



FIRELANDS FLAME

JUDY WISMAR CLAYCOMB, DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Along the Way

What a beautiful, hot and rainy summer! Roll, thunder, ROLL! What loving response by many, offering assistance in corners where too much heat and rain brought heartache for some. And thanks be to God for the reminder, here toward the end of August, of God's ultimate resolution and care for lives lived well in union with Christ, as the Church celebrated Rev. Warren Tropf's secure transition from this earth to the realm of heaven. We love you, Warren. We miss you. As we re-member our faith in commemorating events of 9-11 ten years ago, in your honor may God give us an extra measure of initiative to continue to pray and work for peace and justice for all.

I have enjoyed one-on-one pastor consultations this month and I look forward to the annual time with S/PPR committees. It brings such encouragement and revives my hope as I hear what God is doing in and among us in Firelands District, touching and transforming lives, "fleshing out" disciples in the Body of Christ. I am so grateful for you.

I pass along a couple of the many blessings gleaned from recent pastor consultations:

First, a story from the life of Amherst Park Avenue UMC. (As a preacher story-teller once said, "I'm not sure it happened just this way, but I know this story is TRUE.") Two young children were at the library across the parking lot one Saturday morning when they noticed the sign inviting free breakfast at the church. They came over for breakfast, and after eating they asked to see the sanctuary. Pastor Dan Rinke accompanied them upstairs into the worship space and was moved by Holy Spirit when the children asked, "What do you do in here?" He attempted his best response, knowing the whole time the profundity of their question and the inadequacy of his words to convey the answer. Later, after they had returned to the breakfast gathering, some noticed the children receiving money from a church member. They wondered, "Are they homeless? Could they be they runaways?" As it happened, the children had a five dollar bill and asked for change so they could give two dollars in the offering plate upstairs. Oh, my LORD: Children. Strangers. Witnesses.

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels un-awares." (Hebrews 13:2)

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Secondly, as we with God's appropriate measure engage in vital church conversations and planning this fall, Brother Harry Finkbone, Pastor at Nova, offered these two questions which to me are rife with potential fruitfulness (*with apologies in advance for any adaptation in my grateful reception and translation*):

Do we believe that it is God's will that there BE this community of faith in this town, this region, this place at this time for this surrounding people?

If we so believe, then what is it that God gives our community of faith to offer, that people are seeking, wanting, needing so much that they are willing to invest in it? (*Brother Harry explains, we know that shopping malls, professional and children's sports leagues, etc. have identified something that people want or need to the extent that they are willing to invest themselves. What is it that the Church has to offer to reach this human need in our communities?*)

Great stories, great questions, as we continue in covenant relationship ...along the Way.

Judy

United Methodist Church: Plan for Revitalizing Congregations

We know that the message of Jesus Christ has the power to redeem broken lives, communities and societies of our world, yet many of our faithful, historic churches have been stymied in our best efforts to communicate his gospel in ways which engage and ignite new disciples. As you know church leaders including our own bishop have been diligently praying and working to find a solution to this dilemma, so that the teachings of Jesus' forgiveness, grace and love might continue to bring salvation and transformation in this 21st Century in United Methodist congregations. A study of 5,000 healthy, vital disciple-making churches

has been completed and analyzed, yielding 16 "drivers" which when incorporated in our prayerful ministry plans, will foster vitality and health. A website

(www.umvitalcongregations.org) is in place, showing a few statistical indicators of each UM congregation's health and vitality and offering step-by-step, biblically-based tools for local church strategic planning toward more fruitful ministry in concert with our brothers and sisters in the United Methodist Church, all in our mission to make disciples and transform the world.

What about all the interest in numbers? Our churches are being called to work toward sustaining

health and vitality, but how can this be measured? How can a changed life, or a healed soul be measured? Numerically it cannot, but much of the fruit of our work can be measured, and these measurements do offer us indicators of the health of our congregations. **Every number represents a person, a life, a soul valuable and loved by God.** It is our concern for individual people, not numbers, which motivates us to **serve** as disciples of Jesus Christ, and to reach others with the promise and possibility of his love and life. This is our purpose in being his Church; it is the purpose of the United Methodist Church's Vital Congregations initiative.

