

Mahoning Valley Messenger

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Signs of Hope All Around Us

In the midst of this appointment season and the hustle and bustle of church and pastor meetings, and the every two week Cabinet times at the Conference office, I am continually amazed at the deep and abiding faithfulness of those servants the Lord has called to serve in both lay and clergy positions. It's easy to be swayed to disappointment, worry, uncertainty and even anger toward someone because of what one perceives has happened, or might happen. I've seen so much living faith stirring in your lives over these past weeks and I wanted to share the good news, some hope, of God's Spirit moving in our midst during this Lenten journey and into and through the passion of Holy Week.

The Mahoning Valley District Youth, under the youth leadership of Katie Cordy, Julie Wise, Johnny Day, Matt Robb, Hayley Ward, Zach Brewer, Jeremy Drysdale, Julia Jones, Jonathan Northcutt, Brenden Loney, Rachel Jones, Donald Sarah, and Sarah Carson are engaged in life-giving ministry that is reaching young people with the Love of Jesus Christ. The recent Camp Asbury retreat focused on God's Grace and how even in the midst of our weakness, God's power is made strong. Their passion for the Lord and the openness in which they share their faith is a testimony to how God is moving in our midst. Praise God for our youth and for the adult leaders who give of their time, energy and love to guide them.

Rev. Enzie Wade faithfully served The United Methodist Church since 1956 and one of the last remarks he made to me before he died a few weeks ago spoke about the walk of Jesus during Lent and how we can follow his example. When I met with Rev. Enzie on Ash Wednesday I shared that Jesus turned his eyes towards Jerusalem and to the suffering of the cross and to the empty grave on the other side. With a quiet and deep look of faith in his eyes, he looked at me and said, "**And Jesus never looked back!**" Rev. Enzie celebrates the joy of resurrection today and his words are a reminder to all of us "never look back" on this journey of faith with the Lord. God is always faithful and doing new things in our lives.

Speaking of new things, I celebrate the recent appointment of Rev. Ray Ake not only as pastor of the Coalburg/Masury Charge but lead pastor to an new and exciting shared ministry team with Brookfield and Hubbard UMC. These four churches, with Pastor Ray as lead pastor, and Pastor Bill Johnson and Pastor Dan Yargo as members of the pastoral team are excited about the new possibilities of reaching the mission field in the northeast area of our district.

Continued on Page 2

Signs of Hope, continued

I pray as we journey through these final weeks of Lent and into the passion of Holy Week that our eyes will stay focused on the joy of the resurrection to come. God is moving in our midst and if we can quiet our spirits and pay attention, we'll see blossoms of hope and new sprouts of life shooting up all around us. May we keep our eyes focused ahead and never look back!

We serve a risen Savior and he is in the world today!

Be Encouraged Always.

Dan

With Dan in April

- 2 Western Reserve District Training Event
- 3 District Youth Event / Elections
- 4 & 5 Seminary visit
- 6 - 8 Cabinet
- 10 District Conference
- 12 Charge Conference
- 13 Bishop Hopkins @ Canfield
- 25 Cabinet via video conference
- 26 & 27 Cabinet
- 28 UM Community Center Board

We ask for your prayers for the following in the days ahead:

The family, friends, and congregations grieving the passing of Rev. Enzie Wade (Franklin Square/New Garden).

The family and friends of Rev. Arthur Deutsch (Retired), who passed away recently..

Rev. John Klimenko (retired from Fowler UMC) as he continues his road to recovery to greater health.

Rev. Greg Calko, whose mother faces serious health concerns.

Please also pray for churches and pastors going through transition at this time.

Need a Notary?

Notary services are now available at the district office. This is being offered as a service to our pastors, clergy families and members. There will be no charge for church/clergy related items. Please call before you come to make sure I am in the office that day. Thank you.

Kathy Kramer
Notary Public

Conversation and Prayer with Bishop John Hopkins

East Ohio Conference clergy are invited to come and share in conversation and prayer with Bishop John Hopkins.

