

WD News

December 2004

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 - Lorene Williams / Sherry Williams

CALLING TO COMPLAIN

"I'm calling to complain about the preacher."

"Yes, ma'am." (Here it goes again!)

"I think he's lazy. I just don't see him getting anything worthwhile done. He's never available when I need him."

By this time I'm pondering if there is any iced water left in my cup. I'm not sure if I'll drink it or pour it over my head.

The voice goes on. "Furthermore, I just don't seem to get through to him. He never picks up his socks and he never washes the toothpaste out of the sink after he brushes his teeth."

"What?" Now she had my attention. "Who is this again? Ma'am, I don't think it is my place to tell your husband about his socks."

We are living in anxious times. The tension of war, terrorism, gloomy economy, joblessness, and unexpected twist of history when the Red Sox won the pennant are wearing us down. What will happen next?

Sometimes the church is the only place where people can express their frustrations, and somebody will listen. I understand that some of us are not always aware that we are really dumping our anxieties about other parts of our lives into our church relationships. Sometimes this is unfair and strains relationships that don't deserve that stress. On the other hand, it is a ministry we can offer to each other.

In the fearfulness of the 21st century, we have an opportunity to present an alternative: the faithfulness of God. Humanity has experienced fearful moments kazillions of times through history. The Bible is full of witnessses to God's faithfulness in fearful moments.

The cords of death entangled me;
the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me.

The cords of the grave coiled around me;
the snares of death confronted me.

In my distress I called to the Lord;

I cried to my God for help.

From his temple he heard my voice;

My cry came before him into his ears.

Psalm 18:4-6

May our joy in giving thanks reveal our confidence in God's faithfulness. May our focus on the light of Christ in Christmas reflect our hope in God's future. May our sensitivities to the fears of the world around us draw others into a discovery of peace; the gift of peace that only Jesus Christ can give.



Special thanks to the six churches who have responded already to my Spring Conference request to receive a one-time special offering for Hispanic ministries in the Wilmington District: Clarksville, Fayetteville, Marshall, Mason, Fairfield St. Mark's, and Villar's Chapel. Our goal was to reach one dollar per person in attendance or a total of \$10,000 for the district.

If your church has not done this yet, you may want to consider a special Thanksgiving or Christmas offering to sustain the Hispanic ministries already underway in our district. Bulletin inserts for Hispanic ministries are available from the Columbus South District web site (www.columbussouthumc.org). Click the bar on the side on the tab at the bottom of the page.

Let God bless your holidays by letting God use you to bless others!

CHRISTMAS SHOPPE

There are 260 children registered for this year's Living Water Christmas Shoppe, which will be held Saturday, December 11 at First UMC, Hamilton. There are so many needy families, can you help?

Especially needed are volunteers and financial support. Donations may be made by sending a check to Living Water Ministry and marking the memo "Christmas Shoppe." Questions may be directed to Barb Callen or Jennie Armour at 513-894-9892.



PERSONALS

-Ray Young, Milford Calvary, has had several hospitalizations recently.

- Remember in prayer the mother of Kevin Lawler (Lumberton/Richland) with health concerns.

-Rev. Michael Denman, son-in-law of Rev. Lowell and Scottie Crabtree, was diagnosed with malaria.

Condolences to...

-Joy Sinks, 1139 Tyson Ln, Eugene, OR 97404, on the death of her husband retired pastor, Rev. Robert Sinks.

-Rev. & Mrs. Robert Klingel, 5784 Longbow Dr, Hamilton 45011, on the death of Judy's father.

-Rev. & Mrs. Alan Brown, 615 S. Simon St, Ada 45810, on the death of Alan's mother.

-Rev. Ruth Ann Scoby, Box 503, West Unity 43570, on the death of her mother.

-Paul Summers, 17187 Bernardo Oaks, San Diego, CA 92128, on the death of his mother Rev. Lesta Summers.

-Viva Lydens, 8011 Golfview Ct, Columbus 43235, on the death of her husband Paul. Paul Lydens was president of West Ohio Conference United Methodist Men.

APPOINTMENTS

-Bill Krody, Georgetown, retiring effective, 12/31/04.

-Peter Warren to Georgetown effective 1/1/05, from Springfield St. Mark.

-Joni Manson to Sabina effective 1/1, from Morrow/Zoar.

OPPORTUNITIES

-Part-time Minister of Music for details email: mbarthel@cinci.rr.com or call 937-987-2800.

-Organist for 8:30 traditional and 11:00 blended services at Bethany UMC. Contact Brian Straub, 513-777-4448.