Church/Charge Conference Schedules

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9

**Host: Belden
5:00 pm**

Belden
Brighton / Rochester
Grafton
LaPorte
Spencer

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23

**Host: Willard First
5:00 pm**

Attica
Attica Circuit
Bloomville /
Republic Trinity
Clarksfield
Greenwich/Delphi
New Haven /
North Fairfield
New Washington
Fitchville
Plymouth/Shiloh
Willard Grace
Willard First

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

**Host: Sandusky Trinity
2:00 pm**

Lakeside
Milan Edison Memorial
Port Clinton Faith
Sandusky Columbus Avenue
Salem
Sand Hill
Sandusky Trinity

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

**Host: Norwalk First
6:00 pm**

Clyde First
Collins / West Hartland
Huron
New London
Norwalk First
Port Clinton Trinity
Tiffin Faith
Vermilion Grace

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

**Host: Amherst Park
Ave
5:00 pm**

Amherst: Park Avenue
Amherst: Old Stone
Birmingham
Lakeview
Cornerstone
Elyria Zion
Henrietta
Lorain Faith
Lorain Lighthouse
Lorain Wesley
Oberlin First
Oberlin Rust
South Amherst

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

**Host: Tiffin Harmony
2:00 pm**

Melmore
Sycamore
Tiffin Harmony
Tiffin St. Paul

**Host: Flat Rock
Ebenezer 5:30 pm**

Calvary Green Springs /
Pleasant Ridge
Green Springs
Bellevue First
Mount Carmel
Flat Rock Ebenezer
Bellevue Seybert
Vickery

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

**Host: Lodi
5:00 pm**

Burbank Faith
Chippewa Church at the
Lake
Creston Canaan
Homerville
Lafayette
LaGrange
Leroy
Lodi
Nova
Wellington First
West Salem
Burbank Trinity

**Charge Conference
materials due in the
hands of the DS one
week prior.**

Pastor-Parish Consultations

THURS SEPT 1

Host: Milan Edison Memorial

5:30 PM Clarksfield
6:30 PM Milan Edison

WED SEPT 7

Host: Clyde

6:00 PM Clyde
6:45 PM Mount Carmel

MON SEPT 12

Host: Port Clinton Faith

5:15 PM Port Clinton Faith
6:00 PM Port Clinton Trinity

SAT SEPT 17

9:00 AM Leroy at Leroy

SUN SEPT 18

12:00 PM Sandusky Salem at Salem

Host: Sandusky Trinity

5:30 PM Columbus Avenue
6:30 PM Sandusky Trinity

MON SEPT 19

5:30 PM Bloomville/Republic
at Bloomville

7:00 PM New London at New London

TUES SEPT 20

2:30 PM Nova at Nova

Host: Shiloh

4:00 PM N Fairfield/N Haven
5:00 PM Plymouth/Shiloh
6:00 PM New Washington

WED SEPT 21

Host: Sand Hill

9:30 AM Vickery
10:15 AM Sand Hill
11:30 AM Lakeside at Lakeside

FRI SEPT 23

Host: South Amherst

9:30 AM South Amherst
10:15 AM Elyria Zion
10:45 AM Berlin Hts Lakeview
11:15 AM Birmingham

MON SEPT 26

7:00 PM Henrietta at Henrietta

WED SEPT 28

Host: Lorain Lesley

4:30 PM Lorain Faith
5:15 PM Oberlin First
6:00 PM Oberlin Rust
6:45 PM Lorain Wesley

THUR SEPT 29

Host: LaPorte

5:45 PM LaPorte
6:30 PM LaGrange
7:15 PM Belden

MON OCT 3

Host: Wellington

4:30 PM West Salem
5:00 PM Brighton/Rochester
5:45 PM Spencer
6:30 PM Wellington

TUES OCT 4

Host: Burbank Faith

5:00 PM Burbank Trinity
5:30 PM Burbank Faith

Host: Homerville

6:45 PM Creston Canaan
7:30 PM Homerville

WED OCT 5

Host: Greenwich

6:30 PM Fitchville
7:00 PM Greenwich/Delphi

THUR OCT 6

Host: Amherst Park Avenue

5:15 PM Park Avenue
6:00 PM Old Stone
7:15 PM Grafton at Grafton

MON OCT 10

4:30 PM Attica Circuit
At Richmond

Host: Attica

5:30 PM Willard First
6:15 PM Willard Grace
7:00 PM Attica

WED OCT 12

Host: Green Springs

4:00 PM Heritage Charge
5:00 PM Calvary Green
Springs/Pleasant Ridge
5:45 PM Green Springs
6:30 PM Bellevue First.

