

News from the Foothills

2009 November

Volume 6 Number 11

FROM DENNIS' DESK

Dennis is unavailable to bring words of wisdom and encouragement to us this month due to his extensive traveling all over our Foothills District overseeing the multiple Charge Conferences that are going on this month. Tune in next month for more from Dennis' Desk.

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

WEST OHIO CONFERENCE STAFF & LEADERS,

Over the next few months each West Ohio district will be hosting a **Bishop's Day on the District** event called, [Together We Can](#). The schedule for the event in each district is below.

The format will include a resource fair, a short program lifting up the ministries of the district, and a one-hour town hall style Q&A session facilitated by myself and other conference & district leaders.

I encourage you to attend your district's event, but also extend an invitation to you to sit in on any of the other district events as well.

Our goal for these events is to provide both clergy and lay persons a chance to be heard, ask questions about our connection and apportionment system, and receive information about the ministries our faithful stewardship supports and how that stewardship is making our churches stronger.

For more information, go to the homepage of our [West Ohio Conference](#) website, and click on the "Together We Can" link on the right.

Bishop Bruce R. Ough

Bishop Bruce R. Ough, Resident Bishop

Ohio West Area of The United Methodist Church

32 Wesley Blvd | Worthington OH | 43085

(614) 844-6200x215 | (800) 437-0028x215 | fax (614) 781-2642

bishop@wocumc.org | www.westohioumc.org

Reservations are not required but requested so we are able to offer hospitality and resources for all. **R.S.V.P. online to a Together We Can Event**

Foothills

Wednesday, November 18, 2009, 6pm

The Plains UMC

3 North Plains Road

The Plains, Ohio 45780

INFO FROM BRENT

Formational Prayer Seminar- January 13-16, 2009

The Sandberg Leadership Center at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, Ohio

Cost- \$475, Instructors- Terry Wardle, Lee Wetherbee, Jerrolyn Johnson

Formational Prayer (formerly known as inner healing prayer) is a ministry of the Holy Spirit, moving through a Christian caregiver, bringing the Healing Presence of Jesus Christ into the place of pain and brokenness within a wounded person.

1) West Ohio Medical Mission Team

January 14-17, 2010- Nuevo Progreso, Mexico (Cost-\$630)

For more information contact Joanne Powers jspowers@gte.net / 1-419-376-6017 or Margie Vogt mvogt@otterbein.edu / 1-740-363-5223

2) Morgan County United Ministries in conjunction with World Vision (Appalachia) has a Warehouse Club where homeowners and non-profits can purchase home improvement and repair products at greatly reduced prices. The Warehouse Club makes home repairs possible without damaging your budget. There are no income restrictions for membership. A \$10 membership fee is charged for unlimited buying privileges for individual homeowners. 99%

of the items are new and 1% are gently used materials. Your first visit is free! The Warehouse is located at 514 Main St, Malta, Ohio and the hours are Monday thru Saturday from 8:30-5:30 p.m.. For more information call 740-962-3400

CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF SAVIOR WITH JONATHAN MARTIN.

Sugar Grove United Methodist Church is excited to bring Grammy Nominated and Dove Award Winning artist, Jonathan Martin, to you on Saturday, December 12th, 2009! This event will be held at the church which is located at 324 East Street, Sugar Grove, Ohio. Jonathan will be in concert starting at 6:00 pm. There will be no charge for this event, although a Love Offering will be collected during the concert.

For more information about this exciting event contact the church office at (740) 746-8846 or visit our website www.sgum.org .

OLDER ADULT MINISTRY GRANTS:

1) Intergenerational Ministry with Older Adults

Applications are available both in print form and on the Center on Aging and Older Adult Ministries' website- www.aging-umc.org

Submission deadline- January 15, 2010

Grant Funds are awarded in the Fall of 2010

Other contact information to receive procedures and criteria: Teri Kline- 1-877-899-2780 ext 7177 or tkline@gbod.org

2) Caregiving Ministry with Older Adults

Application available August of 2010

Applications are available both in print form and on the Center on Aging and Older Adult Ministries' website- www.aging-umc.org

Submission deadline- January 15, 2011

Grant Funds are awarded in the Fall of 2011

Other contact information to receive procedures and criteria: Teri Kline- 1-877-899-2780 ext 7177 or tkline@gbod.org

YEAR END REPORTING CLASS

January 7th, 2010, 7:00 p.m., at the Richland UMC in Athens, Ohio

Do you want to learn the ins and outs of W-2's, 1099's, annual audits, and the new year end reports? Come join our Conference Controller and Conference Statistician as they walk you through the forms and process for your year-end reporting.

