



Footlights of the Foothills District

Volume 5, Issue 7
September 2008

From Dennis' Desk

There is a theory about the end of the world that goes something like this: God is not ending the world in one shot. Instead, he is ending the world gradually by subtracting a second from each day. So, every day is a little shorter than the one before. We do not realize this, however, because (according to this theory) clocks and calendars adjust themselves automatically to the new time. The only thing we know is that we are running faster and finding it harder to keep up.

Years ago, I had plenty of time to work in my shop, relax, or to read. But I rarely have time for those things today. What is going on? Am I slowly losing seconds each day along with my hair?

We are busy, everyone is busy, and with trying to get all unpacked, meet with all of the Foothill's pastors, and try to keep up with all of the other church happenings- it is just plain tiring! It is as if I am always trying to catch up and recuperate. Throw in various church meetings, counseling appointments, and other responsibilities, and there is not a whole lot of time left in the week.

Life takes on a frantic, hurried, and harried pace, when it seems like we never quite get caught up. No wonder I struggle with my spiritual life. I want to get closer and closer to God, but sometimes it is just so hard to "take time to be holy"- especially while I am adjusting to not having a church family of my own anymore that keeps me plugged in.

I think there is a direct relationship between busyness and spiritual dryness. Whenever I am feeling far from God and spiritually empty, I usually have to look no farther than my things-to-do list to find the reason. In most cases, I have simply crowded God out of my life for that week.

Time is, and probably always will be, a struggle. But especially in a fast-forward kind of life, we need to be taking time to stop and listen to the still, small voice of God. But for now, I thank God that I do have 24 hours in a day, in which I can glorify him in all that I do and to enjoy the time that I do have in serving Him.

I hope you get time to relax and take in the last of the summer. It is worth taking the time to hear God continue to speak to us from time to time.

Blessings, Dennis

Pre-Charge Conference Briefing – Last Chance!

Sunday, September 7 at 2:00 p.m. at the Foothills District Office will be the last opportunity to attend a briefing. Charge Conferences are taking on a whole new format this year and if you have not attended a briefing, you will not be prepared. Every person serving a church, whether full time or part time pastor, Elder or Supply, **is expected to have attended one of the briefings**. The briefing is also open to any church staff member or other laity who are responsible for the charge conference paperwork.

Charge Conference forms are posted on the Foothills District website at www.foothillsdistrict.org. Please print these out and bring with you to the Pre-Charge Conference Briefing. Your CC Officer form will be distributed at the briefing along with other relevant material.

Bishop Ough to Engage Foothills Congregations in Conversation

Bishop Bruce Ough will be engaging pastors and the lay leadership of the Foothills District churches in a time of listening and dialogue this fall. The discussion will center around how our congregations can reflect the vitality and fruit of the early church.

There will be three opportunities to meet and talk with the Bishop on **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5:**

**1:30 p.m. at Rockland UMC in Belpre 4:00 p.m. at Richland UMC in Athens
7:00 p.m. at Rolling Plains in Zanesville**

The visit will also provide the setting where Bishop Ough can share his thoughts about how we continue to grow into a “Love First” Conference through 4 areas of missional focus. What is God calling us to be and do? How do we faithfully and fruitfully accomplish the mission of Jesus Christ?

The meetings are open to everyone – pastors and laity. Put this date on your calendar! There is an event near you so plan to be part of this important conversation!

Lay Speaking Reports

Lay Speaking reports have been mailed to all Local Church and Certified Lay Speakers. These reports are to be completed and turned in to the Charge Conference for the individual’s continued recommendation. If you are a lay speaker and did not receive a report form in the mail, please contact the District Office prior to your Charge Conference.

Advanced LS Class on “Caring For The Dying”

Calling all Lay Speakers! The Fall opportunity for Certified Lay Speakers who need a class for recertification or for Local Lay Speakers who wish to become certified will be held on November 7 & 8 at The River Of Life UM Church in Addison, Ohio in Gallia

County. Presenter is Nancy Smith, retired RN who worked as a Patient Advocate, supporting families in crisis.
Cost is \$10 and includes lunch and a continental breakfast.

In order to participate in this class, you must have completed Basic Lay Speaking. Registration forms have been sent to all current Lay Speakers. Registration deadline is Oct. 27.

Golf Outing – October 7

The annual Foothills District Golf Outing is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 7 at the Eagle Sticks Golf Club in Zanesville. Gathering begins at 9:00 a.m. with tee off at 9:30 a.m. The fee is \$37 including cart.

Registrations forms may be obtained on the district website at www.foothillsdistrict.org under "Events".

