

# Mahoning Valley Messenger

John L. Hopkins, Resident Bishop, East Ohio Conference United Methodist Church

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**Dear Friends,**

I praise God for the wonderful gift of your ministry and leadership in the Mahoning Valley District as **we seek to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.** In talking with Jared Woodward who is launching Project 614 out of Church Hill UMC, he shared that 72 people attended the second preview launch service that is set to officially kick off in October, 2012. And hear this! **15 of those attending the 614 service came forward to accept Christ into their life!** We celebrate Church Hill UMC's approval of the Five Prescriptions for the Healthy Church Initiative, geared to helping grow the church. They are the first church to do so in East Ohio.

Throughout the district, new worship experiences are being established and there is a passion in our hearts to share the love of Christ to the mission field. Newton Falls UMC is prepping for a new worship service in mid-February. Mid-week studies are being planned and pastors are sharing they are surprised by the large number of people signing up. In a few weeks, 29 pastors will be attending their second academy training event on Transitioning – of helping lead the church into a new vision. Howland UMC is growing and needing more help to care for the large number of children attending on Sunday morning. I can sense a stirring in our midst.

I just reviewed the year-end financial giving to our shared ministry and what an amazing surprise of God's blessings upon us. We increased our shared ministry giving from 2010 by another 5% to 81% for the year. In the past two years, the Mahoning Valley District has increased their stewardship giving to shared ministry by almost 12%. God is good!!!

In 2011,  
29 churches continued to give at 100% or even more.  
6 churches increased their giving to reach 100%  
20 churches increased their giving  
14 churches decreased their giving.

Can you feel the presence of the Spirit --- more than in the numbers but in the ministries and enthusiasm that local churches feel towards reaching the mission field? Our God is able!

I thank God for the compassionate and caring pastoral leadership that lifts up the vision of the connectional church and for the committed laity whose faithful giving and love for the Lord are reflected in new ministries being birthed and in their financial health. We are the body of Christ called to serve the Mahoning Valley District.

In unison, I sing with you,

**Praise God from whom ALL BLESSINGS Flow!**

Celebrating and Serving with you,

Rev Dan Bryant

## Kay's Corner

One of the most important tasks of the local church is to enable people to become "journeymen" rather than "wanderers." This suggests that the leadership of the congregation or the district needs to be serious about what their needs may be, to the point where they are willing to share their experiences with others, not as one who has all the answers but one who is a journeyman and able to receive as well as to give.

The Mahoning Valley District is providing an opportunity for all persons of the district to become journeymen together on April 22, 2012 from 2-6 p.m. The place is Trinity United Methodist Church, at 30 West Front St., Youngstown. We will be having our district conference and leadership training in one afternoon. Mark your calendars NOW.

The leadership committee is busy making plans for a great day of learning, worshipping, and caring for the business of the district. I hope to have all of the workshop leaders in place by the next newsletter. Let me hear from you if you have any questions. Come, let us journey together!

Kay Dunlap

## We Ask Your Prayers for the Following in the Days Ahead:

**Pastor Renae Meggitt** (North Lima Calvary) currently undergoing radiation treatments.

**Rev. Jan Sprague** (Smith Corners) recovering from knee surgery.

**Retirees** Bill Wright, Mike McHale, Lester Hickman, John Klimenko, Pete Kerlin, and Chuck Ready, all of whom are battling various ailments and illnesses.



## Thanks from Dan & Debbie Bryant

Debbie and I would like to thank you for your Christmas gift to us. As we celebrated the Epiphany Party and saw the joy and laughter on your faces, we thank God for your gracious spirit and kindness shared with us in our first three years on the district.

Rev. Dan Bryant

## Thanks, too, from Kay and Kathy

Kay Dunlap and Kathy Kramer also wish to thank the district for your generosity and kindness at Christmas and all through the year.

## With Dan in February

- 2 Leadership Training Team
- 4 DS Panel on Pastoral Leadership
- 6 Consult
- 7 Cabinet via Video Conference
- 7-9 MV District Leadership Academy
- 11 General Conference Delegation Meeting
- 14 Equitable Commission Mtg.
- 15-17 Cabinet
- 19 DYC Worship
- 19-20 DS Spouse Retreat
- 23 Clergy Gathering @ Howland
- 25 Town & Rural Resource Program
- 28-29 Cabinet

## Lay Speaker Training

Lay Speaker training will be held **March 23/24, 2012** at Poland UMC.

Basic, Youth Basic, and Advanced courses are being offered.

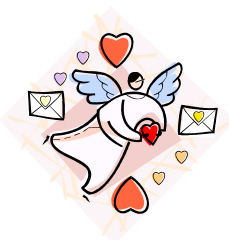
Registration forms are available from your pastor or on the District web site: [mvdistumc@aol.com](mailto:mvdistumc@aol.com).