THURS OCT 13

Host: Lighthouse

6:00 PM Cornerstone
6:45 PM Lighthouse

SAT OCT 15

Host: Tiffin St Pauls

9:00 AM St Pauls
9:45 AM Melmore
10:30 AM Sycamore
11:15 AM Harmony

THURS OCT 20

Host: Collins

6:00 PM Collins/W Hartland
7:15 PM Norwalk First

WED OCT 26

Host: Chippewa Ch at the Lake

5:30 PM Lodi
6:30 PM Lafayette
7:15 PM Chippewa Ch

Compass Groups

Group #10 Scott McCutcheon, Leader

Calvary Green Springs/Pleasant Ridge
Green Springs
Bellevue First
Mount Carmel
Flat Rock: Ebenezer & Bellevue Seybert
Vickery

Group #11 Douglas Winner, Leader

Attica
Attica Circuit: Richmond/Union Pisgah
Bloomville/Republic Trinity
Clarksfield
Greenwich & Delphi
New Haven/North Fairfield
Fitchville
New Washington
Plymouth/Shiloh
Willard: Grace

Willard: First

Group #12 Paula Marbury, Leader

Amherst: Park Ave & Old Stone
Birmingham & Berlin Heights: Lakeview
Cornerstone
Lorain: Faith
Lorain: Lighthouse
Oberlin First
South Amherst & Elyria Zion

Henrietta

Lorain: Wesley

Oberlin Rust

Group #13 Don Kuntz, Leader

Burbank Faith
Chippewa Church at the Lake
Creston/Canaan
Homerville
Leroy
Nova
West Salem / Burbank Trinity

Lafayette

Lodi

Spencer

Group #14 Virginia Park, Leader

Kelleys Island: Zion
Lakeside
Milan: Edison Memorial
Port Clinton: Faith
Sandusky: Columbus Ave. & Salem
Sand Hill

Group #15 Jeff Lanzer, Leader

Belden
Brighton/Rochester
Chatham Federated
Congress Community Federated
Grafton
LaPorte
LaGrange
Wellington First

Group #16 Carl Fannin, Leader

Clyde First
Collins/West Hartland
Huron
Norwalk First
Port Clinton: Trinity
Tiffin: Faith
Vermilion Grace

New London

Group #17 Paul Bennett, Leader

Melmore
Tiffin: Harmony
Sycamore
Tiffin: St. Paul

Vermilion Grace

Sycamore

Tiffin: St. Paul

CFC (formerly EOM) is due one week prior to meeting.

Due at time of the meeting: Pastor's Compensation, LCPA & LCPL Profile

District Fall Youth Rally

“Calling all Big Wheelers for Roller Skating”



Grades 6th—12th
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2011
3:00—7:00 PM

LORAIN LIGHTHOUSE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3015 Meister Road, Lorain OH 44053 PH 440.282.2383

DONATION \$5.00 per person includes skate rental and all skating expenses, *except refreshments at the roller ring. (PAY AT THE DOOR) CHECKS MADE OUT TO: *FIRELANDS DISTRICT UMC*

All groups meet at Lorain Lighthouse church then “roll over” by car to Skate World (2 miles from the church) for some “wheel-in” to Christian music. Each Group will be responsible for their own transportation to Skate World We will meet back at the church for food and a wrap up of the Rally

FOOD
ENTERTAINMENT
FELLOWSHIP
BRING YOUR
FRIENDS!