-Candles - New Vienna UMC is selling jelly jar candles to benefit their building program. Call 937-987-2800.

-12 Passenger 1992 Ford Van, 67,000 miles, repairs up-to-date, asking \$1,000. Contact Campus Ministry Center, 513-523-4848; email: lightsoncampus@hotmail.com

NEWS FROM THE MARKAY FAMILY

Missionaries Revs. Kristin and David Markay

We are grateful for the prayers, interest and support that you have offered our family during our six years of service in Lithuania, our two years as Missionaries-in-Residence at the GBGM, and now, as we have begun a new chapter of mission service in Milano, Italy.

In 1985, the Methodist Church in Milano (a city with an estimated immigrant population of 210,000), opened its heart to persons from Africa, Asia, North and South America, and other parts of Europe, with an English-language ministry. The Italian Methodists have

wisely decided that not only should their missional priority be "to offer hospitality to the stranger," but perhaps, more importantly "to be the church together."

Many people in this congregation work 80-hour weeks. Many gave up positions of prominence in their own countries to try to have a better life in Italy. Most said goodbyes to family and church in their native lands. Some send money back home. Others are just trying to scrape by. Some are students, others musicians and engineers. As one person said to us, "it's hard for us here. We really need to be fed come Sunday." We have taken those words on as part of our call.

Since we have been here, we have heard God praised with music which ranges from Bach to hymns in Ghanaian Twi, from violins played by Filipino teenagers to African gourds shaken by children from India. Depending on the setting, we share "the peace of the Lord." We have been confronted with wonderfully perplexing questions, such as; At what time should the council meet when many of the members work 14 hour days?...Should Sunday school be taught in English? Italian? Both?... How do we honor many Christian traditions, while finding our common core?...Can we offer an ecumenical home to people while remaining true to our Methodist heritage? Such is the holy messiness of "being the church together."

WAYS YOU CAN HELP: *Please pray for the members of this congregation, and for our family.

*We are in need of copies of The UM Hymnal (1989, prefer hard cover, blue) and The Faith We Sing (2000, pew edition). Please contact us for details.

HELPFUL INFORMATION: *Our GBGM Advance Special numbers: David A. Markay #12192Z; Kristin C. Markay #12193Z. *Our bios are on the GBGM website: <http://gbgm-umc.org>, click "Who We Are," then "Mission Personnel," then "Missionary Biographies."

*You can write to us at: Chiesa Evangelica Metodista di Milano, Via Porro Lambertenghi, 28, 20159 Milano, Italy.

*Email us at: markay@fastwebnet.it

Peace in Christ,

David, Kristin, Hannah and Aidan Markay

You can order Dave Markay's book, "Lithographs from Lithuania: Crossings and Crosses," from AuthorHouse www.authorhouse.com or call 1-888-280-7715. Proceeds go to support the UMC in Lithuania.

FESTIVAL OF SHARING

Tally Sheets need to be sent to: Dick Osborne, 10080 Carlisle Pike, Germantown, OH 45327, by December 1.

WILMINGTON DISTRICT CAMPS

July 10-15 - Bicycle Camp
 New and exciting things being explored for
 Elementary, Junior & Senior High Camps
 Watch for details!

WHY ON EARTH AM I HERE?

This is an excellent study for youth with a power point presentation and video. It helps youth discover their gifts for ministry and gives them encouragement to try exercising them. There are 12 Student books for sale at \$9.95 each. The video, power point presentation, facilitator guides and discussion guides are available on loan through the district office.

Also, there are three sets of Christian Believer books available. Contact the district office.

SAFE SANCTUARIES

Having trouble selling your church on the need for a Safe Sanctuary Policy? Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company has put out a 2-part video and an audio tape on the problem of child abuse in the church. The district office has a copy of each and they are available to be loaned out.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Resources for the observance of the 2005 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Jan. 18-25, are available electronically or in print on the Graymoor Ecumenical & Inter-religious Institute website: www.geii.org

IGNITING MINISTRY 101

Learn the basics of welcoming ministry with IM 101, an online course from U.M. Communications. Explore the basics of the television and welcoming ministry of the United Methodist Church, experience IM welcoming training, and engage in online discussions with others as you create an action plan for your church to become more welcoming. Tuition \$12. Enroll online at www.ignitingministry.org/training Ask questions at 877-281-6535, ext. 3.

