

# THE CONNECTION

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

SEPTEMBER 2006

## Welcome to the Capitol Area South District!

### FROM THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

#### The Way Forward

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

A new conference year has begun, and a new way of living and doing ministry together in our churches and communities is emerging!

This electronic newsletter is also new. It represents a new method of sharing information with each other in our new district. The goal, like restructuring districts to enhance our effectiveness for making disciples of Jesus, is aimed at being more effective (and efficient) in the way we share information about our work and ministries in the Capitol Area South District. Facilitating this process is Assistant to the District Superintendent Rev. Jim Waugh. Jim's responsibilities in this new appointment include being editor of the newsletter. As a former District Superintendent, Jim brings a great deal of skill and experience to the table for this task and the position in general. You can read more about Jim's background and vocational career in his article that follows.

With all that is new and different expected to take place in our churches and district, we might wonder how to proceed. The way forward is not new. The way forward is clearly focused on moving outward in mission. We are called to discipleship and sent out into the world to share the good news of salvation and make disciples of Jesus. In her book *Renewing The Vision*, Dr. Cynthia Campbell (President of McCormick Theological Seminary) makes the following observations based upon a recent study of church growth and mission.

Mission is the key. Housing for the homeless, community feeding programs, daycare for children or the elderly, Head Start, after-school tutoring programs for children – vital churches are in mission. Mission seems to be the healthy, life-giving ingredient. And the opposite is sadly obvious. Declining churches, for one reason or another, are not ordinarily extending themselves into the world but rather are absorbing all their spiritual, emotional, physical, and monetary resources in the struggle to survive.

(Continued on page 2)

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS FOR THIS ISSUE OF THE CAPITOL AREA SOUTH CONNECTION

**Front Page:**

From the District Superintendent

**Page 2:**

New District contact information

**Page 3:**

Strength for Today, Bright Hope for Tomorrow information  
Festival of Sharing news

**Page 4:**

Jim's Toolbox

**Page 5:**

Ministry Action Plan workshop

**Page 6:**

Cluster Charge Conference schedule

**Page 7:**

Local church news

**Page 8:**

Calendar of meeting & events

## FROM THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Indeed mission is key, and OUTWARD in mission is the way forward! How often have you observed healthy, growing, spiritually vital congregations and wondered: how did they do that? Now we all know. These are local churches who focus - not on themselves - but on ministering to the needs of their community, providing radical hospitality to visitors and others, and connecting passionately with God in worship. These are congregations who understand that their primary mission field is their community, and act accordingly by reaching out to people in the name of Jesus Christ. They view themselves as a vital community resource that transforms people's lives for the better.

As Jim and I have hosted get-acquainted breakfast meetings with some of you, I have presented suggestions of how local churches can become more involved and connected with their communities. The main point of my suggestions is that local churches can partner with any number of community organizations, agencies, and/or institutions to offer programs and ministries, which will enhance both the community and church. Many of these organizations share similar values with our churches; for example, the YMCA, YWCA, public schools, libraries, hospitals, nursing homes, and other churches. The possibilities are limited only by your creativity and vision of what can be.

The way forward in the midst of all that's new and different requires a clear focus on moving outward in mission. The alternative is continued decline in church membership and worship attendance, living from week-to-week financially, being under pressure to maintain buildings that no longer meet the needs of ministry in our communities, unhealthy congregations paralyzed by conflict and power struggles, diminished vision and a misunderstanding of real mission, struggling to survive – and the list of negatives goes on.

You and I have been called to be examples of God's love and grace in a world that needs hope and salvation. Our mission is to share with others what God has shared with us and make disciples of Jesus. We are being sent out into our communities and beyond to touch the lives of people who need Jesus. This is the way forward for all of us. May it be so.

Yours in Christ,

Hank

### Toll Free Numbers for the District Offices

If you live outside the Columbus Metro area, you can call the Capitol Area South Office toll free. The number for the Capitol Area South Office is 1-877-222-0526. In addition, the Community Ministries of the Capitol Area (formerly known as the Mission Society) has a toll free number: 1-877-228-0521.

