



Wilmington District - The United Methodist Church - West Ohio Conference

West Ohio UMC Resident Bishop - Bruce R. Ough
District Program Coordinator - Marcia Rummel

District Superintendent - Thomas D. Hanover
Secretaries - Cathy Hanover / Sherry Williams

BUILDING FAITH THROUGH CAMPING

"This Camp rocks," said one elementary camper this summer at King's Domain. King's Domain is the site for our SW Ohio UM Camps this year. The setting is beautiful and the camp staff worked hard to see that we were all well fed and happy.

Elementary camp is always a challenge for some of our first-time campers. The first day or two some are sure they will never go to camp again because they are so homesick for Mom. However, by the end of camp most don't want to leave and can't wait to come again next year to see all of their new friends.

This year's theme for the elementary camp was "Hello, is that you God?" Campers explored God's call on their lives and studied the lives of Biblical persons who heard God's call. Among those studied was Lydia who heard God call her to himself through Paul. After learning that Lydia was a maker of purple fabrics, campers got to dye some fabric purple, dry it and decorate it for banners to take home. A large wall hanging was also made from squares they dyed and decorated to promote camps in our churches.

An adopted member of the Shawnee Indian tribe visited camp to share with the campers about Indian spirituality. He brought numerous hides, Indian artifacts, and stories that held the campers in rapt attention. The next day the campers hiked to visit their new friend Jack Blosser, curator of Fort Ancient. They learned even more about the Indians, tried their hand at a craft, visited the museum, ate lunch and hiked back to camp in time for their all-time favorite activity—swimming.

Zacchaeus was another person who heard Jesus' call to new life. Our campers met him in the form of a little person walking across America for the second time in Biblical garb to share his faith in Jesus Christ. He told our campers the story of Zacchaeus and invited them to accept Jesus as their Savior too. A dozen of our elementary campers prayed the prayer of salvation for the first time and accepted Christ as their Savior.

While all of this was going on with our elementary campers, our Sr. High campers were having quite another experience both at King's Domain and in Over the Rhine. For the last 4-5 years, we have been focus-

ing our Sr. High camp on building Christian leadership in our campers. This year they focused on Christian unity as well as leadership. Early in the week they began to build unity in their small group by conquering the high ropes course at King's Domain. On Tuesday after hearing Rev. Sherry Gale describe Over the Rhine and the ministry going on there, they moved into Milford First UMC to be closer to their "project" for the week. Wednesday and Thursday the group taught children VBS-type activities, served the homeless in a soup kitchen and cleaned up the park across from Nast Trinity UMC.

Back at King's Domain, the campers talked about their fears of going to Over the Rhine because of all the bad things that sometimes happen there. They were surprised how willing the people there were to talk to them. One girl had the supreme opportunity to share her faith in the park with a man who wondered why she would bother to clean up the park when it would be dirty again the next day. She was aglow with the opportunity she'd been given even if the man didn't yet believe in Jesus. Another camper thought he had surely made a mistake in coming to camp, listing several reasons. At the end of camp he was thrilled that he had come for every reason he had thought he shouldn't. Yet another Sr. High committed her life to Christ during the week and the change in her attitude and life was noted by more than one counselor.

Every one of our volunteer counselors for these camps was glad they came and said they would gladly do it again even though it means using vacation time for some. I believe in our camping program here in the West Ohio Conference not only because it made a difference in my life many years ago, but also because of the difference it makes for children, youth and families today. **Thank you for supporting this ministry and thereby helping our campers and counselors grow in their faith.**

If you want to know more about our camping ministry, call the conference camping office at 1-800-437-0028 and ask for Jody or Amy. They can even send a speaker out to your church some Sunday with the wall hanging our elementary campers worked to make.

—Marcia Rummel

PERSONALS

-Susan Davidson recently had surgery on her shoulder.

CONDOLENCES TO.....

- Rev. Wesley Clarke , retired, 5417 County Rd. 75, Ada, 45810, on the death of his wife, Reva.
- Edith Jenkins, widow of Rev. Charles Jenkins, 11 West-lawn St., Jackson, 45640, on the death of her son Jay.
- Rev. Kelly Moody, 122 W. Wood St., Versailles, 45380 and Rev. Gordon Jones, 3926 St. Rt. 571, Greenville, 45331, on the death Kelly's mother and Gordon's daughter..
- Paul Tran, 5812 Nike Dr., Hilliard, 43026 on the death of his sister Louan Kounthapanya.
- Rev. Dana Ward, 7545 Forest Rd, Cincinnati, 45255 on the death his father George.
- Rev. Virgil Hamilton, retired, 4735 Wren Ct., Lebanon, 45036 on the death of his wife, Doris .
- Bishop & Mrs. Joe Sprague, retired, 2583 West Choc-taw Dr., London, 43140, on the death of Diane's mother.
- John Zech, 134 Kulua Ct., Bastrop, TX 78602, on the death of this mother, Edna, widow of Rev. Harry Zech.
- Betty Rector, 2911 Northwood Ave., Toledo, 43606 on the death of her husband, Rev. Bob Rector, retired.

