

# Mahoning Valley Messenger

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

Dan Bryant, District Superintendent, Mahoning Valley District

Kay Dunlap, District Associate — Kathy Kramer, Administrative Assistant

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330-270-3400

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## And our response is ???

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, I will be officiating at my son, Andrew's, marriage ceremony to his fiancée, Melanie. I find myself in a dual role as I lift up the sacredness of their covenant of love to each other as pastor but also wonder if the tears of joy as a father will mingle in with the words I speak. The covenant of love and faithfulness are not to be taken lightly. Whenever I officiate at a wedding I am reminded of the covenant of love I professed to my wife, Debbie, almost 34 years ago. Looking back over the threads of time I am amazed at how much change has transpired in our lives. Who would have imagined the peaks and valleys life would bring our way and the opportunities to be stretched, challenged, nurtured, and to grow through? As a person of faith I can boldly declare that "only by the grace of God have I journeyed thus far."

When Andrew looks into Melanie's eyes and they share their vows with one another I can only imagine what their journey through life will involve. They are teachers living on the edge of uncertainty if they will have jobs as the years move forward. They are of the generation that has grown to see the church become less relevant to the life realities they are facing. In many ways, my son and future daughter-in-law are the very people we are called to reach with the message of God's covenant of love and hopefulness. They are part of the mission field we are called to reach.

As pastors and churches begin their new appointment year together, my prayer is for both clergy and laity to renew their covenant of love with God and with one another as we seek to bear fruit for the kingdom. The constancy of God's grace and love undergird each one of us with the assurance that we do not walk alone but have a faithful partner who accompanies us along the journey. **I praise God** for the faithfulness of local churches who are striving to stretch beyond their comfort zones and venture into new avenues of mission and ministry. **I praise God** for those persons willing to take their vows of membership in the church seriously and engage in risk-taking mission and outreach. **I praise God** for the adventurous lay person who sees the mission field outside the church and boldly steps out to share Christ's love in new ways. **I praise God** for the extravagant generosity of people who, when seeing a need, open their hearts and resources to be Christ-like in their witness.

**I pray** that the summer months will be a time for each of you to remember the covenant of God's love revealed to us in Jesus Christ. **I pray** that each of you will find a quiet time to renew your covenant made when you joined in membership with the church. **I pray** that the Holy Spirit will touch your life in ways that sparkle and glimmer with the light of Christ.

My friends, the Lord asks each of us, "do you love me?"

And our response is ???

Be Encouraged Always,

Dan Bryant

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

**Pastor Greg Calko** (Richard Brown UMC) on the death of his mother, Nancy.

**Rev. Kay Dunlap** (District Associate) recovering from a broken ankle.

**Pastor Curt Miller** (Ellsworth/New Hope) recovering from open heart surgery.

All pastors and congregations in transition and those beginning new ministries together.

**Congratulations!!**

Congratulations to our own District Superintendent!! We knew he was Super, but it's good to know that others recognize that too! In case you haven't heard .... our own Rev. Dan Bryant was elected to represent ALL of East Ohio at the General and Jurisdictional Conferences next year. It is quite an honor as this event only happens every four years. We, on the Superintendency Committee are very proud of his accomplishment. Way to go Dan!!

Judy Kidder, Chair

**With Dan in July and August**

**July**

- 1-9 Vacation/Son's wedding
- 12 CORE / Paperwork Training
- 13 Candidacy Consult
- 14 Paperwork Training
- 18 Clergy Steak Fry
- 19 Special consult
- 20 Bible School visit
- 21 Special Consult
- 27 Secretary Lunch & Training
- 28 UMCC Board
- July 31 - Vacation

**August**

- 1-10 Vacation
- 15-18 Clergy Consults
- 20 FASTER Pastor @ Sharon Speedway
- 23 UMCC Board / Clergy Consults
- 24-25 Clergy Consults
- 27-28 SPRC Consults
- 30-31 Clergy Consults

**Summer Office Schedule**



**Please Note:** The District Office will be **closed** on Fridays from July 1st through Labor Day.

**Paperwork Training Sessions**

Once again this year the district will be offering workshops to help pastors and church leadership negotiate the church conference paperwork. This year's sessions will be July 12 @ East Fairfield and July 14 @ Western Reserve. Both sessions begin at 7:00.

**Local Church Secretaries —**

On Wednesday, July 27, from 10 -1, the District will hold its first annual **Secretary/Administrative Assistant /Office Volunteer Luncheon** at the district office. This will be a time to get to know each other, eat, talk, laugh, and maybe learn a little bit about the revised charge conference forms along the way.

