

# Mahoning Valley Messenger

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## Change is inevitable, but transformation is optional!

Years ago, I came across the above quote in the Holy Boldness Academy training materials for urban congregations involved in revitalization. Throughout the years since, I have used the quote in church conversations, pastoral conversations and, quite honestly, shared the quote with my daughter, Kayla, a few days ago as we were driving back from her apartment. Life is all about change.

Years ago, my father-in-law, who is a barber, began cutting my hair and over the years I noticed that the amount of brown hair being cut was replaced by a growing number of gray hairs. No matter how hard I encouraged my father-in-law to only cut the gray hairs, he finally said, "*Dan, you've lost the battle. It's almost all gray hair now!*" Change is inevitable. You can color your hair, or put extra make-up on your face, or wear different style clothing to cover up the

shifting of our body mass, but the reality is – change is inevitable.

As I have met with all the pastors in consultation, and am halfway through the SPRC consultations, it is clear to me that, despite all our efforts to resist the inevitable, change is upon us. I have heard pastors say to me, "*I've tried all that I know how to do, but it isn't working!*" SPRC members have confessed that they are weary and wondering how they can respond to the lack of young people in worship and the tiredness of those long-term members who are doing all they can to help grow the church. Change is inevitable --- it is all around us and, like shifting sands, we are struggling to gain a foothold and how to respond to the spiritual shifts taking place around us.

As change confronts us, I am encouraged to also find many signs of transformation taking place amidst the changing dynamics. Many of the churches and pastors are recognizing that the way they do things needs to be transformed into something different and they are doing it. The District Strategy team has designed a two-year pastor academy that is geared to help develop pastoral leaders as transformational leaders. In other words, instead of fearing the change that is upon us, we are proactively "rethinking" the pastoral approach to ministry in the Mahoning Valley. In October, twenty-seven pastors in the district will participate in the first of six two-day academies to become more transformational leaders. The first session will focus on **Prayer and Self-Care** and be led by Mark Geppert who is President of the South East Asia Prayer Center. Mark has taught leaders across the world and writes in his preface to his book, *Attack Lambs*, "*I have been very fortunate to see the hand of the Lord reaching to the lost of the world from the peaks of Nepal to the valleys of the Holy Land. On trains, planes, buses, ships and small boats He has been faithful to allow me to lead people to Him.*" (xii) As this transformational training takes place, the pastors will be bringing back to the local church some new insights and assignments to help make the changes we are facing, transformational.

*Continued on Page 2*

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I pray as we move through the many changes in our lives, our churches and our mission and ministry goals for the future that we'll be bold enough to lean into the changes with a transformational eye for the Lord.

Change is upon us. Are you ready to be changed? Are you open to the love of Christ to transform you and the ministry that awaits?

Be Encouraged Always,

*Dan*

### Consultation & Church Conference Reminder:

All required paperwork for SPRC Consultations (CFC, LCPA/LCPL, *Clergy Compensation*) and Church Conferences (Omnibus, etc.) should be submitted to the District Office no less than ONE WEEK before your scheduled meeting date. The only exceptions are 2012 budgets and Leadership Directories, which are due by December 1st.

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

**Pastor Renae Meggitt** (North Lima Calvary) undergoing surgery.

**Rev. Lester Hickman, Pastor John Klimenko** (Retired), and **Rev. Pete Kerlin** (on Disability) all for continuing health concerns.

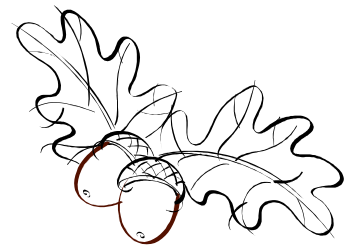
**Rev. Mike McHale** (Lockwood/McDonald) as he retires from active ministry.

### East Ohio Clergy Retreat:

The East Ohio "Fall-for-All" Clergy Retreat will be November 7-9 at the Carlisle Inn in Sugarcreek with leaders, Elise and Dick Eslinger. Elise is a musician, writer and speaker and was a leader in the first Upper Room Academy of Spiritual Formation in 1987. Elise directs the United Theological School Institute for Applied Theology. Dick is the dean of United Seminary and professor of Homiletics and Worship. Registrations for the retreat must be made by October 10. For more information please call (216) 261-1688 or email [jan@eastshorechurch.com](mailto:jan@eastshorechurch.com).