Registration deadline with is Sept. 26. We would appreciate your cooperation in observing that date!

MAD/FOS Day Event – Cornhole Tournament

The Make A Difference (MAD) day for the annual Festival of Sharing will be Saturday, September 27 at The Plains UM Church. The truck will be on hand to load school, health and baby kits starting at 9:00 a.m. to transport these to the Festival of Sharing in Oct. 4 at Otterbein College.

In addition to the district cornhole show-down between Foothills and Shawnee Valley staff, churches can put together a team to participate in the tournament that will start at 9:30 a.m. Entry fee is \$20 to benefit the FOS. Pastors have received this information along with team registration forms, so get your team together and get that information and fee to us as soon as possible.

The West Ohio Conference Festival of Sharing (FOS) event at Otterbein College will be October 4. At this event we will be gathering a "Mile of Quarters". Each church is to gather "One Yard" [36 quarters] at a time. How many yards of quarters will the churches in our districts bring? This project is to benefit the hungry in West Ohio. The conference goal is \$15,840.00 which is to be divided between, "Hunger Network in Ohio and the Society of St Andrew." Pray on what your church can do to help reach the goal.

If you have questions about either the district or conference events, please talk with the Festival Of Sharing Coordinator in your church.

Charge Conferences to Celebrate Ministry!

At our Charge Conference Gatherings we will be celebrating the ministries that are happening in your area. We want to focus on those ministries that are making a difference in your communities.

We encourage you to think of your own local church's ministries as well as ministries you are involved in that include other churches/believers in the Body of Christ. We want to celebrate the impact we are making for the Kingdom of God and the ways in which we are ministering to those outside the fellowship of our churches.

We invite you to send us pictures and descriptions of those ministries so that we can put them into a power point presentation. We would prefer that you send us digital pictures via email or mail us a disc of photos with a description of the event(s). As a last resort, snapshots that we can scan and send back to you. Please send them to us at least two weeks prior to your Charge Conference date.

We look forward to worshipping together at Charge Conference. We serve a good and faithful God!

Camp Otterbein Trail Blazer 2008- Sept. 13

Be a part of camp history and join them for their First Annual Fall Fundraiser! All contributions will go toward continued improvements to YOUR Camp Otterbein! You may participate by competing in the 5K Trail Blazer Run, a Chili Cook-Off or a Disc Golf Tournament – or you can just watch! For more information go to the WOC website at www.wocumc.org.

Editor Needed

The Foothills District is looking for a creative, computer literate person to put together our newsletter once a month. There will be no meetings, no need to travel. Everything will be handled via the internet!

You do not need to be a writer - we will send you all the “stuff” and in the convenience of your own home you can create our electronic newsletter. You will then return the completed version to us via email so that we can put a link on our website. We just need someone to make it look good (as well as us!). We will be sure to give credit where credit is due.

The one thing you will need is Microsoft Word and a working knowledge of it. So please let us know if you are willing to be involved in helping us communicate with people throughout SE Ohio. We need you!

Thanks! Sherri, Merv, Dennis & Brent

Outdoor Enthusiasts

I am looking for other pastors or lay people who would like to canoe, kayak, camp or go backpacking together. We might even read a book before our “adventure” to promote our sharing together while we hike and/or paddle. If you love the out-of-doors and would like to get away every now and then (once a year, twice a year) please email or call me at the District office.

Thanks! --Brent Watson

CARE Looking for Director

The C.A.R.E Outreach in McArthur is looking for a volunteer director to oversee this ministry in Vinton County. If interested please call Walt Goble at 740-596-2749.

Mission and Evangelism Institute at MTSO

(Oct. 12 - 14): "Offering Christ in a Multi-Religious World"

This year's Institute will focus on presenting Jesus in multi-religious societies of the 21st century with authenticity, sensitivity, and humility. The keynote speaker, Dr. Ajith Fernando, is a noted Methodist theologian and the author of 13 books published in 13 languages. He has been national director of Youth for Christ in war-torn Sri Lanka since 1976, living his entire life among people of other faiths. Rev. Jeff Marian, lead pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Burnsville, Minn., will also present seminars. For more information, please visit www.mtso.edu or contact Dr. Joon-Sik Park at jpark@mtso.edu or 740-362-3367. For a registration form contact the District Office.



Missionary to Speak in Gallia County

Missionary Beth Ferrell is scheduled to speak at River of Life U. M. Church on Thursday, October 16, 2008.

There will be a carry-in dinner at 6:30 p.m. with her presentation at 7:30 p.m. All churches and UMW's welcome!

