



# Three Rivers Current

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



Issue II, Vol. 8

[www.3riversumc.org](http://www.3riversumc.org)

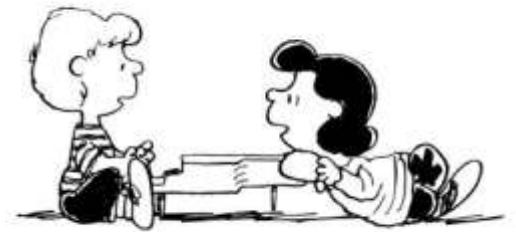
FEBRUARY 2012



*"Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." 1 John 4:11*

During this month of February many will talk about the gift of "love" as we come upon Valentine's Day. We will spread around red hearts and Valentine's candy. We will perhaps send words of love or cards to those we want to express our love.

In a *Peanuts* cartoon, you often see Lucy sitting at the end of the piano talking to the intellectual pianist, Schroeder, as he intensely practices the keyboard. Lucy says to him, "Schroeder, do you know what love is?" Schroeder stops his practicing, stands to attention, and in very somber, straightforward tones says, "Love: Noun to be fond of, a strong affection for or attachment or devotion to a person or persons." Without further distraction he reassumes his position over the keyboard. Lucy gazes into space in deep reflection. Then she says, "On paper, he's great!"



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True Love is not that abstract or cold or calculated. It is not something that is on paper, or only saying the right words, but we must put love in action.

As a church we have that challenge and responsibility to show the Love of God in our actions and ministry. We need to reach out into the community and show God's love through ministries of invitation, hospitality, outreach and acceptance. A phrase that I have been using in my mission training is "People won't care what you know until they know that you care."



The people of The United Methodist Church\*

Within church relations too, we must be a loving church to each other. I have often said to pastors, "Love your people and they will love you." Persons can't be caught up in their own selfish desires or personal agendas. We must be able to listen to each other, to understand and appreciate where each other is coming from in love. Then (as the song goes) "They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love".

We are the church who has the Source of Love in our God and Savior of Jesus Christ. We are the people of Love who must show that love to all. We are the people with "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors".  
Let us love!

Serving together in love and ministry,

*Jim*

# CREATING VITALITY!



Fredericktown UMC Praise Band



Rev. Paul White speaks on Lay Leadership



Rev. Valerie Stultz speaking to 3 Rivers' Clergy

## 2012 Three Rivers Leadership Event



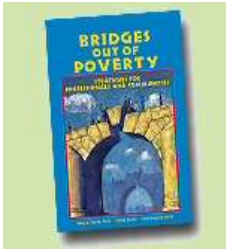
Rev. Jim speaking on Mission & Outreach



Rev. Steven Court sharing at opening session



Newcomerstown Christ Praise Band



## Bridges Out of Poverty & Habitat Apostle Build Unite to Build a House in Coshocton County



The Apostle Build is nearly upon us; causing me to think about the number of people whose life was turned completely around by an encounter with Jesus: his disciples, the woman at the well, the leper, the Apostle Paul. Each time it began with a relationship. This spring we will not only build a home but also relationships with others maybe not like ourselves. We will be the hands and feet of Christ, to reflect Jesus' love to others, particularly with our partner family who will be moving into our Habitat home.

We enter this build relationship with the spiritual tools of our trade: prayer, Scripture, and the strength of our faith community. But an additional tool is to learn the principles of Bridges Out of Poverty. From the moment that I was introduced to these concepts, I envisioned it as useful training tool not only for the church but also for Habitat for Humanity volunteers. Prior to my work with Bridges, I was deeply involved with Habitat for Humanity in Coshocton County. Habitat partner families, once selected, must complete at least 300 sweat equity hours before they can take over ownership of their homes. This can be accomplished by working directly on their home or volunteering with Habitat in some other capacity. Sometimes issues arise because the volunteers and the partner families have differing social backgrounds that are a reflection of the class or environment in which they were raised. As a result the volunteers, at times, struggle with understanding the partner family and vice versa. I would like to give you an opportunity to change that.

Please pray for our Apostle Build Partner family who are already working hard to accumulate their sweat equity hours. They are Tim and Candy Angle and their three children John, Brandon and Skylar.

