



WD News

May 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

YOU CAN BE THERE

It was dark except for the blazing campfire. The guitarists were leading us in songs of faith and inspiration. We were pleasantly tired after a full day of enjoying God's creation at camp and getting to know new friends from other churches. We laughed. We played. We ate. We got up early to draw the sunrise with our family group only to realize when it was light that we were facing the wrong way to see it. We worshiped God together and shared our thoughts about God. Somehow in the midst of it all, God was more real than ever before for us. Some of us were homesick at first, yet by week's end we didn't want to leave. It was only one week in time, but our lives felt forever changed. Have YOU been there?

Approximately 300 of our elementary, Jr. High and Sr. High youth will have the opportunity to "be there" this summer at King's Domain in southwest Ohio, when Wilmington and Cincinnati Districts sponsor three camps together. Wilmington District is also sponsoring a Bike Camp. All four of these camps offer campers and counselors the opportunity to build faith forming relationships and experiences that will draw them together with God in ways they will never forget. Lives will be changed because of new insights made. Some may even choose to make Jesus Christ the Lord of their life for the first time. Others may decide God is calling them to full-time Christian service. Does this excite you? Want to be a part of it? **YOU CAN BE!**

Those going into 4th through 12th grade next year, or those who graduate this year, can be campers. Check www.westohiocamps.com for these camps and many others being offered around our conference this summer. Scholarships are available!

If you are 18 or older YOU can be a volunteer counselor. YOU will have the opportunity to supervise youth who will amaze you. YOU will have the opportunity to share your faith in Jesus Christ with them and hear their stories of faith as well. For some, YOU may be the first adult who they feel has really listened to them. You don't have to have all the answers, you just have to

be willing to walk with them for a week while they search for more meaning. It may cost you a week of vacation, but it will not cost you to attend camp as a counselor. You may also have one youth attend camp for 1/2 price if you serve in this way. We need both men and women, but especially men willing to serve the Lord in this way.

Perhaps YOU don't think you can keep up with the "kids," but you have special skills as a nurse, EMT, or doctor. We need YOU!

Don't have those skills? That's okay. We can use daytime volunteers to help with lots of little details before special activities. We also can use volunteers who can come for a day or part of a day and share their knowledge about nature, games, crafts, fishing, Indian lore, or any number of other activities. We also need 10 volunteers who would be willing to take some brief training and help us for a few hours with sign-in and sign-out at camp. Perhaps your Sunday School class, UMW or UMM could help with this. This enables our counselors and deans to meet the youth and their parents as they arrive and help them feel at ease.

Haven't found something YOU can do yet? There's more. We like to see that each camper gets some special "agape" at least once each day. Perhaps YOU or Your Group could work on supplying "agape" for the campers of one of our four camps for one day.

There is yet one more thing YOU can do. Pray that we will hear God's plan for each camp and be empowered to make it happen. Pray that the counselors, volunteers, and medical personnel we need will hear God's call and come forward to help us make each camp a success. YOU can pray for the campers who will attend each camp. Pray that God will be working in their lives even now to prepare them to hear and experience God at camp. Are YOU there?

Please call Marcia Rummel at 937-382-7583 in Wilmington or 513-421-2057 in Cincinnati, if you want to help. She will get you in touch with the right people so **YOU CAN BE THERE!**

Marcia Rummel, Program Coordinator



CONDOLENCES TO...

- Rev. Jim Hopkins, PO Box 99, Fayette 43521, on the death of his mother.
- Rev Shannon Luckey, 3678 Tanbark Ct Amelia 45102, on his mother's death.
- Rev. Gary Batey, 7611 Second Ave W. Bradenton, FL 34209, on the death of his father.
- Greg Traucht, Council on Development, on the death of his father; 22775 Holycross Epps Rd, Marysville 43040.
- Glenna Chamberlain, 1478 Northlawn Dr, Brimingham, MI 48009, on the death of her mother Ruth, widow of Rev. Edwin Dickey.
- Family and friends of Rev. Charles Whitman who died March 21 at Wesley Glen, at age 100.
- Rev. Darryl Fairchild, 1404 Harvard Blvd, Dayton 45406, on the death of his mother.

APPOINTMENT MATTER

Millford Calvary to be supplied. Ray Young discontinued.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Christian Education Director, 30 hrs. per week, benefits available. Send application to: First UMC, 120 S Broad St, Middletown 45044, attn: Barbara Balsmeyer, SPRC.
- Person to lead Exercise Program at New Vienna UMC for 6 to 8 weeks now and again in the fall, pay is \$8.00 an hour. Contact New Vienna UMC, 937-987-2800.

