

WDN News

November 2005

Special points of interest:

- The Three Little Christians
- Mission Opportunities
- Festival of Sharing News
- Realignment Update
- New Conference Map

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The Three Little Christians

By Dean Feldmeyer

Once upon a time there were three little Christians. They lived together in a church, as Christians usually do, and they grew more and more mature every day.

One day their pastor came to them and, with a stern look on his face, he said, "You have all been very good little Christians, but you are getting very mature in your faith. Now it is time for you to go out into the world and spread the Gospel and build churches of your own."

So the three little Christians packed their belongings and went out into the world to build themselves nice big churches. As they went on their way they sang a popular song of their day:

Who's afraid of THE WAY LIFE IS,
THE WAY LIFE IS,
THE WAY LIFE IS?
Who's afraid of THE WAY LIFE IS?
Tra-la-la-la-la!

Before long, they came to a fork in the road. The first little Christian said, "I think I'll sit here and see what comes along." and he did. The second little Christina took the right fork in the road that led to The Past and the third little Christian took the left fork in the road that led to The Future.

It wasn't very long before the first little Christian, the one who had decided to sit down and not go anywhere, saw, coming up the road, a T.V. Evangelist. The T.V. Evangelist was a handsome and persuasive man who brought with him a large load of Good Feelings.

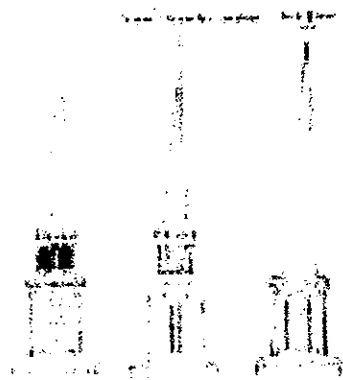
Ah, thought the first little Christian, I could build a slap-dash little church out of Good Feelings. He said to the T.V. Evangelist, "Please sir, won't you give me some Good Feelings so that I might build a church of my own?"

The T.V. Evangelist, not being a selfish man, gave the little Christian a great quantity of Good Feelings and the little Christian set to work and in no time at all he had built himself a slap-dash little church out of Good Feelings.

What the little Christian didn't know was that THE WAY LIFE IS was lurking just out of sight while he built his church, and no sooner had he moved in and gotten comfortable than THE WAY LIFE IS came knocking at the door.

"Little Church, Little Church, let me come in," said THE WAY LIFE IS.

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"not by the hair of my chinny, chin, chin?" replied the little Christian and all his friends in the church. "I will not let you come in!"

"Then I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blo-o-o-o-w your church down," said THE WAY LIFE IS. And with that, he huffed and he puffed and he blew down the church made out of nothing but Good Feelings!"

And that was the end of the first little Christian and his church.

The second little Christian walked down the road that led to The Past, and it was not long before he met, coming up the road, a Life-Long Church Member. The Life-Long Church Member was old and distinguished looking and brought with him a large load of Traditions and Memories.

Ah, thought the second little Christian, I could build a charming little church out of Traditions and Memories. He said to the Life-Long Church Member, "Please sir, won't you give me some Traditions and Memories so that I might build a church of my own?"

The Life-Long Church Member, not being a selfish man, dumped his entire load of Traditions and Memories on the little Christian, and the little Christian set to work and in no time at all he had built himself a charming little church out of Traditions and Memories.

But, what the little Christian didn't know was that THE WAY LIFE IS was lurking just out of sight while he built his church, and no sooner had he moved in and gotten comfortable than THE WAY LIFE IS came knocking at the door.

"Little Church, Little Church, let me come in," said THE WAY LIFE IS.

"Not by the hair on my chinny, chin, chin!" replied the little Christian and all his friends in the church. "We will not let you come in."

"Then, I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blo-o-o-o-w your church down," said THE WAY LIFE IS. So he huffed and he puffed and he blew the church down!"

And that was the end of the second little Christian and his church.