### New District Website Launched

Check out the Capitol Area South District website. You will find news, links, and downloadable materials for use by pastors and congregations. The current and past editions of *The Capitol Area South Journal* will be found there as well. The new address for the web page is: <<http://www.capareasouthumc.org>>. Bookmark the page and check it often.

### Newsletter via E-mail

Starting with this issue clergy and lay leadership in the Capitol Area South District will receive the district newsletter via e-mail. The e-mail will contain a link that will direct readers to the newsletter on the new website. If you have not done so yet, please forward e-mail addresses for local church officers and pastors to Administrative Secretary Carol Wilson at the District Office: [cwilson@wocumc.org](mailto:cwilson@wocumc.org).

The office will still distribute the newsletter via the United States Postal Service to those who do not have an e-mail address or access to a computer.

# SEPTEMBER 17 SET FOR SPECIAL OFFERING FOR STRENGTH FOR TODAY, BRIGHT HOPE FOR TOMORROW

For congregations that have convenanted to receive a special offering for the Strength for Today, Bright Hope for Tomorrow, Sunday, September 17 has been set as the day for the special offering. The offering will go to fund the Regional Ministry Fund for the Capitol Area North/Capitol Area South region.

- On the district webpage, you will find downloadable resources (in pdf form) including:
- A letter from campaign co-chairperson the Rev. Chris Heckman
- A bulletin insert that can be copied for the Sunday before the Special Offering Day.
- A bulletin insert for the Sunday of the Special Offering that summarizes the need for our taking part to help establish the Regional Ministry Funds.

All congregations are encouraged to share in this special offering. For information about where and how to send the offering so that it is credited and directed properly, contact the district office or contact Darlene Krick at the Council on Development Office

## FESTIVAL OF SHARING Features Old and New



## OCTOBER 7

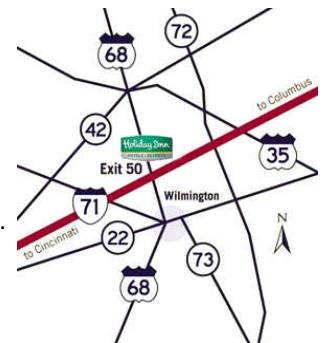
### Old:

The Festival of Sharing's mission is not new – it remains the same as it has for 20 years; caring for others by “gathering in” and sharing a bountiful provision of school, health, and baby kits through Church World Service. **You can still bring in kits, see the displays, and fellowship with others at no charge!**

### New:

The FOS will be held this year on Saturday, October 7, from 9 to 3 pm at the Roberts Centre (on I-71 near Wilmington, OH) at Exit 50, Rt. 68.

This year if you want there will be an admission charge for the worship featuring the Rev. Zan Holmes as guest speaker. In addition the admission ticket provides you with admission to a concert by the Christian rock group “Pocket Full of Rocks”.



**Rev. Zan Holmes**



**Pocket Full of Rocks**

Lunch is also provided with the admission ticket. Tickets are \$20.00 per person until September 1. After September 1, the price of the individual tickets is \$22.00. You will receive \$2.00 off the price of each ticket if you phone in your order (1-800-965-9324) and use the password “West Ohio”. This discount is not available from the website (ITickets.com.) Please note that those ordering ten or more tickets at a time always get them for \$20.00 at any time. General admission tickets are also available to the concert for \$12.00. There is a \$3.00 handling charge for each ticket.

## JIM'S TOOLBOX

BY JIM WAUGH, ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT

As the “new” guy in a new position in a newly configured district, let me take a moment to tell you something about myself. I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as the Assistant to the Superintendent with the Rev. Dr. Hank Stringer in the newly formed Capitol Area South District.

I have had the opportunity to serve in a number of settings across the annual conference from rural two point charges in western Ohio to a large membership congregation (Hilliard) on the west side of the Columbus metro area. For five years during my ministry, I worked to develop a number of ecumenical cooperative ministries in Washington County, OH while I also served as the pastor of a smaller membership congregation in Marietta, OH. In addition, I served as seven years as the superintendent of the Athens District.

My wife Carol and I have been married for thirty-five years. We have two daughters – Lisa who lives in Portland, OR and Laura who lives in Cincinnati.

I look forward to the opportunity to work with the pastors and laity who give leadership to the congregations in the Capitol Area South District. In some of the gatherings with pastors in recent days, I have been telling those pastors that Bishop Ough has said that the role of the Assistant to the Superintendent is to “make the Superintendent look good.”