Available - 23 light gray choir robes with detachable colors, various sizes. Contact Don Queary, Bellbrook UMC, 937-848-2909 or 937-848-2992 (home), or email: Donq92@cs.com

SPRING REVIVAL

Mt. Orab UMC is having a Spring Revival, May 12-15, 7:00 p.m. each evening, with special music. Evangelist will be Rev. Mike Barthel. For more info, call the church 937-444-1046.

CINCO de MAYO FESTIVAL

A Celebration of Mexico and its People will be held at Hamilton Living Water on May 5, 1-6 p.m. Come for a fun day of games, contests, music, dancing, and authentic Mexican food.

We need volunteers for the day: Set-up and Clean-up crews, Ticket sellers, Food servers, Arts & Crafts helpers, Face painters, Judges for poster contest, etc. Call to offer your help or to find out more about the day. Call 513-894-9892 between the hours of 10:30 and 4:00, Monday through Thursday.



GOSPEL JAM

The 3rd annual Clinton County Gospel Jam for the Homeless is looking for bluegrass, old time, roots and folk gospel groups who are willing to share their music to support Clinton County Homeless Shelter in Wilmington. The event will take place Sunday night, Aug. 28 at Wilmington High School. Entertainers will be asked to perform 20-25 minute sets. Please contact Rev. Dean Feldmeyer at the Wilmington UMC, 937-382-1465.



FESTIVAL OF SHARING

The FOS Committee will meet Monday, May 16, 10 a.m. at the district office. This is an important planning meeting for the September Celebration held at Springfield. Please plan to attend. Everyone welcome! "The FOS is awareness of human need in God's world." FOS Handbook, pg. 34

Mission Study Trip to Laos and Cambodia

There is space still available for the West Ohio trip to Southeast Asia, September 1-15. The cost is \$2,500. If you are interested, please contact Shirley Cadle, 513-831-4804 or email: shirleycadle@aol.com

This is a great opportunity to experience the emerging church in countries that have been devastated by war and killing fields.

McCURDY SCHOOL VIM

A VIM work team is going to McCurdy School in New Mexico, Oct. 10-18. The Team will be doing maintenance work, painting, some electrical work or woodworking. For more info and application contact Sara Hulse at 513-777-1474 or email: sarajsews2@wmconnect.com

Family-Centered Mission Trip to Haiti

Looking for a unique and meaningful opportunity to strengthen both your own and your family's faith? Come to Haiti to help build a school for children who do not have a school! Experience the joy that is conveyed by the smiles of the children and adults of Haiti as you work alongside them building their future, literally.

Families and/or individuals are invited to participate. Team members will be registered through Christian Services International (CSI).

Dates: July 9-16 Cost: Your airfare plus approx \$550 (this includes room and board at CSI Guest House)
 Trip Focus: Continue construction of a school
 Team limit- 18 people, participants must be 13 or older.
 For more information or to sign up, please call Liz Gorley at 513-777-0347 or email: lizgorley@fuse.net

DISTRICT CAMPS

The Wilmington/Cincinnati District Camps will be held this year at King's Domain Conference & Retreat Center, just off SR 123, just north of King's Island.

Elementary - entering grades 4-6, June 26-30, cost \$185

Junior High - entering grades 7-9, July 17-22, cost \$230

Senior High - entering grades 9-13, June 26-July 1, \$250

Bike Camp - entering grades 8-13, July 10-15, cost \$125

STRENGTH FOR TODAY BRIGHT HOPE FOR TOMORROW

Pastors across our district are presenting "Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow" to every church before the end of May. This vision initiative is an opportunity for every church to join the network for enhancing the ministries of their church. Have you seen the creative options for leadership development and ministry extension? Have you prayed about the ways God is leading your church to join the network?

The Bishop is inviting every church to pray about how God would lead them to connect with the rest of us. And the Bishop is asking every church to indicate how they would like to participate in the vision by the end of May, so we can celebrate the dreams at Annual Conference in June. If you have not had a presenter at your church yet, call your friendly local District Office, 937-382-7583.

REALIGNMENT PROPOSAL PRESENTED SOON

The Annual Conference will receive a proposal for realigning many of the resources of districts and the conference to more effectively pursue our vision that every local church become a healthy, growing, spiritually-vital, risk-taking center for making disciples of Jesus to transform the world. Part of that proposal will include cluster groups for pastors, refocusing of the DS's job, as well as a reduction in the number of districts across the conference.

While the primary focus of realignment is on the mission, it is expected it will also help the conference and districts realign their financial resources as well. The plan will propose a phasing in of the adjustments between July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006. Many of the details are still being studied. Much of it will be determined by transition teams in each district area following annual conference approval.

Spring Conference (May 22) will provide more information about the realignment. Plus we will distribute additional information through the West Ohio News, WD News, and the District Network.

