



Three Rivers Current

A Publication of the Three Rivers District
Union of the United Methodist Church



Issue IV, Vol. 8

July/August 2010



¹³Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

James 5: 13-16

As I was growing up, from the age of 5 to 18, I have had my right arm broken, my nose broken, my left arm broken, my right arm broken (again), had a concussion, and my pelvic bone broken. (It is a wonder my parents were not brought up on child abuse charges). But it mostly was because of my clumsiness around the farm that I fell off hay wagons, got a baseball bat in my nose, fell down a hill, fell on a basketball court, and had the tractor run over me. Amazingly so, every time my bones healed! The body is an amazing thing, and somehow, through some Power it heals. Some people think that that power is within the body itself... but I still feel and know that it is a God-given power. Healing continues to take place in the body through an amazing, miraculous, and yet still full unexplainable power.



Our theme for Annual Conference was “Hope and Healing” and I truly felt the Spirit of God moving during our week at Lakeside to provide that hope and healing in our midst... in our lives, in our world, in our churches, and in our conference. As the body of Christ, we have that Power of God moving and working through us to bring about the hope and healing we need in this world. At conference we had the opportunity to bring about hope and healing within our churches and our own lives as we took that time of confession and repentance. If God can bring healing to my physical body, oh what I believe God can do for the spiritual body and work of the body of Christ.

Jesus was in the healing business and we as a church must continue that healing work. We have an opportunity to help bring hope and healing to a world of brokenness, pain, and suffering. As ministers of the faith we can offer the Word of God and the Hope it brings to the entire world. May God’s healing power work through each of you and our churches to bring about that Hope and Healing for all.

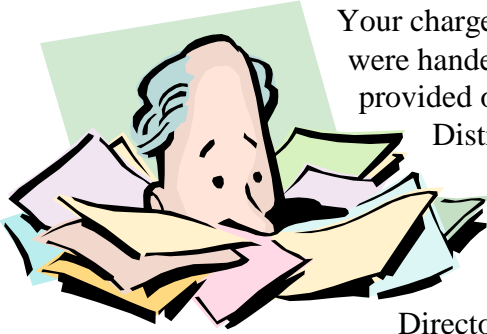
In Christ’s ministry together,

Jim

Please be in prayer for healing for the following concerns on our district:

- Dennis Marikis (spouse of Rev. Denise Marikis, Gay Street) recovering from hip replacement surgery
- Dr. Larry Houck (Wesley Chapel) radiation and chemotherapy
- Rev. Dean McElroy (retired) in Zanesville Good Samaritan Hospital (has been in Coshocton Extended Care Facility)
- Gail Applebee (administrative assistant) going to Columbus for back surgery the second week in July

2010-2011 Charge Conference Information



Your charge conference materials, schedule, district directories and other information were handed out at Annual Conference. This year the charge conference **forms** are provided on CD's. If you have difficulty with the files on the CD, please call the District Office. We hope to have the forms posted to our website very soon.

Rev. Humphrey distributed the packets during Annual Conference. If you have difficulty with the schedule, please try to work it out.

Please check your information and your church information in the Directory. If you find an error, please let us know about it! We can't correct it if we don't know about it!

Rev. Humphrey expects all paperwork in on time. All pastor & PPR paperwork is due in this office **one week prior** to the pastor's consultation with the D.S. Pastors will also be asked to attend the PPR meeting with the D.S.

Please be sure the PPR Committee begins working on the new "CFC" (Continuing Formation of Clergy) form. There are statistics and other information that will need to be collected. Churches have also been challenged to do some work with www.missioninsite.com and be prepared to present a strategic plan and goals in reaching a specific target group or mosaic. Contact Rev. Humphrey if you need assistance.

On Wednesday, August 18th, Rev. Humphrey will be having a Charge Conference orientation. All pastors, administrative assistants, treasurers, and/or PPR chairpersons are invited to attend either of the sessions that will be held at 10 a.m. (at Canal Lewisville UMC) or 7 p.m. (at Howard UMC) for a time of explanation of the charge conference forms and expectations.

Three Rivers District Clergy & Family Outing



On Thursday evening August 26th the District Clergy (active and retired) and their families are invited to join us on a special outing and then a meal. We will be taking a one hour boat ride on the Zanesville Sternwheeler. Boat will leave promptly at 5 p.m.

The boat ride is a gift from the district superintendent. Following the boat ride, a dinner will be prepared at the Adamsville United Methodist Church at 6:30 p.m. Donations will be received to cover the costs of the meal. We want to especially welcome all our new pastors and families on the district. So, please mark your calendars for August 26th and come and join us! **Reservations** are needed into the District office by **August 17th!** Directions will be sent once we have received your reservations. We'll see you there!

