

Footnotes from the Foothills



October 2011

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From Dennis' Desk

This past summer I spent a week in upper Ontario on a fishing trip. We caught and ate a lot of walleye, but one of the images that was the most awe-inspiring happened out on the lake one afternoon. We watched an eagle, perched on top of the highest peak of the tall pine trees take off, glide down to the lake, grab a fish and fly off. How majestic it was to watch this huge bird with a wingspan of 8-10 feet come gliding down toward you – so effortlessly and yet so much in control.

But did you know that the eagle has the longest life-span among birds? It can live up to 70 years. But to reach this age, the eagle must make a hard decision. In its 40's its' long and flexible talons can no longer grab prey which serves as food. It's long, sharp beak becomes bent. Its' old-aged and heavy wings, due to their thick feathers, become stuck to its' chest and make it difficult to fly.

Then, the eagle is left with only two options: Die; or go through a painful process of change which lasts 150 days.

The process requires that the eagle fly to a mountain top and sit on its' nest. There the eagle knocks its' beak against a rock until it plucks it out. After plucking it out, the eagle will wait for a new beak to grow back and then it will pluck out its' talons. When its' new talons grow back, the eagles starts plucking its' old-aged feathers. And after five months, the eagle takes its' famous flight of rebirth and can live for 30 more years.

Many times, in order to survive we have to start a change process. We sometimes need to get rid of old memories, habits, and other past traditions. Only freed from past burdens can we take advantage of the present. This is true for our own lives as well as in the lives of our churches.

Our lives are not determined by what happens to us, but by how we react to what happens. A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events, and outcomes. It is a catalyst, a spark that creates extraordinary results. When it rains, most birds head for shelter, but the eagle is the only bird that, in order to avoid the rain and storms starts flying above the clouds.....

*But they that wait upon the Lord
Shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with wings as eagles;
They shall run, and not be weary;
And they shall walk, and not faint.
Isaiah 40:31*

No wonder God wants us to spread our wings and soar with the eagles...

Dennis

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Churches that average **under 50** persons in worship attendance choose one of the following dates and locations:

October 29th from **9:00-11:30 a.m.** at **The Plains UMC** (3 N Plains Rd, The Plains)

October 30th from **2:00-4:30 p.m.** at **Rolling Plains UMC** (3350 Moxahala Park Rd, Zanesville)

Dr. Dennis Bickers is a bi-vocational pastor who serves Hebron Baptist Church in Southeast Indiana will be our guest presenter. We will learn from his experience in church revitalization.

Churches whose **average attendance is between 50-99** will meet **October 25 at 7:00 p.m. at Athens Richland UMC** and churches assigned to **October 18 at 7:00 p.m. at New Lexington First UMC** (Athens First, Rockland, Frazeyburg, Immanuel, Trinity, New Lex First, Somerset, Tunnel, Central Trinity, Zanesville Grace) will be exploring **“The Heart of Worship”**. We will experience new ways to bring passion and excitement into our worship services.

November 15 Churches: Bremen, Dresden, Gallipolis Grace, Malta, Marietta Christ & Gilman, McArthur, The Plains, New Beginnings/Heath meet at **7:00 p.m. at the Malta UMC** and will be celebrating the **Unbinding the Gospel** with our coaching churches.

Other Churches and their Assigned Dates/Location/Times:

Central Avenue—October 11, 5:30 p.m. Rolling Plains—October 12, 7:00 p.m.

Zanesville Coburn—Oct. 23, 1:00 p.m.

Please bring your completed (and voted on!) Charge Conference forms with you to your appropriate Charge Conference. We will collect them at the beginning of our time together. Forms to be turned in include:

- ◆ Minutes
- ◆ Individualized Charge Conference Form (please include Lay Speaker Reports)
- ◆ Individualized Church Officer Form with corrections/additions
- ◆ 1 Breakthrough Goals Card

We look forward to seeing you at your charge conference and pray that these events will be an encouragement to your church and its ministry!

Bishop Ough is coming to the Foothills District on **December 5th at the New Hope UMC in Logan. Details will be coming so mark your calendar now! This event was postponed from an earlier date.**

Webmaster Needed

The Foothills District is looking for an individual who would be willing to take over the maintenance of the district website. Our current Webmaster is looking to “retire” from this responsibility, but would be willing to show someone the ropes, so to speak.