With the assistance of The East Ohio Conference Peace for Justice Grant, I have been afforded the opportunity of presenting one-day training seminars (designed for busy schedules) to learn the concepts on Bridges Out of Poverty. The first seminar will be held March 10<sup>th</sup> at the West Lafayette UMC. If this date is a conflict, additional seminars will be scheduled at different locations throughout the district before the end of May. Our day will begin at 8:00a and conclude by 5:00p. The cost will be \$25 a person, made payable to the Three Rivers District, and will cover lunch, refreshments and a Bridges Out of Poverty Workbook. Fees can be paid by the church or by the individual. I highly recommend this training for anyone considering volunteering on the Apostle Build, those involved in mission for UMW, pastors, community and outreach committee members, or any other interested parties who would like to learn how to reach out to people in poverty. My prayer is that it will give you some insight and sensitivity to the issues that people in poverty face.

As always, if you would like to know more about Bridges out of Poverty or would like to consider a small group study for your church, a mission message, or mission program, Bridges Out of Poverty may be an option. Please contact me at 740-294-8198 or [tbake78@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tbake78@sbcglobal.net). Rev. Terrie Baker, Mission Outreach Consultant

**Registration for Bridges Out of Poverty  
West Lafayette UMC  
March 10<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am-5:00pm  
Meals and Workbook Included in Fee of \$25.00 per person**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Church:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Remit with payment to: Park UMC, Attn: Rev. Terrie Baker, 122 Park Avenue, Coshocton, OH 43812**

The building season is now upon us.

Habitat for Humanity Apostle Build is about to commence.

Important dates to remember . . .

Saturday March 10<sup>th</sup> (8a – 5p) -- Bridges Out of Poverty Training -- West Lafayette United Methodist Church. Additional dates to be announced. (Please RSVP attached registration or contact Rev. Terrie @ 740-294-8198 or email [tbake78@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tbake78@sbcglobal.net))

Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup> Habitat for Humanity Groundbreaking Ceremony at the West Lafayette Home Site – 319 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street Rear.

Building commences mid-April – Plans include Waterproofing the basement and decking.



Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> – Habitat for Humanity Apostle Women's Build. 30-50 women are needed who are willing to frame a house. Training to be provided by Lowe's Zanesville in April. On site supervisors will be present on the build. Dates to be announced. Registration deadline is Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.

***Interested in Volunteering?***

Go to

<http://www.habitatcoshocton.org/>

click on the "Volunteer Up" button to register and sign up for volunteer opportunities!



***Have an Idea for Missions?  
Need money to start a new  
Ministry or Outreach?***

The East Ohio Conference Ministries & Missions Funding Committee has applications available at the district office.

**Filing deadline is February 17**  
at the Three Rivers District Office.  
Contact Joy at 740-922-8880 or  
email at [3riversdist@sbcglobal.net](mailto:3riversdist@sbcglobal.net)



Below is a chart of the cumulative statistics of our Three Rivers District for the past 4 years and our goals for the four years ahead. Thank you for all those who worked to set goals. May we now work to fulfill them! Underneath the chart are a few of the ministry highlights that were shared at the fall charge conferences. May your church be inspired to consider these examples as possibilities for implementing your visions to initiate a connection between goals and community.

**Three Rivers District Historical Data and Goals**

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Avg. Weekly Attendance	4467	4325	4173	4027		4108	4277	4549	4429
Professions of Faith	203	137	106	131		200	238	287	272
Small Groups				444		531	576	621	604
Members in Mission	24	10	23	279		1996	2088	2220	2153
Dollars Given to Mission	947097	899425	963663	987338		997933	1014017	1041999	991575

- Beulah/Liberty UMC and other Knox County UM Churches sponsored the ***Courageous*** movie in Mt. Vernon
  - **Giving away 121 tickets** to firefighters and police officers
  - Handed out **800 tissue packets** at theater with church contact information
- Mulberry Street UMC held a **Block Party** in July
  - Carnival style Outreach with a petting zoo, Gospel Band and Rock Band.
  - **240 attended** (approx 70 were church members)
- Lakeville/Bigelow UMC and the Millersburg UMC partnered in outreach to the **Mansfield Prison Ministry**.
- Killbuck UMC children gave **Easter Baskets to Veterans** when visiting the local service center.
- Utica UMC has a growing Children’s Ministry which inspired a remodeled Sunday School wing: **KIDZ ZONE**
  - Pastor Kelly even moved out of his office to allow more space.
- Holmesville UMC Supplied **170 packages** of school supplies and 144 meals at their **Back-to-School Open House**



## Summer Camp Bulletin Inserts Available

Looking for a great way to get the word out to your congregation about what our East Ohio Conference Summer Camp Program has to offer? Great for a Camping Sunday! Contact the Camps Office at 1-800-831-3972 ext. 108 or [camp@eocumc.com](mailto:camp@eocumc.com) and let us know how many you need.