I look forward to working with Hank in the administrative tasks of the district as I “free” him up to fulfill his role as the visionary leader and coach with the pastors of the district. I also want to help each of you and your congregation to “look good” to the extent you are effective in your outreach and your mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

I'll be responsible for working with the district newsletter and the district webpage. You can read about changes to both the webpage and the district newsletter elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter.

My other responsibilities with the district include:

- ◆ Working along with the Rev. Lupina Stewart the West Ohio Conference Coordinator of Hispanic/Latino Ministries in the development of Hispanic Ministries in Capitol Area South.
- ◆ Working with Hank in presiding at the cluster charge conferences scheduled for this fall (see the article in this edition).
- ◆ Committee assignments include:
  - Leadership and Visioning Team (Hank and I will share in this committee jointly).
  - Youth Council
  - Church Location and Building
  - Mission Outreach and Evangelism
  - Board of Laity
- ◆ Institutional/Missional responsibilities include:
  - Community Development for All People
  - Westside Free Store
  - Methodist Elder-Care

My work also extends to other duties assigned by the District Superintendent

So if you have questions about any church building projects, the lay speaking ministry, the district youth activities, charge conference preparation, and the efforts of the district to support congregations in their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ, then I am the person you need to talk to in the district office.

As district superintendent, Hank continues to care for appointive matters or questions and supervisory issues. Hank will also be working directly with the District Board of Ordained Ministry among many other areas.

Please understand that I am willing to be as supportive as possible in the work that I am doing in the district office so that you can reach out in your ministry. I am calling this column right now “Jim’s Toolbox” in the hope that I can offer to you resources and ideas that will strengthen you and your congregation in your mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Due to the length of this introduction, let me just say that I stand ready to assist you and your congregation in any way that I can as a “resource” to help you “look good” – that is to be effective in the ministry to which God is calling you as lay and clergy leaders across the Capitol Area South District.

### Charge Conference Forms on Website

Go to the new Capitol Area South website: <http://www.capareasouthumc.org> and there you will find the under a link for “Charge Conference Forms” links to downloading most of the forms either as a Word document or as a pdf.

## BUILDING SUPPORT FOR YOUR MINISTRY ACTION PLAN

### Creating a New Map for Ministry

Building Support For Your Ministry Action Plan is a two-hour workshop to show how to present a clear picture of what it will require in human resources and financial resources to produce, enhance, create, and support efficient and effective ministry through the church. It will also serve as a way to help members better understand the breadth and vitality of ministries being produced through the church.

**During this two-hour workshop** participants will discover:

- Five Reasons Why People Do Not Give to the Church
- One Word That Will Change the Way People Think About Giving
- Stewardship is Not What We Do but Who We Are
- The Spiritual Motivation to Give
- Why Churches Fail in Giving Increase Programs
- The Purpose of a Ministry Action Plan
- How to Organize a Ministry Action Plan Team
- How to Develop a Ministry Action Plan
- How to Present a Ministry Action Plan to the Congregation
- How to Challenge People to Grow in the Grace of Giving



#### Dates and Locations:

September 17, 2:00 – 4:00 pm at the West Ohio Conference Office 32 Wesley Blvd. Worthington, OH 43085 - [www.westohioumc.org](http://www.westohioumc.org)

September 18, 7:00 – 9:00 pm at First United Methodist Church of Bowling Green [www.fumcbgo.org](http://www.fumcbgo.org)

September 25, 7:00 – 8:30 pm at Walnut Street UMC in Chillicothe 16 S. Walnut St., Chillicothe, OH 45601 - [www.walnutstreetumc.com](http://www.walnutstreetumc.com)

September 26, 7:00 – 9:00 pm at Normandy UMC in Dayton 450 W. Alex-Bell Rd., Dayton, OH 45459 - [www.normandyumc.org](http://www.normandyumc.org)

#### Registration:

Although there is no cost for the workshop we ask that you register so RSI can prepare an appropriate number of resources. The deadline for registration for all workshops is September 8. When you register, give your name and the location/date of the workshop you plan to attend along with the number of people joining you. Register by contacting Tim McCoy at one of the following:

E-mail: [tmccoy@wocumc.org](mailto:tmccoy@wocumc.org)

Phone: 1-800-437-0028 extension 227

Fax: 1-614-781-2625

Mail: West Ohio Conference, Attn: Tim McCoy, 32 Wesley Blvd., Worthington, Ohio 43085

## CLUSTER CHARGE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE SET

The Charge Conference Schedule for the fall of '06 has been set. Congregations have been assigned to geographical groupings for charge conferences. District Superintendent Hank Stringer and Assistant to the Superintendent will convene the Charge Conferences in gatherings across the district.