The third little Christian walked down the road that led to The Future and it was not long before he met, coming up the road, a Disciple. The Disciple was not very distinctive in appearance and the load he brought with him, while large, was a hodge-podge of all different kinds of things:

PASSIONATE WORSHIP, RADICAL HOSPITALITY, RISK TAKING MISSIONS AND OUTREACH, FAITH BUILDING SMALL GROUPS, SUPPORTIVE FELLOWSHIP, ADULT BIBLE STUDY, YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES, VIBRANT MUSIC, SACRIFICIAL GIVING, AND LOTS OF OTHER THINGS.

Ah, thought the third little Christian, I could build a very sturdy church out of all these things. He said to the Disciple, "Please sir, won't you give me some of the things in your very large load so that I might build a church of my own?"

The Disciple, not being a selfish man, gave the little Christian many of the things in his large load and the little Christian set to work. He worked and worked and worked and worked! It took a very long time and a great deal of effort.

Finally, the third little Christian and the other little Christians who had joined him in his effort had built a church. And a strong, beautiful church it was. Passionate worship was at the center of the church. The bricks were made of the finest education and were held together by mortar made from tradition and history. The structure was strengthened by solid administration. Windows of fellowship let in warm sunlight and fresh air. The furnishings included mission, outreach, social concerns, Bible study, youth ministry, music and many lively gatherings that made it a gracious and inviting place. All of this was empowered by their love for God and their desire to follow Christ.

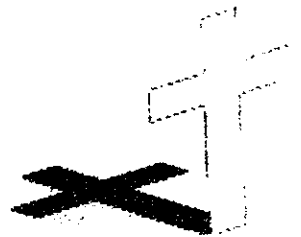
But what the little Christian and his friends didn't know or at least didn't seem to know was that THE WAY LIFE IS was lurking just out of sight while they were building their church, and soon THE WAY LIFE IS came knocking at the door. "Big Church, Big Church, let me come in," said THE WAY LIFE IS.

And do you know what the little Christian and his friends in the church did? They opened the door and welcomed him in!!!

And they lived relatively happily ever after.

Oh, occasionally THE WAY LIFE IS would get carried away and huff and puff and threaten to blow down the church, but when this happened the little Christian and his friends would all look knowingly at each other and wink. And say, "Oh well, that's just...THE WAY LIFE IS."

And they would thank God for him.



Within the Family...Keep them in your prayers

Wahnita Airhart, mother of Bob Airhart II (Hunter/Sharon/Zoar), fell and broke her collar bone. Cards to: 577 N. SR 741, Lebanon, 45036

John & Annette Eshelman (Hamilton Park Ave.) have twin daughters, Olivia and Kara, born October 2. Cards to : 811 Haldimand Ave., Hamilton, 45013

Cathy Hanover had recent surgery but is back on the job.

Rev. Bill Hanlon, P.O Box, 149, Uniopolis, 45888, has had recent heart surgery. He is awaiting a heart transplant.



We are praying for you...

Mission Opportunities

The volunteer effort in response to Hurricane Katrina will continue for a long time. Right now, UMCOR is making assessments in three states affected by Katrina to determine where and how volunteers can best be used. As your VIM Coordinator, I will know what the needs are or how to get them, what teams are going from our area, and how you can be a part of the response. So if you are planning on putting a team together, PLEASE CONTACT ME so I can coordinate our efforts.

"While we focus on the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina, let's remember those impacted by Hurricane Rita"

The Mississippi Gulf, Alabama/West Florida, Louisiana, Seashore District (Mississippi UMC) and Florida are all in need of teams to go with Seashore in need of volunteers to work on 21 UM parsonages damaged by the storms. Florida is in need of rebuilding teams to help with destruction from last years hurricane damage. The Texas Conference Disaster Response Center is also up and running, opening on October 3.

For more information on any of these opportunities, contact Dee Stickey- Miner at 800-437-0028 or dstickley@wocumc.org.

Festival of Sharing collects TONS!

