



# WD News

July 2005

**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**

## **A GOD-ADVENTURE!**

Wasn't annual conference interesting? I hope each church is receiving insights about the experience through the eyes of your pastor(s) and delegate(s). As promised the worship and preaching were outstanding, the highlights of the week (after ice cream and meeting with good friends).

Of course, one of the key conversations over ice cream with good friends was about realignment. It was approved. The next year will include many transitions.

Since the point of the realignment is to bring conference and district resources into line for our vision for the local church, many of the transitions will take place at the district and conference level. The number of districts will be reduced from 14 to 8. Likely churches in the old Wilmington District will go three different directions.

The Bishop will appoint a conference transition team in the very near future to begin the transitional decisions. There will be transition teams in each new district with representatives of each county to make decisions as locally as possible.

I have already slotted several dates in my calendar called "Coffee and Cokes" to invite pastors and lay persons to talk about the transitions. I won't have all the answers, but I will be happy to share what I know and listen to questions of concern. These dates will be announced soon.

One of the key realignments is to gather pastors into cluster groups for mutual support and accountability. As pastors we work better together than we do apart. We benefit from each other's experiences and insights. We dare to persevere in tough leadership situations because we do not stand alone. We find *esperanza* (hope) when we walk with each other.

Over the next year I will work with each of the 100 pastors of the district to connect them with a cluster group. Church leaders can help by engaging your pastor in conversation about the benefits of the various groups available.

The purpose of the groups will be to strengthen the leadership of the pastor and subsequently each congregation so that each church will be a healthy, vital, risk-taking center for making disciples of Jesus through

whom God can transform the world.

"In an atmosphere of security and trust, persons are likely to be more ready to change. ... Within the fellowship of the church, we can help one another become such Christians. Here we can become comrades of our better selves. We support one another in our highest resolves." (from *Liberation of Life* by Harvey and Lois Seifert)

The future promises an exciting adventure -- a God-adventure! Let's explore this adventure together!

## **NEHEMIAH TRAINING IS COMING!**

Perhaps you have looked at the Nehemiah leadership Training and thought it too expensive, or that your congregation would never support it. If so, here is an opportunity to taste it and allow some of your congregation to taste it too.

**Summerside UMC, 638 Batavia Pike, Cincinnati (45244), will host a "Bridge Builders" weekend course taught by Tentmakers on Friday, September 9 at 6:30 - 9:30 PM and on Saturday, September 10, at 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM.**

This course equips people for excellence in building and strengthening relationships with people they meet everyday. It also helps people discover more of God's vision for their life.

**There is a limit of 40 people in this class. The cost is only \$50 per person if you register by August 10<sup>th</sup>. After that the cost will be \$55 per person. You can register by calling the Wilmington District office 937-382-7583 or sending in the names of those attending from your church with a check made out to the Wilmington District. Participants will need to pay for their own lunch on Saturday as you will be practicing part of your training in the community at that time. There are several fast food places in the area.**

**PERSONALS**

- Congratulations to Rex & Becky Robinson, Port William/Paintersville, on the May 25 birth of grandson Sean Allan Brindley.
- Melody Barton, spouse of Kenn at Hamilton First, had surgery in May and is doing well.
- Judy Klingel, spouse of Bob, retired, had recent surgery.
- Tony Saliceti, spouse of Nilsa, Hispanic Coordinator, had open heart surgery on June 20.

**CONDOLENCES TO...**

- Rev & Mrs. Jim Waugh, 5714 Whispering Oak Blvd., Hilliard, 43026 on the death of Carol's mother.
- Rev. Mark Putman, 940 Amlin Drive, Xenia, 45385, on the death of his sister, Melissa McClanahan.
- Nancy Ruth, 5790 Denlinger Rd., #4102, Dayton, 45426, on the death of her husband Rev. Charles Ruth.
- Rev. & Mrs. Fred Shaw, 5377 Country Lane, Milford, 45150, on the death of Nancy's mother.
- Rev. & Mrs. Glenn Sweigart, 1117 Bermuda Dr., Miamisburg, 45342, on the death of Jane's mother.
- Ellnor Brown, 2027 Revere Ave., Dayton, 45429, on the death of her husband, Rev. John Brown.
- Alice Miller, 13039 Smoketown Rd., Utica, 43080, on the death of her husband, Rev Clarence Miller.
- Linda Games, 239 , Rev. M. Steven Games.
- Rev. Russ Chrisman, Alterra House, 1401 Broadway, Greenville, 45331 & Rev. Joseph Chrisman, 1228 Powell View Dr., Defiance, 43512 on the death of Russ's wife and Joe's mother, Wilma.
- Friends and family of Evalyn Lyon, widow of Rev. James H. Lyon.
- Friends and family of Rev. Robert St. Clair on his death.
- Friends and family of Mary Spears, widow of Rev. Jimmie W. Spears.