The schedule is printed below. At each gathering either Hank or Jim will meet with the Pastor Parish Relations Committees at 3:00 pm. At 3:30 a plenary featuring a time of worship will be held. Following the worship, the individual charge conferences will be held in each meeting location. Ordained elders from other congregations will preside at the charge conferences at which time officers are elected, the pastor's salary is set, other compensation related resolutions are passed, Lay Speakers are recommended and candidates for ordained ministry are continued. In addition, the Presiding Elder will receive all written reports that to be turned in.

### All Church Conferences

#### September 24 at First UMC, London

Derby-Five Points Charge,  
London First, Mt. Sterling First,  
Lafayette-Plumwood Charge, Madison Mills,  
New Holland-Atlanta Charge, Newport-South  
Solon Charge, Trinity, Lilly Chapel  
West Jefferson, Williamsport

#### October 1 at Sixth Avenue UMC, Lancaster

Dumontville, Lancaster First, Fletcher Chapel-  
Fairview Charge, Maple Street, Mills Memorial,  
Mount Zion, Sixth Avenue, Thurston

#### October 8 at Trinity UMC, Pickerington

Etna, Canal Winchester Faith, Gethsemane  
Kirkersville, Lithopolis, Pataskala, Peace  
Shalom, Summit Station, Pickerington Trinity,  
Wagram

#### October 15 at Christ UMC, Baltimore

Baltimore United, Cedar Hill Calvary,  
Baltimore Christ, Fairfield Beach,  
Hoy Memorial, Millersport, New Salem,  
New Zion, Carroll Salem

#### October 15 @ Alexandria UMC

Alexandria, Appleton, Bennington Chapel,  
Chatham Charge, Croton, Johnstown,  
Long Run-Pleasant View Charge,  
Miller Memorial

#### October 22 at Heath UMC

Brushy Fork-Toboso Charge, Heath,  
Hebron, Jacksontown, New Life Community,  
Perryton-Smith Chapel Charge, Pleasant  
Chapel, Waters' Edge Ministry, White Chapel

#### October 22 at Neal Avenue UMC, Newark

Centenary, Christian Endeavor, Cox,  
Newark Christ, Newark Faith, Newark First,  
Marne, Neal Avenue, Wright Memorial

#### October 29 at Hilliard UMC

Amlin, Avondale, Church of the Living God,  
Columbia Heights, Crossroads, Glenwood,  
Hilliard, Hilltonia- New Horizons Charge,  
Hilltop, Parkview, Scioto Ridge, St. Marks,  
West Park, Westgate

#### October 29 at Good Shepherd UMC, Circleville

Calvary, Commercial Point-Scioto Chapel  
Charge, Community, East Ringgold,  
Emmanuel-Pleasant View Charge,  
Emmett Chapel, Stoutsville Fairview,  
Good Shepherd, Pontius, Kingston Salem,  
South Bloomfield, St. Paul, Village Chapel,  
Zion

#### November 5 at Brice UMC

Asbury South, Brice, Columbus Christ,  
Community of Faith, Eastview, Groveport,  
Hopewell (Franklin) ,Lockbourne, Obetz,  
Reynoldsburg, Wesley Church of Hope

#### November 12 at Walnut Hill UMC, Columbus

Church for All People, Clair, Gates Fourth,  
Grove City, Harrisburg, Canal Winchester  
Hope, Jackson Chapel, Livingston, Orient,  
Grove City Trinity, Walnut Hill,  
Washington-Thurman Avenue Charge

## LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

### VILLAGE CHAPEL CELEBRATES WITH GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEW BUILDING

Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, a walk down Circleville Avenue and a shovel of dirt. These are things that will forever be etched in our minds as we continue towards the vision of God.

