



FEBRUARY 2011



Covenant Prayer

From John Wesley's Covenant Service, 1780

*I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.*

Wesley's Covenant Prayer has always touched me, especially at the beginning of the year as I renew my covenant in God's service and ministry. I pray that I may be used to the best of my ability for God's purpose and kingdom. When I pray this prayer I am reminded of the many aspects of covenant that I am in...

As a Christian, I am part of God's redeeming covenant that God has saved me from my sins and has provided eternal life for me. A covenant is a two way response for what God has provided and given for me, now I want to respond and give to God. Therefore I give my life to God as God has for me. I want to serve my Lord to the utmost and offer anything I can do. As every Christian is called to ministry, we are all ministers to each other. God has given me graces and abilities to serve and I need to use those for God's glory.

As a clergy person, I also realize that I am part of a holy covenant with my God and Church. I am part of the covenant of servant workers who have been call to commit themselves to be "a steadfast disciple of Christ, that my life be fashioned by the Gospel, and that I provide a faithful example for all God's people." As a United Methodist Clergy I also accept "its order, liturgy, doctrine, and discipline, defending it against all doctrines contrary to God's Holy Word, and accept the authority of those who are appointed to supervise my ministry."¹ We are to work together in God's ministry. We are colleagues in ministry and accountable to each other.

As a member of Christ's Holy Church, we are in covenant together to live out the kingdom of God, "on earth as it is in heaven." We are in mission together. I have been so impressed with the response and faithfulness of the Three Rivers District churches who have fulfilled their covenant of giving 100% of their shared ministry apportionments.

May we continually renew our covenant of holy ministry for God's work and kingdom as we minister together.

Jim

¹ Quotations from the UMC Service of Ordination

RETHINK CHURCH

Three Rivers District Leadership Event January 29 & 30, 2011

Our "OPEN DOORS" District Leadership Event was a wonderful event. During the last weekend in January we had over 275 registrants attending and participating in workshops. This included persons from 66 of our 74 district churches.



Saturday's Keynote speaker, Rev. Orlando Chaffee challenged us to see the aisle of our churches in a new understanding. Not only is the aisle a place that we have walked down to make commits to the altar of God in marriage, baptism, and membership, but it is also the aisle that we walk out into the world to serve God and share with others the Gospel of Christ.



Sunday's Keynote speaker, Rev. Dave Scavuzzo also challenged us to not be so comfortable in our pews and expecting that the church is there for us. We should not expect the music, the pastor, the ministries of the church to simply be caregiving of ourselves, but that we need to fashion our churches and ourselves to look to ways that we can best attract those who do not know Jesus.

The evaluations of the event and the workshops mostly reported that this was an excellent and good event. Our hope is that the participants will be able to return to their churches and "Open Doors" of new ministries and vision for their churches. We hope that you will be able to interact with your Compass Groups in seeking ways to implement some of the challenges you learned in the workshops.

We have placed pictures and information from the workshops on our website: www.3riversumc.org



JOY in the District Office



Joy Snyder is our NEW Administrative Assistant to the Three Rivers District Office. Joy has been a life-long member of Christ United Methodist Church where she has served on staff since 2003 as Outreach and Event Coordinator. She declared "Jesus is Lord" in 1978 (Romans 10:9-10). Joy is a graduate of Newcomerstown High School and worked for her family's grocery business at the Thompson IGA Foodliner in Newcomerstown. After completing her undergrad degree in political science and prelaw at Ohio University, she married her husband, David, and spent the first year of their marriage as missionaries in Portugal.

They returned to Newcomerstown in 1990 to raise their children. Oldest son, Aaron, works with "Youth With a Mission" in Germany and is planning to be married in the Spring of 2011. Their middle child and son, JP, is a student at Kent State studying construction management. Daughter Allison, the youngest, is a senior in high school and is prayerfully considering her college options. Husband David works as a self employed contractor.



Joy began part time in mid-January and is now full-time starting February 1. Joy is happy to be a resource and help to all the pastors and laity of the Three Rivers District. Please help her along as she gets to know each of you.

