Growing holy hearts for a whole community

The Covington District Newsletter

SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST - AND THE GREAT THINGS THAT HE IS DOING IN AND AROUND THE COVINGTON DISTRICT OF THE KENTUCKY ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Volume II, Issue 2 **February, 2012 Issue**

Reflections—a word or two from our District Superintendent

I'm pleased to introduce to you a new part-time district staff person. Grace Rockstroh started in January as our District New Church Development Director. She will meet monthly as part of the conference NCD board as well as facilitate monthly meetings with a new district NCD Team. She will be available for all the churches of our district as you look at the potential of planting new churches, new outreach worship services and satellite campuses. She will also help you with demographic information about your community/mission field. New Church Development can and needs to happen across our district. I've asked Grace to take a moment to introduce herself:

Hi everyone! I am so honored to be joining the district team and can't wait to see the great things that God has in store for us. I grew up here in Northern Kentucky as a United Methodist and I currently attend The Community, a new United Methodist church plant in our district. My husband Tim and I currently live in Ludlow and have quickly grown to love this district and the people of Northern Kentucky. I graduated from Indiana Wesleyan University and have worked for a variety of non-profit organizations. I'm excited to serve as the District New Church Development Director and I look forward to meeting each of you over the next few months. Please let me know how I can serve you as we come together to reach the lost and broken for Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace
Grace

Highlights in this issue:

- **IMPORTATN CLERGY MEETING FOR RETIREES!**
- WHY CAMPUS MINISTRY MATTERS
- HAVE A HEART FOR SENIORS
- LACE REGISTRATION FORM
- DISTRICT NEWS, EVENTS

Prayer Concerns to Remember

- Mike Albertson
- Ida Spence
- The Community
- Our Bishop and Cabinet
- Our DS and family
- Grace Ministry
- Eugene Penn
- Art Honican—surgery

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VBS Preview Events

To preview Vacation Bible School materials offered through Cokesbury, consider attending one of the following events.

To RSVP, email Brenda Harris at bharris@cokesbury.com, or, call 1.800.222.4713, ext. 4404! See attached flyer for more details!

February 11, 2012:
10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Wilson Memorial Presbyterian
4805 Sullivan Ave
Cincinnati Oh 45217

February 12, 2012:
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Southminister Learning Resource Center
7001 Far Hills Ave
Dayton, OH 45459

United Methodist Men

United Methodist Men will meet on

Thursday, February 16th

at Asbury

United Methodist Church

in Highland Heights.

Meal at 6:30pm

Paul Whalen from Highland UMC will

speak on Lincoln and the Methodists.

Come and join in the fellowship

Why Campus Ministry Matters, Part I: Raising Up New Church Leaders

I am passionate about campus ministry. I'll admit that I am biased.; God used the Wesley Foundation at Louisiana State University to call me into ministry. However, in my time as a student leaders and intern there and through other conversations, I know that not everyone seems to understand why campus ministry matters, particularly campus ministry like Wesley Foundations that tend to be separate from the local church.

For some, they think that the local church should be responsible for campus ministry. A more integrated approach should be taken. For others, campus ministry is like an extension of youth ministry, which is often not regarded as valuable or serious ministry.

While I do think campus ministries should have ties to local churches, having campus ministries as separate entities is vital for the work they do: raising up a new generation of spiritual leaders for God's Church.

College is a time of self exploration, questioning, and identity formation for many young adults in the US. The role a campus ministry plays in this is to provide a safe space to explore and question the Christian faith. In my own experience, I was exposed to everything from Lee Strobel to Marcus Borg and am the better for it. Especially as the world moves into an intellectual clime of less certitude and suspicion of grand narratives, campus ministries carve out a needed space where young people can encounter the radical call to be disciples of Jesus.

As a student wrestles with his or her faith, campus ministries also provide leadership opportunities to train new leaders. I was invited to help plan our weekly worship as well as lead bible studies and small groups. It was through using my gifts and graces as a leader and the encouragement of my peers that I heard God calling me into ministry. And I wasn't the only one.

I wish there was a study that followed up on college students in UM campus ministries to see what they do afterwards. From my own group of friends at the Wesley Foundation @ LSU, I know of nine students who responded to a call to ordained ministry, which is more than 10% of our average worship attendance. In addition to ordained ministry, many of the students went on to carry out ministry as active lay people in their churches. I believe God does all of this through having separate campus ministries in which students can be challenged and challenge one another to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Consider supporting our Wesley Foundations through prayer, financial contributions, encouraging your graduating high schools to connect with one, or volunteering for one in some way. The investment we are making is in the future leadership of our church.

David Johnston is the pastor of the Butler/Concord Charge in Pendleton County, Kentucky.

Upcoming Clergy Meetings

Tuesday, February 21st at 10:00 am at Asbury UMC

RETIREES are strongly encouraged to attend

The February Clergy Meeting will be on Tuesday, February 21, at Asbury UMC at 10:00 am. Speaker will be Rob Moorlach. This meeting will be "listening sessions" for those impacted both now and into the future by the retiree health liability faced by the Kentucky Conference. The Retiree Health Liability Task Force wants these sessions to be truly listening sessions. Rob has arranged with the Communications Department to record each session so they truly engage the attendees in a conversation about this liability and the proposed plans to meet it. Lunch to follow.

Announcements from Around the District

Super Sunday for Maysville Tehnical, Maysville Community Technical College will celebrate their Super Sunday at Ebenezer United Methodist Church on Feb. 12, 2012 during morning services. Frank X Walker, Multidisciplinary artist will be one of our Special Guest speakers with other special guest as well. This will be a program celebrating Black History.