Your SPR Committees are urged to count this as a continuing education event and treat it as a regular, paid work day.



**Please Note New Mileage Rate -** Beginning July 1st, the IRS mileage rate will increase to 55.5 cents per mile. The charitable rate remains at 14 cents/mile.

**July Clergy Birthdays**

- 6 Vern Shepherd Ohltown
- 11 Betsy Schenk Girard
- 16 Pam Gable Lisbon
- 21 Doug George Salem
- 24 Mark McTrusty East Pal. Centenary/Emmanuel
- 28 Jon George New Springfield Trinity/Rogers

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

**August Clergy Birthdays**

- 2 Greg Calko Richard Brown
- 18 Dale Sutton East Liverpool First
- 19 Pat Smith Salineville & Riley's
- 24 Curt Miller Ellsworth & New Hope
- 25 Lisa Evans New Garden/Franklin Square
- 26 Renae Meggitt N Lima Calvary
- 31 Ray Ake Coalburg/Masury

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

**Clergywomen's Lunch**

The District Clergywomen will not meet over the summer months.

**Retirees Breakfast**

Please watch for information on your summer picnic in August.

*The deadline for submissions to the SEPTEMBER Newsletter is Monday, August 22*

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

## Kay's Corner

As I write this I am in rehab at Park Vista Care Center in Youngstown, due to a compound fracture of my left ankle. However, my thoughts are on the various activities of the churches on our district. I hope Vacation Bible School is a priority in your summer plans. This is a perfect opportunity to help children know Jesus and what he can mean in their life.

In preparation for charge conferences, our D.S., Dan Bryant, will be offering two opportunities to meet with local church leaders to conduct workshops on completing the various charge conference forms. The first will be at East Fairfield on July 12, the second will be at Western Reserve on July 14. Both will begin at 7 p.m. Please make every effort to have representation from your church at one of these events.

Between therapy sessions I've been reading Adam Hamilton's book *Why? Making Sense of God's Will*. This is an excellent study book for small groups, Sunday School classes, and for wisdom to help us as individuals understand the deepest questions we have as Christians.

Kay Dunlap

If you would like to send get well wishes to Kay, her home address is:

3740 St. Andrews Pl.  
Youngstown, OH 44505

## Thank You from UMCC

The District has received a thank you letter from Juanita Pasley, Executive Director of the United Methodist Community Center, for its support of the **2011 Summer Camp Appeal**. The letter reads in part: It is because of your support that we are able to continue to teach, develop and empower individuals and families."

## Clergy & Family Steak Fry

Bill & Judy Richards of Winona UMC will once again host the district clergy families at a Steak Fry on Monday, July 18.

Come at 4:00 for fellowship, fishing, walking and relaxing on this beautiful property. Dinner will be served at 6:00 — please bring a covered dish, salad, or dessert to share.

All current and retired clergy and their families are welcome to attend (*adult children only please, due to all the water on the property*).

**Reservations are a must** - please contact the district office (330-270-3400 or [mvdistumc@aol.com](mailto:mvdistumc@aol.com)) by July 13 with the number attending.

Directions are available at the district office. GPS address is: 33455 Winona Rd., Salem, OH 44460.

## Mark Your Calendars Now

Mahoning Valley District Faith Night with the *Mahoning Valley Scrappers* will be Friday, August 5 at 7:05. Ticket/Reservation forms are available at the district website [mvdistumc.org](http://mvdistumc.org), on the Events and Leadership Training page; in your Spring District meeting booklet; or by calling the district office.

Join us before the game at 5:30 p.m. at New Hope UMC (21 Fairview Ave., Niles).

Hot dogs, chips and water will be provided. Come for



fellowship before the game (or even if you're not coming to the game). Please let the district office know you are coming so we can be sure to have enough food.

## Lay Speakers Take Note:

Fall training will be held September 23 & 24 at Poland UMC.

More information will follow.

## Mahoning Valley Leadership Academy — A unique opportunity for district clergy

The academy consists of six three-day sessions over the course of two years. Topics of focus include: *Prayer and Spiritual Life, Self Care, Managing Change, Vision Casting, Team Building, and Small Groups*. Topics will be applicable to the real-life context of the local churches we serve.