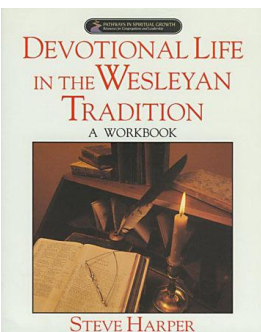
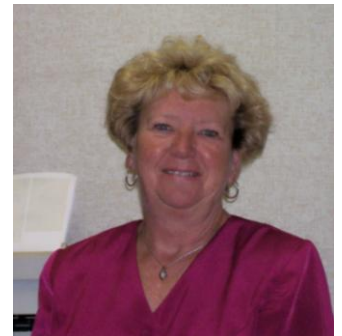
Snyder Family
Front Row (L-R): Joy, Allison
Back Row: Dave, JP, Aaron



Gail has Left the Building (and the state!)

Gail Applebee and her husband Richard have moved to Deland, FL. Their new address is 360 Raintree Circle, Deland, FL 32724. You can also reach Gail at her new email address of grapplebee@att.net

Plans are under way for honoring Gail and Barb George at our Spring District Conference on May 1, 2011 at the Newcomerstown Christ UMC with a dinner at 5 p.m. A time of honoring Gail and Barb will begin at 6 p.m. Former district superintendents have been invited to attend. Gail and Richard promise to return from Florida to join us. The superintendency committee would like to present Gail and Barb with a love gift at the banquet on May 1. Laity, clergy, and churches who have been touched by Gail and Barb's ministry are encouraged to send a gift to the District Office by April 18 (make checks to "Three Rivers District" with memo of LOVE GIFT). The total gift will be shared with Gail at 75% and Barb 25%.

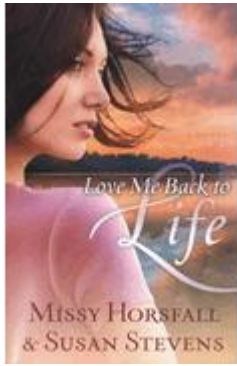


Great Resource for Lay Speakers to a Lenten Study

A 7-week interactive study written by Steve Harper entitled *Devotional Life in the Wesleyan Tradition* is an informative tool to enhance small groups. It is the recommendation of the District Committee that Lay Speakers use this book to lead Lenten studies. Books are NOW available at the cost of only \$8 per book (that is a \$4 discount).

Reminder for Lay Speaker Training Classes

- Feb 18-19 Basic at Roscoe UMC
- Mar 11-12 Advanced at Roscoe UMC



THREE RIVERS Pastor Writes a Novel

Besides financial struggles, an absentee husband, two active daughters, and an obsessively demanding family, Mallory Carlisle also harbors a devastating secret—one that could destroy everything. Forced to confront the unbearable pain of childhood abuse, will Mallory discover the love and comfort of the One who can set her free? Co-authored by one of our own, Three Rivers District's **Rev. Susan Stevens** from the Ebenezer and Gambier Epworth UM Churches, we are thrilled to promote this book available through Barbour Publishing and on Amazon. Reviews tell of a good and helpful book that is also a quick read. While candidly dealing with difficult topics the authors maintain a sense of delicacy while educating the reader.

MISSIONS: NASHVILLE VIM:

February 17-22, 2011, the Three Rivers District will witness 25 persons going to Nashville for a Volunteer in Mission (VIM) trip to repair homes devastated from this past year's flooding. Five charges will be represented: Adamsville, Keene, Conesville, Brandon, and Guernsey/Wolf along with District Superintendent Jim Humphrey. We are excited that all ages are represented on this trip (15-75+). We will be loading our District Mission Trailer on Sunday, February 13 at the Conesville UMC at 3 p.m.



(FYI: The Three Rivers Mission trailer is available to any church for their use in mission trips, youth work, or ministries. The Three Rivers District Mission trailer is maintained by Utica UMC. All requests must go through Utica United Methodist Church prior to removal of the trailer from the premises. You may check availability through the calendar at the Utica UMC website and then submit your requests.)