**APPOINTMENT CHANGES**

- Cozaddale, TBS
- Dodsonville, TBS
- Hamilton Grace Associate, Eva Marie Wolfe
- Milford Calvary, Derrico Steels
- South Lebanon, Jon Barker
- Tammy Jo Reiser from Cornerstone, Associate to Korean Madisonville, Associate.

**OTHER CHANGES**

- Josh Gray, from youth pastor at Amelia UMC to Methodist missionary to the homeless in Atlanta, GA.

**OPPORTUNITY**

- Director of Contemporary Ministry at Faith Community UMC to organize, coordinate and lead the Contemporary Worship ministry, including the Praise Teams, Praise Choir, and Worship Leaders, as well as organize and plan all elements for the Contemporary Worship. Contact Dick Trotter at 513-777-9533
- Organist, Church of the Cross UMC, Kettering. For more information visit the church website at [www.cotcum.org](http://www.cotcum.org). Resumes to the attention of Joe Gerstle at [otc3121@sbcglobal.net](mailto:otc3121@sbcglobal.net).

**VIM TEAMS TO NICARAGUA**

There are several openings available on 2 different trips. The first is Oct. 28-Nov. 5; the second is Nov. 13-21. Cost is \$1100 per person. The trip will include construction of medical or educational facilities and humanitarian/cultural immersion in schools, hospitals, churches and neighborhoods in and around Managua, Nicaragua. For complete details, contact Jack Reif at [jackreif@juno.com](mailto:jackreif@juno.com) or 513-831-5550.

**VIM TEAMS TO MEXICO**

Mexico Construction Mission, Oct. 8-15 or Oct. 15-22, 2005. Leaders are Mary Fry & Mike Fogle. Cost \$710 per person. Team members will be asked to raise funds for the project. Registration due by July 10, 2005. For more information, contact Mary Fry at [mfry@wcnet.org](mailto:mfry@wcnet.org) or Mike Fogle at [mikefogle@hotmail.com](mailto:mikefogle@hotmail.com).

**VIM TO McCURDY**

There are several openings available for the Oct 10-18 trip to McCurdy School in New Mexico. Cost is approx. \$750. There are many jobs to be done and may include carpentry, electrical work, office help, library work, painting, possibly tutoring, and more. For more information, contact Sara Hulse at 8792 Meadowview Dr., West Chester, 45069, [sarajsews2@wmconnect.com](mailto:sarajsews2@wmconnect.com) or 513-777-1471 by Aug 15.

**FOLLOW IN PAUL'S FOOTSTEPS**

Bishop Ough has chosen to lead West Ohio pilgrims November 9-18, 2006 on Paul's fourth missionary journey cruise. This pilgrimage, through EO, will include Athens, Corinth, Malta, Sicily, Naples, Pompeii and Rome. Cruise prices begin at \$2598 from New York. We will be aboard the beautiful Holland America cruise-class ship, the Astoria. For more information, contact Peg and Paul Stuckey at [drstook@msn.com](mailto:drstook@msn.com) or call them at 937-433-4190.

**NEW SECRETARY**

On behalf of the Wilmington District Superintendency Committee I want to announce the employment of Cathy Hanover as an interim administrative secretary for our district office. Lorene Williams will work full time until July 31 and serve in a part-time supervisory capacity through Dec. 31, 2005. Sherry Williams will continue as financial secretary.

With the Annual Conference Realignment, we chose someone willing to work through the remaining year of transition fully aware the position may not exist after July 1, 2006.

Thanks for your patience and grace as we work together through the adventure of the future.

Jama Hayes, Chair of the District Sup't Committee



**HEARTS AFIRE FOR GOD**

"Hearts Afire for God" is the theme of this year's National Gathering of United Methodist Men to be held July 15-17 at Purdue University. Join men from across the nation for a weekend of inspiration, information and instruction. Register online at [www.gcumm.org](http://www.gcumm.org) or call 888-245-0176.

**-BIKE ADVENTURE CAMP**, July 10-15, entering grades 8-13. You will bike from Milford to Corwin with stops along the way to camp, visit Ft Ancient and canoe. For more information, contact Ann Myers at [acesmyers@aol.com](mailto:acesmyers@aol.com) or call 513-932-3943.

**-WHAT'S UP? DID YOU CALL ME?**, July 17-22, entering grades 7-9. Do you ever hear God calling? How do or will you respond? Come join us at King's Domain. Enjoy God in nature, in worship, in sharing. Enjoy swimming, high ropes, wall climbing, canoeing, campfires and much more. Learn to hear God calling you amidst it all.

We still need a **Camp Nurse** for this week of adventure. If you are available, please contact Marcia Rummel at [MRummel1143@aol.com](mailto:MRummel1143@aol.com).

**-2006 YOUTH GOLF CAMP BEING PLANNED**

Two women are needed to help lead this camp for junior high campers. If interested, contact Dean Feldmeyer at 937-382-1465 or at [pstrdean@cinci.rr.com](mailto:pstrdean@cinci.rr.com).