### With Dan in October

- 1 SPRC Consults
- 2 Church Conferences
- 3 Church Conferences
- 4 Cabinet Video Conference / SPRC Consult / Church Conf.
- 5 Church Conference
- 6-7 Emmaus Walk
- 8 SPRC Consult
- 9 Church Conference
- 11 SPRC Consult / Church Conference
- 15 SPRC Consults
- 17-19 Cabinet
- 20 Ordained Ministry Interviews
- 22 SPRC Consults
- 23 Church Conferences
- 25-27 District Pastor Leadership Academy
- 28-29 Conference UMW at Church Hill UMC
- 30 Church Conferences



### October Clergy Birthdays

- |    |               |                           |
|----|---------------|---------------------------|
| 2  | Jan Sprague   | Smith Corners             |
| 3  | Ken Maylone   | Greater Wellsville Parish |
| 4  | Dan Yargo     | Hubbard & Marion Heights  |
| 12 | Teresa Smolka | Leetonia/Washingtonville  |
| 19 | Russ Libb     | Berlin Center             |
| 21 | Dan Bryant    | District Superintendent   |
| 28 | Dave Gilbert  | Church Hill               |
| 28 | Kay Dunlap    | District Associate        |

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 NOVEMBER Newsletter is Friday, October 21*

*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 [mvdstumc@aol.com](mailto:mvdstumc@aol.com). Please include your address so we can be sure to remove you from the "snail mail" list.

### Clergywomen's Lunch

The District Clergywomen's lunch meeting has not been set. Please watch your e-mail for information on date and location of your monthly gathering.



### Retirees Breakfast

The district retirees will meet for breakfast at 9 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 28th at Lucianno's Café & Banquet Center, Wedgewood Plaza in Austintown.

## Kay's Corner

Is it too early to talk about Advent? Of course not. Now is the time to begin planning your Advent studies. The first Sunday of Advent is November 27. Small group Bible Studies may include Adam Hamilton's Advent Study [The Journey, Walking the Road to Bethlehem](#). It also includes the DVD and leader's guide with a complete family of resources for a church wide study. This is very similar to his Lenten Study [24 Hours That Changed the World](#). Ellsworth Kalas, who was on the district the weekend of Sept 16-18, also has a book that can be used in small groups. [Faith from the Backside](#) also includes a discussion guide.

United Methodist Student Day is observed on November 27. Children's Sabbath may be observed in October. The Interfaith observance is the third weekend in October, however General Conference designated the second weekend in October for this event because Laity Sunday can be observed.

Best wishes in your journey during the upcoming Advent season.

Kay Dunlap

## Thank You

To Annual Conference ushers and greeters. I am so grateful for your willingness to serve, and thank you for all the extra help you provided. Looking forward to seeing you at Annual Conference 2012.

Blessings,

Barbara Beach

Conference Head Usher

## Clergy Gathering Dates

Future Clergy Gatherings are scheduled for December 6, February 23, and May 15. Details will follow as they become available.

### Because it Matters: How General Conference Impacts United Methodists

The East Ohio Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSa) invites you to an informational and educational event on Saturday, October 22 highlighting upcoming General Conference issues. Bishop Judy Craig and the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Chalker will moderate the day's events. The sessions begin at 10am and conclude at 2pm at Uniontown UMC, 13370 Cleveland Ave NW, Uniontown, OH 44685. Registration fee of \$10 includes morning hospitality (9:30am) and lunch. To register, please call Tom Douce at 330-494-3337 or email him at [doucethomas@yahoo.com](mailto:doucethomas@yahoo.com). You may also register on line by logging on to [www.eomfsa.webs.com](http://www.eomfsa.webs.com). Registration deadline is October 15th.

### Emergency Response Training - October 29

The East Ohio Conference is offering ERT – Emergency Response Training, at Epworth Center in Bethesda. If you plan on attending this training you will need to apply for a background check before you come. Contact the Southern Hills District Office and you will be given the web page that will help you with the background check. Please call [Mollie Gerlach](#), (740) 255-5691, for further information.



