

WDN News

October 2005

Special points of interest:

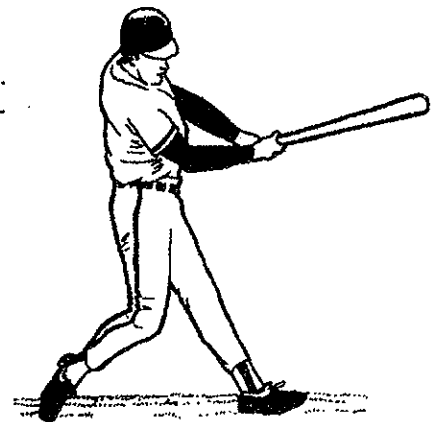
- Hurricane Relief through UMCOR
- Mission Opportunities
- Festival of Sharing
- Tony Campolo to speak
- Lay Speaking Workshops

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Katrina: United Methodists Still Up to Bat!

There were no marketing campaigns; no advance ticket sales. No one knew he was coming. There is no record of planning for inadequate parking or meeting local zoning requirements for large crowd venues. Nevertheless, when Jesus began preaching, more than 5,000 people showed up. Jesus' heart was broken for their sorrow. Luke tells us he welcomed them. Matthew tells us he healed their sick. Mark says the crowds were like sheep without a shepherd. Even though his own heart grieved for the loss of his cousin, John the Baptist, he made space and time for the crowd.



When it was evening (and you thought your preacher went too long!), the disciples urged Jesus to pronounce the benediction and send everyone away to find something to eat. And Jesus said, "You yourselves give them something to eat!" (Matt 14:16 TEV)

Thousands upon thousands have been uprooted, dislodged, and evacuated along the Gulf Coast of our country. Many of them have no home to return to. Many of them are separated from family members, not knowing where they are. Many have died.

And Jesus says, "You take care of them!"

Now, I'm not smart enough to know why God chooses to entrust so much of the Divine plan of salvation to human responsibility. I only know that to be a disciple of Jesus is respond to the needs of people. The need is the call to service.

A few truckloads of stuff and a few \$20 bills in an offering are not going to be sufficient. The destruction is overwhelming and is going to require much commitment over a long period of time. I'm not sure we can do it ... alone.

But then, Jesus' disciples did not have many resources either: one little boy's happy meal that wasn't even theirs to give away. But they gave what they had, and in God's mystery of multiplication it was more than enough.

For Jesus' disciples in the 21st century to respond to the needs in the Gulf Coast, we need to give what we have. We need to give it together. And we need to give in trust of how God may use it beyond our control. Isn't that part of what it means to "put it in Jesus' hands?"

As United Methodists we have some fantastic connections with people who already live in those Gulf Coast areas. They know what they need. They know how to deliver it. They know how to help, because they are helping their friends and their neighbors. So what better way to give than through your Church connections at United

Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). You can be assured that UMCOR will still be there long after everyone else including the media have gone home.

The Council of Bishops is arranging for conferences to adopt conferences or districts in the Gulf Coast area. There will be a need to rebuild congregations and their ministries, while there will be little ability to pay for these ministries in the hurricane-struck areas. We will share more with you about these opportunities when our brothers and sisters in that area are ready for our help.

In these early stages of recovery, the best we can do is to make health kits that can be delivered to Festival of Sharing on Sept 24 at the Clark County Fairgrounds or dropped off at the District Office. Monetary gifts to UMCOR can be forwarded to the Conference Office along with your monthly apportionments. Remember 100% of your gifts to UMCOR – designated for hurricane relief – will go to hurricane relief! Or you can give online through the site: www.methodistrelief.org

To keep up to date on the latest news, you may want to check out the web site: www.umc.org. To know the latest happening in our conference, check out the conference web site: www.westohioumc.org.



We are sending emails to our Monday News Around the Network mailing list 2-3 times per week with the latest information. If you would like to receive these emails, send your email address to chanover@wocumc.org. If you do not have access to the internet, there are probably several in your church who do. Ask them to be the communications point for your church.