(In case of snow, there will be a make-up date on January 14th, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the same location)

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND ISSUE 3 CASINO GAMBLING

For the fifth time in 19 years, The United Methodist Church and the Ohio Council of Churches are successfully mobilizing tens of thousands of voters from many faith communities to vote against casino gambling in Ohio. The gambling industry has mounted a well funded and deceptive marketing campaign to introduce predatory gambling into our neighborhoods. Issue 3, on the ballot in November, is a dangerous proposal which inserts new language into the Ohio Constitution, and creates a monopoly to run casinos in four Ohio communities. We call for an extensive effort to stop casino gambling from harming our citizens for these reasons:

Our position on gambling is consistent with our beliefs as United Methodists.

The United Methodist Church is very clear. Our Social Principles state that “gambling is a menace to society, deadly to the best interests of moral, social, economic and spiritual life and destructive of good government.”—2008 United Methodist Discipline, Paragraph 163.G. We also live by these Three Simple Rules from the founder of Methodism, John Wesley – Do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God. Gambling does harm to families, economies, business and changes the fabric of life in communities.

Casinos create an illusion of free money.

The lingering economic downturn in our state and around the globe is frightening and devastating to individuals, families and institutions. There is incredible pressure on our state and community leaders to turn to the lure of casino gambling as the answer to our economic woes. We understand this. Noted economists call this “casino capitalism.” Casino capitalism contributes to an illusion of free money by preying on those least able to afford it. Across America, predatory gambling has helped create a culture based on financial gimmicks, false hopes and pure chance. This culture has led to and perpetuates the massive economic crisis we find ourselves in today.

Casinos do not bring positive economic development or create additional jobs.

This fact is documented once again in a report on the statewide economic and social factors of Issue 3 recently published by Ohio’s Hiram College. Casinos have the opposite effect by ultimately pulling money out of the local economy. This harms existing businesses and causes thousands of hard working citizens to lose their current jobs. The out of state companies that will operate these casinos will deplete the Ohio economy further as they take their profits elsewhere. Casinos ultimately lead to the loss of jobs and small businesses in the communities in which they are located.

Casinos are predatory by their very nature.

Casinos make windfall profits for their owners from the gambling losses of our most vulnerable neighbors, deriving much of their profits from the poor who spend more than they can afford to lose. Proximity to a casino also increases the levels of addiction. National studies indicate that people who live within 50 miles of a casino are twice as likely to become gambling addicts.

The social costs as a result of casino gambling will exceed revenue 3 to 1.

Let this sink in – for every dollar gambling generates, it will cost the taxpayers of Ohio three dollars in social costs. Problem gamblers ruin their lives and harm their families through increased debt, bankruptcy, home foreclosures, divorce, spousal abuse, child abuse and suicide. Casino gambling always does more harm than good to families. This amendment is economic nonsense in a time when we most desperately need sound, sustainable economic policies.

Law enforcement will need increased budgets & manpower to manage higher crime rates.

Nationwide, studies of existing casinos and surrounding communities have consistently found that crime rates increase by 10% each year after a casino opens, including violent

crimes against people. In addition, 40% of all white collar crime is rooted in the gambling industry.

The casino owners do not care about our state or our citizens.

The proponents of Issue 3, just like their predecessors, allege they want to operate casinos in order to help the citizens of Ohio. Nothing could be further from the truth. Their well crafted promises of economic development, jobs and millions in revenue are motivated by greed, not by good will. In reality, they are seeking extravagant profits for themselves and are fear-mongers, not benefactors.

It is bad public policy to allow for-profit casino interests to write their own section of the Ohio Constitution.

Yet, this is precisely what they have done. They wrote the language in the proposed amendment and they paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to gather signatures to place their self-serving proposal on this November's ballot. Their language not only grants them an exclusive monopoly on casino gambling for all time, it also dramatically limits the ability of the Ohio General Assembly to regulate their activities. The amendment specifically prohibits our state government from controlling the days or hours of operation, the size of the bets or even the types of gambling that will be allowed.