NEXT WINTER CRUISE OPPORTUNITIES:



CARRIBBEAN CRUISE: From Jan. 15-25, 2012, Rev. Irwin and Janet Jennings are hosting a cruise of the Southern Caribbean and inviting others to join. This cruise would make a great gift for yourself or someone else. The Norwegian Dawn will set sail from Miami, FL. There will be six ports of call: Samana; Tortola; St. Maarten; Antigua; Bridgetown, Barbados; and Basseterre, St. Kitts. Aboard the ship, David E. deSilva, Ph.D., musician and distinguished professor of New Testament and Greek from Ashland Theological Seminary, will lecture on "Heeding the Book of Revelation Without Playing Endgames." This is Educational

Opportunities Travel Program's 4th Annual Celebration Cruise. The first three cruises filled quickly. So if you are interested, reserve your cabin very soon (ranging from \$499 to \$969 based on double occupancy). Other costs include tips, taxes, port charges, air and/or ground transportation from your home to the ship, and optional insurance. Register by March 1, 2011 with a \$400 deposit and you will receive a \$50 discount on the trip. Final payments are due 120 days prior to departure. You can download and print your own brochure. E-mail or call the Jennings at 740-397-5467 if you have questions. You will need the Jennings Official Host ID number to register online. Irwin and Janet have gone on many trips with EOT, a company that specializes in affordable Christian travel, most recently a Lands of the Bible cruise in the Mediterranean in November 2009. To read more details about this specific trip, go to <http://www.eo.travelwithus.com> and enter this information: Tour: FL12 and Date: 011512M.

HOLY LAND CRUISE: You are invited to join Bishop John and Elaine Hopkins for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in January, 2012. The 10 day pilgrimage will depart on January 31 with visits to Jerusalem, Galilee, Bethlehem, Jericho and many other Biblical Sites. If you would like a brochure or more information, please contact Rev. James Humphrey, at 740-622-8880 or ds.humphrey@sbcglobal.net.

OSU Men's Glee Club *VALENTINE* CONCERT on Saturday, February 12

Come to enjoy this FREE vocal concert on Saturday, February 12 at 7 pm. The 80-member Ohio State University Men's Glee Club will perform a 70 minute "Valentine Concert" at the R.R. Hodges Chapel on Mt. Vernon Nazarene University campus. Doors will open at 6:30 pm. Additional information about the OSU Men's Glee Club can be found on their website at www.mgc.osu.edu. The concert is being sponsored by the OSU Alumni Club, the Community Concert Association and the Community Foundation, all of Knox County, and promises to be an enjoyable evening. For more information about the concert please www.osuknoxalumni.com



United Methodist Men are "Getting it Done"

The General Commission on United Methodist Men and the National Association of Conference Presidents are collaborating their efforts in support of various worthwhile ministries including a range of scouting ministries, the Upper Room Prayer Ministry, and the distribution of devotionals to military personnel. They have contributed \$2.3 million to Meals for Millions with ninety percent directly being used to buy food. Fifty thousand UM Men volunteered to provide



19.7 million pounds of produce for more than 11,000 feeding agencies. Hope for Hearing, a project that provides hearing aids for children in Haiti, is also supported by men of the United Methodist Church. UM Men annually give over \$14 million to various projects as well as volunteer with UMCOR disaster relief and mission projects. UM Men are constantly looking for ministries to enhance their relationships with Jesus Christ as they strive to be a positive influences among others while participating in many of the programs such as Man in the

Mirror and the Emmaus Walk that also increases their own sense of spirituality. The General Commission on United Methodist Men raises 75 percent of its annual budget; no other general agency in the UMC compares. Please free to e-mail me or contact East Ohio President, Leland Spencer at 330-499-3860, if you have requests or suggestions. Help me tell our story. We are not the UM Men of 20 years ago - or even 10 years ago. The outreach and effect of our improved ministry and programs has increase and we must continue to grow both in and beyond the local church.

John Dowell, NACP President, United Methodist Men Jdowellumm@aol.com. 813 810-8383

United Methodist Women's Spring Meeting

The Three Rivers UMW's annual Spring Meeting will be at Fredericktown UMC on April 2 with coffee-hour beginning at 9 am. The program will open at 10a with the business meeting followed by the morning speaker, Rev. Delaine McGee of the Grafton UMC, Ohio. Terrie Baker, local Missions Ministries, will speak in the afternoon about Bridges Out of Poverty. More information and registration will be in the upcoming UMW newsletter.