If you would be interested in volunteering for this task, please contact Brent at the District Office by phone or e-mail.

Celebrating the Smaller Church In Our District

Each year for the last twelve years, Layman UMC has sponsored the CROP Walk in Barlow Ohio. The walk is held in October, and this year it will be October 9 from 1:30 to 3:30PM. The Walk is held at the Barlow Walking Track which is located on the Barlow Fairgrounds. The emphasis of the walk is to come together and demonstrate support for the community and the world. We average around 30 or so walkers and they come in every age and size. For those who are unable to walk, we have a place for them to bring chairs and sit to visit. Their presence provides meaningful support as we follow the path of service to folks around the world. Last year seven local churches joined in this festive affair. If you are in the area on a beautiful October 9th afternoon, stop in at the Barlow Walking Track, and walk a lap.



For more information on CROP Walks and how your church can become involved see next article...

CROP Hunger Walks--We Walk Together

For over 40 years, Church World Service has partnered with the United Methodist Church to host CROP Hunger Walks in Ohio. We appreciate the years of support of your churches walking to end hunger.

The CROP Hunger Walk is the oldest charity walk in the United States and takes place in some 1,500 communities. Throughout the years neighbors of different faiths, cultures and ages have walked together as people of faith in the fight to end hunger.

This year we walk together around the theme of water. Did you know that more than a billion people in the world lack access to clean water and 2.1 million people, most of them children die each year of waterborne disease? The good news is that through the support of CROP Hunger Walkers, Church World Service is able to provide clean, healthy and accessible water to millions of people around the world. One walker who raises \$100 can provide five bio-sand filters giving families the ability to drink their water safely. Now just imagine the difference we make when we walk together!

To get your church involved visit www.cropwalk.org and find the walk nearest to you by clicking on Ohio on the map or by entering your ZIP code. We hope you will join us!

Smaller Church Ideas...Connecting with your Community

Five years ago, Centenary United Methodist Church in Macon, Georgia was on the brink of closing. Its once glorious and vibrant neighborhood had declined, and attendance at worship services had dwindled to 30. Rather than abandon hope, members decided to stay and make Centenary an outpost of Jesus' love in their community.

Today, with more than 200 members, a thriving Centenary United Methodist Church is starting a grocery cooperative, offering on-site computer classes, and partnering with local businesses. Centenary is growing by embracing the community rather than insulating itself from it.

Simplifying Leadership Workshop—October 20

Are you involved in a smaller church? Have you ever been on the Lay Leadership Committee (aka Nominations) at your church? Do you use the same structure for organizing your church that you used years ago when you were larger? Are you merely trying to fill slots with names to satisfy the Conference or District hierarchy? Is there a better way?

A workshop on **“Simplifying and Streamlining Leadership in the Smaller Church”** will be offered on **October 20th** at the Smith Chapel UMC (35121 Smith Chapel Rd, Logan, Ohio) at 7:00 p.m. Pastors and laity in our smaller churches are all invited and encouraged to attend!

Please RSVP and let us know how many will be attending from your congregation by calling the District office at 888-868-1225 or e-mail us at office@foothillsdistrict.org.

National Clergy Appreciation Day - October 9, 2011

While the entire month of October is Clergy Appreciation Month, **National Clergy Appreciation Day** is October 9, recognized annually on the second Sunday of October. This time is set aside for congregations to commit to praying for and encouraging our ministers on a regular basis. **We owe a debt of gratitude to our pastors for giving their time and energy to help us in times of crisis and suffering, and being available to counsel and guide.**

Our pastors are on the front lines to defend our faith and our families, efforts that should not go unrecognized or unappreciated.

What do you have planned for your pastor?



Inviting, Welcoming & Involving Young Adults Workshop—November 13

Have you ever wondered why your smaller church can't attract young adults or young families? Have you pondered what you have to do differently to reach them?

A workshop on **“Inviting, Welcoming and Involving Young adults/Young families in the Smaller Church”** will be offered on **November 13th at 3:30 p.m. at the Moxahala UMC**. Pastors and laity in our smaller churches are all invited and encouraged to attend! Please RSVP and let us know how many will be attending from your congregation by calling the District office at 888-868-1225 or e-mail us at office@foothillsdistrict.org.

