

# The Covington District Newsletter



*Spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ - and the great things that He is doing in and around the  
Covington District of the Kentucky Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church*

A Monthly Newsletter

December, 2010

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*“...you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.  
For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near.  
Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.”  
(Romans 13:11b-12)*

Have you heard about the new alarm clock called, “Clocky?” Here’s what *Alarm Clocks Online* says about it:  
It’s the alarm clock that runs away and hides when you don’t wake up. Clocky gives you one chance to get up.  
But if you snooze, Clocky will jump off of your nightstand and wheel around your room looking for a place to  
hide.

The season of Advent is the alarm clock of the church that rolls around every year to wake us from our slumber. It  
rings to wake us up to who we are and to who we can become by the Grace of God. We have the opportunity to  
prepare our hearts and our lives. We have the chance to rethink our life and to “lay aside the works of darkness and  
put on the armor of light.”

I pray God will bless your Advent season. I also pray that the Holy Spirit will not allow you and me to stay in a state of  
spiritual slumber. Salvation is near! Come, O Come, Immanuel!

Now, excuse me while I go try to find my alarm clock.

Grace, Mercy & Peace,

Kevin

## District News and Events

- The District Office will be closed for a Christmas break from Thursday, December 23 until Monday, January 3. Of course if there is an emergency, call the DS on his cell phone or call Joyce at (859) 441-1644.
- Daniel Simonton and his wife Charlotte, serving the Mt Olivet Circuit, have a new baby. Congratulations and prayers to the new baby and family.

The Jefferson family, wife Laura, son Andrew 14, and daughter Rebecca 21, need our prayers and our gifts. With John's long-term illness, there are numerous medical bills. Gifts may be made to the

John W. Jefferson Benefit Fund  
Send to the Bank of Maysville  
20 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Maysville KY 41056

### *Prayer Concerns to remember:*

- John Jefferson' family
- Barry Robinson and his family in the death of his mother.
- Ida Spence Mission and  
Director Tiffany Hollums
- New Church Start - *The Community UMC* in Hebron -- Matt Johnson, pastor
- Grace Ministry
- Our Bishop and Cabinet



## Ida Spence Fund Raiser

**A huge thank you for the over whelming support at the Ida Spence fundraiser. Thank you to all the pastors for the beautiful cakes. We are so grateful for the faithful support of this District.**

**\$8,735 was raised for the Ida Spence Mission**

## YOU CAN BE A PART OF THE IDA SPENCE UNITED METHODIST MISSION

We are in great need of the following items (as food stamps do not cover these important household items)

Bleach, Detergent, Toilet paper, Pine Sol  
ANY toiletries-deodorant, toothpaste,  
feminine products, diapers, etc  
And any cosmetics especially trial sizes would  
be wonderful!!!

**Adopt a family at Ida Spence Prayerfully consider adopting a family or individual this Christmas at our United Methodist Mission either as a church, group, or family. There are over 158 families needing aid this year. Interested? Please contact Tiffany Hollums at [tiffanyhollums@gmail.com](mailto:tiffanyhollums@gmail.com) or call (859) 581-9174 and leave a message. Drop off gifts at Taylor Mill UMC on December 12, between 10 – 3 pm. Delivery of gifts will be 12/18 at the Mission**

## Covington District Ministry Goals 2009-2012

- **Creating new places for new people and revitalizing existing congregations.**
  - Start three new faith communities (at least one African-American) in our district by 2012.
  - Increase professions of faith and worship attendance by 5% each year
  - District staff to help revitalize the ministry of our small membership churches through self-assessment and ministry goal setting.
- **Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world.**
  - Increase the number of lay and clergy leaders in our district under the age of forty by 20% by 2012.
  - Increase the practice of spiritual disciplines by our lay and clergy leaders (measured through self-report).
  - Strengthen lay and clergy leadership by providing leadership training opportunities annually.
- **Engaging in ministry with the poor.**
  - Emphasize two days each year in which we engage in projects across our district that help provide safe housing for the poor (e.g., remodeling, repairing, or winterizing).
  - Designate two district food drive collection days each year in which local churches collect food for their local food pantries.
- **Combating the diseases of poverty by improving health globally.**
  - Start three new Parish Nurse Ministries in the district by 2012.
  - Engage as a district in international partnerships that are working to improve the health of those living in East Africa (e.g., clean water in Darfur, “Nothing But Nets”).

As of January 1, **Brian Wilson** will be the full-time pastor at Falmouth. This means that he will no longer be able to serve as our Small Church Ministries Coordinator.

Be sure to express your gratitude to Brian for the ministry he has done for the Covington District.

**Next Clergy Meeting will be on**

**Thursday, January 13, 2011  
at 10:00 am at Asbury UMC**

**Rob Moorlach will talk about clergy  
pension and health benefits.**

**United Methodist Men**

The next District Meeting of the United Methodist Men will be held at Erlanger UMC on Thursday, February 17, at 6:30 p.m. -- come join in the fun and fellowship.

**LACE**

For any United Methodist who wants to know and understand more about Methodism – you can still sign up for classes on January 15, February 19, and March 19, 2011 at Alexandria UMC Contact Brian Wilson at [revbnw@fuse.net](mailto:revbnw@fuse.net) for information

*How to  
Get More Members*



**Jim Griffin**

Each team must include the senior pastor and at least three key lay members, (preferably 5 – 8).