If you have questions, contact Marcia Rummel in the District Office (937 382-7583) or Dee Stickley-Miner in the Conference Office (800 437-0028).

Jesus said, "You feed them!" And then he took our meager efforts, blessed them, and it was more than enough. That's what I believe. How about you?

Tom

Investing Creating Sharing Strengthening

On September 27, Bishop Ough and Jim Runyan from RSI will be holding a Regional Meeting to discuss "Strength for Today...Bright Hope for Tomorrow" to update you on the campaign and to answer questions you may have. The meeting will be a Church of the Savior, Cincinnati. The schedule will be as follows:

5:00-Clergy Meeting

6:30-Clergy Dinner

7:30-Clergy and Laity Meeting

Contact your pastor for reservation information

Contact your pastor for reservation information



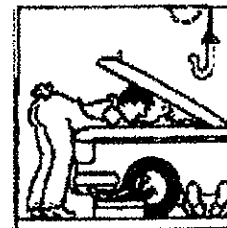
DON'T FORGET!

**Don't forget our district training event
this Saturday, October 1 at Milford First UMC
8:30 am-3 pm.**



Realignment Update

The Conference Transition Team has been meeting fervently since appointed a few months ago. They are finalizing district boundaries in the middle of September. The Bishop expects to announce the Superintendents by early October. With those two pieces in place, District Transition Teams will begin work on location of district offices (and other properties), district structures and leaders, district staffs, district budgets, and renewing relationships with district ministries. This is also an opportunity to standardize some of the legal requirements of each district so there is improved consistency among the district offices and structures.



How much of this will affect your church? Your District Sup't prays it will turn it upside down, but not because of all the meetings and paperwork. I pray it will open the doors to potential change in the culture of our conference and district relationships. Can cluster groups enhance the leadership skills of pastors? Can restructuring improve the district's resourcing and networking of local churches? Can conference systems align with the needs of districts and churches? I pray so, and I'm working to help make it so.

Your DS has scheduled some "Coffee and Cokes" gatherings around the district over the next several months to share information and to answer questions you may have. These gatherings are purely voluntary and everyone is welcome. If you have concerns, don't hesitate to contact me: 937 382-7583 or thanover@pastors-study.com. Help me represent you well!

"HELP US!"

How often we have seen and heard this cry these last few weeks. Even the devastation seen from Hurricane Katrina via the news media cannot prepare us for the suffering our brothers and sisters are experiencing. This will not be a short term, quick relief disaster recovery Help is needed on a long term basis. We can respond! We can HELP!

"...everyday items help families recover during the early days after a major disaster." Bishop Ough

Be an active part of the solution. The Festival of Sharing will be held September 24, 9 am-3 pm at the Clark County Fairgrounds. The speaker for the day will be Donna Derr, Interim Director of Church World Service Emergency Response Team. Health kits and flood buckets for Hurricane Relief will be collect and shipped. All are welcome and volunteers will be needed to help pack the truck that will leave for the UMCOR depot at the close of the day

Dr. Tony Campolo in Springfield

The Springfield District invites you and all those in your congregations to be part of an exciting worship event featuring Dr. Tony Campolo, October 28, 2005 7 pm at the Kuss Auditorium in downtown Springfield. Please call the Springfield District Office for tickets at 937-342-4712



Within the Family...Keep them in your prayers

Ann Myers, 7291 Wilmington Rd., Oregonia, 45054. She has been on crutches due to a leg injury.

Rhonda Smith, 2580 US 50, Batavia, 45103, wife of Mike (pastor at Owensville) as she has been in and out of the hospital following gall bladder surgery.

Vicki Perkins, PO Box 223, Buchtel, wife of Earnie (pastor of Shawnee-New Straitsville in the Athens District) as she undergoes additional cancer treatments and is in a great deal of pain.



We are praying for you...

Mission Opportunities

Primetimers is an educational and missional ministry of the General Board of Global Ministry for older adults. It offers the opportunity for educational forums, cross cultural exposure, faith-filled reflection and greater exposure to the work of the United Methodist Church and the church universal. Opportunities for travel are within the United States and well as abroad. Mississippi, Kentucky, New York City and Brazil are some of the upcoming trips available.