2011 Laity Revival Event

On April 9, 2011, laity from around the East Ohio Conference will gather at Westbrook Park UMC in Canton for a special event to commission and encourage our laity in ministry. Lay speakers and local church lay leaders are invited to this event to receive a blessing, commissioning and anointing to be in ministry. Lay Speakers from each district will be honored as they give witness to some creative and passionate ministry that has enabled the church to see fruit in their respective mission field. Mark the date now for this laity conference gathering on April 9.

Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Training

On **Sunday March 20, 2011**, Three Rivers District Superintendent Rev. Jim Humphrey will be leading a training for all members of the Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee. We will meet at 3 p.m. at Prairie Chapel UMC. SPPR Chairpersons and committee members are encouraged to attend and pastors are welcome too. We will be going through the responsibilities and expectations of the S/PPR committee along with understanding the appointment process, setting salaries, evaluation process, forms, encouragement of pastors, and a question and answer time. It would be helpful to let the district office how many from your church plan to attend.

FAMLP NEWS

Your Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors recently met to further plans for the annual retreat to be held on June 2-3 at Mt. Union and our breakfast meeting scheduled for Monday, June 13, at 7:30 during Annual Conference.

John Wesley daily asked those he met, "How is it with your soul?"

1. How is your relationship with the Lord?
2. What have you been learning from the Scriptures?
3. What has the Lord been revealing directly to you?
4. How have you been sharing your faith?

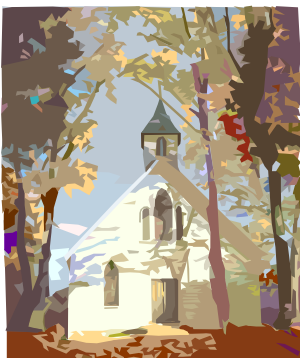


We agree! Your FAMLP Board notes that we must daily ask these questions both of ourselves and our churches. This would be a powerful start to every church meeting in which we lead or take part. President Doug Winner (AM) noted that Associate Members and Local Pastors are key to the ministry of East Ohio – and that our overall population of pastors is aging. There are 194 actively-serving Elders in the 55-72 age bracket; 158 Elders ages 35-54; and 14 Elders are under 34 years young. There are 50 licensed Local Pastors serving full time and 136 serving part-time. There are 19 Associate Members. Seventy-eight percent are serving churches with an average worship of 159 persons or less. He encouraged us to be messengers of vision and hope as we look for opportunities to be in team ministries across the connection, to accept the challenge of ministry excellence and think along the lines of constantly being retrained for 20th Century ministry. He shared his Goal for Leadership is to "provide Symmetry without Sameness; Unity without Uniformity, and Diversity without Divisiveness."

You are encouraged to enter your church in the Small Church of the Year Award. If your membership is 200 or less, you are eligible to submit your church for consideration. The deadline for application is March 1. Contact the office of Congregational Development, Rev. Dirk Elliott, for details. With thanks to Rev. Amy Shaw for her years of faithful service in training Local Pastors in the area of worship, Rev. Cara Stultz will be coming on board in this capacity during Licensing School this June. Folks should look at West Ohio's Capital Area North District for recent information regarding the discussion of guaranteed appointment as part of the ministry studies. Look for an email from me as I obtain further details concerning a Local Pastors training event on April 2 in Cambridge.

Your servant in Christ and Three Rivers FAMLP representative – Everett Stoddard pastor@pchapel.org

Church Anniversaries



The United Methodist Historical Society of Ohio will be recognizing churches which are celebrating significant anniversaries of their founding at its Annual Convocation on Saturday, April 30, 2011. The years for recognition are 100th, 125th, 150th, 175th, & 200 yrs. If your church is celebrating one of these anniversaries, please send a letter on your church stationery by March 15th to **Bill Drown**.