We still have several Foothills District T-Shirts available for sale for \$5 each. We have:

- ⇒ 1 small
- ⇒ 2 Medium
- ⇒ 1 X-Lg

If interested please contact the district office at 888-868-1225 or office@foothillsdistrict.org



TIME FOR RENEWAL

Would you like to see the church regain her fire? Would you like to see the Holy Spirit come in new and exciting ways? Do you hunger for a fresh outpouring of power?

THEN DO I HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU!!!

A group of West Ohio clergy and laity have recently returned from the Aldersgate Renewal Ministries National Conference on Spirit-filled Living and they are excited about what God is doing. You are invited to join them for a

Holy Spirit Celebration! **Charismatic Renewal in the United Methodist Church**

October 29 - 6:00 p.m.
at the Sugar Grove UMC
324 East St., Sugar Grove, Ohio 43155

Preaching by: Rev. Dr. Scott Kelso

Nursery and Children's Ministry will be provided for kids 0-10years of age.

ABIDE Comes to the Foothills District!

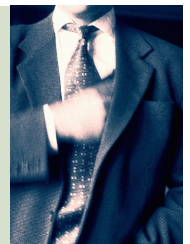
ABIDE, Asbury Theological Seminary, the Lilly Foundation and the Foothills District are partnering together to strengthen and enhance our smaller congregations. We will begin a 14 month journey this January with 20 smaller churches. Each church will choose 3-5 lay people plus their pastor to be on an ABIDE team. A coach will be assigned to help each team (and their church) to become more vital, vibrant and effective in ministry.

This process will begin with an overnight session at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center in Zanesville on January 13-14, 2012.

There is an initial cost of \$200 per church which will be due by October 31, 2011. We have a registration form that needs to be filled out and sent in along with this deposit. An additional \$300 will be due next September although the Lilly Foundation is offering a \$100 scholarship to any church who wants to apply. The Foothills District is also willing to work with any church who wants to register but may have limited funds. Please call the District office ASAP so we know of your interest and can send you a registration form.

If you have any additional questions please call Brent at the District office. We are excited about what God can do in our smaller churches and in our District!

A Frazesburg UMC member has some very good quality suits she needs to give away. She would like to see if there is a need among pastors for them. They are a size 42 regular, and for a man about 5'9". You can contact Pastor Bob Mesnard at 1-740-828-2201 if interested.



Pssst....Want to Know a Secret?

One of the best kept secrets of our Conference appears to be Asbury Camp and Retreat Center in the beautiful Foothills District. It is located approximately 10 minutes from Rio Grande.

The property is 360 acres in size. The landscape is host to numerous hiking trails and an abundance of trees, plants, as well as a lake for fishing and swimming. The location offers the opportunity to explore God's creation in a natural setting. The wooded, rolling and rugged terrain is typical of Gallia County.

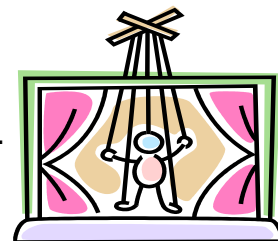
The camp is host to several weeks of United Methodist District camping during the summer as well as work groups (serving as a Base camp), area churches (not just UMC) and group seminars as well as University and Scout Camps. This spacious camp is available to rent throughout the year. We offer a wonderful setting for weddings, retreats, family reunions, church picnics, fishing derbies and the list goes on and on.

For more information or to schedule an event, please see our newly designed website at ... www.camp-asbury.com or contact me, David Young, at 740-245-5392 (H) or 937-935-0562 (C) or by email at pastrday@yahoo.com

You can set up a time to visit the property and by contacting me ahead of time I can insure the doors are unlocked.

Asbury Camp and Retreat Center is operated and maintained by the Foothills and Shawnee Valley Districts of the United Methodist Church, West Ohio Conference.

“Virtuous Reality” Blacklight Theater and Puppetry from Lancaster First UMC will be at **River of Life UMC in Gallia County** on Saturday, **October 22, 2011** at 3:00 p.m. River of Life church is located 0.3 mile from Route 7 on Addison Pike. The address is 35 Hillview Drive, Gallipolis 45631.



Everyone is invited to attend. Food will be provided after the program.

And speaking of puppets....