Cost is \$30 for book, snacks, and continental breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Scholarships are available. Contact Peggy Sutherin for details or questions: 330-426-9608 or email: [peggysutherin@yahoo.com](mailto:peggysutherin@yahoo.com)

## February Clergy Birthdays

|               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| 5 Mike Namy   | East Fairfield |
| 16 David Hill | Lockwood       |

If we have your birthday listed incorrectly (or not at all) please let us know so we can correct our records



## *The deadline for submissions to the March 2012 Newsletter is **Monday, February 20***

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

**Reminder:** If you would like to receive your newsletter via e-mail, please contact Kathy at [mvdistumc@aol.com](mailto:mvdistumc@aol.com). Please include your address so we can be sure to remove you from the "snail mail" list.

## Clergywomen's Lunch

Your February clergywomen's gathering will be at the home of Carla Davies, 552 Powers Avenue, Girard, 44420.

For directions and to RSVP (by Feb. 27), call Carla at 330-545-6403 (Home) or 330-219-5047 (Cell).

## Retirees Breakfast

The district retirees will meet for breakfast at 9 a.m. on Friday, **Feb. 24** at Lucianno's Café & Banquet Center, Wedgewood Plaza in Austintown.

### Member at Large Nominees - 2013

The following persons were nominated at 2011 Church Conferences for election as Members-at-Large to Annual Conference 2013. These names will be placed on the ballot for the 2012 Spring District Conference, April 22nd.

|                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Berlin Center   | Betty Haynali        |
| Boardman        | Craig Carson         |
| Bunker Hill     | Dolores Campbell     |
| Calvary         | Laurie Spatholt      |
| Canfield        | Norma Anderson       |
|                 | Mary Ann Bryan       |
| Damascus        | Don Jones            |
|                 | Ray Heverly          |
|                 | Mary Kay Heverly     |
|                 | Lee Althouse         |
| East Palestine  | Traci Householder    |
| Fowler          | Regina McAlister     |
| Good Shepherd   | John Cornell         |
|                 | Sandy Cornell        |
| Howland         | Alberta Morales      |
| Lisbon          | Rick May             |
|                 | Mary Lee Vandevander |
|                 | Mary Dixon           |
|                 | Ken Dixon            |
| Mahoning        | Samatha Knight       |
| Negley          | Gary Todd            |
| New Hope        | Cyd Scarnecchia      |
| New Waterford   | Marla Hum            |
| Poland          | Jared Woodward       |
| Pricetown       | Don Baker            |
| Richard Brown   | Penny Wells          |
| Smith Corners   | Pat Kendig           |
|                 | Priscilla Lelesch    |
| Struthers       | Erin Theobald        |
| Tod Avenue      | Barb Enoch           |
|                 | Clint Fowler         |
| Trinity (Ygst)  | Vernon Brown         |
| West Austintown | Gale Reedy           |
| Winona          | Elaine Cummings      |

If you don't see a name that you feel should appear on the list, please notify the district office immediately — we don't want to miss anyone.

**Spring District Conference 2012 will take place on April 22nd at 2:00 p.m. at Youngstown Trinity UMC, followed by the district Leadership Training event.**

### IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

**Any and all charge conference forms, leadership directories, budgets etc. that have not yet been submitted to the district office are due NOW.**

### AUDITS for the year 2011

**are also due at this time.**

**Any Year-end Reports not finished and sent to the conference should be completed and submitted immediately.**

### Clergy Gathering:

All District Clergy **are expected to attend** the February 23rd gathering from 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. at Howland UMC. Please note: attendance will be taken. Please call the district office by February 17 with your lunch reservation. **Retirees are welcome to attend.**

### Community Center News & Notes

Thank you to all the United Methodist Women, individuals, and Missions Committees that helped make the United Methodist Community Center's 2011 Christmas Project a great success. This year the UMCC was able to serve families in need in the cities of Youngstown and Warren with a special emphasis on Veterans and their families.

**Want List:** The United Methodist Community Center is in need of a podium (with a microphone).

### Reminder: 2012 Mileage Rates

For 2012 the standard IRS mileage rates will be 55.5 cents per mile for business miles driven; 23 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes; and 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations

### Deepening Your Effectiveness:

#### Foundational Workshop - Restructuring the Local Church for life Transformation

Thursday, April 19, 9:00-4:00, Church of the Lakes, Canton (Tuscarawas District). Are you growing world-changing disciples or just filling seats in the sanctuary? Join Dan Glover & Claudia Lavy for a full day workshop where you will discover: a new understanding of the principles of discipleship; the primary facts about the 6 stages of spiritual development; practical ways to apply the principles through a discipleship pathway. This workshop will change your understanding of how people develop from unchurched to fully committed followers of Jesus, and how you can help them move toward spiritual maturity. Registration information is available from Church of the Lakes or the Tuscarawas District office. Just \$10 a person, including lunch.