TEXT BOOKS NEEDED:

Pastors, do you have seminary textbooks sitting around your office? Why not donate them to be used in Africa? The Liberia mission team who went to Africa in January visited the Gbarnga Theological School and they are in need of theological, biblical, and pastoral care textbooks to provide for their seminary students. In fact, old United Methodist Disciplines are very usable, for they have the UM Doctrine and Theological Task in the front part of the book. Preparations are in the works for a container to be sent over to Liberia in the months ahead. If you would have some textbooks you would like to donate, contact Michael Simmons (from the Utica Church) at simmons233@gmail.com

RETHINK CHURCH

We want to highlight churches and ministries on our district that are “Rethinking Church”... to provide ideas and motivation for NEW ways and opportunities for ministry. Here are still some of the reflections from our Spring District Conference “Celebration of Mission and Ministry”:

Fresno – (Pastor Mary Owen) has developed a mission and ministry called, “Martha’s Cupboard”. On the third Saturday of the month it is open to provide personal hygiene and cleaning items for those in need. Also on the same Saturday, a pancake breakfast (for donation) is held to help fund the cupboard.

Coshocton Area Churches went together and took out a full page ad in the local weekly paper. Ten churches participated in promoting their various summer vacation bible schools and ice cream socials to reach out to the community. This is part of the “branding” program getting the word out about who we are as United Methodists in the Coshocton area.

Trinway and Prospect Churches – (Pastor Sharon Williamson) met for an Old Fashioned Church Picnic and Worship service at the home of Irene Rowe, a member of the Prospect UMC. Around 80 people enjoyed the day that started with a traditional church service inside the home including singing of hymns, sermon and special music presentation. A carry-in potluck lunch was enjoyed after the service with meat and drinks generously furnished by the host family. Following the potluck lunch, Irene and her family arranged for live gospel music inside her home and outside in the garage to accommodate all, a hay wagon ride, corn hole games and a clown to entertain the children. A flyer was passed out before the event and the community was invited to join the churches... many taking advantage of the opportunity. A fun day for young and old, a chance to relax and enjoy each other’s company instead of hurrying out the door after church service.

Waterford - (Pastor Brian Hassel) has developed a ministry called, “Delay the Disease.” This is a support and exercise group for Parkinson’s patients. This group provides an exercise program to help offset the effects of Parkinson’s on the body. Additionally it is a support component that helps the patients help one another with their struggles emotionally.

Hopewell - (Pastor Michael Padula) has a Biblical Religion 101 and UMC 101 class that educates church members and Sunday “attenders” on biblical religion and United Methodist theology, equipping them to build Christ centered ministries instead of “social centered” clubs.

Coshocton Grace - (Revs. Jan Coffman and Craig Redecker) are excited about their Hearing Impaired Ministry. It is part of the Wednesday night Cross Training, intergenerational mid-week service. “H.I.M.” continues on throughout the year. They are praying about starting their own church service within the church.

Conesville - (Pastor Joy Blaney) started a Senior Adult Ministry in March serving lunch to 34 people. When they had their last luncheon in May, before summer break, they had 54 people.



Do you have some exciting, new or innovative ministry to share? Send it to the DS or the District Office as we want to share various stories of how we ReThink Church. It's always great to share and borrow other churches' great ideas!

Annual Conference Figures:

- 1507 members in attendance (741 clergy and 766 laity).
- Over 5700 health kits were donated to the Mid-West Distribution Center along with 478 Cleaning/Flood Buckets, 600 other kits and misc., and \$3,574 in monetary donations.
- Three Rivers District gave the largest amount per district toward the Bishop's 3C's Challenge offering of \$5,768.26. Total offering for 3C's (Churches, Clinics, and Classrooms) was \$39,906.74.
- The Annual Conference offering collected \$7,562.75 and was split in three ways:
 1. Bishop's Discretionary Fund
 2. Global Health Issues
 3. Conference Health Issues
- The Cabinet and Youth Challenge of the "Holy Healthy Hoover Relay" brought in \$1,175.56 for Youth Service Fund (YSF).
- After maintaining a flat budget for the last six years, the conference approved a \$12, 168,020 budget for 2011, a **decrease** of 3 percent.
- Membership stands at 163,815 down 2.9 percent over the previous year while worship attendance stands at 66,799 *up* 4% over the previous year.

Nashville TN VIM – August 8-13, 2010

Three Rivers District is planning a Volunteer In Missions (VIM) work team to go to Nashville, Tennessee to help in the cleanup and repair efforts following the spring flooding in the area. Three Rivers District VIM coordinator, John Hill, is planning the trip. Presently we have at least a dozen persons planning to go, and we can take more. We are working with the UM Disaster Response of the TN Conference. Cost, travel, jobs, and details are being arranged. We will be probably be staying in a church and working to repair homes of persons affected by the flood. If you are interested in going, please contact the district office, or John Hill directly at his email, keenebounder@roadrunner.com

The Amity UM Church thanks all those individuals and churches who contributed toward their goal of collecting 1000 sheet sets to deliver to TN Flood area. They were able to collect over 250 which they were delivering to the disaster area just outside Nashville to Ashland City, TN at the end of June.

