

# THE CONNECTION

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CAPITOL AREA SOUTH DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

NOVEMBER 2006

## FROM YOUR SUPERINTENDENT

### REMEMBER AND BE THANKFUL

Dear Friends and Ministry Colleagues,



Each month of the year is known for a certain theme or holiday. November calls our attention to Thanksgiving, sometimes referred to as Turkey Day. In just a few weeks we will celebrate this national holiday.

Thanksgiving reminds us of how blessed we are as a nation and as individuals. Despite our many shortcomings and social problems we still seem to have favor with God. The American people enjoy a standard of living and share an abundance of resources that is unprecedented in the history of the world. An article in the June 24, 2006 publication of The Chicago Tribune reports that: "Americans never had it so good." This conclusive assessment is based on a recent longitudinal study conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in which American families are said to have never earned more income, spent less on necessities or enjoyed a higher standard of living than they do right now. Indeed we are blessed.

As a people of faith, we are also blessed with the extravagant love of God that envelops our lives and the gift of ministry in Jesus Christ. What an abundant blessing! This brings to mind the words of Jesus when he told Peter and the other disciples:

From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required;  
and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more  
will be demanded (Luke 12: 48b, NRSV).

Truly we have been given much and entrusted with awesome responsibilities. Therefore, God expects much in return from us individually and corporately. During this Thanksgiving month, let us remember this teaching of Jesus and show thankfulness for the many blessings that God has given us. May our thanksgiving manifest itself in giving back to God a portion of that which God has given to us. Such Christian responsibility connects each of us to the mission and outreach ministries of the local church and beyond. Your apportionment giving is a prime example of this connection. You will be pleased to know that about 88.4 cents of each dollar that you give to apportionments stays in your local church to support its ministries. About 9.8 cents of every dollar goes to mission projects and ministries in the West Ohio Conference. This leaves about 1.8 cents that is channeled to national missions of the General UMC.

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## FROM YOUR SUPERINTENDENT CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

You are blessed. I am blessed. Our church is blessed. Our nation is blessed. We are a blessed people. Not because we are necessarily deserving of this favor by God, but because God has chosen to be gracious to us. I encourage you to respond generously to this favor by remembering your Christian responsibility and governing yourselves accordingly.

I pray for you and your ministry daily. Please pray for me. Together we shall work fruitfully to make disciples of Jesus and transform lives in our district.

Thankfully Yours,

Hank

## FIRST UM CHURCH NEWARK CELEBRATES 200 YEARS OF SERVICE AND MINISTRY

On Sunday, October 1, the congregation of the First United Methodist Church in Newark celebrated the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation's ministry in the Newark area.



A view of the worship service at Newark First on the occasion of the 200th Anniversary .  
(Picture from *The Newark Advocate*)

"This has been a great day, with a lot of good memories and a great congregation," said Pastor Barbara Sholis. What began in 1806 as a group of about 15 to 30 people who met in a log cabin on West Main Street has blossomed into a large congregation of about 1,100 who meet every Sunday in the two-story stone building on North Fifth Street in Newark.

The Anniversary Sunday was a day of remembering, reflecting and rejoicing the church's people, accomplishments and legacies during the past 200 years. A long hallway was dedicated to memorabilia, including black and white photographs, pamphlets and papers dating back to the 1950s and '60s, scrapbooks and Civil War-era artifacts.

The day's celebration concluded with a wonderful meal organized and served by a planning committee dressed up as men and women from the 1800s. The congregation feasted on pork, wild turkey, gingerbread, corn pudding, applesauce and fruit and pumpkin pies – a meal reflective of 1806, said Cyndi McPhaden, a member of the planning committee and a church member since 1969.

"We wanted it to be fun, and we wanted it to be festive," she said. "Everyone had a really good time."

Like most of the congregation, McPhaden thought the success of the day – and the church – is because of a faithful fellowship. "We have a solid faith in Christ, and we try to do what he wants us to," she said. "He's unchanging, so if you focus on Christ, life will be solid for you and the congregation."

(editor's note: This article (by Liza Martin) is excerpted from an article that appeared in *The Newark Advocate* following the celebration service in October).

## JIM'S TOOLBOX

BY JIM WAUGH, ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT



**E-Zekiel**  
The Easy  
Web Solution

Last month in my article, I discussed my how I came to use E-zekiel as the web hosting service for the Capitol Area South District web page ([www.capareasouthumc.org](http://www.capareasouthumc.org)). As I mentioned last month, I found E-zekiel to be an easy way for a novice (such as myself) to put up a web page with no knowledge about programs such as Front Page or html (the language use to build web pages).