#### Historian of the Year Nominations and Church Anniversary Dates

The East Ohio Conference Commission on Archives and History is seeking nominations for the Local Church Historian of the Year Award. Nominations with supporting evidence of historical work and activity done by him or her should be submitted by March 1. Local churches celebrating significant anniversaries of their founding (100, 125, 150, 175 and 200 years) are asked to send a letter on church stationery stating anniversary information by March 1. Please send nominations and anniversary information to: Rev. Don Trigg, 130 E. vWalnut St., Galion, OH 44833. For further information you may call (330) 715-5504, or email [DLT419@aol.com](mailto:DLT419@aol.com).



## Robert D. Snyder Memorial Scholarship

Applications are now being accepted for the scholarship in memory of Rev. Robert D. Snyder. The award gives preference to, but is not limited to, seminarians, whose faith, practice and beliefs echo those of Snyder and the conference he served. Application deadline is March 1. Contact Becky Evanoff, 2830 Abraham Ave., Massillon, Ohio 44647 or email [beckyevanoff@yahoo.com](mailto:beckyevanoff@yahoo.com) for application.

Award determination finalized by April 30. We are asking that the recipient would be available to attend the EOEf Banquet on Wednesday evening of annual conference. Contributions to the fund can be made to the Robert D. Snyder Scholarship Fund, in care of Mrs. Lynn Carper, 800 N. Market St., Minerva, OH 44657. Contact [snyderfund@neo.rr.com](mailto:snyderfund@neo.rr.com) for more information.

## Keyboard Player Needed

West Austintown UMC is seeking a keyboard/piano player for worship, choir, weddings, funerals and special services. Must have a passion for worship and work well with people.

Contact: Dr. Becky Bailey, West Austintown UMC, 6749 Mahoning Ave., Austintown, OH 44515.

## It's Dinner Time, etc

**Stuffed Cabbage Rolls** - Every Tuesday 11-2 at Mahoning UMC, 2214 Mahoning Ave., Youngstown. Pre-order by calling 330-799-5318. Mashed potatoes and haluski available too. Takeout only.

**Chicken Dinners to Go** - Thursday, Feb 2nd, 4 p.m. until sold out at Poland UMC, 1940 Boardman-Poland Rd.

**Drive Thru Stuffed Chicken Dinners** Thurs., Feb. 2, 4-6 or until sold out, at Western Reserve UMC, 4580 Canfield Rd., (Rt. 62) Canfield.

**Best Fish Fry Ever** - Friday, Feb. 3, 3:30-6:30 at Tod Avenue UMC, 155 Tod Ave., NW, Warren.

**Famous Swiss Steak Dinner** - Sat., Feb. 4, 4-6:30 at Vienna UMC, 4265 Warren-Sharon Rd., Vienna.

**Penne Pasta & Meatballs** - Sat., Feb. 4, 4-7:00 at Smith Corners UMC, 3000 S Canfield-Niles Rd., Austintown.

**Drive Thru Chicken Dinners** - Thurs. Feb. 9, 4:00 until sold out at Calvary UMC, 12062 South Ave., North Lima.

**Homemade Chili** - Saturday, Feb. 11, 11 a.m. until sold out at Ohltown UMC, 2001 Ohltown Rd., Mineral Ridge. Carry-out only - Drive thru service.

**Chicken Pie Dinner** - Sat., Feb. 11, 3:30-6:00 at Fowler UMC, 3426 Ygst.-Kingsville Rd., Fowler.

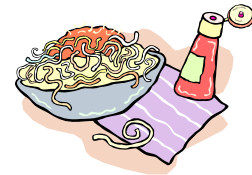
**Pancakes & More** - Sat., Feb. 11, 8-11 a.m. at New Waterford UMC, 46925 S State St., New Waterford.

**Pancake Breakfast** - Sat., Feb. 11, 8:30-noon at Smith Corners UMC, 3000 S Canfield-Niles Rd., Austintown.

**Stuffed Pork Chop Dinner** - Sat., Feb. 25, 4-6:30 at Braceville UMC, 577 Park Rd. SW, Newton Falls.

**Spaghetti Dinner** - Sat., Feb. 25, 4-7, at Brookfield UMC, 6951 Grove St.

**Spaghetti Dinner** - Sunday, Feb. 26, 12-2 p.m. at Struthers UMC, 33 Sexton St. Call 330-755-0179 to order carry-out service.



## Youth Director Needed

Salem First UMC is looking for a part time Youth Director. Hours and salary are negotiable based on experience and qualifications. Contact Pastor Doug George at 330-337-9531 if interested.



Mahoning Valley District  
The United Methodist Church  
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