

Jim's Tool Box

CAS Congregations Feature Innovative/New Ministries, Part 2

Last month the Tool Box article included examples of new initiatives, programs, or ministries that the congregations of the district have begun in the last year. I divided the responses into four categories:

- New classes or groups formed in local churches
- Ministries that focus more on the existing congregation
- Ministries that reach out to serve the community
- Ministries that represent growth or new worship services

In last month's Tool Box (which you can find by clicking [HERE](#)), I focused on new classes and groups formed and ministries that focus on the existing congregation. I shared a few of the examples of ministries that reach out to serve the community. This month I want to continue with ministries that reach out to serve the community and then move on to ministries that represent growth or new worship services.

As with last month I have embedded a link to the email address of the pastors (where we have email addresses). If you want to contact a pastor for more information, you can do so.

Ministries that Reach Out to the Community (cont.)

- [Pastor Bill Wayt](#) at Cox/Wright Memorial in Newark shared several successful ministries. Bill described a free clothing store at Cox that is just a little over a year old. He says that they have been able to help many people with clothing, hygiene items, and food. He also reports that the **Friends of Jesus** that Wright Memorial hosted has moved to a local agency's recreation facility. The Friends of Jesus serves developmentally challenged persons. Moving into the completely accessible facility has been a blessing for the ministry and for the facility that hosts it (Consumer Support Services, Inc.).
- [The Rev. Sue McClelland](#) at London First says that for the first time in a long time that London First UMC will be participating this summer in a work mission camp at Red Bird Mission. There will be seven youth and six adults going along on the trip in August.
- At Christ UMC, Columbus, [the Rev. Glenn Schwerdtfeger](#) shared how Christ Church was the lead institution in the Spring Break Lunch program, April 5-9. They got the idea from Pastor Angie Sherer at Whitehall UMC. The program served neighborhood children who could not rely on getting a decent meal during the spring break week. The folks at Christ Church served lunch daily at the Barnett Recreation Center. Partners in the project included Holy Spirit Catholic Church youth group, Berwyn East Civic Association, the Far East Neighborhood Pride Center, Scottwood Elementary School, and the OSU College of Social Work.
- [The Rev. Tom Bolton](#) wrote about several new ministries that the **Commercial Point-Scioto Chapel Circuit** have started in the last year. They include:
 - **The Commercial Point** congregation has opened a Free Store in the lower level of the church building. The Free Store has provided for the needs of over 250 individuals and families.
 - **The Commercial Point UMC** has also launched an after-school Middle Schoolers Group that meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

The group participates in Bible study, creative games, crafts, and supper. The “MSG” group has also done mission service at the Parsons Avenue Free Store. They have also assisted with the Commercial Point Christmas Outreach that helped 50 families last year.

- At **Scioto Chapel**, the congregation has begun preparations for a community-use ball field on three acres the church purchased in 2002. The space will be graded for soccer, baseball, softball, football, or other games this spring. They hope to host local youth and adult athletic events as a community outreach in the fall of 2010 or spring of 2011.
- According to [Pastor Robert McDowell](#), a new outreach ministry launched by **Lancaster First** this year is called “Second Saturday.” At the launch of the new ministry at the Crossroads site on the second Saturday in March, over eighty people gathered to offer God’s love by serving many different outreach areas in the city of Lancaster. These included:
 - Nursing Homes where people visited with residents, played bingo, read books, and led a bible study.
 - Helping a transitional housing placement for women who are reentering society after prison to move into a new building.
 - Establishing a Habitat for Humanity ReStore where items are donated to support the ministry of Habitat for Humanity.
 - Assembling Haiti health kits.
 - Installing linoleum flooring at Foundation Shelters.
 - Providing food for Southside Settlement ministry outreach in Columbus.
 - Delivering homemade cookies to law enforcement agencies and nursing home facilities.
 - Hosting a panel discussion on the problems of heroin addiction and how people can find help.
- [Pastor Michael Berne](#) reports that Grief Share at **Mt. Sterling UMC** is a weekly support group for people grieving the death of someone they love. It’s a place where they can be with others who understand the pain of loss and it gives them the tools they need to deal with grief.

Ministries that Represent Growth or New Worship Services:

- In September 2009 [Pastor Bob Beyer](#) reports that **Jacksontown UMC** launched a new worship service at the **Waters Edge** site. The service is held on Sunday afternoon and it is called “Spiritual Renewal and Fellowship.” Bob writes that 30-40 people are now attending weekly. He says that originally the leadership planned to couple the service with the soup kitchen. However the worship service serves approximately thirty people that do not stay for a fellowship meal that follows the worship service.
- At **South Bloomfield UMC**, [Pastor Floyd Hubbell](#) describes ongoing efforts by the congregation to build a fellowship/multi-purpose space on property that the church owns adjacent to the current church building. They hope to begin building this fall.
- According to [the Rev. David Cady](#), **Summit Station UMC** launched a new Sunday morning worship service in September 2009. The service was launched to reach new persons for Jesus Christ. The current services at that time (a traditional service and a contemporary service) had reached a sustained capacity. The congregation launched a

new blended service. David says that new people attend each week in all three services, and the average worship attendance has increased by six percent from the previous year!

- At **Circleville Community**, the congregation launched a new satellite service at the local YMCA. The new service that is contemporary in style offers worshippers an informal/neutral location in which to gather for worship. The new service is consistently drawing 60 to 70 persons. While the congregation “seeded” the service with folks from Community UMC, new persons are attending the worship service each week. Many are either unchurched (those without a church background) or “dechurched” (those who had gone to church but have not been part of a church for a long time). Contact [the Rev. Barry Burns](#) for more information about this service.
- **Centenary UMC** in Granville is in the midst of planning the launch of **The Church in the Mall**. The congregation has been working intentionally for the last couple of years to launch a satellite service. Their discerning of God’s vision for this work has led them to launch a worship site at the Indian Mound Mall in Heath, OH. The satellite church facility will be located in a store front in the mall. They believe this location will provide them with many opportunities for ministry in a public, secular, and familiar location to many people. The current youth pastor at the church, **Kevin Koske**, will be the lead pastor at the mall location. Contact [Pastor Steve Cramer](#) for more information.

As these examples show, many congregations in the Capitol Area South District are engaging in exciting ministries that are touching the lives of persons both within their congregations and beyond the walls of the church in the communities around these churches. This is by no way an exhaustive list of ministries in the district. It represents only those who responded to an invitation to share about ministries and projects that have been initiated in the last year.

God is at work in our congregations and among lay and clergy leaders of many of our churches. *How is God calling you and your congregation into new ministries and opportunities for service today?*