Primetimers offers the older adult exposure to the mission of the UMC.

For more information, contact Dee Stickley-Minor, dstickley@owcumc.org, 800-437-0028 or visit [primetimers on the web at hppt ://gbgmumc.org/vim/primetimers/2006_events. Htm](http://gbgmumc.org/vim/primetimers/2006_events.Htm)

The "**Packing for Jesus**" event is scheduled for Saturday, February 4 with packing to begin at 9 am. Packing will take place at the Goshen UMC; storage space available starting November 1. Clean out those closets and put your energy to good use-come out and "Pack for Jesus."

All Saint's Day at Otterbein-Lebanon

Rev. Dr. Admiral Dewey Sanders will be guest speaker for the Saturday, November 5 "All Saint's Day breakfast at Otterbein-Lebanon. Beginning at 9 am, Dr. Dewey's topic will be "Living to the End of the Road." In 1991, Dewey walked from coast to coast-a total of 3355 miles and raised approximately \$80,000 for Methodist Children's Homes. Dewey is treatment director for the Kentucky UMC homes for Children and Youth. He authored the book Love Your Life! Live Your Dreams! He will also speak at Sunday's worship service with the theme "You Have Gifts, Use Them Now." Make reservations through the Otterbein-Lebanon UMC office at 513-696-8537. The donation for breakfast is



Our Sympathy to.....

Robert Foster, 1759 Arrowhead Court, Defiance, 43512, for the family on the death of their father, Jim Foster, retired.

Rev. Ed Wallen, 804 Park Drive, Wapakoneta, 45895, on the death of his brother, Leo Merschman.

Rev. Ruthanne Pribe, 3470 Heatherwood, Springfield, 45503, on the death of her brother, Larry.

Rev. & Mrs. Jim Glover (retired), 105 Whitetail Court, South Mills, NC 27976, on the death of their daughter, Sandra.

Peg Snyder, 901 Shepherd Drive, Fostoria, 44830, on the death of her husband, Robert.



Help Wanted in several Music Departments

Williamsburg UMC will be accepting resumes for the position of Music Director through September 30. Individuals interested in this position may submit a resume to : Williamsburg UMC, c/o SPPR Committee, 330 Gay Street, Williamsburg, 45176. No phone calls or emails will be accepted.

Help develop the
music ministries of
our church

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.

Children's Worker Needed at Living Water

Children's Center Assistant needed at Living Water. This is a part time-permanent position. Hours 3-5:30 pm with occasional hours until 6 pm. Hourly wage is \$8.50 with 2 weeks off during Christmas Break, Spring Break and 4 weeks during the summer. Resume with email address (if available) to: Mickey Evans, Hamilton Living Water Ministry inc, 734 Sycamore Street, Hamilton, OH 45011. Questions may be directed to Mickey at 513-894-9892



"Let the children come to me..."
Matthew 19:14a

OCTOBER



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

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Website: www.wilmingtondistrictumc.org

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Lay Speaker Training is Back!

Are you interested in becoming a Lay Speaker in the United Methodist Church? Are you currently a Local Church Lay Speaker and want to upgrade your certification? Are you currently a Certified Lay Speaker and want to renew your certification? Then the following information may be of interest to you.

On Saturday, October 8, and Saturday, October 22, 2005, a Basic Lay Speaking Workshop will be held at Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Batavia, Ohio.

On Saturday, October 29, and Saturday, November 12, 2005, an Advanced Lay Speaking Workshop will be held at Emmanuel United Methodist Church, in Batavia, Ohio.

The cost of each workshop is \$30.00 per person, which serves to offset the cost of materials and meals. The sessions will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude each day at approximately 3:30 p.m. Attendance, at both sessions of either workshops, is necessary in order to receive credit. Recognition certificates will be awarded to the participants at the conclusion of each workshop.

For more information about the workshops,- or to register for them, please contact:

Ed Cunningham
Director of Lay Speaking for the Wilmington District
6320 Salem Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45230