*"Regaining a heart for your mission field."*

**When:** October 8-9, 2011

Registration begins @ 9:30am

Workshop runs Saturday, 9:30 – 5:30; and Sunday, 8-1

**Where:** Marriott Inn Downtown Covington

**What:** This workshop is for church teams to learn:

- How to Reconnect with your mission field
- How to get more members in your church
- Why the old ways to growth no longer work & What works now!
- Why most Pastors want to reach new people but can't
- What new people look for when selecting a church

**Who:** Our leader will be Jim Griffith, a consultant who works with hundreds of congregations all over the country on issues of church vitality.

**Early registration:** If your team registers by August 19, 2011, the cost is \$200 per church team (you may bring an unlimited number for your team).

**After August 19, 2011:** The cost is \$250 per church team.

**NOTE:** Pulpit supply needs to be arranged so the pastor can attend the entire sessions.

**Clergy Meeting Dates for 2011**

**Put on your calendar now.**

Thursday, January 13, Asbury 10:00 am  
Speaker: Rob Moorlach will talk about pension and health benefits

Tuesday, February 8, Cynthiana 10:00 am

Tuesday, March 15, Benson 10:00 am

Tuesday, April 5, Asbury 10:00 am

**Breakfast Dates for 2011**

Thursday, February 17, NKY Frischs 8:30 am

Thursday, March 17, Cynthiana 8:30 am

Thursday, March 24, Maysville 8:30 am



**The Community-November 2010 Update**

Dear Friends,

It doesn't seem like it has been a month since the last time I've written, but I guess time flies when you're having fun. A couple great stories about the ways that God's Kingdom is growing in our midst:

Yesterday, I stopped by the local Great Clips to get a haircut. Every time that I get my haircut I pray that I would have an opportunity to share my faith. I struck up a conversation with the lady cutting my hair and she asked me what I did...I told her and began to tell her about the church that we are planting. She mentioned that her pastor moved to Michigan and so I asked her where she went to church. She told me that she didn't attend anymore, and we began to discuss why that might be. As we talked, she expressed her hurt and frustration and also her desire to get reconnected to a church. I simply said to her "Collena, the question I have for you is will you give Jesus a second chance and will you give me a second chance?" When I asked, she began to weep. She'd snip a few cuts off my hair and pause to wipe away some tears. As I left, she asked when the next service is. I told her and she smiled and said "I'll see you in a few weeks." While this might not be the BEST haircut I've ever had, it'll grow out. The Kingdom of God is more important, and maybe, just maybe, a lost prodigal is coming home. Please pray for Collena, that God would continue to draw her to God's self.

Last week I met with a lady named Laura. Laura has been an atheist for the past 10 years, and has recently decided that she needs to believe in something. She began to ask me what Methodists believe, so I pulled out my Bible and began to tell her about grace, about Jesus, about God's great love for her. As our conversation came to a pause, she looked at me and said "No one has ever told me this about God before." Laura will be attending our upcoming services...While she never prayed the Sinner's Prayer, I believe that she came to know Jesus on that morning at Panera Bread.

Last week Beth and I sat with our friend Jeremy at bar trivia. A sports question was asked, and as I thought about the answer, Jeremy said "C'mon Matt! My pastor has to know about Sports!" Just a few weeks before, Jeremy had told me that he didn't see the need for church and that he would come to my church one time, but that was it. To move from being someone who wouldn't attend church to being someone who would allow me to be his pastor is a big step. I got the question right, and Jeremy said "Good! You can still be my pastor!"

God is on the move. We'll be starting our bar outreach gathering this coming Sunday, December 5th. Please be in prayer for this...It is a powerful opportunity for people to come to know God's great love. We're also planning a Christmas Outreach, so please be in prayer as we gather people during this gathering season.

The Kingdom is on the move. Thanks be to God.

Matt





**Christmas Concert  
by Florence Community Chorus**

**Thursday, December 16, 2010  
7:00PM**

At The Gethsemane United Methodist Church  
2776 Burlington Pike, Burlington, KY 41005  
(859) 586-8250

*Everyone come, join us for an amazing night of music  
that will inspire and entertain those of all ages!*

A free will offering will be taken to benefit:

**The Tim Goshorn Family**

Missionaries through The Mission Society

***Refreshments following the concert in the fellowship hall***

Covington District  
The United Methodist Church  
36 Johns Hill Road, Suite C  
Highland Heights, KY 41076

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



***DISTRICT CALENDAR AND BIRTHDAYS***

**December Birthdays:** 7, Susan Eaton; 9, Daniel Simonton; 17, Jason Hawk; 19, Roger Wallace; 30, Mark Shepherd;

**Superintendent's Calendar for December 1 – 3,** Lake Junaluska; **7 – 9, Pastor Consultations 10,** Clergy Christmas Dinner; **14 - 15, Pastor Consultations;** **23 – 31, District Office Closed for Christmas Holiday**

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Rev. Kevin Burney  
District Superintendent

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Check out our updated website at  
[www.covingtondistrictumc.com](http://www.covingtondistrictumc.com)

It's a work-in-process, so all comments will be appreciated!

Have something you'd like to see there?  
Changes/corrections/additions to your individual church  
information? Let us know!

Contact us at [covdistumc@fuse.net](mailto:covdistumc@fuse.net) or call the district  
office at 859-442-5444  
Debbie Maskey, District Website Coordinator, can help your  
local church establish a website.  
Contact her at 859-240-8799.