Beth, a native of Belmont Ridge, Ohio, is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church currently serving as Mission-Interpreter-in-Residence (MIIR) in the North Central Jurisdiction (Midwest). From 2001-2005 Beth was assigned to Sierra Leone to assist in re-establishing Manjama United Methodist Health Center.

Beth shares a thought on her experiences, **"I never want to forget those I lived and worked with in Sierra Leone and Mozambique –the**

dire circumstances of their day-to-day struggle to survive. Nor do I want to lose the capacity to use what God has blessed me with to help them. May God grant me the ability to convey what I have experienced and learned with those who have not been privileged to go to other lands.

Beth is available for Covenant Relationship support in Desert Southwest Annual Conference, East Ohio Annual Conference, Southwest Texas Annual Conference, West Ohio Annual Conference.

Preparing to Vote NO – Casino Gambling in Ohio

As many of you are aware, the Social Principles of the UM Church oppose gambling, in all its forms, because of the effects it has on our society and the church continues to campaign against casino gambling as the latest threat emerges. "The Casino Act" is the most recent attempt to legalize gambling in Ohio is coming in the form of a constitutional amendment that would allow a monopoly for commercial casinos in Ohio and it is proposed for the November 4 ballot. The UM Church has been instrumental in defeating such amendments 3 times in recent years.

Once again the UM anti-Gambling Task Force is at work! The West Ohio Conference website has a variety of materials available for your church, women/men's groups, youth groups at www.wocumc.org. There you will find excerpts from Resolution #203 that explains the Biblical foundation for understanding our stance on gambling, a Community Impact Fact Sheet, Fact sheet on the Proposed Amendment, the full text of the Amendment petition as well as resources on how to contact your representatives and legislators as well as other informative and helpful information. Check it out and share what you learn with your congregation! You may also take a look at www.ccv.org/gambling.aspx to investigate the multitude of studies of the effects of casino gambling on communities regarding crime, poverty, families, etc.

Town & Country Ministry Consultation

St. Paul School of Theology will host this event on October 6-8, 2008 in Kansas City, MO. Participants will learn: How to address the challenges of rural poverty, How to expand the reach of rural congregations and How to care for immigrants. Come learn creative, caring practices. For more information call 816-245-4815 or e-mail institute@spst.edu or to register online go to www.spst.edu.

UTS – Pohly Center Course

For laity and pastors in roles of leadership in the church. This course will provide a foundation in good Christian leadership practice.

Subject matter will include: How God Has Created Me; The Character of a Leader; Spiritual Formation of a Leader; Leadership Qualities; Leadership Styles; a Vision of the Church

Participants will be given the tools to better discern God's vision for themselves and their church. They will develop an understanding of good Christian leadership practice, a clear vision of how God has equipped them for ministry, and the confidence to act on God's vision and calling as they discern them.

Dates: October 17-18 and November 14-15, 2008

Times: Fridays: 1:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturdays: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: The Pohly Meetinghouse at United Theological Seminary

Presenter: Rev. Ed Wilder - Advanced training in leadership, spiritual direction and pastoral care, 30 years in ministry

30 contact hours (can count toward Roots and Wings certification)

Cost: \$300 includes books, and meals - Scholarships available

Sending teams of two or more is highly recommended.

To register: Call 937-529-2381 or contact cslf@united.edu

Registration deadline October 8

Good Works Fast From Shelter

The community of Good Works is organizing another **FAST FROM SHELTER**. We will be camping out (in tents) inside the city of Athens all day September 5, 6 & 7 (Friday-Sunday). We will be there drawing attention to our friends who are really struggling with poverty and homelessness and the increased costs of housing, utilities, gas, food and medical care. I invite you to join us for some or all of this weekend.

OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE IS:

1. TO LEARN AND BETTER UNDERSTAND the situation that people are facing who are living in poverty and homelessness. We intend to spend time in the study of scripture, in song and in conversation with one another around these issues.
2. TO DRAW THE ATTENTION of our community to the increasingly difficult situations that our friends who live in poverty face. We are working locally with our friends from different agencies and organizations, and we would welcome your involvement and support.

The events will take place on East State Street near the Route 33 bridge across from Applebee's. We have permission to camp out there, and we will be inviting current and former homeless residents of our shelter (The Timothy House) to join our staff and volunteers. We have set aside some special times for singing, sharing and prayer, and we would encourage you to join us. Please drop by anytime, visit at one of the times listed below or camp with us! Children are welcome if they are with their parents or guardians.

