

WDN News

May 2006

Special points of interest:

- Tears and Fears
- School of Christian Mission
- Illinois Disaster Relief
- Mission Opportunities
- Camp News

Tears and Fears

I awakened abruptly in the middle of the night with tears streaming down my face. While I quickly forgot the details of the dream, I remember the intense emotions I was feeling. I was grieving my father's death.

Why now – five years after his passing? Why here – in a bunk bed of snoring cabinet colleagues?

In late March several cabinet and conference leaders devoted a week to “muck out” houses in New Orleans. The phrase is descriptive. We tore out moldy ceiling tile.

We tore down moldy dry wall. We dismantled moldy bathrooms. We carried out moldy personal belongings. Did I mention the mold?

For many people in New Orleans and the surrounding area, it was a loss of their past. Pictures and memorabilia of personal relationships and meaningful moments were destroyed. They were literally tossed on piles of rubbish on the side of the street. For many, they are still grieving this loss.

For many people it is also a loss of their future. At this time only about 40% of the people have returned to New Orleans. With that loss of population is a loss of employment, public services, and quality health care. Some neighborhoods have been completely destroyed and authorities have still not decided if those neighborhoods can return.

The loss of one's past is a source of grief. The loss of one's future is a source of despair. Hopelessness can destroy one's life like a storm can destroy one's house.

One morning Linda (Mike and Linda Smith, Franklin First, helped lead the trip), led devotions on Psalm 137: “By the rivers of Babylon – there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion. How could we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?”

In the midst of tremendous tragedy how can we sing of hope? How can we visualize a future of promise? Are we doomed to despair?

But this is the season of Easter when God took the worst of evil and changed it into the best of good. The cross and empty tomb represent God's power to transform tragedy into triumph. It is the ultimate reality makeover.

Even disasters shall not destroy us or define us. Our lives will not be defined by our fears or our tears, but by our confidence in God who delivers us from adversity. That is our hope; the hope of Easter.

Our world is yearning for this kind of hope. May your celebration of Easter discover new depths of hope for you and all the world!



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- Tom

School of Christian Mission, 2006

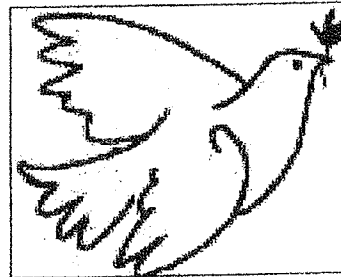
Experience peace the way Jesus intended at the West Ohio Conference School of Christian Mission. Choose from several options designed for families and individuals all on the campus of Ohio Northern University.

Teens having completed grades 9-12 are invited to discover peace at the five-day School, Monday, July 17-Friday, July 21. Interact with persons in mission, fellowship with other teens, participate and lead worship, study dynamic mission topics and more!

Youth having complete grades 5-8 are invited to the adventure-packed Weekend School Friday, July 14-Sunday, July 16 where you will discover exciting mission in the United Methodist Church!

Children having completed grades K-4 will enjoy the Weekend School as well where you will learn about all kinds of great mission work and how you can make a difference too!

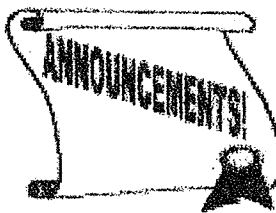
Adults will have 3 options to choose from. The Day Sampler, Saturday, July 15 will provide a taste of the School and lots of great materials for your church. The Weekend Event, with special track in Korean is the perfect opportunity for families to experience mission education together with classes/activities especially designed for children and youth in grades K-8. The Five-Day School runs Monday, July 17-Friday July 21. This en-depth study offers CEUs for clergy, Certified Lay Speaker credit, a teen track and the training needed to teach peach studies in the local church, Pre-kindergarten childcare is offered.



Three meaningful Peace Studies are being offered. **India and Pakistan**-explore the many ways you can be in mission that makes a difference for your sisters and brothers in Christ in this part of the world. **Shalom...Peace.. Salaam**-learn more about three words from the three "Abrahamic" religions-Judaism, Christianity and Islam-which all mean peace. **Globalization: Its Impact on Our Lives**-discover where and how the economic policies of globalization touch the lives of ordinary people.

Accommodations and meals are on the Ohio Northern campus. Textbooks may be ordered by calling *The Service Center* at 800-305-9857 or emailing scorders@gbgm-umc.org. Teen, youth and children's materials will be provided.