Cuba Mission Postponed

Disappointingly, the Three Rivers Mission trip to Cuba has been postponed. The team of 20 members was supposed to leave on Tuesday, June 29 and return on July 8, but they were denied their visas by the Cuban government. Chasity Opphile, Cuba mission team coordinator, hopes to be able to reschedule the mission trip by organizing the team in smaller numbers and differing future dates.

School of Christian Mission: July 16-18

The UMW sponsors the School of Christian Mission at the University of Mount Union. The One-Day Sampler is held July 16 and/or the School of Christian Mission Event to be held July 16-18. Our District Superintendent is on the faculty and will be teaching a class on "Joy to the World: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity". Canal District Superintendent, Valerie Stultz will also be teaching the bible study on the Epistles of John. For further information and to register, go to the website: www.gbmg-umc.org/eastohioumw/scmadult.pdf

Three Rivers District VIM to Haiti - February, 2011

We are presently making plans for a cooperative Three Rivers District and Southern Hills District VIM trip to Haiti in February 2011. Much is needed to be done in this area and teams are currently being sent for rebuilding. If you are interested, please contact the Three Rivers District Office at 3riversdist@sbcglobal.net or our District VIM Coordinator, John Hill at keenebounder@roadrunner.com

Coming Events:

July

7/5 Independence Day – Office closed

August

8/18 Charge Conference Orientation sessions

8/26 Clergy Family Gathering

September

Consultations and Charge Conferences begin!

December

12/2 District Clergy Christmas Party (tentative)

DOES YOUR CHURCH HAVE A WEBSITE?

Please send us a link to your church website! (or just the web address) We will have it posted to the District webpage. Then we can keep up with news and ministries in your church!

Please e-mail to: 3riversdist@sbcglobal.net

OR

“Snail-mail” to:
Three Rivers District Office UMC
415 Walnut Street
Coshocton OH 43812-1533



PLEASE BE PATIENT!

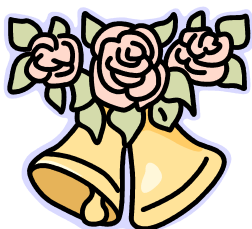
Our Three Rivers District webpage is under construction! Within the next few weeks, our website will be going through a major transformation. You'll see some new and interesting things that should be helpful to you and your ministries, a place to find forms, calendar of events, links including links to other churches, conference, and helpful sites. We hope to feature a church every month. Plus provide links to all of the churches in our district that have web-pages.



August 28

Bridges Out of Poverty Events

Epworth Center will be hosting two related but separate Bridges Out of Poverty events, from 9:00 am. – 12:00 noon. Jennifer Johnston-Baker (deacon and registered trainer) will lead an introduction targeted for people (both lay and clergy) who have not been in a Bridges event before. From 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. there will be an open discussion targeted to persons who know the basics of Bridges Out of Poverty and want to plan strategies for using this information in churches throughout the conference. Persons may attend one or both of these sessions. Participant cost - \$20 per person for facilities cost and food. This covers the full day. Persons not staying for lunch are requested to provide \$10 for facilities use. Advanced registration is requested. Contact the Southern Hills District for registration and more information - office@shillsumc.com or 740-255-5691.



Congratulations to Pastor Delmar and Erma Ferguson on their 60th Wedding Anniversary. Married on June 28, 1950 by Rev. Henry Stewart at the Methodist Church parsonage in Dennison, OH.
Delmar is pastor at Irish Ridge UMC.



July 2010



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Independence Day
Celebrate your freedom!

Happy 4th of July!

Office closed

CCYM 40th Anniversary Celebration

11 12 13 14 15 16 17
School of Christian Mission at University of Mount Union
D.S. Out

18 19 20 21 22 23 24
DS Sing at West Lafayette

25 26 27 28 29 30 31
DS preach at Hopewell
D.S Vacation through August 6

District Office is closed on Fridays during the summer months.