The nearest location for Mahoning Valley District pastors is:

**Canfield UMC,
Wednesday April 13
9:30 a.m.— Noon**

Please contact Canfield UMC at office@canfieldmethodist.org or 330-533-9801 to reserve your spot. Canfield UMC is located at 27 S Broad St., Canfield, OH 44406



All Clergy should also plan to attend the **District Clergy Gathering** on Wednesday, May 4th, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Poland UMC. Lunch will be served. Poland UMC is located at 1940 Boardman-Poland Rd., Poland, 44514.

April Clergy Birthdays

- 5 Lester Hickman Retired
- 10 Dave Martin East Pal. Centenary
- 11 George Schreckengost Sebring
- 15 Paula Archdeacon Columbiana
- 26 Solomon Hill Ygst. Centenary

Reminder to all pastors and financial officers:

If you have not submitted your 2010 **Audit Reports** to the District and Conference Treasurer's Office please do so immediately.

*The deadline for submissions to the May Newsletter is **Monday, April 18***

Submissions should be made in writing/via e-mail when possible

Clergywomen's Lunch

District Clergywomen are meeting on Wednesday, April 6th at 12:30 p.m. at the home of Rev. Pam Gable, 925 N Market St., Lisbon. Please call Pam at 330-424-7156 for directions and to RSVP.

Retirees Breakfast

Retirees & Spouses of the district are invited to a breakfast gathering on Friday, **April 15** at 9:00 a.m. at Lucianno's Café & Banquet Center, Wedgewood Plaza, Austintown. Bill McFadden will be present to talk about the Central Conference Pensions situation.

Reminder: If you would like to receive your newsletter via e-mail, please contact Kathy at mvdistumc@aol.com.

2011 Laity Revival Event

On Saturday, April 9, 2011, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., laity from around the East Ohio Conference will gather at Westbrook Park UMC in Canton for a special event to commission and encourage our laity in ministry. Lay speakers, local church lay leaders, and any and all interested members of the church (young and old) are invited to this event to receive blessing, commissioning and anointing to be in ministry. Lay Speakers from each district will be honored as they give witness to some creative and passionate ministry that has enabled the church to see fruit in their respective mission field.

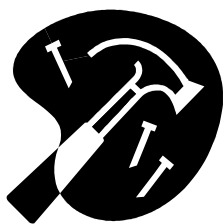
Cost is \$5 per person. Registration forms are available at the district office.

It is our hope that each person might discover a new burning bush of calling into a particular ministry or affirm a whisper once heard. Here is your opportunity to step forward and lead. *Come and catch the Spirit and be a part of the viral movement that could spread into every corner of the conference.*

Bishop and Elders' Work Mission May 23-24, 2011

Blue Rose Mission in Mansfield!!

Provisional Elders, Active Elders, Retired Elders are all invited to take part in this special mission opportunity. If you are interested and did not receive a brochure via e-mail, please contact the district office.



SPRING DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Sunday, April 10, 2:30 p.m. at
Warren Grace UMC
Rev. Glenn Hamilton,
Host Pastor

Please Note:

We will be nominating
delegates to General and
Jurisdictional Conference 2012
at this meeting

Who Should Attend? All pastors are expected to attend and the following laity also have a vote and voice at this conference: Lay Leader, chairpersons of Councils on Ministries, Administrative Boards, and Administrative Councils, presidents of the UM Men, UM Women, UM Young Adults, and UM Youth Fellowship, lay members of the annual conference, ministerial members of the annual conference, part-time local pastors, student local pastors, deaconesses, home missionaries, diaconal ministers, church and community workers assigned by the National Division of the Board of Global Ministries to work in the district and members of conference boards and agencies affiliated with churches within the district.

Also, the designated officers of district councils and standing committees; Presidents of district UM Women, Youth or youth representatives; and the district members-at-large of annual conference.