Highland UMC will once again be operating the summer feeding program in Northern KY. This ministry provides free lunch, dinner and/or snacks to needy children in Northern KY. Highland United Methodist will provide food (and all supplies) free of charge to your VBS provided that your geographic location is in a documented eligible area. Please call Pastor Lar0ry if you are interested in participating this year. 859-757-5416

DNow (Disciple Now) for United Methodist Churches in Northern KY is happening MARCH 2-4 at Highland United Methodist for youth in grades 6-12. Cost is $45 per youth (scholarship available) and includes everything. We have a guest speaker from Grand Rapids, Michigan, Jolene DeHeer, Author of "Be Mine--your invitation to God's Lavish Love". Our theme this year is "I Am Valuable--Because I belong to God". Great Food, Great Fellowship, Great Fun. Activities include a concert by the nationally known band, Belarive, we will be bringing Lazer Tag to all 3 floors of the building, and the AMAZING RACE will also take place during this retreat. Contact Pastor Larry, 859-757-5416 or SAFY@aol.com

Ida Spence Mission would like to thank everyone who participated in Adopt a Family Christmas. Also, there are still opening for churches to provide the last Friday meal for the mission. Tiffany Hollums would love to share with your church what is going on at the mission. Contact her by email tiffany-hollums@gmail.com or phone her at 462-9730.

Safe Sanctuary Training

Phil Bradley, pastor of Washington UMC, will be leading a training session for safe sanctuary program on Feb 11th at Walton UMC. The event will run from 9am to 12pm. All of the district churches are invited to attend. Please let us know if you plan to attend and how many so that the church can make a proper preparation.

Have a Heart for Seniors

The KY Annual Conference has designated, Sunday, February 26th for the annual Have a Heart for Seniors Love Offering to be received. (Please feel free to choose another Sunday during the year.)

A special thanks to each and every church in the Covington District that participated in the 2011 offering and each and every pastor who made possible the opportunity for their members to give. Last year the total offering given by the 6 districts that support the Village was $40,277, an increase of $7,496 over the 2010 amount. Thank you so much for this wonderful offering. We give God great praise and thanks for His provision!

We expect the benevolent care funds needed for our Village residents in 2012 to be $85,000 (the same as in 2011), thus we greatly need your continued support. Some seniors who live longer than they expect and need healthcare sooner than they had hoped, often outlive the money they've worked so hard to save over their lifetime. Because of your generous giving to the offering, the Village is able to help those residents to stay "at home" in the Village close to family and friends. Materials will be mailed to all churches.

Tim Layton, Director

Questions can be emailed to tlayton@wvillage.org or you can also call Susan Blankenship at 859-858-3865 ext. 227.

Lay Academy of Congregational Excellence

LACE is an opportunity for you to learn more about:

*Spiritual Gifts *Leading Worship *Methodist Beliefs
*Lay Speaking *Growing in Your Faith *How to Effectively Witness
*Church Organization *Leadership through Service
*Managing Conflict with Christian Love *Methodist History

The Dates for LACE in 2012 are:
February 18 at Flemingsburg UMC
March 17 at Vanceburg UMC
April 14 at Flemingsburg UMC
May 5 at Washington UMC

Each workshop will cover different topics listed above. The workshop will be 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The total cost for LACE is $30. Make checks out to Covington District. *Lunch will be provided for these workshop.*

Name _____
Address _____
_____
Phone _____
Email _____
Church _____

RETURN THIS PORTION TO

Covington District
36 Johns Hill Road
Suite C
Highland Heights,
KY 41076
(859) 442-5444

Christian Hospitality Workshop

ANNOUNCEMENT

CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY WORKSHOP
Reclaiming Christian Hospitality in the local church.

Clergy and Laity teams are invited to attend.

Our leader will be
Dr. Christine Pohl, Asbury Seminary

Saturday, March 17, 2012
Registration 8:30 am
Session Starts at 9:00 am

Lunch will be provided
Session over by 2:00 pm

Place: The Indiana Wesylan University Center in Florence
600 Meijer Drive
Cost $15.00 per person (lunch included)

The Community Is in Need of a Van

The Community is currently looking for a van that a church or local organization is ready to "put out to pasture." As we move towards weekly worship, we constantly find ourselves looking for nooks, crannies and garages to store our stuff, and we've realized that the best way to do so might be in the back of a van, so we're looking for a "mobile church." If you know of a church somewhere in the District or in the Conference that might be getting rid of a van and would be willing to donate it to The Community, please let us know! Contact Matt Johnson by email, matt@thecommunityky.org or by phone (859) 334-0375

Growing holy hearts for a whole community

THE COVINGTON DISTRICT

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District Calendar and Birthdays

IMPORTANT DATES:.

- **Tuesday, February 21,** Clergy Meeting at Asbury UMC. *Retirees are strongly encouraged to attend.* Lunch to follow.
- **Sunday, February 26,** Have a Heart for Seniors
- **Saturday, March 17,** Christian Hospitality Workshop with Dr. Christine Pohl.

February CALENDAR

- Feb 1 - Cabinet
- Feb 6 - Bishop Davis
- Feb 16 - District UMM
- Feb 18 - LACE
- **Feb 21 - CLERGY MEETING AT ASBURY.** *Retirees are strongly encouraged to attend.* Lunch to follow.

Birthdays:

- Feb 6 - Alice Crawford, Jim Wofford
- Feb 10 - Darrell Maines, Phil Bradley
- Feb 18 - George Edwards
- Feb 22 - Carol Mains
- Feb 24 - Rachel Wirrig

We are always open to new suggestions and feedback on how to make this newsletter better serve you email your thoughts to covdistumc@fuse.net