Deadline to register is June 16; after this date registration fees jump \$10 for the day sample and \$25 for the weekend event and the five-day school. Registration forms for each participant and payment must be mailed to Jeanne Schierloh, Registrar, 285 Maple Avenue, Centerville, OH 45459. Have questions or want more information? Contact Jeanne Schierloh at 937-434-3107 or djschierloh@sbcglobal.net. A downloadable registration form is available online by visiting www.westoniosocm.com



Annual Conference Briefing will be Blanchester Grace on May 17 at 7:00 pm. All delegates and clergy are encourage to attend. You will be able to pick up your materials for Conference at the briefing. If you are unable to attend you can attend in Cincinnati on May 16 or in Waverly on May 15, 7 pm at the Waverly Grace Life Center, 104 S. High St., Waverly. If you plan to attend either of these alternative sessions, please contact the district office so your materials will be waiting for you. After May 17, you may stop in the district office to pick them up; all materials need to be picked up by May 31. **We will not**

mail any materials this year.

For Sale: Hammond Spinet Organ, model M-3. Two manual, bentwood storage, in excellent condition. Asking \$495 but willing to negotiate. If interested, call Jerry Ragland, 937-746-5857.

Any church looking for a free piano? Description: Decent Quality Full-size Vintage 1940's Chase Brothers Upright Piano (4'4" Tall, not a small house piano), strings and action in good shape, some ivory is broken on two keys, they have the replacement ivory. According to Larry Fine's Piano Guide, the entire piano is in good shape. If interested, call district office for contact information.

Mission Opportunities In our Backyard

Looking for a mission opportunity within the state of Ohio? Following are several that may be able to use your talents this summer:



Nast Trinity UMC Next Door

1310 Race Street
Cincinnati OH 45202
513-241-2563

Contact: Pastor Sherry Gale
pastorsherry@fuse.net

Nast Trinity will be in need of teams to renovate the building they purchased next door to their church. The building will be used for classroom space for their ministries and programs. The upper floor will be used for housing.

CARE United Methodist Outreach

395 E High Street
McArthur OH 45651
740-596-2394

Contact: Gary Blair
gblair@horizonview.net

CARE operates a food pantry, clothing distribution center, furniture center, garden seed program, school supplies distribution and Christmas gift program for low income families in Vinton County.

Friendly Center, Inc.

1324 N. Superior St.
Toledo, OH 43604
419-243-1289

Director: David J. Morris
friendly_center@yahoo.com

The Friendly Center is in partnership with the General Board of Global Ministries. They provide more than 20 programs and services to help achieve the vision developed in 1923 that "No neighbor will go hungry, feel alienated, alone or powerless."

Good Works, Inc.

PO Box 4
Athens OH 45701
740-594-3336

Volunteer Coordinator: Paul Richard
goodworks@good-works.net

A faith-based non-profit organization that provides shelter for the rural homeless as well as transitional housing and community development projects for the homeless and others struggling with poverty in rural, southeastern Ohio.

Church People for Change and Reconciliation

Po Box 488 (125 S Central Ave)
Lima OH 45802
419-224-2086

Contact: Father Norbert Howe

An ecumenical organization that provides a continental breakfast and a well-balanced hot lunch 5 days a week for any who choose to enter.

Hamilton Living Water Ministries

734 Sycamore St.
937-894-9892

Contact: Mickey Evans

Ministries to the neighborhood for children and adults.

Within the Family...Keep them in your prayers

Janet Bowdle, wife of Bill Bowdle who is the pastor at Bethel, as she continues with her chemotherapy treatments.

John O'Bryant, husband of Diann O'Bryant who is pastor at Franklin First, had a nasty fall and has been injured.



We are praying for you...

Disaster Relief Needed in Illinois

Dear Friends,

This comes to you in the way of an urgent request. Please do not skim through it, but do read every word as there is some pertinent detail within it's content.

As some of you know, Springfield, Illinois, was struck by several tornadoes about two (2) weeks ago, and just days following the tornadoes, they then had some heavy snow fall upon already damaged homes and other structures. [The plight of these people was even made known via a 5:30 PM broadcast of the *ABC World News* following the snowstorm(s).] The Midwest Mission Distribution Center (a caring ministry of the North Central Jurisdiction), is located in Chatham (IL--nearby Springfield), has responded to this local disaster, but needs your help.

Springfield, Illinois was struck by several tornadoes. Then had heavy snow fall upon already damaged homes.

Linda Priest

Currently the Center only has 60 flood buckets inventoried but need many more. AND, UMCOR Sager-Brown has requested from the Midwest Mission Distribution Center more as well. The MMDC will not be able to respond to the next disaster adequately without more kits.

"The Midwest Mission Distribution Center provided 966 flood buckets, 4,133 health kits, 25 layettes, 185 lbs. of blankets, 55 lbs. of paper goods, 446 lbs. of clothing, 114 lbs. of pet supplies, and 10 lbs. of kitchen items to help the victims of the tornadoes that struck the Springfield area on March 12, 2006." [Midwest Mission Distribution newsletter, March, 2006.]

