VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 NEWSLETTER DATE OCT 2011

FIRELANDS FLAME

JUDY WISMAR CLAYCOMB, DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Along the Way

The "Lectionary" calendar of Sunday scripture lessons in September led us along with Moses and the Israelites through difficult but faithful wilderness wanderings. When the people of God neared Mt. Horeb (see Exodus 17:1-7) there was good news and there was bad news for the people of God. The good news: This was the Mountain of God! The bad news: They were still in some serious wilderness. They griped to Moses, wondering, "Is the Lord among us --or NOT?"

In their faithful, persistent, diligent journeying to live into the hoped-for promised land they've sacrificed a lot-- everything, in fact—sense of home, long years invested, established traditions, the security that comes from knowing how to get by. Sure, their life back in Egypt *had* been a drudgery, slavery even, but it was *comforting* in its familiarity.

But God held out for them new purposes and places. And Moses challenged them to follow God's lead in a bold new direction. All along this daring journey for God's sake, they have longed for at least a brief ***glimpse*** of God, face-to-face, up close and personal-- just to make sure that Moses has got this thing **right**. They're tired, they're aching, and they're thirsty.

And I can hear a distinct ***"HMPFF"*** at Horeb from God's beloved ones. In fact, I've uttered a few wondering, wandering H-M-P-F-F's myself. Have you been ***HMPFF****-ing* in some wilderness place—wondering if God is with us, or not? Go on, you can allow yourselves one good ***HMPFF!***

- **H**- ***How could they DO this? How could you THINK that?***
- **M**- ***Move over***, ***Move On***, ***My Way or the Highway!***
- **P** – ***P-ul-l-EEZE!***
- **F**- **F** - ***Feeling Friendless, frustrated, forgotten***

All together now: HMPFF!

And then remember the rest of the story: God tells Moses to go on ahead, taking key leaders with him, and God assures them, "I'll be there, right in front of you, at the rock of Horeb."

The Good News at Horeb is that this is the mountain of God. The challenge is that there is still much surrounding wasteland. The best news is that it is in the wilderness that God does God's best stuff. When we're thirsty and vulnerable and seeking and open and asking, humbly God is found in the wilderness, delivering life-saving water.

And we one-time secure, successful self-sufficient servants are transformed, re-covering the mind of Christ to utter, **H**-HELP, **M**-MERCY, **P**-PLEASE, **F**-Find-me, **F**-Fill-Me.

To **H**-humble ourselves, **M**- make our confession of need, **P**- pray to the One who alone can save our lives, **F**-forgive those whom we may blame for our wilderness places, **F**- have faith to recognizing God with us, and, one more **F**- follow, now, *that's* a ***HMPFFF*** you can live with!

God doesn't send us off into disciple-reaching wilderness on our own–packing a forty year strategic plan, a magical staff, Google directions to some rock and a ten point technique for tapping water.

When Horeb feels "*Horeb-ble,"* God is never-the-less, (maybe even *more*) **present,** opening a spring, quenching our thirst, restoring our hope, renewing our strength for all that lies ahead as we follow in the life-saving service of Jesus Christ, all 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 Potluck
6:00 pm Meeting

Belden
Brighton / Rochester
Grafton
LaPorte
Spencer

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

Host: Amherst Park Ave
5:00 pm Potluck
6:00 pm Meeting

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 23

Host: Willard First
5:00 pm Potluck
6:00 pm Meeting

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

Host: Tiffin Harmony
2:00 pm

Melmore
Sycamore
Tiffin Harmony
Tiffin St. Paul

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Host: Sandusky Trinity
2:00 pm

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

New Location

Host: Bellevue Seybert
6:00 pm Meeting

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

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Host: Norwalk First
6:00 pm Potluck
7:00 pm Meeting

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Host: Lodi
5:00 pm Potluck
6:00 pm Meeting

Burbank Faith
Chippewa Church at the Lake
Creston Canaan
Homerville
Lafayette
LaGrange
Leroy
Lodi

Remaining Pastor-Parish Consultations

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

Meals at the Dutch Valley Restaurant

Registration form must be sent in by October 10th.

Name:_____

Email:_____

Ph:_____

Address:_____

City:_____**State**___**Zip**_____

Please circle your choice:

1) **$280 Single Room with all Meals & Program**
2) **$185 Meals & Prg., Double room with roommate:**_____
3) **$80 Commute with Meals& Program**
4) **$30 Program only**

Check & send to:
East Ohio Conference Fund#9702
PO Box 76019
Cleveland OH 44101-4755
Email: Jan@EastShoreChurch.com

Fall Retreat for Clergy Spouses - November 18 and 19, 2011 ♫

This November we have a second opportunity to gather with spouses from East Ohio and Western Pennsylvania Conferences for a fun and meaningful weekend just for you! Mark Friday and Saturday, November 18 & 19, 2011 on your calendar! Nearly 90 persons had a wonderful time together last fall in beautiful accommodations at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel North of Pittsburg and they overwhelming asked to do it all again!