The language of the constitutional amendment is frightening and has loopholes.

In fact, the language states these monopolies can inflict on our citizens any type of gambling that is currently allowed in any other adjoining state or any new types of gambling these states may experiment with in the future, including live sports betting. These casino interests even dictated the maximum amount they will pay in taxes and wrote in an amount that is dramatically lower than in some of the surrounding states. Other language in the amendment creates a loophole stipulating they will not pay any taxes when cash is directly used to place the bets.

We understand that the gambling industry is well organized and well funded to exploit the current economic pain and fear experienced by so many Ohioans. Issue 3 is not about jobs. It is about altering the very fabric of our life together. That is why Ohio citizens have voted consistently and overwhelmingly against bringing predatory casino gambling into our communities each of the previous four times this has been on the ballot.

We urge every United Methodist congregation in Ohio to be a public witness against Issue 3. There is no legal prohibition against churches taking a stance on ballot issues. Please join us in this

endeavor as we abide by our Social Principles and live out our Three Simple Rules – Do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God.

Bruce R. Ough, Resident Bishop

Ohio West Area, United Methodist Church
www.westohioumc.org

John L. Hopkins, Resident Bishop

Ohio East Area, United Methodist Church
www.eocumc.com

FUTURE EVENTS TO PLACE IN YOUR CALENDAR

I. Four-Part Series for Pastoral Leaders:

- 1) January 26th, 2010- Visioning with Your Church (Leader- Dennis Mohler)

Place- The Plains UMC

Time- 7:00-8:30 p.m.

- 2) February 16th, 2010- Working with Key Leaders (Leader- Brian Law)

Place- Rolling Plains UMC

Time- 7:00-8:30 p.m.

- 3) March 16th, 2010- Creating an Atmosphere of Discipleship (Leader- Clark Hess Jr.)

Place- Richland UMC

Time- 7:00-8:30 p.m.

- 4) April 20th, 2010- Dealing with Change (Leader- Brent Watson)

Place- Tappers Plains St Paul UMC

Time- 7:00-8:30 p.m.

II. Morning Retreat Time for Supply and Part-time Local Pastors

February 6th, 2010 (Saturday) at the Nelsonville UMC from 9:00 a.m.-noon

We will be discussing three topics:

- 1) Clarifying our Call- Finding Our Confidence in Christ
- 2) The Tyranny of the Urgent-How to grow closer to Christ as we manage our time and focus on our priorities
- 3) Giftedness and Ministry- How can we lead and engage others in ministry.

We will worship, pray and share together in order to encourage one another in ministry.

In case of snow, we will have a make-up date of Feb 13th at the same time and place

JOIN US AT CAMP OTTERBEIN FOR OUR THIRD ANNUAL WINTERCAMP!

WinterCamp successfully served 50 kids last year. With activities like ice blocking, a sled-dragging— human team Iditarod, Winter Festival and winter twists on summer favorites, WinterCamp is a unique opportunity for fun! New this year will be Winter Olympic events and Gingerbread house building. Camp means so much to so many kids every summer and now they get to spend time relaxing, growing in faith and enjoying the outdoor in the winter too!

Camp Otterbein is aware the holidays are essential for families. Yet, after unwrapping the presents and finishing the Christmas meal, what better way to keep the excitement or the season alive than to send your campers to WinterCamp? Please share our joy in new traditions and assist our dreams of enabling kids to access the powerful nature of camping ministry.

Look for WinterCamp registration forms on the Foothills District website.

Amy Matzenbach

Camps & Next Generations Leadership

www.westohiocamps.com

Serving All People for Christian Birth, Growth and Renewal

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

2010 CHURCH ANNIVERSARIES

One of the duties of the Conference Commission on Archives and History is to assist local churches in preserving their records, compiling their history and celebrating their heritage. We do this in partnership with the United Methodist Historical Society of Ohio (UMHSO). Annually, the UMHSO recognizes the Local Church Historian of the Year and churches celebrating significant anniversaries in both the East and West Ohio Conferences. Each conference commission is responsible for gathering nominations for the historian of the year award and the church anniversaries.