## UMW Annual Celebration

The East Ohio UMW 2011 Annual Celebration will be held on October 28 & 29 at Churchill UMC, Youngstown under the theme "All Things Made New." Friday evening at 7:00 pm, Juanita Pasley, director of The United Methodist Community Center will be the keynote speaker. Saturday's program begins at 10:00 am with Jeanette Kraus, Women's Division director, as the worship speaker; annual business meeting and installation of officers. Training for district officers and focus groups on the topics of Human Trafficking and Racial Justice will be held in the afternoon. There will also be a children's program. Cost is \$16 for adults and \$10 for children age 5-12. For information or to register send an email to [mcalisterregina@yahoo.com](mailto:mcalisterregina@yahoo.com). Reservations must be received by October 15.

### November 18-19 2011 Clergy Spouse Retreat

East Ohio and Western Pennsylvania Conferences are joining together for a clergy spouse retreat to be held at the Four Point by Sheraton in Mars, Pennsylvania. Retreat leader and author of eleven books, Marilyn Brown Oden, will tease out the challenges to living a grace-filled life. Brochures of the event have been mailed to clergy spouses and S/PPR chairs. Registrations are due by Oct. 19 to [lorrainegeorge@att.net](mailto:lorrainegeorge@att.net).

### Parsonage Families — Mark Your Calendars Now:

The Parsonage Family Epiphany Party is scheduled for Saturday, January 7th, 2012 at the Canfield UMC. More information will follow by mail.

## A Day Apart for Adult Leaders of Youth

The EOC Youth Leaders Network invites you to experience worship and prayer led by Praise-Appella musical group and a district superintendent. Dates and locations: Oct. 15, Camp Zimmerman near Gnadenhutten with Rev. Jim Humphrey, Three Rivers D.S. or Oct. 24, Hines Hills Conference Center in Peninsula with Rev. David Scavuzzo, Western Reserve D.S. Time for both dates is 10 am – 2 pm. Cost is \$10; registration deadline is October 3. Registration info. is available at [www.eocumc.com](http://www.eocumc.com).

## Youth Annual Conference 2012 - June 15-17

Save the date NOW! Plans are already underway for another amazing YAC! Our theme this year is "Set Free" based on the passage from Galatians 5:1. The details for this leadership development weekend will be revealed at Celebrate 1:8 on 11.11.11. If you cannot be at the Celebrate 1:8 event you can get the details in November by visiting the youth web site.

## It's Dinner Time, etc.

**Famous Swiss Streak Dinner** - Sat., October 1, 4-6:00 at Vienna UMC, 4265 Warren-Sharon Rd. Takeouts are available.

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

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

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

**Fall Chicken BBQ Dinner** - Sat., Oct. 8, 3:30-6:30 at Calvary UMC, 12062 South Ave., North Lima.

**Spaghetti Dinner** - Sat., Oct. 8, 4-7 at Coalburg UMC, 1906 Wick Campbell Rd., Hubbard.

**Spaghetti Dinner** - Sunday, Oct. 9, 11:30-1:30 at Lisbon First UMC, 114 E Washington St.

**Creamed Chicken on Biscuit Carry-out Dinners** - Sat., Oct., 15, 4:30 - 6:30 at Girard First UMC, 22 N Market St. No need to get out of your car

**Spaghetti Dinner** - Sat., Oct. 22, 4-7 at Brookfield UMC, 6951 Grove St.

**Stuffed Pork Chop Dinner** - Sat., Oct. 29, 4-6 :30 at Braceville UMC, 577 Park Rd. SW, Newton Falls.



**Canfield UMC 71st Annual Bazaar** Friday, Oct. 21st, 4-7 and Sat., Oct. 22, 9-4 (Cafeteria Lunch 10:30-2). 27 S Broad St., Canfield.



## Planned Giving

The East Ohio United Methodist Foundation has as its sole purpose helping churches with endowments, planned gifts and other financial services. For more information, you can reach Brian Sheetz, Executive Director at [brian@eoumf.org](mailto:brian@eoumf.org).



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