ADULT YOUTH LEADERS

You must have 1 adult to stay with the group that you bring Youth Leaders responsible for permission & medical forms

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT

John Murphey PH 440.988.0307

Sponsored by Firelands District United Methodist Church



More than **1,000** pairs of flip flops were passed out last Thursday and Friday at the Bratwurst Festival by teens from *Bucyrus United Methodist Church*. As they pass out the flip flops, the youth will spread the message of Jesus’ love.

This is just one of many projects the youth are doing as part of **Project 1:8**, a challenge presented in June at the Youth Annual Conference for the United Methodist Church’s East Ohio Conference.

The challenge is to fulfill Jesus’ command to “Go make disciples of all the nations” using the power he promised in Acts 1:8: “But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will receive power and tell people about me everywhere, and

to the ends of the earth.

As many of you know, our youth are gathering on **Nov. 11-12, 2011 at Fort Rapids in Columbus, Ohio** to “check in” on the progress being made on the Project 1:8 challenge. We would like to dedicate a time on Saturday to have a report from each District on the mission work happening in our District and the work being done by youth in our District that reaches out.

So, your help is needed. Has your church’s youth taken a mission trip, or helped the local missions, or had a fundraiser that directly supports a mission. Please find out how many teens were involved, how much money was raised, and what mission organization was benefitted. Keep in mind there is a blog: <http://eocproject1eight.wordpress.com> where we are logging this info.

Please encourage the teens and their leaders to refer to the site and share their experiences and pictures.

Revitalizing the Men in Our Church

EOC United Methodist Men 2011 Fall Gathering is Saturday Nov 12, 9:00-4:00, at Grace UMC, 1720 Schneider St., North Canton OH 44270.

Keynote Speaker is **Mike Hargrove**, former MLB manager of the Cleveland Indians.

Worship Leader is **Rev. Gary George**, Adm. Assistant to the Bishop.

Special Music by **Jonathan White**, southern Gospel Recording Artist.

For a list of workshops & registration form, go to www.eocumc.com

Registration is \$25 per person if post-marked by Nov. 1, \$35 after Nov. 1 or at the door. Make check payable to the East Ohio Conference United Methodist Men, and mail to Rod Erskine 22827 Lake Rd. #5, Rocky River OH 44116 Spouses are welcome.

For Your Information



Tiffin: Faith UMC

Tiffin Faith United Methodist Church celebrated worship for the first time on August, 7, 2011. On May 22, 2011, Ebenezer and Washington Street Churches voted to merge in order to more effectively live their mission of "Loving God, Serving our Neighbors" in the Tiffin community and beyond. Tiffin Faith UMC is served by Pastors Donna Van Trees and Nathan Howe. *The following is an excerpt from Rev. Howe's September 2011 newsletter article*

This summer, while visiting a friend in New York City, at one point we drove past a billboard that caught my attention. It was an advertisement for United Airlines and reference their recent merger with Continental Airlines, with the following line: "who's merging isn't nearly as exciting as what's emerging."

Through the power and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, new life is emerging among us. New friendships are beginning to blossom, and new ministries are taking root. The ideas for new directions being inspired here at Faith UMC are many and varied, and I praise

Did You Know?

September Birthdays:

Don Young	Sept 5
Doug Winner	Sept 11
Luigi Perez	Sept 14
Greg Sellers	Sept 15
James Gaston Jr	Sept 27
Lea Mahan	Sept 30

September Anniversaries:

Mike & Judy Claycomb	Sept 6
Tim & Yoonmi Kim	Sept 15
Pat & Richard Edington	Sept 21

Prayer Concerns:

Mary McKenzie, wife of recently retired Jim McKenzie, has been diagnosed with cancer.

God for the receptiveness of this congregation in the movement of God's Spirit among us.

As we lean together into the future to which God is calling us, then, may we do so with continued openness, courage, and excitement. May the Holy Spirit dwell among us richly, may we live with one another out of the depth of our faith, and may God continue to grow new life in the rich soil of Faith UMC.

HURRICANE RESPONSE

Please pray for all who are involved in disaster response.

Floyd Costello, the Southern Hills Disaster Response Coordinator, is making preparations for early response teams in coming weeks to help with the recovery. The Red Cross and the National Guard will be coordinating the initial response with local emergency management agencies. UMCOR - Early Response Teams can only enter the area after the storm passes and housing is more secure.