The West Ohio Conference has shipped literally tons of items for hurricane relief. The manifest for the truck going to the Sager Brown UMCOR Depot lists the following items: 1032 flood buckets, 6822 personal health kits, 189 school kits, 141 miscellaneous items, 82 blanket packages, 48 sewing kits, 48 boxes of bedding, 47 layettes, 26 trash bag boxes, 24 baby quilts, 24 washboards, 11 cartons of bottled water, 10 towels/pillow containers, 8 shovels, 3 brooms, 6 boxes of hand soap, 1 box of toothpaste & toothbrushes, 1 box of shampoo, 1 box of insect repellent, 1 box of rubber gloves, 1 box of body wash and 1 box of paper towels. In addition, the conference office has received \$25,000 in cash donations with more coming in. What a great way to show the love of Christ to those in need!



Our Sympathy to.....

Rev. Judy Guion Utsler, 4449 Etna Rd., Columbus, 43213 on the death of her 10 year old nephew, Ethan Robert Lillard, to cancer..

Rev. Jack Hughes, 262 West St., Jackson, 45640, on the death of his father, Tom.

Maurice & Sherrie Kaiser, P.O. Box 207, Edon, 43518, on the death of their son, Michael. Mike graduated from seminary in '78 and served a short time before being diagnosed with ataxia. Mike was involved in various ministries of Edon UMC, not letting his physical condition keep him from serving the Lord.

Rev. Robert Davis, retired, 204 Oak Ridge Rd., Wellston, 45692, on the death of his wife, Barbara.

Ruth Burk, 4116 Dove Ct., Lebanon, 45036, on the death of her husband, Rev. Rodney, retired.

Rev. Barry Baughman, 8632 CR 91, Lewistown, 43333, on the death of his father.



Help Wanted in several Area Churches / For Sale

Faith Community UMC is seeking a well qualified and experienced audio technician/engineer with proven leadership abilities to give consistency to their Audio Ministry. Multiple services and events in both the contemporary and traditional environments in a rapidly growing church. Resumes/questions to dick.trotter@faithcommunityonline.net or the church office at 513-777-9533, fax 513-777-4973.

Waynesville UMC is seeking an additional pianist/keyboard-player to assist during Worship Services, particularly at 8 am.. Please contact Nita Teeters, 513-897-5771 or WaynesvilleUMC@earthlink.net.

For Sale Hammond A-100 organ. Good condition. Available to any person or church interested. For more information please contact Ervin Wentz at 513-235-8975.