Historian of the Year

Each church is invited to nominate a person to be recognized as Historian of the Year at the United Methodist Historical Society of Ohio Annual Convocation on Saturday April 30, 2011. Criteria for the award can be found on the UMHSO website at www.umhso.org. Click on the tab for "Historian of the Year Criteria." Please include documentation. Nomination materials should be sent to **Bill Drown, 7384 North County Rd 29, Bellevue, OH 44811**

YOUTH MINISTRY

*Happenings in our District and Conference
for youth and workers in youth ministry:*

Registration Deadline Extended for Nehemiah Mission Trip March 18-20, 2011

A mission trip is planned for the district youth on Friday, March 18 - Sunday, March 20 at the Nehemiah Mission Center in Cleveland, Ohio. The cost is \$25 per person. (The district is absorbing half of the full \$50 cost.) The amount includes housing, meals, and snacks for the whole weekend. Youth must be at least 12 years or older to participate. For every five youth male/female we must have at least one respective adult. This is a requirement of the center. You can visit their website at <http://www.nehemiahmission.org>. Sign-in will be from 7-8:00 p.m. on Friday, March 18 at the center and we will depart by 11 a.m. on Sunday, March 20. **If you wish to participate you must contact Angela, district youth coordinator, by February 14 angelabraniger@yahoo.com or 740-545-9024.**

Mission Retreat at Camp Zimmerman April 29—May 1, 2011

We will meet at 8:00 p.m. on Friday April 29, 2011 at Camp Zimmerman—10397 Williams Rd. Gnadenhutten, Ohio. We will be doing work around the camp. This will be a spiritual mission retreat for your youth. Not only will we be working, we will be worshipping GOD, fellowshiping with one another, and of course having lots of fun. There is no cost for this weekend event. Visit the camp's website at <http://web.tusco.net/campz/web.tusco.net/campz/>. Contact Angela by April 1 to let me know approximately how many youth you plan to bring.



Interested in attending Collide? Contact Angela Brainger, District Youth Coordinator and learn more about this great event!

It's Time to think about 2011 Summer Camp!!

Every year hundreds of East Ohio campers enjoy life-changing weeks at Camp Aldersgate, Camp Asbury, Camp Wanake or at one of the other opportunities offered for youth – Reach Out, CYF and Lakeside Institute. Go to our website at www.EOCsummercamps.org for full event descriptions, great photo galleries, on-line registration or to download a form. Brochures that include the event descriptions and registration materials are available at our district office or by contacting the Camps office at 1-800-831-3972 ext. 108 or camp@eocumc.com. We also have bulletin inserts to help promote Camps in your Church!

Proverbs 3:6 Seek His will in all you do and He will show you the path to take.

FEBRUARY 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Cabinet	3 Cabinet	4 Block Grant Applications due	5
6 	7 dCOM	8	9 Dist. Mission Committee 10 a.m.	10 Retired Clergy Mtg Noon @ Peggy Sue's	11 District Office Closed	12
13 Load Mission Trailer 3p @ Conesville	14 Cabinet	15 Cabinet	16 Cabinet	17 Nashville VIM Trip	18 Basic Lay Speaking	19 Basic Lay Speaking
20 Nashville VIM Trip	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Board of Ordained Ministries Interviews	March 1				

MARCH 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Supert. Committee 6:30p	2	3 Cabinet	4 Cabinet	5
6	7 C-PAC	8	9 Ash Wednesday	10	11 Advanced Lay Speaking ----- Clergywomen Luncheon @ Allison's in Mt. V.	12 Advanced Lay Speaking
13	14	15	16 Cabinet	17 Cabinet	18 Nehemiah Youth Trip	
20 SPPR Training 3p  Nehemiah Youth Trip	21	22	23	24	25	26 Lay Speaker Banquet 6p @ Keene
27	28 Cabinet	29 Cabinet	30 Cabinet	31		

The Three Rivers *Current*
Three Rivers District Union UMC
415 Walnut Street
Coshocton OH 43812-1533

U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 74
Coshocton, OH
43812

Return Service Requested

March Issue Deadline – February 21

THANKS!

To those churches of the Three Rivers District who allowed us to lead the conference in the percentage of shared ministry apportionments!

92.05% of Conference Apportionments

151.67% of Mission Askings

99.32% of District Apportionments

41.99% of Shared Ministry Askings

Out of our 74 churches in the district:

61 churches paid 100% of Conference Apportionments

71 churches paid 100% of District Apportionments!

We thank you for your faithfulness and giving!