Kay's Corner

I hope you are taking time to be in prayer during this Lenten Season. By the time you receive this April will be here. As I look ahead we have a very busy spring in our Mahoning Valley District. We are in the midst of planning our District Conference to be held at the Grace United Methodist Church in Warren on April 10, 2:30-4:00. We will have worship, music, and the business of the district, including the election of leadership.

The district United Methodist Women will be meeting on April 26 at the Salem UMC from 9-2:30.

In the midst of all the activities of the district, Holy Week and Easter will be observed. Please be in prayer for our Bishop, the Cabinet, and our District Superintendent, Dan Bryant, and all the churches of the district in this time of transition.

Kay Dunlap

Healthcare Credit

Your local church might be eligible for the Small Business Healthcare Credit. The deadline for the 2010 credit is May 15. Go to our website @ www.eocumc.com and see the link on the left-hand side for answers to questions and instructions on how to apply for the refundable credit. You will need to complete a Form 990-T and Form 8941. The credit could be a few thousand dollars so take the time to review the credit information and calculation. If you have questions, call Jessica Vargo at (800) 831-3972, Ext. 123 or via email at vargoj@eocumc.com.

While we're on the Subject

According to the March 2011 edition of *The Treasurer's Connection*, healthcare premiums are expected to stay the same in 2012 as in 2011.

Youth News

District Youth Council & Elections

April 3, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Boardman UMC, 6809 Market St., Boardman 44512.

Position Available:

Lisbon First UMC is receiving applications for a Program Coordinator. This part-time position includes responsibilities for educational and fellowship ministries. Resumes can be sent to the church, by mail or e-mail (lisbonfirstunited@att.net) attention Mickey Smith, SPRC. Contact the church for job description and details.

Classic Cinema

Sunday April 3rd at 7:00 pm. First UMC of East Liverpool, 200 West 5th St., will present Cecil B. DeMille's "King of Kings." This classic, regarded as the greatest biblical epic of the silent era, will be shown in the 1927 Technicolor version. Silent picture accompaniment by Clark Wilson. No admission charge, a freewill offering will be taken.

Buy, Trade or Sell - The Market Place Returns to our Annual Conference Clergy Spouse Coffee! Wednesday, June 15, 2011

For every clergy spouse who loves to craft, sew, and cook, you are invited once again to bring your items to sell at our Lakeside Clergy Spouse Coffee! Reserve a table now by contacting Elsa Court, elsacourt@roadrunner.com or call 740-255-5160. This "Market Place" was well received last year as hand-made and home-made items are appreciated for their quality and price. The proceeds are yours this is not a fundraiser. Those not selling can come early and S-H-O-P.

Basket Auction and Dinner

Spring Fling Basket Auction and dinner to benefit Nikki Barthalow Scholarship Fund for graduating seniors will be held Sunday, April 17, 11:45-2:30 at Lisbon UMC, 114 E Washington St. Reservations required - call 330-424-5212.

It's Dinner Time, etc.

Spaghetti Dinner & Salad Bar - Sat., April 2, 4-6:30 p.m. at New Hope UMC, 21 Fairview Ave., Niles.

Famous Swiss Steak Dinner - Sat., April 2, 4-6:30 p.m. at Vienna UMC, 4265 Warren-Sharon Rd., Vienna.

Creamed Chicken Over Biscuits - Sunday, April 3, Noon-2:00 at Struthers UMC, 33 Sexton St.

Homemade Chicken Dinners to Go - Thurs., April 7, 4-6 (or until sold out) at Poland UMC, 1940 Boardman-Poland Rd.. Drive-up service only.

Drive Thru Stuffed Chicken Dinners - Thurs. April 7, 4-6 p.m. (or until sold-out) at Western Reserve UMC, 4580 Canfield Rd. (Rt. 62), Canfield.

Annual Pancake Breakfast - Sat., April 9, 7-11:00 a.m. at New Franklin UMC, State Rt. 172, Minerva.

Rummage Sale - Sat., April 9, 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Woodland Park UMC, 601 Ohio Ave., McDonald.



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