

# 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

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 5

JUNE 2011

330-270-3400

mvdistumc@aol.com



## If We are the Body

In a few short weeks, many of us will be gathering along the shores of Lake Erie for Annual Conference. The theme for this year's conference is, "If We are the Body!" and we'll explore the ways we, as the church, are in ministry **with** the poor. Looking across the Mahoning Valley District and the many ministry and outreach programs geared towards ministering with the poor, I know that churches are engaged in touching the lives of those struggling with economic, physical and spiritual poverty.

The **Youngstown: Trinity UMC** began a Good Samaritan kitchen ministry that feeds close to 100 people who stop by to be fed physical and spiritual nourishment. The ministry grew out the passion of Mary Jane Brown and her desire to feed the hungry. If we are the body ... our hands are reaching out to give food to the hungry and hope to the hopeless.

**Mt. Zion UMC**, a small country church, feels the tug of the Lord's hand as they engage in F.I.S.H. ministry to the poor in East Liverpool and conduct worship services at the group home nearby. If we are the body -- our hands and our hearts are lifted up to those who face the harsh realities of economic and physical poverty.

The **United Methodist Community Center**, as a part of the body of Christ, reaches out into the local schools and nearby apartments with the life-giving word of God's love for all people. They have begun a book study that is feeding the souls of those residents who come to the center. Through the connective church each and every one of us is a part of this vital ministry to the poor.

The **Western Reserve UMC** is helping sponsor the Mill Creek Work Camp whereby over 400 youth will converge upon Youngstown in the next month to do mission work to those living in the city through work projects on their homes. If we are the body -- we put our words into action and come alongside those who live in the midst of poverty and hardship and we bring hope and healing in their lives.

**Many local churches** in the district are providing food through free dinners, food pantries, donations to local food centers and through the generosity of their time and gifts so that the hungry, both young and old, may feel the fullness of both food and love within their lives. If we are the body - what we have we share as stewards of God's good gifts.

The song, by Mark Hall, *If We are the Body*, made popular by Casting Crowns, challenges all of us to not just talk but to act as the body of Christ. As we approach the coming days, my prayer is that you will reflect upon your life, and the church, to be the hands, the feet, the voice and the living presence of the body of Christ for the world. (see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aB9t2p6ii6k>)

Continued on Page 2

**If We Are the Body, continued**

- **If We are the Body** --- what must we do to let others know of the love Christ has for them?
- **If We are the Body** --- what might Christ be asking you to do differently in the coming days to share his love with those outside the walls of the church?
- **If We are the Body** --- are we willing to risk stepping out of the comfort zones of the church walls and going to the places where poverty reigns?
- **If We are the Body** --- will we allow ourselves to be changed and challenged to let God reign in all that we do and say?

The closing words to the song state:

Jesus paid much too high a price  
 For us to pick and choose  
 who should come,  
 And we are the body of Christ.  
 Jesus is the Way!

May our eyes and hearts be open to being the body of Christ for the world. Amen.

Dan

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

**Pastor Doug Theobald** (Struthers/Lowellville) recovering from burns suffered on his "day job" as fire-fighter.

**Pastor Curt Miller** (Ellsworth/New Hope) undergoing treatment for heart disease.

**Pastor Renae Meggitt** (North Lima Calvary) undergoing treatment for vision problems.

**Pastor John Klimenko** (Retired) dealing with ongoing health issues.

**Phil Braisted** (Copeland Oaks Administrator) on the death of his father, Paul Braisted.

Please also pray for churches in conflict and in stages of transition.

**Congratulations to all graduates on the Mahoning Valley District: High School, College and Seminary. This means you, Mark McTrusty.**

\* \* \* \*

We welcome **Rev. Matt Darrin** to the Mahoning Valley District. Matt began serving Howland UMC on May 16.

**With Dan in June**

- 1 & 2 Cabinet
- 3 FAMPLP Worship
- 6 Preaching engagement
- 9 Cabinet Via Videoconference
- 10 & 11 Youth Annual Conference
- 12 - 16 Annual Conference
- 15 District Gathering @ Lakeside
- 16 & 17 New Clergy Orientation
- 19 Kairos Ministry
- 23 Post Conference Review
- 28 Clergy Move Out Date
- 29 Clergy Move In Date
- 28 Vacation thru July 8th



**Local Church Secretaries —**  
Mark your calendars now!

On July 27, from 10 -1, the District will hold its first annual (we hope) **Secretary /Administrative Assistant 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 experience and treat it as a regular, paid work day.

**June Clergy Birthdays**

- 15 Doug Theobald  
Struthers/Lowellville
- 22 Ruth Roth  
Vienna
- 28 Jerry Herron  
Masury
- 29 Bill Johnson  
Brookfield

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 COMBINED July/August Newsletter is Wednesday, June 22*

*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).

**Clergywomen's Lunch**

The District Clergy women will not meet for lunch over the summer months. Stay tuned for information on your next gathering.

**Retirees Breakfast**

Retirees & Spouses of the district will not meet during June or July. Please watch this space—and your mail—for information on your summer picnic in August.