My aim with the district web page is to provide a page that offers up-to-date information and content for pastors and lay leadership across the district. I hope to offer a page that is functional and useful in providing on line resources and information for leaders in congregations across the district. If you have suggestions for content or information that would help you in your ministry, please feel free to e-mail me at the e-mail address below.

A web page is one way that congregations “market” themselves to those who are seeking a church home. Many congregations choose to have a presence on the World Wide Web. It is one way that potential visitors can “check out” the congregation before attending. Along with basic information about location of the church and worship times, some church web sites offer information for “seekers” so they will know what to expect in terms of dress and the worship style when they attend services.

Of course web sites also offer members and friends of a local church information about activities, programs, and ministries that the church offers. Electronic versions of the church’s newsletter are also often included on the web site along with information about service opportunities and small group and class offerings. The weekly calendar is an easy way for members and friends to check the church’s schedule.

*Out of one hundred twenty-nine congregations in the district, forty congregations have web sites.*

I surveyed the congregations in the Capitol Area South District. Out of the one hundred twenty-nine congregations in the district, forty congregations have web sites. Of those forty congregations with web sites, I judged that twenty-two of those congregations have web sites that are up to date. The main test that I used is what I saw on the calendar or event page of the web site. These churches had information that was current within the month of October. Several of these web sites do represent the larger congregations of the district. The web sites have multiple pages that display information about a variety of programs and ministries of these congregations.

Ten congregations in the district have web sites that contain what I would call “static” information. The web sites contained information about worship and Sunday school times and where the church was located. However, the web sites did not contain any information about upcoming activities or programs.

There were eight web sites of congregations in the district that contained out of date information. This is the least desirable situation. When I clicked on a calendar or events link on these web sites, I found information about Lenten programs or Easter. One church was still advertising their Vacation Bible School that took place last summer. If a person seeking a church home visited one of these web sites, I do not think they would receive a very favorable opinion of the congregation and its ministries.

Matt Carlisle director of Web ministry for the United Methodist Church offered these tips for church web sites:

1. Make sure your web site is up to date.
2. Develop a web site based on what users need, not simply on what you think users would want.
3. Include resources to welcome seekers on your home page.
4. Keep the home page simple. Don’t try to deliver all your content from the home page.

Your web site is a direct reflection of your church. Treat your web site as an extension ministry. (*Interpreter*, p. 11, May-June 2006)

You can find a link to information about E-zekiel by clicking on the E-zekiel link in the left navigation panel of the Tech Shop web page at: [www.techshopministry.org](http://www.techshopministry.org). Web pages if kept current with useful information can be an important tool for a congregation’s ministry. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact me at the district office or via e-mail: [jwaugh@wocumc.org](mailto:jwaugh@wocumc.org).

## UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY LAUNCHES PUBLIC PHASE OF CAMPAIGN \$18 MILLION GOAL

Dayton, OH (October 12, 2006) – United Theological Seminary (UTS) today launched the public phase of an \$18 million comprehensive campaign effort and celebrated the lead gift of \$1.5 million given by Richard and Nancy Zimmerman of Hershey, PA. Zimmerman served as a UTS board member for 20 years, and eight years as chair.



“The Seminary is truly unique in the way it works to improve the well-being of individuals and communities through the development of spiritual leaders,” said Zimmerman. “My wife and I felt this gift was the best way to encourage others to give to this great institution.”

The campaign, “A Legacy for Tomorrow,” began with a silent phase in October of 2004, when UTS officials began to look at new facilities to replace its aging campus in the Dayton View Triangle. This phase focused on securing the funds to find and move to a new location, and yielded \$4.8 million.

In October of 2005, the school relocated to the former Jewish Community Center in Trotwood, OH, and spent \$3 million to renovate the building. The relocation was celebrated with the beginning of the “Naming Phase” of the campaign, which offered donors the opportunity to name spaces in honor of themselves or a loved one. To date, thirty-three spaces have been named and \$1.3 generated.

Kim Horton, UTS Director of Development, said the focus of this phase will move beyond the school’s donor base to engage the public, both individuals and organizations. “As part of their education at UTS, our students serve in churches, hospitals, and other agencies,” she said. “They are truly a vital part of this community.”

Gifts made toward the campaign, which will run through December of 2008, will be equally divided between the continued development of the Trotwood campus, the growth of the endowment fund, and operating costs throughout the life of the campaign.