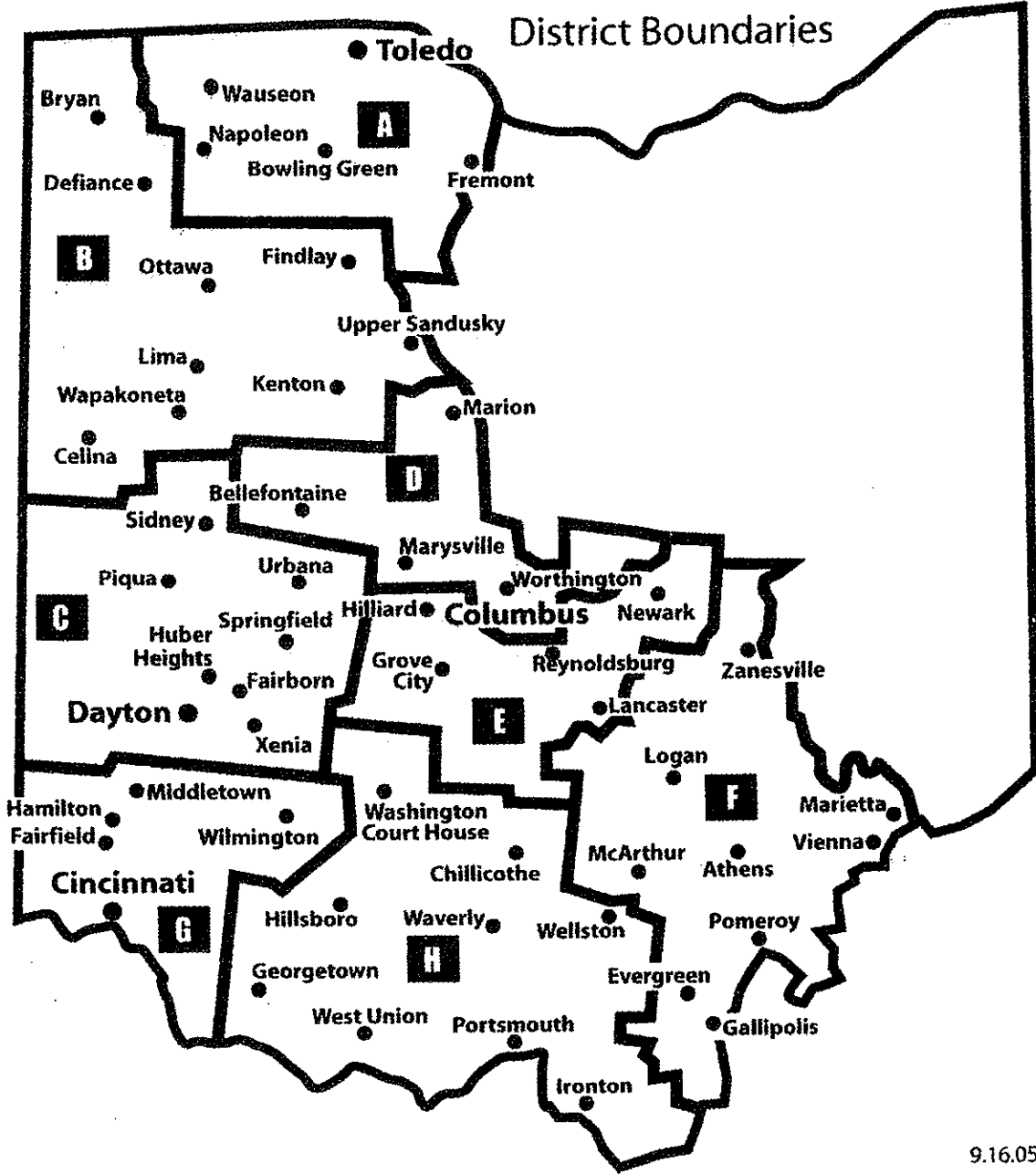
Is the Lord calling you
to a new ministry?

Looking for a slow Saturday-don't read this!

Excitement grows as we head into our last packing event as the Wilmington District. Saturday, February 4 starting at 9 am at the Goshen UM Church, we will again Pack for Jesus with Master Provisions. Good used clothing, shoes, belts and accessories will make a difference in someone's life and be the means by which they hear the Good News of Jesus, many for the very first time. Youth groups, Sunday School classes, children and adults are welcome; no one is too young to too old to help. Come on out and help us "Pack for Jesus!"



West Ohio Conference District Boundaries



NOVEMBER



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Wilmington, Ohio
Permit No. 73

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
The Wilmington District
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

Conference Realigns

In the past month leadership has made several key decisions in realigning conference and district resources for the fulfillment of the vision that every local church become a healthy, vibrant center for making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

News Flash!

In late Sept the Conference Transition Team announced the new district lines as the conference adjusts from 14 to 8 districts. In the old Wilmington District, Brown and Highland Counties will go east to join a new district "H" that includes Fayette County and the old Portsmouth District. Butler, Clermont, Clinton, and Warren Counties will join a new district "G" with Hamilton County.

In early October Bishop Ough named the Superintendents for the new districts. Rev. David Brown will lead the new District "H" and Rev. Randy Stearns will lead the new District "G." Rev. Tom Hanover is being assigned to District "F" – the old Athens District plus the Zanesville area.

Currently, District Superintendents are naming and recruiting members for District Transition Teams that will choose new district names, new locations for offices, establish new district structures, and recommend new district leadership. For more information, check out the website: www.wilmingtondistrictumc.org

Special thanks to Dee Deucker for keeping our district website up to date with the realignment news.