BRIDGE BUILDERS WEEKEND

As a pastor, I always thought I had pretty good people skills. Yet there were always those awkward times in conversations when I just didn't know what to say next. Like a boat drifting onto a sandbar, those conversations just seemed to end with an awkward silence and a "God bless you." And while I've always been able to walk into our fellowship hall and have easy conversations around the room, when I walk into a room of strangers, I suddenly get self conscious, drawing back sometimes even physically to the edge of the room.

Relationships are at the heart of ministry. For clergy and lay folk alike, having strong people skills can make all the difference in reaching people for Christ, whether we are in a comfortable place, or in a place full of strangers. At Nehemiah Leadership Institute, I learned skills that helped me gain confidence in reaching out to strangers and helping them become friends. I learned strategies for effective listening and intentional affirmation that have helped me relate to other people's experiences and walk with them through the struggles and joys of life. Returning from Nehemiah made me wonder what would happen if everyone in the church, or even a significant number of church leaders were equipped with the same skills and confidence.

On Friday, September 9 (6:30-9:30 PM) and Saturday, September 10 (8:30 AM-5:30 PM), Summer-side UMC will host a Bridge Builders weekend course lead by Tentmakers, the same folks who have brought the Nehemiah Leadership Institute to our conference. I would like to invite pastors and lay leaders from throughout the Cincinnati and Wilmington Districts to participate in this weekend course that will give us skills and confidence in the art of building relationships, which of course is at the heart of making disciples.

Our church is friendly, of course, just like yours is. But as I look around on Sundays, I can see opportunities slipping by for us to build relationships with newcomers, to reach out to those who sit in the back and on the edges, never daring to find their way into the center of things. Even more striking to me, however, is the thought of every member taking these skills out with them into their everyday lives, reaching out to strangers and people we know in new ways, building strong and affirming relationships through which the invitation to discipleship may emerge naturally. We live in a society in which people are increasingly isolated from one another and alienated even from their families and loved ones. If the church is to bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ, we must first be prepared to introduce ourselves to those who need his love the most.

Early bird registration is only \$50/person by August 10. After that, the cost will rise to \$55/person. Come by yourself, or bring a group from your church. I promise it will make a difference in your life, and in effectiveness in your ministry.

-Tom Rand

TRAINING YOUR SOUND TEAM

On Friday, Aug. 19 (6-9 PM) & Saturday, Aug. 20(9 AM-5 PM) the Brice UMC in Columbus will be hosting a Sound Team Training Event. Learn how to:

- °Maximize your system
- °Learn any mixer in 5 minutes
- °Eliminate feedback
- °Troubleshoot problems
- °Properly use equalization & effects
- °Set system and board gain and what is the difference.

Register by August 5 and receive a substantial discount. This is a cost effective, hands-on seminar you can afford to send all your sound volunteers to! Only 56 spaces are available. Register at www.AudoSeminar.com or call toll free 877-744-2010 or 904-744-2010

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2005

The Leadership Summit will be broadcast live from Willow Creek Community Church to all locations on Thursday, August 11-Saturday, August 13. All times listed are Central Time. The location in our area is at the Ohio-Vineyard Community Church in Cincinnati or Christian Life Center, Dayton. There are four ways to register:

- °Online: www.willowcreek.com
- °Phone: 1-800-570-9812 or 224-512-1980
- °Mail: WCA, P.O. Box 3188, Barrington, IL 60011-3188
- °Fax: 888-922-0035 or 847-765-5046

TAKE A LOOK AT REDBIRD

Emmanuel UM Church is sponsoring a two day overnight trip to Redbird Mission/Henderson Settlement October 22-23. They will leave Emmanuel's parking lot at 6 AM and return the following evening around 6 PM Total cost is \$100 per person, which covers transportation on a 47 passenger bus, 4 meals, dormitory style accommodation, a gift for the driver, Red Bird Mission and Henderson Settlement. Payment needs to be made no later than Thursday, September 1. For information or questions about the trip, contact Judy Walker at 513-732-1146 or Linda Maskiell at 513-752-7838.

UM DAY AT KING'S ISLAND

The UM Conference Council on Youth Ministries will present a UM Day at King's Island on Saturday, August 13. Cost of the day will be \$32 and includes admission to King's Island, Boomerang Bay, a free pizza meal ticket at the park and "Last Blast of Summer" at the Showplace Amphitheatre with performances by Spikefoot Tragedy and The Elms, door prizes and much more. Tickets are available at the gate, or in advance online at www.pki.com, (group sales ID: woccym) or by phone at 1-800-288-0808.