Summer camp is the ideal setting for children and youth to search for who they are as individuals, who they are as part of a Christian community, and who they are as a follower of Jesus Christ. For more information, contact your local church, call the East Ohio Conference Camping Office or visit us on the web at [www.EOCsummercamps.org](http://www.EOCsummercamps.org).



## Preview Days and Open Houses for Summer Camp

Tour the sites, talk to the staff, and see what is being offered for 2012? Join us on the following dates.

Camp Aldersgate: Sunday April 15, 2012, 2-4 p.m.

Camp Asbury: Sunday February 5, 2012, 2-6 p.m.

Camp Wanake: **Saturday March 31, 2012 from 2-6 p.m. -- Resurrection Egg Hunt starting at 2:30 PM**

Sunday May 6, 2012 from 2-6 p.m.

**Saturday May 19, 2012 from 2-6 p.m. -- Wanake Ranch Grand Opening & Pony Rides**

Rev. Gary W. Jones  
Director of Camp &  
Retreat Ministries  
330-499-3972 x 120  
[gary@eocumc.com](mailto:gary@eocumc.com)

## Register for [Change the World](#) before April 16 and score a free reusable lawn banner and T-shirt.

In 2012, the church will come together to change the world. United Methodists will extend justice and compassion in community on May 19 and 20. **We will chart your event on the [rethinkchurch.org](http://rethinkchurch.org) map.** National advertising will draw thousands of visitors to our website. They will see your church on the map and know how to join your event.



## Updating Child Protection Policies & Social Media Safeguards

March 3, 2011

9-11:00 a.m.

Grace United Methodist  
Continental Breakfast

Presenter: Janet Zimmerman from Church of the Lakes  
Contact Rev. Jan Coffman at 740-622-1302 for more info

## UMCOR UPDATES: 12 Ways to Fight Hunger

The General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) reports that every minute 11 children who are 5 or younger die of hunger-related causes, and about 800 million people suffer from chronic or acute hunger. How can you make a difference?

1. Go the second mile through [The Advance](#). The Advance, designated-giving arm of The UMC, ensures 100% of each gift reaches its intended mission or ministry. Working in 100 countries around the globe, Advance projects not only alleviate suffering and respond to disasters but also address the root causes of poverty and injustice, and make long-lasting improvements to the quality of life through development and education.
2. Buy a water buffalo (or a goat or a flock of chicks) through [Heifer International](#). A charitable gift through Heifer International, a UM partner, provides animals and training to help families around the world build a better future for themselves and their communities. Traditionally, recipient families give the first offspring of the animal they receive to another family in need, and the gift, quite literally, keeps on giving.
3. Make a group, housing or agriculture loan to an entrepreneur across the globe for as little as \$25. [Kiva is a nonprofit](#) organization with a mission to connect people through lending to alleviate poverty. Leveraging the Internet and a worldwide network of microfinance institutions, Kiva lets individuals lend big or small amounts to help create opportunity around the world.
4. Participate in [Stop Hunger Now](#), a UM partner and international hunger-relief organization that coordinates food distribution and other lifesaving aid. More than 100,000 volunteers have packaged meals through Stop Hunger Now's meal-packaging program. These meal packages are shipped around the world to support school feeding programs and crisis relief. The food stores easily, transports quickly and has a shelf life of five years.
5. Urge Congress to end hunger through the [Bread for the World](#) letters campaign. The interfaith organization, another UM partner, is a collective Christian voice encouraging U.S. decision-makers to end hunger globally. Bread for the World members write personal letters and e-mails and meet with members of the U.S. Congress. Working through churches, campuses and other agencies, Bread for the World involves more people in advocacy.
6. Walk to help others. [CROP Hunger Walks](#) sponsored by the UM-supported Church World Service are popular hunger-fighting venues for people of all ages. Walkers collect pledges for each mile they walk. Today more than 2,000 communities across the United States join in more than 1,600 CROP Hunger Walks each year. More than 5 million people have participated in more than 36,000 CROP Hunger Walks in the last two decades alone.
7. Become a "[backpack buddy](#)." Children who depend on free school meals may go hungry at night and on weekends. "Backpack buddies" programs provide children from food-insecure homes with weekend meals during the school year. Local churches and other groups collect and pack bags with child-friendly nonperishable food. In a typical backpack ministry, children receive a backpack containing six balanced meals and two healthy snacks every Friday.
8. Friendly and Fun Competition. UM churches and other congregations in the Salt Lake City Valley, for example, sponsor the "[Golden Celery](#)" award challenge every summer to benefit a community food pantry. The church with the most pounds of food per attendance at church donated for the month of July wins.
9. Contribute to, or start, a food pantry at your church. Don't know much about it? Get involved in community or state food banks to learn. [Feeding America](#) is a good resource. Its mission is to feed America's hungry through a nationwide network of member food banks and engage people in the fight to end hunger.
10. Deliver [Meals on Wheels](#). Meals on Wheels is the oldest and largest American organization made up of and representing community-based Senior Nutrition Programs in all 50 U.S. states and well as the U.S. territories.
11. Discover [Society of St. Andrew](#). The ecumenical organization founded by UMs has 3 hunger relief programs. The Gleaning Network and the Potato and Produce Project deliver donated leftover and unmarketable produce to people in need. The third—Harvest of Hope—invites people to understand hunger and be a part of the solution.
12. Show you care through the [Souper Bowl of Caring](#), a youth-led effort that encourages people to contribute one dollar each at worship services on Super Bowl Sunday. In 2011 across the United States, 15,238 groups generated \$9,583,338 in cash and food items for local charities. —Barbara Dunlap-Berg, UM Communications



# FEBRUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Test me, LORD, and try me, examine my heart and my mind; for I have always been mindful of your unfailing love and have lived in reliance on your faithfulness. Psalms 26:2-3</i></p>			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Rev. Jim Broadway Blue Man	10	11 Delegation Meeting
12 3p. Coshocton Community Choir at High School \$10 	13	14 Rev. Jim speaking at Grace UMW mtg 	15 <b>Forms Due</b> Ministry & Mission Applications (formerly Block Grants)	16	17	18
				<b>CABINET</b>		
19	20	21	22 10:00 a.m. District Mission & Strategy Mtg	23 8a Coshocton Clergy 1p Leadership & Nominations <u>Comm</u>	24 6 - 9p @ Roscoe UMC	25 8a -4p @ Roscoe UMC
					<b>Basic Lay Speaking</b>	
26 Load VIM Trailer for Alabama Trip	27	28	29	 <b>Have you read God's Love Letter today?</b>		
		<b>CABINET</b>				



# MARCH 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>MARK YOUR APRIL CALENDARS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Spring District Conference:</b> <u>Sunday April 22</u></li> <li>• <b>UMW District Mtg:</b> <u>Mulberry Sat. April 28 (9a-3p)</u></li> <li>• <b>Knox County Woman Retreat:</b> <u>Sat. April 28 (10a-5p)</u></li> </ul>				<b>1</b> 7p Mtg for Superintendency Committee @ District office	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <i>Safe            Sanctuary            Program            Grace UMC            from 9-11a.m.</i>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <i>C-Com mtg            8a-5p Bridges            Program @            W Lafayette            Delegation Mtg</i>
<b>Volunteer in Missions Trip to Northern Alabama <u>Mar 4-10</u></b>						
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <i>Adv. Lay            Speaker            6-9p Track 1  <u>Evangelism</u></i>	<b>17</b> <i>Track 1            8:30a - 4p</i>
		<b>CABINET</b>				<b>17</b> <i>Track 2            8:30a - 4p            Adv. Lay  <u>Preaching</u></i>
<b>18</b>  <i>Ground            Breaking            Ceremony</i>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <i>Compass            Group #2</i>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <i>Compass Grp            #6 @ NCT</i> <div style="background-color: #add8e6; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;">             Rev. Jim              Broadway              Billy Elliot           </div>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <i>8:30a - 12p            Adv. Lay            Speaker            Track 2</i>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
		<b>CABINET</b>				



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*3 Rivers Current*

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740/622-8884 FAX  
877/206-4445 Toll-Free  
3riversdist@sbcglobal.net

**Return Service Requested**

March deadline:  
February 24

## **THANKS Three Rivers District!**

To those churches who fulfilled their commitment and contributed to our  
2011 shared ministry apportionments!

**84.19% of Conference Apportionments (\$591,986)**

**121.98% of Mission Askings (\$53,463)**

**97.91% of District Apportionments (\$58,367)**

**46.59% of Shared Ministry Askings (\$24,234)**

**Total Giving for 2011 is \$728,050 (2010 giving was \$806,891)**

Out of 74 churches in the 3 Rivers district:  
61 churches paid 100% of Conference Apportionments  
68 churches paid 100% of District Apportionments!

**We thank you for your faithfulness and giving!**