UTS President Ed Zeiders said the goal for the campaign is to reach donors at all levels. “We want to continue what we have been doing for 136 years – providing educational programs and a learning environment that prepares spiritual leaders for the church and for the world.”

In mid-July 2006, a state-of-the-art audio/video production facility opened on campus for use by UTS students, the community, area churches, as well as for-profit and not-for-profit organizations. UTS also recently reopened the outdoor pool and recreation facilities, including areas for tennis, basketball and volleyball, for the community as well as the seminary students, staff and faculty.

Plans for further development of the campus include construction of a new chapel and discussions about student housing, a health facility and a conference center.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

### Water's Edge Watch:

What you would do if you had 5 minutes notice of an emergency? Panic? Pray? Phone a friend? Being prepared brings calm and allows us to help others. Those attending Water's Edge Family Night at Buckeye Lake this fall will have the opportunity to be part of a new Bible study "Prepared" which assembles a three day emergency supply kit for each family. *Our UM churches are asked to join us in this effort by supplying products for the boxes.* (Any products are welcome. It is not necessary to supply all items for an entire pack.) It's based on scripture and Water's Edge mission statement:

**At the Water's Edge, Jesus was baptized, he taught, he called disciples, fed the hungry, healed the sick, and calmed the storms of this life. We go in his name, with the Message, and do the same.**

**Week 1: Baptized            Prepare the way for the Lord**

- Products: *Gallons of water, wet wipes, TP, paper towels, plates, cups, forks*

**Week 2: Taught            No mind has conceived what God has prepared**

- Products: Clothing, pens, paper

**Week 3: Called            Preparing their nets for fishing...**

- Products: *Radio & batteries, tools, duct tape*

**Week 4: Fed                Go and make preparation for the Passover feast**

- Products: Food, *can opener, trash bags*

**Week 5: Healed            She has prepared me for burial**

- Products: *1<sup>st</sup> aid kit, face mask, list of phone numbers, list Rx*

**Week 6: Calmed            I go to prepare a place for you**

- Products: *Blanket, flashlight & batteries, infant supplies*

It is our hope and expectation that "Prepared" will be offered again this winter and then annually as an important part of our ministry's discipleship. Items most needed are italicized. We thank you for your consideration of this worthwhile outreach. **For more information, please call Rev Bev (740-322-3793.)**

### Thoughts and Prayers

**The Rev. Calvin Wise** died on August 25, 2006. Calvin was 81 years old. He pastored churches in Oak Chapel, IN, Santa Fe, (EUB), Kansas-Canaan (EUB), Bloomdale-Pleasant View, Burgoon, Avondale. Retired from Trinity United Methodist Church in Wellston. In retirement he served Bethlehem United Methodist Church, Findlay, and served as Interim Pastor at Bettsville. Services were held at the Bethlehem UMC. Those who served as pall bearers were members of the congregations that Calvin served. Thoughts and prayers can reach Marilyn Wise at 1201 Riva Ridge Ct, Rm. 116, Gahanna, OH 43230.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

### UM Free Store Expresses Its 'Thanks'

The United Methodist Free Store located at 895 Parsons Avenue, would like to express a "thank you" to all local churches that participated in the recent Back to School Drive. Because of the many donations, the Free Store was able to adopt three local elementary schools, serving 1,095 students. Every child at Lincoln Park, Heyl, and Africentric Alternative Elementary Schools in the Columbus Public Schools was given supplies, according to Sharon Allen, Free Store Director.

The United Methodist Free Store is a retail shop offering new and used clothing and household items free of charge to people who need them. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday, 3 pm to 6 pm, and Saturday, 10 am to 1 pm. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.gbkm-umc.org/urbanministries/umfree.htm>.

### Mission Opportunity in Samara, Russia

**July 5-16, 2007, journey with fellow Volunteers in Mission to Samara, Russia, on the banks of the beautiful Volga River.** We will tackle various work projects at both the orphanage and church buildings with materials and tools assembled and ready when we arrive! We will also share Bible Study with adults and children, experiences of pastoral and congregational care in times of grief and hardship, and a visit to the children of the orphanage at their summer camp. We will also worship with the Samara congregation, a perhaps deploy small groups for a day trip to another Volga district congregation. All you need to be a wonderful team member is a desire to be in community with fellow VIMers, in Christian partnership with our Russian friends and in enthusiastic participation for some or all of these activities. First team meeting: February 3, 2007. Cost is approximately \$2900 plus fundraising for the projects. Extension to St. Petersburg and Moscow, additional days and cost contact Carol Harper, 937-392-9255 or 513-377-1407 or [harperc@peoplepc.com](mailto:harperc@peoplepc.com). You can download a copy of the trip brochure at: [www.capareasouthumc.org/missionopportunities](http://www.capareasouthumc.org/missionopportunities) .