SCHEDULE - (Good Works staff and volunteers will be present all day and night from 6:00 pm Friday, September 5th through Sunday evening, September 7th)

Friday September 5

7:00 pm - Gathering for prayer, song, the study of scripture and sharing

Saturday, September 6

10:00 am - Gathering for prayer, song, the study of scripture and sharing

7:00 pm - Gathering for prayer, song, the study of scripture and sharing

Sunday September 7

10:00 am - Gathering for prayer, song, the study of scripture and sharing

7:00 pm - Gathering for prayer, song, the study of scripture and sharing

We hope that you will visit for our special times of prayer and sharing and consider camping with us. If you would like more information and details about camping with us, please e-mail Keith at goodworks@good-works.net or call 740.594.9000

Parking is available at the Children's Services parking lot behind the camp site, but you may need some guidance to find it. We will also have access to a bathroom during the weekend. If you would like to join us for meals, (or want to bring something to share), you are welcome. We are not fasting from food; only from shelter.

Love is a verb, Keith Wasserman

Society of St. Andrew - Harvest of Hope Fall Events

As summer winds down, we at Harvest of Hope start looking forward to our fall events. There are 5 weekend events lined up for intergenerational groups and college/young adult groups, and there's still space for your team to join in on the fun!

Fall Schedule 2008:

September 26-28 Fincastle, VA Intergenerational -- FULL
October 3-5 Keezletown, VA College/Young Adult -- STILL OPEN!!
October 10-12 Milroy, PA Intergenerational -- STILL OPEN!!
October 24-26 Dahlonga, GA Intergenerational -- STILL OPEN!!
November 7-9 Johns Island, SC Intergenerational -- STILL OPEN!!

Don't miss out on the Harvest of Hope event near you. Answer God's call to feed the hungry! Contact me for more info. at 800-333-4597, or at sosahoh@endhunger.org. Also, check out the Society of St. Andrew's website for a team application (www.endhunger.org).

Here's the statistics for what SOSA has done so far in 2008:

For Period: January 1 – July 31, 2008

Total Pounds Saved: 11,832,445

Total Gleaning Network Pounds: 6,991,217

Total Potato Project Pounds: 4,841,228

Total Servings Provided: 35,497,335 (*one pound of produce equals approx. 3 servings*)

Gleaning & Potato Project Events: 1,512

Volunteers: 16,149

Historical total lbs. / servings saved & distributed by SoSA 1983 to date: 555.7 Million pounds / 1.667 Billion servings

Admin. & Fundraising Overhead: 9.6% (*Over 90¢ of every dollar provides food for the hungry*)

Cost per lb. of food saved: About 8¢

Cost per serving provided: About 2¢

SoSA has saved a total of 555,690,960 pounds of fresh, nutritious food that would have gone to waste. It was distributed to the hungry throughout America, providing 1.667 BILLION servings!

Training Event with Tom Bandy

On Monday, September 29, the Capitol Area South District will offer a one day training event with noted church consultant and author, the Rev. Tom Bandy. The event will be held from 9:00 to 4:00 pm, at the Reynoldsburg UM Church, 1636 Graham Rd, Reynoldsburg. Tom will address the topic of "Church Transformation for Timid Churches" in the workshop.

Registration for the event is \$5.00 to cover the cost of the event. Individuals as well as teams of persons from local congregations are invited to share in the day. The deadline for registrations is Monday, September 22. Please register through the Capitol Area South District, 2929 Kenny Rd, Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43221. For more information please contact Jim Waugh in the CAS office: jwaugh@wocumc.org.

Strength for Today...Bright Hope for Tomorrow

Annually throughout the West Ohio Conference we invite and encourage our local churches to collect a special offering for *Strength for Today...Bright Hope for Tomorrow* to benefit our Regional Ministry Funds. We suggest **September 21** as the date of the special offering but understand you might choose a different date in September to better accommodate your schedule.

All materials for this special offering have been posted on the conference web site at www.westohioumc.org. The materials are located under the COD tab and then under Strength for Today Campaign. If you have any inconvenience obtaining the materials or need any assistance of any kind, please email Darlene Krick at dkrick@wocumc.org or give Darlene a call at 614.844.6200 extension 224.

Renewed energy is developing around this initiative and we sincerely appreciate your continued generous support through this special offering. To date through May 2008 your efforts of faithfulness throughout the entire conference have raised over \$37 million in pledges and gifts.

Sincerely,
Dean Cole
West Ohio Conference
Council on Development
Capital Funds Developer

Do You have a Student at BGSU?

Last year two United Methodist churches in Bowling Green created a new campus ministry for Bowling Green State University. The mission statement of the **United Methodist Student Organization** (UMSO) is to *Share the light and love of Christ with the BGSU community through discipleship, fellowship and a community-based faith.* During the past year, we experienced God's blessing in the number of students that we were in contact with and appreciated the ministry we shared.