The first shovel of dirt that marked the beginning of construction for the new Village Chapel Worship Center was turned on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> by special guests Bishop Bruce Ough, District Superintendent the Rev. Hank Stringer as well as the Rev. David Wells, the Rev. Aaron Brown, Diana Keefer, Director of Administration and members of past and present Building Teams.



Bishop Ough brought the morning message at a combined worship service at the Teays Valley High School. Following the worship service, the congregation, donned in yellow hard hats, donated by Sunrush Construction, processed down Circleville Ave to the property where there was prayer, song and comments from Dan Cook of Building God's Way.

The new facility which will be approximately 21,000 square feet is scheduled to be completed July, 2007 and will house office space, classroom space, kitchen facilities and a large Multi Purpose Room that will be used during the week, for youth or other groups and for casual activities such as basketball and other games. On Sundays The Family Life Center will be used for worship.

There is no other facility like this within miles and we are so pleased to be able to provide a recreational area in a Christian environment for all ages said Ada Lou Deal, Building Team Chair.

### PICKERINGTON GETHSAMANE WELCOMES BACK MISSION TEAM FROM KATRINA CLEANUP

On Sunday, July 31, the Pickerington Gethsemane congregation celebrated the return of twenty-two youth and adults who participated in a work camp trip to Pearlinton, MS. "This is the first time Gethsamane has done a mission trip," Cindie Galloway, trip organizer, said.

The Rev. Casey Wilson of the Amlin Church contacted the Mississippi Annual Conference with the idea for the mission trip, and they put him in contact with the Pearlinton, MS congregation.

Eventually, the Amlin UM Church, Pickerington Gethsemane, and Washington Court House Grace participated in the mission experience.



As a part of the celebration, Gethsemane pastor the Rev. Alyce Hardin Cook welcomed the Rev. Jim Waugh to the platform to offer words of greeting to the returning volunteer workers. Waugh commended the workers and those in the congregation who helped make the trip possible. Pastor Waugh noted that often on such trips, those who go to work and help others are changed as much or more as those whom they go to serve.

### ASBURY SOUTH UMC CELEBRATES 200 YEARS OF MINISTRY

The Asbury United Methodist Church South celebrated 200 years of service in ministry on June 4. The congregation celebrated with a special worship service. Dr. Kendall McCabe was the guest speaker for the morning service. The Rev. Brian Straub spoke at luncheon that was held following the service.

### SOUTH BLOOMFIELD UMC HOSTS YOUTH CHOIR

This past June the South Bloomfield congregation hosted the Woodlawn Baptist Youth Choir from Baton Rouge, LA. The thirty-five member choir ranged in age from 12 to 18 and were accompanied by sixteen counselors and their youth pastor. The area folks who opened their homes and their hearts found these young folks to be "ambassadors for Christ". What a blessing!

**CAPITOL AREA SOUTH DISTRICT  
WEST OHIO CONFERENCE  
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
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*District Superintendent*

**Rev. Jim Waugh**  
*Assistant to the D.S.*

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## CALENDAR OF MEETINGS & EVENTS

### September

- 4 Labor Day - District Office Closed
- 5 Community Ministries-Specialized Ministry @ District Office 11:30 a.m.
- 6 & 7 Cabinet
- 11 Community Ministries-Finance & Investment @ District Office 11:30 a.m.
- 13 Community Ministries-Board of Trustees @ District Office 11:30 a.m.
- 14 Ordained Ministry @ District Office 9:30 a.m.
- 20 West Ohio Leadership Team
- 21 Cabinet
- 24 Church Conferences @ First UMC, London 3:00 p.m.
- 26 Community Ministries' Annual Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 28 Cluster Leader Training @ Reynoldsburg UMC 10:00 a.m.
- 28 Cluster Leaders Meeting @ Reynoldsburg UMC 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- 28 Leadership and Vision Committee @ District Office 7:00 p.m.

### October

- 1 Church Conferences @ Sixth Avenue UMC, Lancaster 3:00 p.m.
- 4 & 5 Cabinet
- 6 Bishop Ough's Day on the District @ Walnut Hill UMC
- 7 Festival of Sharing