This year's speaker will be a highly acclaimed writer and retreat leader, Marilyn Brown Oden. Author of over a dozen devotional books and novels, Marilyn's theme will be "Listening for the Grace Notes Ldž" and will focus on the little extras that enhance our life song. These are the actions, words, cards, texts and emails that can express appreciation, sympathy, encouragement or forgiveness in our lives. (Enjoy an online search for Marilyn's titles under her name. She is an experienced speaker and a friend of Elaine Hopkins & Sally Bickerton through the Council of Bishops)

Networking with others who share your same connection with ministry and having down time for rest & relaxation were cherished last year so we are building in more time for both in 2011. There will also be workshops and topical discussion groups for you to participate in as you choose. The hotel has excellent food, a wonderful pool/spa and is just 30 minutes from the Grove City, PA outlets to the North and the IKEA shopping area to the South. Printed brochures have been mailed to clergy spouses homes.

Debbie Bryant, Administrative Assistant
Canal District, UMC
Akron, Ohio

canaldistrictumc@neo.rr.com
www.canaldistrictumc.org

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

Youth Project 1:8 Blue Rose Mission Trip Oct. 14-15 Mansfield

CLUE Youth from Mt Carmel UMC are headed down to the Blue Rose Mission to work on local projects to help people around the Mansfield area. You are invited to join them.

Pastor Scott is overwhelmed by the number of responses and the amount of interest in this trip. God is alive and working in our youth groups and their leaders! In order to help answer any questions, here is all the information for this trip.

We will be meeting and staying at:
Richland Rural Life Center
969 Crall Rd
Mansfield, OH 44903
Registration is Friday evening, 6:00-8:00PM. Please have your $25/person registration fees at this time.

There will be NO dinner provided Friday night, You will need to make arrangements for your own dinner.

We will be sleeping on wooden cots & floors. You will need to bring sleeping bags. If you plan on using an air mattress, consider the extra time needed to inflate and deflate the mattress. It may not be worth the time or effort.

There will be separate sleeping areas for males and females. Shower facilities are available

Blue Rose Mission has a website if you would like to check it out in advance: www.bluerosemission.org/

The phone number on the website goes to Main St. UMC in Mansfield. They are only able to take messages.
For trip information, contact Stan Wertz directly PH 419-892-3539 or email: workmission@bluerosemission.org

Make sure that Stan Wertz knows how many people (youth and chaperones) to prepare for by October 2.

Pastor Scott McCutcheon
Mt. Carmel UMC
4997 County Road 183
Clyde, OH 43410
(419) 483-6507

A Day Apart for Youth Leaders

The Youth Leaders Network of East Ohio Conference invites you to experience worship and prayer led by Praise-Appella musical group and a district superintendent. Dates and locations: October 15, Camp Zimmerman near Gnadenhutten with Rev. Jim Humphrey, Three Rivers D.S. or October 24, Hines Hills Conference Center in Peninsula with Rev. David Scavuzzo, Western Reserve D.S. Time for both dates is 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Cost is $10. Registration deadline is October 3. http://www.uevent.com/registration/

Showcase Your Church's Youth at General Conference

Shoot and submit a video about your youth ministry for inclusion in the young people's address to General Conference. To present a complete picture of young people in the United Methodist Church, GBOD will incorporate video stories and photos from around the world in the presentation. For submission guidelines. http://globalyoungpeople.org/young-people%E2%80%99s-address-at-general-conference-2012/
Hurry! October 31 is the deadline.

God is Moving

Seybert UMC

The son-in-law of Seybert's organist has an ongoing medical problem that is very serious. It has caused him to miss a lot of work. Coupled with that is the fact that his wife had her own major health problems a couple of years ago. The couple was having real financial problems. He is a well-known tenor in our community. He has come in second in America's Idol contests several times.

Several of Seybert's congregation members wanted to do something - even something small. We decided to have a fundraising spaghetti dinner. Seybert's average attendance is 55 per week. Our average age is at least 65 - but we were determined to do what we could.

My original goal was to feed 100 people at a $5 per plate to raise $500 to help with utilities.

Once we started publicizing, we started getting calls from various organizations and people. So then we thought we might be feeding 300 and raise $1,000 to $1,500. Wow, I thought, that would be great. So planned a meal to feed 300.

We chose the evening of Sunday, Sept 11. As the day approached, I became worried because so much was going on that day: the big Lutheran Church in town was having a swiss steak dinner, a parade was being held to commemorate 9/11, other groups were doing various things. I was afraid our turnout might be smaller than anticipated. Still, I prayed we would get at least $1,000.