Donations for disaster response can be made to the district treasurer, the conference treasurer - US Disaster Response #901670 - Hurricanes 2011 or online using <http://secure.gbmg-umc.org/donations/umcor/donate.cfm?code=901670&id=3018992>

Deaths:

W. Robert Raynes, retired elder, died on July 15. He is survived by his wife, Joan; two sons, Rev. Philip & Dr. Christopher; and several grand & great grandchildren. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Joan Raynes, 800 S. 15th St. #2103, Sebring OH 44672 or to Rev. & Mrs. Philip Raynes, 4065 St Rte 44, Rooststown OH 44272

Rev. Richard Crabbs, retired elder, died July 25. He is preceded in death by his wife Juliet. Survived by sons: Duane & Loren; daughter Shareen.

Book Club

Thursday Sept 15

1:00 pm Sandusky Trinity UMC

Book: ***An Alter in the World***

By Barbara Brown Taylor

Oil Drilling

Due to the activity surrounding Oil and Gas exploration in Eastern Ohio, one of the growing industries is/and will be oil exploration. In 2010 \$44 million dollars were returned to land owners in the state. With the increased demand, rising cost of energy, and the technology to reach shell deposits, this will be a growing resource to land owners in the resource rich region of the East Ohio Annual Conference.

If your church is approached with a lease possibility, it is important for you to follow the guidelines of The 2008 Book of Discipline. In addition, other important considerations must be given attention. Should you find yourself in such a situation, you should contact your district superintendent for guidance.

Position Available

Lorain Lighthouse UMC has an opening for a **Contemporary Worship Leader**. This is a part-time staff position. Primary responsibilities include leading the Contemporary Worship Service and the Praise and Worship Band. For more information you may contact the pastor or S/PPRC Chair via e-mail at lorainlighthouseumc@yahoo.com, or you may call the church office at (440) 282-2383.

Rev. Warren Tropf, retired elder, died on Aug 11. He is survived by his wife, Joan; sons: Nathan & Thomas; and daughter Lois, and several grandchildren. Warren served at Cleveland First, Windham, Nottingham, and Westlake where he stayed for 24 years. He also served on many conference and district boards. Memorial contributions may be given to Lakeside UMC, Westlake Umc or donor's choice. Condolences may be sent to Joan at 192 Betty Jones Dr. Lakeside Oh 43440

September 2011

Primary Business Address
3 Stower Lane, Unit 5
Norwalk OH 44857

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Fax: 419-668-7227
E-mail: FirelandsDist@rrbiznet.com



WE'RE ON THE WEB
FIRELANDSDISTRICTUMC.ORG

DISTRICT CALENDAR



OFFICE CLOSED
LABOR DAY, MONDAY SEPT 5

CHARGE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
(SEE PAGE 2)

**PASTORAL-PARISH COMMITTEE
CONSULTATIONS WITH THE DS**
(SEE PAGE 2)

**COMPASS GROUP LEADERS
FACILATER TRAINING**
THURS., SEPT 8 1:00—4:30 PM
UNIONTOWN CHURCH

UM WOMEN LEADERS
MONDAY, SEPT 12 9:30 AM
DISTRICT OFFICE

CABEINT RETREAT
SEPT 13-15 AT THE WILDS

DISTRICT ADM. ASSISTANT
FRIDAY, SEPT 16 9:00 -3:00
MEETING AREA CENTER
DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED

DS, JUDY CLAYCOMB
AT BOUNDARIES TASK FORCE MTG
SEPT 19

DS, JUDY CLAYCOMB
PREACHING SHARED WORSHIP SERVICE
IN THE WILLARD CITY PARK
SUNDAY, SEPT 25

**DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON OR-
DAINED MINISTRY**
TUESDAY, SEPT 27 9:00 AM
NORWALK FIRST UMC

DS, JUDY CLAYCOMB
AT BOUNDARIES TASK FORCE MTG
SEPT 29

NEW PASTORS ORIENTATION
FRIDAY, SEPT 30
EAST OHIO CONFERENCE AREA CENTER

DISTRICT YOUTH FALL EVENT
(SEE PAGE 4)