OPPORTUNITIES

Waynesville UMC is seeking a pianist, keyboardist or organist to assist in Worship Services. Primary responsibilities would be to play a prelude and postlude in addition to playing the selected hymns and/or praise songs in weekly Sunday services at 8:00 & 10:15 AM. Please contact the church office at 513-897-5771 or waynesvilleumc@earthlink.net

Batavia Emmanuel is looking for a part-time music director. Would be responsible for playing two Sunday services, working with a small choir and working with the pastor and worship team to plan the services and use

various music styles. Interested candidate may contact Randy Clark at 513-732-1400 or randyclark@fuse.net

WORSHIP FURNITURE AVAILABLE

The Boston UM Church has solid oak pews along with an oak communion table and pulpit for sale. The pews are in two sizes; 5-6 feet and 10-12 feet long with red upholstery. They were purchased in July of 1977. All inquiries may be directed to:

- °Ralph Vance 937-393-2121
- °Eloise Garrison 937-393-2443

PRE-CHARGE CONFERENCE BRIEFINGS

The dates have been set for the pre-charge conference briefings. Pastors are expected to attend one of the sessions and secretaries are welcome. All sessions will begin at 10 AM and last approximately 1.5 hours. Dates and locations are:

- °August 10 at Bethany
- °August 20 at New Vienna
- °August 25 at Batavia Emmanuel

LIVING WATER

A BIG THANKS to all the churches who sent money to help cover the insurance deductible for Living Water.

The following churches sent support:

- °Wilmington
- °Hamilton 1st
- °Williamsburg
- °Milford 1st
- °Bethany
- °Summerside
- °Sinking Spring
- °Hamilton Lindenwald
- °St. Mark's
- °Felicity
- °Oxford
- °Hunter
- °Perintown
- °Faith Comm.
- °Milford Calvary
- °Batavia Emmanuel



3RD ANNUAL CLINTON COUNTY GOSPEL JAM

benefit for the homeless, August 28, 3 PM at the Wilmington High School Auditorium.

OTTERBEIN LEBANON FISH FRY

Saturday, July 30 from 11:30 AM-5:00 PM. Advance sales adults \$6, with children 12 and under \$3, day of event, adults \$7 with children \$3.50. Tours, music, shopping, book signing, Blue Jacket performance and much more.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 2 -Conversations with the DS at **Hillsboro**:
Lockwood, 9; Shonkwiler, 10; Johnson, 11;
Cyrus, 1; Shoemaker, 2; Jackson, 3.
- 3 -Conversation: Rummel, 10.
-Dead Pastor's Society at Milford 1st, noon.
- 4 -Conversations at **Belfast (Clermont)**:
Slater, 9; Davidson, 10; Lowe, 11; Clark, 1
T. Rand, 2; L. Rand, 3.
- 6 -Conversations: Seaman, 9; Zinsmeister, 11.
- 7 -DS to preach at Lytle/Red Lion
- 9 -Conversations: G. Phillips, 9; Whistler, 11;
Bowdle, 2.
- 10 -Pre-Charge Conference Briefing, 10 AM at
Bethany. Conversation-Judson, 7.
- 11 -Conversations at **Mt. Orab**: Adams, 9;
Sanders, 10; Wells, 11; Blevins, 1; Warren, 2;
Smith, 3; Harmon, 4.
- 12 -Clergy Family Picnic, 6 PM, Otterbein-Lebanon
Pavilion.
- 13 -UM Days at King's Island
- 15 -Conversation: Harshbarger, 7.
- 16 -Conversations at **Amelia**: Ashworth, 9;
Starkey, 10; J. Phillips, 11; Abbott, 3;
Stockman, 4
- 17 -Conversation: Caddell, 1
- 18 -Conversations at **Cornerstone**: Straub, 9;
Bridgman, 10; Thrush, 11; Raker, 1.
- 20 -Pre-charge Conference Briefing, New Vienna

- 22 -Conversation: D. Wirth, 7
- 23 -Conversation: Eshelman, 1
- 24 -Conversation: Vaughan, 11
- 25 -Pre-Charge Conference Briefing at Batavia
Emmanuel at 10 AM
- 28 -Gospel Jam, Wilmington HS Auditorium, 3 PM

VIM NICARAGUA OPENINGS

There are several openings on the upcoming trips to Nicaragua per Jack Reif, the trip coordinator. Cost for all team members is \$1100 per person which includes all expenses except personal. Activities for all teams include construction, community walking to meet families, school visitations, maternity/pediatric hospital visitation with giving of layettes/toys and other activities. Worship, sight-seeing and shopping time are also included. Open dates are Oct. 28-Nov. 5, Nov. 5-13 and Nov. 13-21. All reservations need to be finalized by September 15.

For brochure and application information, contact Jack Reif at jackreif@juno.com or by phone at 513-831-5550.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Dayton South UM Men invite you to join them for an upcoming gathering October 18, 7 p.m. at the new United Theological Seminary facility in Trotwood. UTS President Edwin Zeiders will be the featured speaker and provide a guided tour of the new facility. For more information, contact John Sherer at Shererjw@aol.com

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