

Journals Available

2007 West Ohio Annual Conference Journals are available for ordering at [http://woconsole.brickriver.com/files/oImage_Library_FQADXU/Journal_Order_Form_\(2\)_TBTWE7F8.pdf](http://woconsole.brickriver.com/files/oImage_Library_FQADXU/Journal_Order_Form_(2)_TBTWE7F8.pdf).



Good Works has attended nearly all of the Foothills District charge conferences this season with materials, pictures, and stories of how you can help change the world for homeless people in our area. If you would like to schedule Good Works to come to your church to fill the pulpit, speak to a Sunday School Class, or share stories at a fellowship dinner; contact them at 740.594.9000 or goodworks@good-works.net.

Certified Lay Ministry

An informational meeting for lay speakers about the new Certified Lay Ministry Program will be held at the conclusion of each of our four District gatherings (Oct 25, Oct 30, Nov 8, Nov 11). The certified lay minister is a new form of leadership in The United Methodist Church authorized in 2004. A certified lay minister is a qualified UM layperson called to congregational leadership as part of a ministry team under the supervision of a clergyperson. The completion of training as a Certified Lay Speaker is a prerequisite for training for the Certified Lay Minister Program. For more info, contact Brent Watson.

Torch Volunteer Training (Youth Version of Kairos)

The Circleville Juvenile Correction Facility Kairos Torch Advisory counsel is holding a training day for its volunteers, Sat, Nov 10, 8 am – 4 pm, @ Circleville Community UMC. For more info or to RSVP, contact Joe McNemar at 614-837-2308 or jmcnemar@cmseast.com.

Convocation on Development Seminar in Orlando

The Eighth UM Convocation on Development: "Funding Ministry in a New Economy" is scheduled for Jan 22-25, 2008, in Orlando, Florida, and features leaders such as Michael Slaughter, Dan Dick, David Bell, Don Joiner, Sandra Lackore, Marie Lang, Wayne Barrett, and several more. For more info, check out www.gbod.org/development-convo

Clergywomen's Consultation 2008

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry announces that the **United Methodist Racial-Ethnic Clergywomen's Consultation 2008** will be held in Los Angeles, CA, January 3-5, 2008. The first registration deadline is October 31, 2007. To register visit www.gbhem.org/recc.

Clergy Finance Letter

Concerned about the financial support for your pastor? Want to be current on recent tax law changes for clergy? Check out the Clergy Finance Letter edited by clergy finance guru Wayne Barrett and contributing editors: Donald Joiner, Frederick Leasure, and Peggy Patterson (www.clergy-financial.com)

I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church!

Paul Nixon is the featured speaker at a workshop for all pastors and church leaders at the Kings Island Resort and Conference Center in Mason, Ohio, Tuesday, Nov 13, 2007. Cost is \$30 per individual or \$75 for three from the same church. Check out www.eventbrite.com/event/67745629

The Church Has Left the Building

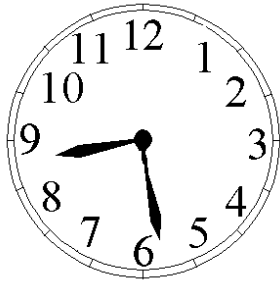
The North Central Jurisdiction Town & Country/Urban Network of the United Methodist Church is sponsoring "The Church Has Left the Building," Jan 8-10, 2008, Crowne Plaza, Detroit Metro Airport, featuring Dan Dick, Doug Pagitt, Faith Fowler, and more. For more info, check out www.njcumcurban.org or contact Sharon Hausman.

Zion Still Sings

Fairview UMC, Dayton, is presenting *Zion Still Sings: Music and Worship Practices for the 21st Century Church*, featuring the teaching and worship leadership of Rev. Cynthia Wilson. For more info, check out www.fairviewumcdayton.org

UMCOM Conducting Interviews

United Methodist Communications has contracted with a research firm to conduct interviews in selected conferences on the subject of giving, both locally and beyond the local church through the connectional system. A small sampling of lay and clergy leaders from our annual conference will be asked to briefly answer some questions. Your participation, if you are contacted, will enable the church to better understand and communicate the stories of how our giving makes a difference in the world.



Remember to “fall back” with the time change on Nov 4!

UPCOMING DATES

Oct 25, 30, Nov 8, 11	Lay Speaker Gatherings
Nov 2, 2007	Legal Seminar at Ohio Northern University Law School
Nov 17, 2007	DCOM South Team Interviews
Nov 27, 2007	Treasurer’s Training by Stan Sutton, Athens Richland, 7 pm
Dec 1, 2007	Clergy Spouse Christmas Party, Lui Lui’s in Athens, meet at the District office 11:15 am
Dec 1, 2007	District UMW Christmas Party, Old Dutch Restaurant, Logan
Jan 14, 2008	DCOM Exec Committee
Jan 19, 2008	DCOM East Team & South Team Interviews
Jan 21, 2008	DCOM North Team & West Team Interviews
Feb 16, 2008	Valentine’s dinner for all clergy and spouses (if you have one) at OU Inn, 5 pm
April 4-5, 2008	Basic and Advanced Lay Speaking Classes, Logan Immanuel
May 21, 2008	Clergy Session
June 8-12, 2008	Annual Conference

IMPORTANT ADDRESSES

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Every Church a Mission Station * Every Community a Mission Field