**FALL SESSION - October 25-27**  
(From 3:00PM Tuesday to 3:00PM Thursday)

**Focus: Prayer, Spiritual Life and Self-care. Mark Geppert, Presenter.** Mark has over 35 years of international experience in over thirty countries and has authored four books. His first book, *'The Attack Lambs'*, teaches bold strategies for developing prayer teams to plant kingdom seeds in local communities.

**Location: Carlisle Inn, Sugarcreek**  
**Registration Information** — Cost: \$203 per person double occupancy; includes housing and meals. (Spouses may accompany pastors for meals and housing for an additional \$203). All other costs are being sponsored by the district. Scholarships are available - Contact the district office for details. **Deadline for registration is September 1.** A deposit of \$50 is due upon registration. **The full amount is due by October 1.** Make checks payable to Mahoning Valley District.

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**Save Saturday, September 17, 9-12** for an opportunity to learn from one of Methodism's premier Bible teachers, Dr. J. Ellsworth Kalas (Disciple Bible Studies, the "...From the Back Side" series). Invited to our district by Lisbon Church, he'll lead a lively session for all interested clergy and laity at East Fairfield UMC on 9/17. Includes a light breakfast."

## Clergy Days Away - Tex Sample at Lakeside August 1-3

All clergy are invited to Lakeside Ohio for time of retreat, renewal and recreation. The Rev. Dr. Tex Sample is Lakeside Chaplain for the week. Participants can hear Tex preach three times and meet with him in conversation over lunch. In addition, all the other programs and activities of Lakeside will be available.

**When:** Monday, Aug. 1 - Wednesday, Aug. 3. For info./registration contact: **Lakeside Association Religious Life Department**, [cbears@lakesideohio.com](mailto:cbears@lakesideohio.com) or 419-798 4461 x 342 or call the district office.

### Bible Schools Offered:

**PandaMania** -- July 18-22, 6-8 p.m. at Lisbon First UMC. Age 3 years to 6th grade are invited.

**Shake It Up Café** - July 31-Aug. 5 at 6:00 p.m. at Newton Falls UMC. Age 3 years and up are welcome.

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**Community Seminar** - "Holidays & Holy Days Jesus Celebrated," with Rabbi John Spitzer. 1:00 Sun., Aug. 14 at Lisbon First UMC.

## Positions Available

Churchill UMC is searching for candidates for the new position of **Young Adult Ministries Director** to lead in the design and oversight of a new, comprehensive ministry targeting young adults ages 18-34. This will include a new worship service and small groups and outreach and missions ministries. Position will start out part-time but is planned to grow to full-time as this ministry expands. For information e-mail or call David Gilbert, [sr\\_pastor\\_chum@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sr_pastor_chum@sbcglobal.net), 330-759-0118.

North Lima Calvary is in need of a **Pianist/Choir Director** beginning in August, 2011. For information, please contact Greg McCoy, SPRC chairperson at 330-549-9928.

**Public Interest Programs @ Calvary UMC** - 12062 South Ave, N. Lima:

On Monday, Aug. 15th - St. E's Health Center will present a program called Health at Home @ 7:00 p.m.

On August 20, @ 2:00 p.m. OSU Comprehensive Transplant Center will be to talk about organ donation and transplants.

## It's Dinner Time, etc.

### Chicken Dinners To Go:

Thurs. July 2 & Aug. 4, 4:00 until sold out, **Poland UMC**, 1940 Boardman-Poland Rd. Drive-up only.

Thurs. July 2 & Aug. 4, 4:00, until sold-out at **Western Reserve UMC**, 4580 Canfield Rd.. Drive-up only

Thurs. July 2 & Aug. 4, 4 p.m., until sold out at **Salem First UMC**, 244 S. Broadway, Salem. Drive-thru only.

Thurs. July 14 and Aug. 11th at **Calvary UMC**, North Lima; 4 p.m. until sold out. Drive-up only.

**Chicken Pie Dinner** - Sat., July 9, 3:30-6 p.m. at **Fowler UMC**, 3426 Ygst.-Kingsville Rd.

**Pancake Breakfast** - Sunday, July 10, 9 a.m.-12:30 at **Vienna UMC**, 4265 Warren-Sharon Rd.

**Ice Cream Social** - Sat., July 30, 4-7 p.m. at **West Austintown UMC**, 6749 Mahoning Ave., Ygst. Music by *Glory Bound* at 5:00.

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**Gently Used Sale / Bake Sale** - July 7, 8 & 9 at Lisbon UMC, 114 E Washington St., 8-4 Thurs.-Fri. , 8-3 Sat.



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