So, here it was - 4:30 PM, the evening of the big dinner. It was incredible, people began to line-up at 4:15 pm and they didn't stop for over two hours. We intended to keep count of the dinners but soon lost track. We did over 100 carry-outs and over 300 sit-down dinners. We had to go to the store twice for more spaghetti noodles and lettuce.

At the end of the day, we had raised $5,600! ! !

Plus, THRIVNET Financial Services for Lutherans matched us for an additional $1,000 - our total for the family was $6,600 - in two hours.

While it was Seybert who planned the meal and bought the supplies, members of both churches of the Heritage Charge helped cook and serve and donate.

In my wildest hopes, I would never have thought we could have raised that much money. Only by God's grace and blessings did such a miracle happen.

Pastor Bruce Kent

Lorain Faith UMC

Westlake Monday Morning Hand Bell Choir will be performing at Lorain Faith UMC Sunday, November 13th at 3:00 pm. Come enjoy music by the very talented and dedicated ringers. A reception will follow the performance.

Pastor Karen Hollingsworth

Green Springs UMC

Green Springs UMC has organized a **Children's Breakfast** before school September 29. School is delayed 2 hrs. that day for a teacher's in-service. This puts a big stress on working parents to provide child care during that time.

The parents can drop their children off at Green Spring church for breakfast and supervision. Then the church people will walk the kids to school, which is located close. The Church is also inviting the mayor, police chief, & librarian as a Community Day event.

Pastor Christine Tobergte

Clyde First UMC

Clyde First UMC Sisters Study Group presents ***Life in Christ…God to the Last Drop***, facilitated by Pastor Delaine McGhee, Sat., November 5, 9:00 am—2:00 pm. *Life in Christ…God to the Last Drop* offers us a look at our lives as compared to a cup of coffee.

Are you weak, cold, bitter, stale? Do you need more grounds (scripture), more warmth (God's love), more sweetener (Holy Spirit) ? Come to our coffeehouse and fill your cup!

To reserve seats, please call the church office 419.547.0734. Our day includes worship, fellowship, lunch and snacks, and some surprises. Donation $10 at the door. Registration will begin at 8:30 am Please reserve by Nov. 1.

Did You Know?

October Birthdays:

Patrice Brewer	Oct 1
Gary Streiff	Oct 4
Ted Austin	Oct 16
Deborah Quillen	Oct 17
Peter Bellamy	Oct 18

October Anniversaries:

Jim & Georgette Gaston	Oct 1
Jim & Lynn Ann Westermann	Oct 6
Greg & Kathy Sellers	Oct 15
Pat & Paul Allen-Lintela	Oct 26

Prayer Concerns:

Deb Quillen's father passed way.
Jim Westermann's mother passed away.

Deaths:

Ernest Murphy, retired elder, died Sept 27. He is survived by his wife Doris, daughter Brenda; preceded in death by his son, William. Condolences may be sent to: Doris Murphy, Navarre Village Home, 5605 Erie SW, 6B, Navarre, OH 44662

Book Club

Thursday Oct 20
1:00 –2:30 pm
Sandusky Trinity
United Methodist Church
Book: ***"Things Fall Apart"***
By Chinua Achebe
Presenter: Gary Olin

Special "Thank You' to all the Ushers and Greeters who help at Annual Conference. I am so grateful for your willingness to serve, and thank you so for all the extra help. Looking forward to seeing you at annual conference in 2012!

Blessings,
Barbara Beach
Conference Head Usher

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firelands
District
East Ohio Conference
United Methodist Church

WE'RE ON THE WEB

FIRELANDSDISTRICTUMC.ORG

DISTRICT CALENDAR

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S FALL MEETING
OCT 1, NORWALK FIRST

DISTRICT YOUTH FALL EVENT
OCT 16, LORAIN LIGHTHOUSE
(SEE PAGE 4)

CABINET
Oct 17,18, & 19

"BECAUSE IT MATTERS" HOW GENERAL CONFERENCE IMPACTS UNITED METHODIST
SAT, OCT 22, UNIONTOWN UMC, 13370 CLEVELAND AVE NW, UNIONTOWN OH 44685
REGISTRATION 9:30, AGENDA: 10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM
MORE INFO & REGISTRATION: EO.MFSA@GMAIL.COM

DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY
OCT 25, NORWALK FIRST UMC

UMWOMEN ANNUAL CELEBRATION
OCT 28-29 CHURCH HILL UMC

PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE CONSULTATIONS WITH DS
(SEE PAGE 3)

CHARGE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
(SEE PAGE 2)

EAST OHIO CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST MEN
FALL GATHERING
NOV. 12, GRACE UMC

ALL CLERGY RETREAT
NOV 7,8,9 CARLISLE INN, SUGAR CREEK (SEE PAGE 3)

CLERGY SPOUSES RETREAT
NOV 18 & 19, PITTSBURG (SEE PAGE 3)