RADICAL HOSPITALITY

I have been asked to share with you some suggestions and resources that you can use in your church's ministry of Radical Hospitality. I am sure that for many of you these will not be new.

Recently the Chairperson of our Fellowship Team brought to my attention an article in the January 2005 issue of the Interpreter magazine. It was entitled: "Exploring the Ministry of Hospitality," written by Rodney Wilmoth, a retired pastor. The article summarized his visit to 7 churches and his reflections on how he and his wife were received by each congregation.

At the end of the article, Rev. Wilmoth gives four tips for congregations cultivating their ministry of hospitality.

- 1 Develop an intentional ministry of welcoming visitors.
- 2 Develop a specific plan for what to do with the visitors.
- 3 Seek suggestions from people who recently visited the church and then joined.
- 4 Help members and regular attendees understand how important it is for them to greet people.

At Mt. Orab UMC we have been pro-active in several ways. We have invested in a large sign in front of the church with large changeable letters. This lets people in the community know what's going on at the church.

We have put signs throughout our church giving directions, so new people can find their way around.

We have included an intentional time of greeting one another in our worship services. Encouraging people to greet someone they don't know before greeting someone they do know.

We have visitor packets that are handed out to visitors with registration card that can be dropped in the offering plate.

We found that we needed greeters at other times other than just before the worship services. Recently we added an early service which begins at 9 a.m. Our Sunday School begins at 9:30 and new people coming for Sunday School would drop in to the contemporary service because there was no one there to welcome them and direct them to the classrooms.

Rev. Wilmoth closes his article by saying, "A church that takes seriously the ministry of welcoming visitors will grow, because visitors will say, 'That's a friendly church! I think I'll go back there next week.'"

For help in assessing your current level of hospitality and enhancing it, visit www.ignitingministry.org and click on "welcoming."

Rev. John S. Adams, Mt. Orab UMC

DISTRICT CALENDAR

MAY

- 3 - Dead Pastor Society mtg. Sharonville, 10 am
 4 - Conversations with DS at Belfast (Clermont):
 Slater, 9; Molter, 10; Lowe, 11; noon Clermont
 Cluster; Clark, 1; Luckey, 2; Davidson, 3
 5 - Conversations: Woleab, 9; Feldmeyer, 10;
 Babcock, 11; Bunnell, 1; Biza, 2
 Pension Mtg, Church of Savior, Cincinnati, 7pm
 7 - Shared Ministry mtg., Xenia Faith Comm.
 9 - Spiritual Leadership meeting, 10 am
 10 - Conversations at Lebanon: Ludwick, 9;
 Carroll, 10; Hughes, 11; Airhart, 1; Myers, 2;
 Straub, 3
 11 - CABINET
 14 - Conversation: Brunner, 11
 16 - Festival of Sharing meeting, 10; UM Women
 work on Scroll at district office
 17 - Clinton County Cluster, Frisch's, 8 am
 Conversations: Mary Barthel, 9:30;
 Mike Barthel, 10:30; Beach, 1; Hansen, 2
 18 - District Youth Workers, 11:30 am, Milford First
 18-19 - CABINET
 19 - Dist Committee on Ordained Ministry, 6 pm
 20 - Hispanic Ministry mtg, Conf Office, 10-2
 22 - DS preaching at Milford First;
 Dist Trustees, 2:15; Spring Conference, 3:00 at
 Wilmington UMC.
 23 - Conversations: O'Bryant, 9; Manson, 11;
 Schilling, 1
 24 - CABINET
 25 - Clergy Session, Columbus Convention Center
 31 - Conversations: Shimer, 1

SPRING CONFERENCE

Spring Conference will be held Sunday, May 22, 3:00 p.m. at the Wilmington UMC. The Conference will honor retiring pastors and pastors to be ordained or commissioned. Electing officers and approving the budget for 2006 is also on the agenda.

The Pre-conference Briefing portion will feature information about the realignment of districts, proposed changes in the pension plan, the latest developments on the Conference Initiative, and other anticipated business of the conference.

Following the Conference there will be a reception to celebrate Lorene Williams 26+ years of service to the district.

Clergy and lay members to annual conference are expected to attend. All other interested parties are quite welcome!

DISTRICT TRAINING DAY

Save the date of **October 1, 2005** for an all-day district training event. There will be outstanding workshops offered. Information will be coming soon!

ADVANCE LAY SPEAKING

April 30 and May 14 are the dates. Contact Ed Cunningham to register, 513-232-9233 or ecc1941@aol.com

EASTERN HILLS CAMP MEETING

Sunday, June 26, 3-7 p.m. at Clear Creek Park on Hwy 32, just west of Newtown. Come join the fun!

AIDS HEALING WEEKEND

May 20-22 at Widewater Retreat Center. Contact April Lee, 614-497-3720 for more information.

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