**EXPLORATION EVENTS**

East/West Ohio Conference Exploration for ages 16-24 will be held Nov 4-6, 2005 at Camp Widewater, Texas, OH. This weekend will help students discern their call to ministry. For more information, contact your pastor.

Dive In-Make Waves: God Has Called You by Name will be held the weekend of Nov 17-19, 2006 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Jacksonville, FL. This weekend will help participants (high school seniors—age 24) discern if they are being called to ordained ministry. For more information see their website at [exploration@gbhem.org](http://exploration@gbhem.org).

**ENGAGED ENCOUNTER WEEKEND**

Engaged Encounter is a program designed specifically for couples to prepare personally and as a couple for marriage. The focus is upon the marriage, not the wedding. "A wedding is a day...a marriage is a lifetime."

The next scheduled weekend for Ohio is July 29-30 located at the First UMC in Marysville. The total weekend cost is \$125 per couple and includes lodging at the church and meals. For registration forms and further information, contact Matt and Rhonda Burggraf at [burg@gre.net](mailto:burg@gre.net) or call 740-499-3308.

**LAY MINISTRY ACADEMY**

Meeting six times over a two year period, you will explore gifts & call and develop skills for leadership within the church. Congratulations to Shawn Morris from Franklin First and Jay Southcombe from Fayetteville who completed this training and were recognized with others at this session of Annual Conference..

**WORLD METHODIST CONFERENCE**

The World Methodist Conference will be held July 18-19, 2006 in Seoul, South Korea. Delegates will be responsible for all expenses associated with attendance. If you are interested in attending, contact the DS.

**METROPOLITAN CHURCH EVENT**

"Connecting With God in the City: It's a Local Call" is the theme of a national United Methodist event to take place on Nov, 10-13, 2005 in Minneapolis. This event is for pastors and lay leadership who live in metropolitan areas.

Keynotes for this event include Ms. Donna Brazile of CNN and the Campaign Manager for 2000 Gore-Leiberman, Adam Hamilton of Church of the Resurrection and Zan Homes, noted preacher and theologian. Seminar leaders include The Rev. Bill Easum. Bishop Violet Fisher and The Rev. Dr. John Perkins. For more information or to register, please visit [www.connectingwithgod.org](http://www.connectingwithgod.org).

**UM NOMADS AT WORK**

Are you a retired or soon-to-be retired person looking for a new opportunity to serve God? UM Nomads could be for you. Working with Nomads outreach gives the retiree who has an RV of some kind the opportunity to be of much needed service to individual churches and to UMC supported agencies across the United States. Most of the projects are in the south during the cold months where retirees like to spend the winter, although there are more and more projects being held in northern locations of the US during the other seasons of the year. Not only do the Nomads work in camps and for churches but there is much community service being done as well as repairing homes damaged by storms, or by neglect for people who can not afford to have it done commercially.

Interested individuals can get more information by contacting the Nomads national office at P.O. Box 25040, Trotwood, OH 45426 or by calling 937-837-9849

**LEGAL FORUM**

November 4, 2005, 10 AM -2 PM on the campus of Methodist Theological School in Ohio. Sponsored by the West Ohio Conference Board of Trustees and Ohio Northern Law Clinic. More information will be mailed.

**DISTRICT CALENDAR**

**JULY**

- 6 Clergy Women's Picnic
- 6-7 Cabinet
- 10-15 Bike Camp
- 15-17 UM Men's Nat'l Conference, Purdue
- 17-22 Junior High Camp, King's Domain
- 18 Festival of Sharing Meeting, Dist. Office
- 19 Pastoral Care Meeting, Dist. Office
- 24-30 Local Pastor's Certification School
- 25-30 Hanover's on vacation

**CLERGY FAMILY PICNIC**  
 Friday, August 12, 6:30-8:30  
 Otterbein-Lebanon Pavilion

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU!**

The reception on May 22 to celebrate my retirement was wonderful! Thank you to all who came to wish me well. I certainly appreciate your kind words, your cards and gifts. I will miss all of you.

Lorene Williams



**Otterbein-Lebanon FISH FRY,  
 Open House, Arts & Crafts**  
 "All the fish you can eat"  
 11:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
 Saturday, July 30  
 Come join the fun!

**CHURCH CONSTRUCTION & PLANNING**

Making plans to build a new church home...or a major update/renovation? This single-day planning event will give you the basic tools and information you need. You'll discover insights and questions to help you succeed as you cover these topics: how to begin, architecture, capital campaigns, and disciplinary requirements. The date is Nov. 17 at the West Ohio Conference Center. Contact the Office of Learning & Leadership at 800-437-0028 or email: leadership@wocumc.org

**MULTI-SITE**

Interested in learning more about the possibilities of multi-site ministry? Two sessions are planned one Nov. 8, 7 p.m., the other Nov. 10, 1 p.m. with Jim Griffith facilitating. Get more information at the above address.

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