If you have students at BGSU we would love to have their names and contact information to make sure they are aware of our ministry. Please contact Becky at the information below.

UMSO provides Sunday school classes at the two churches within walking distance of campus, in addition to hosting fellowship and service opportunities, and alternate spring break mission trips. UMSO also holds weekly Bible Studies and large group meetings on campus. Please check out our web-site at www.bgsu.edu/studentlife/organizations/umsu.

Please contact Pastor Becky Schofield for further questions or inquiries at 419-353-0682 or e-mail her at www.revschoie@gmail.com.

S.O.W.E.R.

Sharing Our Witness – Enriching Relationships
Sowing the Seeds of Christian Love in Southeast Kentucky

We wish to thank the Churches of the West Ohio Conference for their support of the SOWER project in 2008 with your prayers, financial assistance and volunteers.

With the completion of house #9, planning is underway for house number 10 in '09. The VIM Project needs to get at least the majority of the approximately \$36,000 it costs for materials pledged before a late January 2009 to be able to commit to building this next house. The SOWER VIM Leadership Team is requesting that the churches of West Ohio prayerfully consider supporting this worthwhile project financially with a pledge of support prior to the January '09 decision time.

Build weeks have been put on the Henderson Settlement schedule in May, July, and August of 2009.

Please send all pledges (any checks should be made out to the West Ohio Conference UMC), volunteer registrations or questions to:

Ralph & Carolyn Brandon
SOWER VIM Team Leaders
231 McMillen Dr.
Newark, Oh 43055
740-344-5581
SOWER@wocumc.org

Build Schedule for S.O.W.E.R. 2009

Week 1 - May 3 - 9 Frame shell
Week 2 - May 10 - 16 Roofing, interior walls, exterior doors, windows, siding
Week 3 - July 12 – 18 Install insulation and drywall, finish siding & soffit
Week 4 - July 19 - 25 Finish drywall & paint, install porch railing
Week 5 - August 9 - 15 Finish interior trim, install underlayment, and flooring
Week 6 - August 16 – 22 Install interior doors, trim, and kitchen cabinets

For registration forms to volunteer or for answers to frequently asked questions, please contact the district office.

VIM Opportunity in Cambodia

Volunteers In Mission (VIM) will travel to Cambodia in January of 2009. The purpose will be to train local pastors and lay leaders to conduct Bible studies in their own congregations. The many Christians in Cambodia are babes in the faith and are eager to learn more about God's Word. Cost is approximately \$2,850 and includes round-trip air fare, ground transportation, hotel, taxes and meals. A \$285 registration fee must accompany registration and is due by Sept. 10, 2008. For more information contact Nancy and Steve Layton at 513-576-6191 or by email at Layton@fuse.net.

Extraordinary Women Conference in Columbus!

"Discovering God's Dream" is the focus of the Extraordinary Women's Conference to be held October 24-25, 2008 at the Grove City Church of the Nazarene. Early bird pricing is effective through Sept. 5. Individual tickets are \$49, groups of 10+ are \$39. After Sept. 5 prices are \$59 and \$49 respectively. Tickets at the door are \$69. Conference presenters are Lisa Whelchel, Thelma Wells, Julie Clinton, Karen Kingsbury, Chonda Pierce, Richie McDonald, Charles Billingsley and Mark Schultz.

Register online at www.ewomen.net or phone 1-800-526-8673.

Emmaus Communities:

Southern Ohio

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

Fall 2008 Walks:

Women: September 25-28 Men: October 9-12

Walks held at Crossroads Camp in Parkersburg, West Virginia

ITEMS FOR SALE FROM CROOKSVILLE NEW HOPE U.M. CHURCH

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE FOR SALE FROM NEW HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CROOKSVILLE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ITEMS, PLEASE CALL FIRST HOPE UNITED METHODIST (982-4846) or notify by e-mail umcraz@aol.com

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>NEW COST</u>	<u>USED</u>	<u>OUR COST</u>
Brass Candelabras	\$2055. each		\$500. Each
Lamp	25.00		10.00
Communion Server	149.91		40.00
Offering Plates	37.00		15.00 each
Kneeling pads	15.00 each		40.00/all
Stands			30.00 each
Altar Rail			50.00
Cross	286.00	243.00	75.00
Bible and Stand	300.00		100.00
2 Flower Vases	445.00	375.00	100.00
Altar	1400.00		350.00
Pulpit	1600.00		400.00
Chairs	450.00 each		100.00 each
Altar Cloths	350.00	300.00	100.00

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

Every Church a Mission Station • Every Community a Mission Field