### Job Postings

**Good Shepherd UMC, Circleville** is seeking an **Organist** for Sunday morning worship service. The position pays \$4115.00 yearly. The duties include working with the Pastor, prepare a schedule of hymns for the year and coordinating music for Sunday service. After 1 year of service, the organist receives two vacation days on Sundays. For further information please contact the church office at 740-474-4686.

**Scioto Ridge UMC** has an opening for an **Office Assistant**, 15-20 hours per week doing the monthly newsletter and weekly Update and PowerPoint Slide Presentation. If interested please contact the Scioto Ridge church office at 614-876-4343.

### Festival of Sharing Committee Members Sought

If you would be interested in serving on the **Festival of Sharing Committee** to help plan the event for 2007, please contact Jack Frost at the West Ohio Conference office (800-437-0028). The committee meets during the day about three or four times a year.

### Local Church Historians Honored

Congratulations to **Sandy and Ken Nihiser** of the Centenary UM Church, Granville. Sandy and Ken received the Historian of the Year Award at the Annual Meeting of the United Methodist Historical Society.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

### Harmony on the Southside Makes a Difference

(Editor's note: The following article is based on an article that was printed in *This Week* Community Paper in the German Village edition.)

Harmony of the Southside is making a difference according to a recent article in *This Week*. The Community Development for All People (CDC) has sponsored a series of Coffee Houses through which a number of persons have been attracted to the ministry. Robert "Big D" Dumas had just been released from prison and was walking down Parsons Avenue past the United Methodist Free Store. Guitar music drew him in: Chris Sunami, youth director for the Community Development for All People Corporation (CDC), was strumming.

"May I?" Dumas remembers asking. He took the guitar from Sunami, flipped it over, and started playing.

"It was a right-handed guitar, and I play left-handed," he said.

At the coffee houses, folks – old and young, black and white, well-dressed or not – filtered in steadily to hear the music.

"The band really started as a church band," said Eileen Howard, a well-known jazz vocalist and Harmony on the South Side project director. A parking lot party two years ago was such a hit that organizers decided to start the coffee houses.

The events typically draw 60 or 70 people. They come for the food (sandwiches, pop, chips and cake), for the camaraderie (lots of hugs all around), for the dancing, and especially for the music.

Also, Howard said, they come to be in a non-alcoholic setting – some of them struggle with alcohol and drugs – and because they are accepted no matter how they look or are dressed.

The All People Band is made up of professional musicians who are funded through a grant from the Ohio Arts Council. Last week, they performed jazz and rhythm and blues, and showcased the talents of a few guest performers. .

"We want music with a positive message," said Howard. "And we want a place where people can come and enjoy great music, have some snacks, and feel welcome, no matter what their circumstances." "Music is a healing influence," she added.

The professional musicians, too, believe in what they are doing. Keyboardist Ed Moad has played for 25 years, including at the Kennedy Center, with the Afro-Rican Ensemble, Gene Walker, Bobby Vinton, and the Glen Miller Band. His experience and talent is typical of the other musicians.

Now, Moad said he enjoys his work with the All People Band.

"I've played with them for four years," he said. "I respect so much what (the CDC) is doing. They are doing real things

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## **CAPITOL AREA SOUTH DISTRICT CALENDAR NOVEMBER 2006**

3		Legal Forum @ MTSO
5	3 pm	Cluster Church Conferences @ Brice UMC
6	7 pm	Church Location & Building Committee @ Crossroads UMC
7	11:30 am	Specialized Ministries Meeting @ District Office
8	11:30 am	Community Ministries Finance and Investment @ District Office
10 & 11		Lay Speaking Classes @ Reynoldsburg UMC
12	3 pm	Cluster Church Conferences @ Walnut Hill UMC
13	11:15 a-2 p	CAS Staff will be meeting with representatives from UM Credit Union – District Office will be closed during this time
14	11:30 am	Community Ministries Executive Committee @ District Office
17	8:30 am	District Committee on Ordained Ministries @ District Office
21	11:30 am	Community Ministries Trustees @ District Office
23-26		District Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
28-29		Cabinet
30	7 pm	Leadership and Visioning Team @ District Office