The Historian of the Year and the church anniversaries will be recognized at the next annual meeting of the UMHSO on April 24, 2010 at First UMC in Akron Ohio. At that time, the UMHSO will recognize as Historian of the Year for the West Ohio Conference, the person selected and recommended by Commission on Archives and History, and also recognize churches of the conference which are celebrating significant anniversaries – 100, 125, 150, 175, or 200 years.

Please submit nominations for the 2010 West Ohio Historian of the Year and also to notify us if their church is celebrating a significant anniversary?

Nominations for historian, with rationale and supporting material, can be forwarded to me at the address listed below. The names of churches celebrating anniversaries can be sent to the same address or via e-mail (jbarbee001@insight.rr.com).

Thank you for your assistance in the recognition of those who are preserving the history and heritage of their churches.

Each year the United Methodist Historical Society of Ohio (UMHSO) recognizes local churches in the West Ohio Conference which are celebrating significant anniversaries of their founding. The recognition is for churches that are 100, 125, 150, 175 and 200 years old. Those churches celebrating anniversaries will be recognized with a certificate at the UHMSO annual meeting on April 24, 2010 at First UMC in Akron Ohio.

If your church is celebrating one of those anniversaries, please send the information to:

James R. Barbee, Chairman, Commission on Archives and History
2241-C Wesley Way
Reynoldsburg OH 43068

The submission deadline is April 1, 2010. If you need further information, please contact me at 614-322-1010 or jbarbee001@insight.rr.com.

MINISTRY 101 COACHING GROUP

November 9-13, 2009

This coaching opportunity is a designed support system to provide ongoing and sustained learning and coaching for pastors who have good potential for effectiveness, but who for some reason have not gotten fully on track. The basic format of each coaching group will include a one-hour presentation and discussion each month as well as two group coaching calls per month in small groups of 6 to 10 persons. Presentations, discussions, and coaching group sessions will take place by telephone conference. This is a ten-month program with groups starting in August and February each year. This is a program of the Intentional Growth Center, which will grant 2.4 CEU's for completion.

The approach will be to begin with a four-day retreat at Lake Junaluska at the beginning of the program, and then meet for two four-month semesters as a presentation/discussion/coaching group. The design is created to facilitate transformation of personhood as well as the practice of ministry and will be led by Larry Ousley as the coach. Monthly presentations on specific areas of ministry will be made including some outside resources persons who have expertise in the general areas of ministry covered including leadership and management, organizational skills, pastoral care, preaching, visitation, evangelism, worship, spirituality, or other areas of need that are identified.

The cost of the ten-month intensive coaching program is \$1,500 per participant. This covers the tuition for two four-month semesters of presentations and coaching and the retreat of four days.

Some scholarship help is available. Please contact the Intentional Growth Center for more information.

The tuition is figured as follows:

\$150 per month for the 2 x 4 = 8 months of presentations and coaching group sessions = \$1,200

\$75 per day of the retreat (4 x \$75) = \$300

Total = \$1,500

For More Information Please Contact:

The Intentional Growth Center

1-800-482-1442 (toll free)

1-828-452-2881 ext. 720 (local)

intentionalgrowthcenter.orgintentionalgrowthcenter

JOHN WESLEY, NATURAL MAN

Bob Ewbank's book "John Wesley, Natural Man, and the 'Isms'" has been published. The 'Isms' are Heathenism, Judaism, Deism, Roman Catholicism, Quakerism, and Mysticism. The questions being answered are: how do each of them differ from John Wesley's idea of True Christianity, and what are the prospects for those holding these views being saved.

Written for the layperson as well as the scholar, there is a Study Guide in the back of the book to help those who want to use the book for individual as well as group study. The Study Guide has questions in the front, which are answered along with page numbers, later in the Guide.

Bob has a B. A. from Baker University in Baldwin, Kansas and an M.A. from Garrett-Evangelical and work on another M.A. in the Theology of John Wesley.

Bob is currently Lay Leader of St. Mark UMC, in Mobile, AL.

Bishop Rueben P. Job of the United Methodist Church has written some kind words on the back cover.

To find the book go on the internet to:

1. www.wipfandstock.com (Wipf and Stock)
2. On "Advanced Search" found on the left of the page type in "Ewbank" and you will go directly to the book. If you type in "John Wesley" you will be sent to a Wesley page and the book is the third one down.
3. For your information, the book is \$23.00 at bookstores, but at the web site it is only \$18.40
4. The book is now available at Barnes and Noble, Books-a-Million, and Amazon.com among others.