## Kay's Corner

Reuben Job, retired Bishop, writes that a friend asked him how he should pray for him and his family and his reply was "pray that I may be faithful in all things". Will you be faithful to God's calling? Do not ignore the Spirit's nudges to do what God is calling you to. Allow God to become your friend and draw you in a deeper union with him. I am certain that the churches of our district will have needs which you can fulfill. There will be Vacation Bible School, Summer Sunday School and many other activities where your time will be needed. Some of our churches will be in transition with new pastors who will need patient care. As we go to Annual Conference the week of June 12 we seek your prayers that we may be faithful in all things. Contentment comes when we want God's will more than our own way.

*Kay Dunlap*

## Take Cleaning Buckets & Health Kits to Annual Conference

The Midwest Mission Distribution Center will have a truck at the corner of Hoover Auditorium from Sunday afternoon to Tuesday morning to collect Cleaning Buckets and Health Kits. There is a great need. Items in the health kits are:

1 hand towel (no kitchen towels), 1 washcloth, 1 comb (not pocket-size), 1 nail file or fingernail clippers, 1 bath-size bar of soap, 1 adult tooth brush in wrapper, 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages, \$1 to purchase toothpaste. All must fit in a sealed one gallon plastic bag. Send only requested items—nothing more.

## District Gathering at Annual Conference

The District Gathering at Lakeside will take place on Wednesday, **June 15**, beginning at 8:00 p.m., at the Lakeside United Methodist Church.

Light refreshments will be served. Both clergy and laity are invited to attend.

### 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 Scrappers Game August 5th 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).



## 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 will begin at 7:00.

## News on Kay Dunlap

Please remember Rev. Kay Dunlap as she recovers from a broken ankle. Kay had just completed her interim appointment at Howland UMC and fell outside her daughter's home. She is currently in rehab at Park Vista in Youngstown and will then be back at home. She expects a three month recovery to hopefully get back to her "old" self. Our prayers surround her as she continues her recovery.

Kay's address in rehab is:

Rev. Catherine (Kay) Dunlap  
Park Vista, Room 225  
1216 Fifth Ave.,  
Youngstown, OH 44504

Her home address is:

3740 St. Andrews Pl.  
Youngstown, OH 44505



## Ministerial Recruitment Institute

It is that time once again to invite your youth (ages 13 and up or entering the 7<sup>th</sup> grade) to the Ministerial Recruitment Institute. MRI is 29 years old this year! We hope that your youth are making plans to attend this fun filled week of learning, worship and praise.

MRI begins at 4pm on Sunday, July 17 and ends 11:30am on Friday, July 22, 2011. Once again, we will be in community on the campus of Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio.

For more information please contact Ja' Alycia Roberson Richmond at 330-569-5177 or [jroberson21@hotmail.com](mailto:jroberson21@hotmail.com) or call the district office.



The District Office will be CLOSED the week of Annual Conference, June 13-17

## Vacation Bible School

VBS for Brookfield, Coalburg and Masury UMC will be July 18-22 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Masury UMC. This is a free event for kids ages 3 and up. Join us for an Island Odyssey that will take you to the ends of the earth with Jesus Christ!

## Lay Leader's Retreat

Firelands District is hosting a Lay Leader's Retreat, August 19 & 20 at Sawmill Creek resort. Lay Leaders from all districts are invited to join in a time of prayer, and through prayer have a closer and deeper walk with God. Brochures are available at the district office, deadline to register is July 15.

## Attention Treasurers & Finance Officers

Any churches who have not filed the Form 990 T to claim the small business healthcare credit by May 16 can file a Form 8868 to receive an automatic three-month extension to file. Go to [www.eocumc.com](http://www.eocumc.com) for information and extension form.

## 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](mailto: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.

## Clergy Spouses - Save This Date

The annual Clergy Spouses' Retreat is scheduled for November 18 & 19 at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, North of Pittsburgh, PA.

Printed brochures will be available at Annual Conference and by mail late in the summer.

## It's Dinner Time, etc.

**Homemade Chicken Dinners to Go** Thur., June 2, 4-6 (or until sold out) at Poland UMC, 1940 Boardman-Poland Rd.. Drive-up service only.

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

**Chicken on the Run** - Thurs. June 2 4 - 6 p.m. (or until sold out) at Salem First UMC, 244 S. Broadway, Salem. Drive-thru service only.

**Strawberry Social** - Join us on Sat. June 18th from 12:00-4:00 at Masury UMC 1382 Broadway, for fresh strawberries, cakes, ice cream and hot dogs. This event is hosted by Masury and Coalburg UMC. Call Aimee for information at 330-856-1701.

## Pianist/Choir Director Needed

North Lima Calvary UMC is searching for a pianist/choir director. Interested persons should contact Greg McCoy - SPRC Chair (330-549-9928) or Pastor Renae Meggitt (330-549-2588).



Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Permit No. 8  
Youngstown, OH

Mahoning Valley District  
The United Methodist Church  
PO Box 11260  
Youngstown, OH 44511  
Return Service Requested