For those of you who do not have the Center's address or email address and wish to contact them directly it is: 1022 New City Road, Chatham, IL 62629, phone: (217) 483-7911; email: midwestmissiondc@aol.com. Thank you for your time, and your consideration.

In Peace,

Linda Priest

Northern Illinois Conference Representative to the Board of Directors of the Midwest Mission Distribution Center and MMDC Publicity and PR Chair

Our Sympathy to.....

Elenor Jo Miller, 10 River Ave., Buckhannon, WV 26201, on the death of her husband Rev. Dennis Miller.

Rev. Ed & Katherine Pellett, 10959 Thornview Drive, Cincinnati, 45241, on the death of her mother, Dorothy Odon, widow of the Rev. Louis Oden.

Revs. Alan and Jean Carroll, 3014 Maginn Dr, Dayton OH 45434-5834, on the death of Alan's father, Clayton Carroll.

Muriel Bankes, 10171 Timberman Rd., Malta, 43758, on the death of her father, Rev. Roy Ballard.

John & Marge Jepsen, 14200 CR 175, Kenton, 43326, on the death of his mother, Geneva, widow of Floyd Jepsen, who served as a local pastor in Lima District.

Rev. Michael & Nancy Westbay, 817 Ivy Ln., Celina, 45822, on the death of his mother, LaVerta A. Westbay.

Donald and Kristin Haskins, 5427 Hathaway Road, Lebanon, 45036, on the death of his grandmother, Clara Lynd, surviving spouse of Rev. Henry Merrill Lynd.

Rev. Dennis & Debbie Baker, 3055 Winding Way, Zanesville, 43701, on the death of her father, Harold Wolfe.

Rev. Charles Eagle, 205 S. Mill St., Beaverdam, 45808, on the death of his father, Walter.



Ministry Openings

Springboro FUMC seeks Youth Minister, Director of Music and Pianist. Growing congregation in south Dayton suburb with approximately 600 members. Candidates should contact the church at fumcofspringboro@hotmail.com or call 937-748-2612.



Director of Children's Ministry – Cornerstone Church (West Chester)

We have an immediate opening for a full-time Director of Children's Ministry. We are looking for a person who demonstrates a living personal faith in Jesus Christ, can lead, organize and build teams and who has a passion for leading a growing children's ministry. A position description is available on request from the church office. If you'd like further information you can contact Pastor Jeff Raker. The church phone is 513-874-0910.

Finance Manager-Part time. To perform a wide variety of detailed and specific financial management functions with minimum guidance. Will be responsible for payroll, the handling of accounts payable and for generating all applicable statements. Send resumes by May 6 to Ohio River Valley District, c/o Cathy Mulligan, 5742 Keshena Dr., Hamilton, OH 45011.

Office Administrator-Full time. To coordinate all administrative functions associated with the operation and programs of the district office, including a wide variety of detailed and specific clerical/administrative tasks. Must be proficient with word processing, spreadsheet, database, and desktop publishing software and demonstrate excellent organization skills and ability to multitask. Send resumes by May 6 to Ohio River Valley District, c/o Cathy Mulligan, 5742 Keshena Dr., Hamilton, OH 45011.

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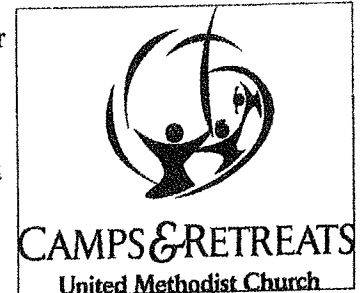
West Ohio UMC Resident Bishop
Bruce R. Ough
District Superintendent
Thomas D. Hanover
District Program Coordinator
Marcia Rummel
Secretaries
Catherine Hanover
Sherry Williams

The United Methodist Church
61 East Main Street, Suite 1
Wilmington, Ohio 45177
Phone: (937) 382-7583
Fax: (937) 382-7584
Email: wilmndist@wocumc.org
Website: www.wilmingtondistrictumc.org

REGISTER NOW FOR CAMPS!

Our Wilmington-Cincinnati District camps are filling up, so if you haven't gotten your registrations in yet, you need to get to it. We can take 50 elementary children and 50 Jr. High youth this year since we are doing all three camps the same week.

That week again is June 18-22 for the Elementary camp and June 19-24 for the Jr. and Sr. High camps. Exciting things are planned in all of our camps to help our children and youth know that God created them, loves them and wants to be in relationship with the. Our Sr. Highs will also be exploring how God can use them in ministry to others as they will be spending a couple of days in inner city Cincinnati serving children and the elderly.



These three camps will be held again this year at King's Domain on SR 350 between Ft. Ancient and YMCA Camp Kern. We have lots of fun activities planned and have rounded up some great counselors and deans to minister to and with our children and youth at camp. So don't miss out! Get your registrations in now!