One Way Street, Inc. will offer training in puppet ministry at their **Puppet Ministry Festival** coming to Columbus on October 14-15, 2011 at the Grove City Nazarene Church, 4770 Hoover Rd., Grove City. For more information or to register online, go to www.onewaystreet.com/festival

You can choose from beginning to advanced workshops for puppeteers, team directors and includes a variety of topics such as gospel illusion, ventriloquism, music, ballooning, children's ministry and leadership. The cost is \$38 per person or \$34 for groups of 6 or more.



West Ohio Conference

Stewardship 101 Developing a Plan to Grow Generous Givers

7:00 pm, Thursday, November 3, 2011

Immanuel UMC, Logan, OH

66 E. Hunter Street

Every church has an opportunity to grow generous stewards with their members and attendees.



Rev. George D. Cooper
Executive Director
Council on Development

However it takes an intentional plan.

- The Need for Growing Generous Stewards
- Brief Biblical Foundation
- Overview Current Giving Patterns
- People want to be Generous but Need Help
- The Long View for Stewardship
- Forming a Local Church Strategy & Suggested Components
- What is the Role of the Finance Committee
- What is the Role of the Pastor

**Every Church is Encouraged to Attend with your Pastor
and Finance/Stewardship persons.**

\$

Also for your calendar--

Growing Generous Givers Consultation

January, 2012

Led by Joseph Bishman and Dennis Mohler

Time-tested principles for a 12-month Stewardship program guaranteed to make a difference in your church!



Cross Your Heart

The Truth about Love, Sex & Dating

**A Foothills District Youth Retreat for Grades 6th-12th
November 11-12, 2011**

I think we can all agree that culture is bombarding our students with the idea that casual sex is OK and should be considered the norm. Just this year alone we have had two Hollywood movies come out -- "Friends with Benefits" and "No Strings Attached", not to mention the television shows that MTV and other networks are pouring into our students' heads. As the church, we know it is our job to combat the messages that society is sending our students with what the Lord has to say in Scripture.

Your youth ministry is invited to a Foothills District Youth Retreat for students in grades 6th-12th. The retreat will be held at Rolling Plains United Methodist Church (3350 Moxahala Park Rd. Zanesville, OH 43701) on Friday, November 11th and Saturday, November 12th. Official start and end times are still being determined and will be available soon. The retreat will focus on combating societal messages on casual sex and dating.

Friday night topics include the following...

- Acquiring the Language
- Sex Is Everywhere
- Whose Idea Was This?
- What About Homosexuality?
- Why Wait?

Saturday's topics will focus on the following...

- To Date Or Not To Date?
- What is Sexy?
- Will You Go Out With Me?
- What Makes a Good Date?
- Dating Non-Christians
- Intimacy vs. Sex
- Breaking Up
- When Is It Sex?
- Boundaries/Lust
- How To Say "NO"
- Ways To Say "I Love You"

The "Cross Your Heart" retreat will end on Saturday Evening with a concert by a Christian Band. Meals Included: Friday-Dinner and Snack. Saturday-Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Cost: **\$10.00 per student** (this is to help offset expenses and should not deter anyone from attending, so please let us know if scholarships are needed) And includes: materials, lodging at the church, food, t-shirt & concert

Registration Due: No later than November 1st

Questions regarding the retreat can be directed to Lonnie Maley at Rolling Plains UMC 740-453-4192 or Amanda Weirick at Dresden UMC 740-754-3601

**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

Smaller Church Leadership Conference - Mark Your Calendars -
March 24th (10:00 am to 3:00 pm) All Pastors and Laity in Smaller churches are
invited! Details will be coming!

**RETREAT for Supply pastors/Part-Time Local Pastors and Any Lay Person
who is thinking about being a Pastor someday** - We are holding a retreat
just for you! March 24th (begins at 3:30 pm) and 25th (ends at 11:30 am) at the
Burr Oak Lodge and Conference Center. Details will be coming!

Are You Looking for Pews?

Zanesville Faith UMC has approximately 15 pews that are needing to find a
home for...we are asking \$100.00 a pew. They are white oak in great condi-
tion. We also have a matching podium, if anyone would be interested in that as
well.

If anyone is interested they can call Faith at 740.453.7988 or email
pnancyzanesville@gmail.com



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

Todd Hines, Lay Leader-layleader@foothillsdistrict.org

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

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