August 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 D.S. to preach at Ohio State Fair	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Charge Conference Orientation Canal - Lewisville & Howard	19	20	21
22 D.S. Preach at Plainfield Isleta	23	24	25	26 District Clergy & Family Outing	27	28 Bridges Out of Poverty @ Epworth
29	30	31				

Hopewell Music Series 2010

A contingent from the All-Ohio Youth Choir Alumni will raise their voices in song on Sunday July 11th, 2010. They will contribute to a Celebration of Music at Hopewell United Methodist Church - for the 10AM service and offering selections in an afternoon concert. This alumni contingent brings the spirit of the Youth Choir ("Ohio's Singing Ambassadors of Goodwill") into a vast array of professions. As graduates from Ohio State, Muskingum, Ohio University, Ashland University, Otterbein University, Capital University, Bowling Green State, Ohio Northern and Miami of Ohio, these musicians carry the bonds made in formative years into their lived experiences today. Their friendship and support for each other is visible "wherever two or more are gathered". It is with great pride that they invite you to share in the joy and power of music on July 11th at Hopewell United Methodist Church.

Worship 10 a.m., Concert 1 p.m.
Hopewell United Methodist Church
20220 Hopewell Rd
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

Contact: Michael Padula, Pastor
740-397-8369 or 614-361-8076

MY STORY

"Oh, you're a PK," people would often say to me with a sly grin. I have certainly known my share of preacher's kids who were less than saintly, but my dad (and my mom) did a great job of not making being a PK too rough on my sister and me. It always amazed me what people thought happened in a preacher's house. (Apparently, too many had seen "Footloose.") Ours was what I hope was a typical Christian family. We said grace before meals, were encouraged to tithe from the time we began receiving allowances, and had discussions when necessary about making good moral choices even when that meant going against the rest of the world. We were urged to give of our time to help others and to work for peace and justice. We were encouraged to participate in the life of the church: Sunday school, acolyting, UMYF, work camps, Youth Annual Conference, etc. We, also, loved going to church camp. It seems amazing to me that as integral as the church was to our lives growing up, it was not that way for Dad.

Dad's family was not religious at all. His road to the ministry was not due to growing up in a Christ-centered family that was a pillar of the church. His fifty-plus years in ministry are due to a man who lived in the neighborhood. This man, though not particularly holy himself, took the time to drive around on Sunday mornings and pick up the neighborhood kids and deliver them to Sunday school. Eventually, participation in that congregation led my dad to attend summer camp where he began to feel the call to God's service.

Certainly, encouraging our own children to live Christian lives is important. It is the greatest gift we can give them - the most enduring set of life skills. But what are we doing to encourage those who do not know Christ in their homes? Are we letting our own feelings of sinfulness or unworthiness get in our way of bringing others to Christ? How different my life (and perhaps yours?) would have been had that neighbor not reached out to my dad.

*Sarah Fornara, daughter of Dr. Bill McFadden, pastor Grace UMC 1982-1989.
From Grace UMC bulletin on Father's Day 2010.*

Announcements

We wish our colleagues in ministry God's blessings as they leave, transition or move from our district:

- Rob Law (retiring from Homer Charge)
- Carol Topping (retiring)
- Chauncey Eggan (retiring, again, from Newcomerstown Calvary Charge)
- David Baker (leaving Mt. Vernon Gay St for a new appointment at Cuyahoga Falls First)
- Barbara Jane Betts (leaving Canal Lewisville - appointed to Green Springs and Pleasant Hill)
- Teresa Baker (leaving Branch UMC) for Deacon ministry in Bridges Out of Poverty on our district
- Sam Troyer (leaving Green Valley Chapel appointed to Apple Creek)
- Ken Porcher (leaving Guernsey/Wolf)



We welcome as new appointments in our district:

- Brian Hassel (wife Helen and 2 sons, Michael & Carter) to Waterford (March 1st)
- Lynne Hottle to Genesis Health Care Systems Chaplain & secondary appointment Adamsville
- Joel Mason (wife Susan and son Justin) to Branch
- James Macdonald extending his appointment to include Canal Lewisville
- Gerald Bell (wife Phyllis) to Green Valley Chapel
- Russell Palmer (wife Debbie) to Guernsey/Wolf
- Ricky Chambers (wife Nicki) to Homer Charge
- Denise Marikis (husband Dennis) to Mt. Vernon Gay St
- Eric Miller (wife Ivanna and children Josh & Megan) to Newcomerstown Calvary Charge

Brinkhaven United Methodist Church Closes

On June 27, 2010 the Brinkhaven United Methodist Church held its final worship service. Organized in 1848. The original church was built in 1864 but later moved to the rear of the structure and a new church building erected in 1911. Many years of worship, fellowship, confirmations, weddings, baptisms and funerals were part of this church's ministry. Various roles of ministry were carried out in the name of the Lord in this church through pastors and laity. The Brinkhaven United Methodist Church was organized as part of Christ's holy Church and the United Methodist Church. It was God's gift for a season. We are thankful for the many ways it has served the mission given to it by Jesus Christ. It has accomplished its purpose.



To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven... **Ecclesiastes 3:1**

The Three Rivers *Current*
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September Issue Deadline –August 19



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS!!

District Office summer schedule has begun.

The office will be open from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

We are closed on Fridays through the month of August.



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