Igniting Ministry Matching Grants

The election is over and everyone is looking forward to something besides political ads, so how about spreading the news about your church? With matching grant, you can afford to increase the awareness of your congregation using TV, radio, outdoor and cinema movie theaters. This application period is for advertising placed in your community in Lent 2005, deadline is Dec. 1, 2004. Visit www.ignitingministry.org/matching/applynow.aspx#top

PACKING FOR JESUS

Have you been sorting through clothes? Finding some shoes, belts, purses that no longer fit your needs? Plan to bring them to Goshen UMC on February 5 for the Minister's Spouses mission event, as we "Pack for Jesus."

MEDICAL MISSION TEAMS

There are seven medical mission events scheduled for 2005 to Nuevo Progreso, Mexico. Doctors, nurses, pharmacists, translators and other helping hands are needed for these mission teams. Cost is \$525, which includes air transportation from Columbus, lodging, ground transportation, taxes and meals. Brochures available at the district office or for more information contact Martha Brice, 513-661-7443 or mbrice@wocumc.org

PRIMETIMERS

Primetimers is an educational and mission service experience for older adults. Primetimer events offer educational forums, cross-cultural exposure, faith-filled reflection, and greater exposure to the work of the United Methodist Church and the church universal.

Events scheduled for 2005:

"Oasis in the South: Mississippi Gulf Coast" Feb. 1-5, Gulfside UM Assembly, Waveland, MS (near New Orleans); registration deadline - Dec. 15.

"Putting Children First: Brazilian Methodists in Action" April 10-20, Methodist Church of Brazil, Sao Paulo, Belo Horizonte, Rio de Janeiro; registration deadline - Feb. 1.

"Exploring Your Faith with Lewis & Clark" May 22-27, Alton Collins UM Retreat Center, Eagle Creek, OR (near Portland); registration deadline - April 5.

"Life on the Bayou Teche: History, Culture & UM Sager Brown" Oct 23-29, UMCOR Sager Brown, Baldwin, LA; registration deadline - Sept. 10.

For more information, email: primetimers@gbgm-umc.org or check the website: www.primetimers.info

HURRICANE DAMAGE

The Conference of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas appeal for assistance with the rebuilding process and with the provision of funds to help persons in the process of restoration. There has been so much devastation and loss of life. If you are interested in sending work teams to help in the rebuilding process, please contact them at Belmont, PO Box 9, St. John's, Antigua, West Indies or email: mcca@candw.ag Also, please give generously to United Methodist Committee on Relief **Hurricanes 2004, Advance #982410.**

DISTRICT CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 1 - Clermont Cluster, Batavia Faith, 11:45
Ministry Excellence, 7:30, Hamilton Park Ave.
- 2 - Vision Coord Team, Conference Center
- 3 - Clergy Christmas Party at Faith Community
- 5 - New Vienna UMC dedicating new worship
facility, 3:00 pm
- 6 - Superintendency Comm., dist parsonage, 10
Ministry Excellence, 7:30, Russellville
- 7 - District Trustees, parsonage, 7 pm
- 8 - Butler Cluster, noon
- 9-10 - CABINET
- 11 - LW Christmas Shoppe at Hamilton First
- 13 - Spiritual Leadership, Deerfield, 10 am
- 21 - Clinton Cluster at Frisch's, 8 am
- 25 - **Merry Christmas!**
District Office closed Dec. 24-Jan. 3

CHARGE CONFERENCES

Have all your completed Charge Conference forms been returned to the District Office?

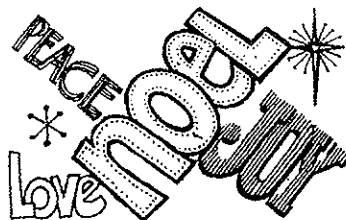
YEAR END REPORTS

Pastors should receive Conference Year End Reports by Dec. 10. The Statisticians Report and Certified Voucher are due back in the Conference Office by Feb. 7. Please get them in on time!!!

**The United Methodist Church
The Wilmington District
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DECEMBER 2004

OHIO MINISTRIES CONVOCATION

January 24 & 25, Columbus Marriott North
Speakers are Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock and Dr. Maroslav Volf. For more information, visit the web site: www.ohcouncilchs.org

WOMEN'S ADVENT SERVICE

Monday, November 29, 7:00 p.m.
Olive Branch UMC, 7315 Wilmington Rd, Oregonia

Ladies, please come join in fellowship with other women as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of the blessed birth of Jesus Christ.

Our worshipful program is entitled: "Follow the Star." There will also be refreshments, crafts and baked goods for sale, and a Christian book sale.

The Real Meaning of Christmas

*May Christmas time mean more to you
Than gifts on Christmas morn;
May you feel the peace the whole world knew
When Christ the Lord was born!*

*May you know the special gladness
And hope that came to men;
And may it thrill your heart just now
As Christmas comes again!*

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