SCIENCE AND FAITH TO BE EXPLORED IN 2010 MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

WILMORE, KY (October 8, 2009) – Ministers are met by questions that may seem a galaxy away from what their training prepared them to expect.

"Can scientists and the Bible both lead us to understand the origins of the cosmos?"

“Can our genetic makeup predispose us to conditions such as depression or alcoholism?”

“How important to the mission of the gospel is acknowledging the beauty of creation and caring for its goodness?”

Asbury Theological Seminary is bringing together a team of scientists, pastors and theologians to help ministers with biblical responses to issues of science and faith. Through this team effort called Q3, pastors, youth workers, counselors, educators and others in full-time ministry will profit from online resources and conference workshops.

The Q3 ministers’ conference, “Ministry Celebrates the Wonders of God’s World,” is March 9-11, 2010, at the Asbury Seminary Wilmore, Kentucky campus. Registration is open.

Conference participants will discuss topics including creation and evolution, God’s providence in the world, and lessons that can be learned for ministry from the historical relationship between science and faith. Dr. Owen Gingrich, Harvard University professor emeritus of astronomy and the history of science, will be keynote speaker.

“Q3 will aid ministers in leading the people they serve to a deeper knowledge of God as Creator and the world as God’s good creation,” said Q3 Director Dr. Michael Pasquarello III, Asbury Seminary Granger E. and Anna A. Fisher professor of preaching. “Ministers can find help in Q3 for evangelistic outreach to people with scientific professions or aptitudes, and pastors to young adults can learn ways to guide those who sense God’s call to prepare for scientific vocations.

“Science can help us,” added Pasquarello, who has studied issues of science and faith for 30 years. “It doesn’t provide all the answers, but it can provide a more up-to-date framework that will give us more knowledge of the creation to work with, that will contribute to making our theology fresh and real for us and those whom we serve. And we can say, ‘Yes, the world is open to God’s work and presence.’”

Q3, funded by a grant from the Templeton Foundation’s Science for Ministry Initiative, is named after the “Questions” it will address on a schedule across the next “3” years. In 2011, Q3 will turn its focus to the nature of human beings as creatures wonderfully and carefully made in God’s image and, in 2012, to the nature of the church as the new creation of God and visible sign of God’s presence in the world.

Registration is \$49 per person before February 1, or \$99 after February 1. For groups of five or more and Asbury Seminary students, registration is \$49 per person. For information and to register, visit aburyseminary.edu/q3, call 877-776-3646 or e-mail ginny.proctor@asburyseminary.edu.

About Asbury Theological Seminary:

With multiple campuses, Asbury Theological Seminary is an interdenominational graduate school of theology committed to teaching the unchanging truth of historic Wesleyan

Christianity through the most dynamic means available. Asbury offers a variety of degrees, including the master of arts, master of divinity, master of theology, doctor of ministry and doctor of philosophy in intercultural studies, biblical studies. Current enrollment nears 1,600 students, representing 94 denominations and 29 countries. For more information, please visit asburyseminary.edu.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT UNITED METHODIST NOMADS?

By Linda Schluer

Having recently returned from the United Methodist Nomads Annual Meeting I find myself energized, excited and committed to this organization of mostly retired couples, and singles, who travel in their RV's (recreational vehicles) to share the love of God by volunteering their time and talent to help others.

With over 1000 members in the organization, over 800 projects have been completed in the past five years. Generally these projects consist of three week periods at a predetermined site doing construction, maintenance, repairs, painting, electrical work, plumbing, cooking, office work, yard work, clothes closet staffing, food banks, or anything else needed by the host agency. The agency, usually a United Methodist church, college, children's home or camping institution, provides parking and hook-ups for our RV's, and each Nomad provides 24 hours of work each of those weeks. Projects are generally scheduled in the southern part of the country in the winter and north in the summer. They also do disaster recovery work and have been a very real presence in the areas devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and those recently flooded in Iowa and Indiana.

We have found Nomads to be a wonderful way to spend our retirement traveling and making new friends while serving God and others. If you, or someone you know, would like to learn more about this United Methodist Mission Volunteer organization we'd love to share with you or your church. Contact Larry and Linda Schluer, (740) 746-9942 or lschluer@dishmail.net.

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