

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

February, 2011

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REFLECTIONS

Last summer, our district had a great experience hosting Travis Barrix as an Isaiah Project intern. The Isaiah Project is an initiative of our Annual Conference to identify, encourage, and support young people who are feeling a possible call to the ordained ministry. Travis was able to work with churches in the Maysville, Falmouth, and Florence area, as well as Ida Spence and Ruggles Camp.

If you know of a college student who is trying to discern whether they are called to ordained ministry, encourage them to apply to be an Isaiah Intern. Interns make a 10-week commitment and receive a stipend and room and board.

I also want your church to consider hosting an Isaiah Intern. The host church has to contribute \$2000 toward the internship and provide housing and meals. This year, the district is offering \$1000 grants to two churches that would like to host an intern, but would not ordinarily be able to afford to do so.

The deadline to apply for an Isaiah Intern is February 15. More information, former intern stories, and applications (both for potential interns and potential hosts) are available at www.Isaiahprojectumc.org. Pray about how you might be a part of this great project!

Grace, Mercy, & Peace,

Kevin

District News and Events

- Phil Bradley, pastor at Washington UMC, will head up the LACE program this coming year for the District
- Tiffany and DG Hollums have a new adopted baby girl named Grace. Congratulations.
- Part-time Pastor Consultations February 2, 3, 5, and 12 at the District Office.

Covington District UM Women

Child Advocacy Day in Frankfort

February 17, 2011

United Methodist Mountain Mission

Pick up Schedule for the District

January 31 and February 1, 2011

**URGENT NEEDS
Winter Clothes and Shoes
Children's and Men's**

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, Paper towels, Pine Sol, Dish Washing Liquid, ANY toiletries-deodorant, toothpaste, feminine products, diapers, etc
And any cosmetics especially trial sizes would be wonderful!!!

Snacks are welcome for afterschool sessions with the children

Prayer Concerns to remember:

- Mark & Jennifer Dickinson
Death of her mother
- Ida Spence Mission and
Director Tiffany Hollums – new baby
- New Church Start - *The Community UMC* in Hebron -- Matt Johnson, pastor
- Grace Ministry
- Our Bishop and Cabinet
- Woody Woodford –death of his father



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”).

COKESBURY will be having their VBS and Christian Education Showcase. During that time VBS kits and resources will be 20% off and a low shipping cost of \$3.95

Since there is no longer a local store, Brenda Harris, rep. (812. 654-1325) will be displaying sample kits at the churches/dates listed below.

VBS Kits on display -- Shake it Up Café -- Island Odyssey – Pandamania – Jesus Truth Seeker – Inside Out/Upside Down on Main St. Hometown Nazareth – SonSurf – Big Jungle Adventure

January 29, 2011 9:00 – 12:00
 Anderson Hills United Methodist Church
 7515 Forest Rd
 Cincinnati, Oh 45255
 513.431.2172

February 5, 2011 9 – 12
 Erlanger United Methodist Church
 31 Commonwealth Ave.
 Erlanger, KY 41018
 859.727.2136

February 12, 2011 9 - 12
 Hartwell United Methodist Church
 140 Parkway Avenue
 Cincinnati, OH 45216

Wesley Village

A Methodist Community

*Have a Heart for
 Seniors Love Offering
 on*

Sun. February 27th

This is the Sunday that the Conference has chosen to receive the offering, but feel free to choose another Sunday that is appropriate for your church. This offering provides support for persons receiving personal care or nursing care at Wesley Village who have outlived their financial resources.

**Next Clergy Meeting will be on
Tuesday, February 8, 2011
at 10:00am at Alexandria UMC**

**Speaker will be Marian Smith.
She will be discussing her Ph.D
project on clergy health.**

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 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.

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.

Speaker: Eric Patterson, Maysville Trinity Pastor, and his recent trip to Kenya

Clergy Meeting Dates for 2011

Put on your calendar now.

Tuesday, February 8, Alexandria 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

Community United Methodist Church

While January might seem to be a slow month after the Christmas rush, things have picked for your resident church planter! On January 23rd we met together for the first time as The Community, gathering in the home of one of our members to read and discuss a book called "Jim and Casper Go to Church." This book, a discussion between an atheist and a pastor, demonstrates the ways that the church can accidentally exclude and make people feel like outsiders, even when we are well meaning! While I thought this was going to be small group, we have 19 people who are attending! Our small group is rapidly growing, thanks to God's grace!

Just a few quick stories-

-In December we were blessed by Carter's Chapel UMC with 25 dozen Christmas cookies. On "Super Saturday" (the Saturday before Christmas and one of the busiest days shopping days of the year) we took cookies and a flier about the new church and went to bars, restaurants and businesses all over the area, giving away the cookies to employees and wishing these frazzled workers Merry Christmas. People were blown away by this random act of kindness, and we were able to have a variety of conversations with folks about the new church. Beth suggested that we take several plates to Hooters and this stop elicited my favorite reaction from the recipient...As we turned the leave the restaurant we could hear the hostess say to her co-workers "They brought cookies! From a CHURCH! For EVERYBODY!" We continue to pray that God opens doors for us to reach the people that we sometimes forget about or write-off...We remember that God's heart breaks for those people who are missing. This event was the beginning of a monthly outreach called "Love, The Community" where we head out to practice random acts of kindness for people in our community. **If your church would like to help by providing gifts for us to give out, please contact Matt.** Our February event may be held at a laundromat, as we show up with treats and rolls of quarters.

-Last week I was sitting in my upstairs home office when my phone rang. A young man named Anson, whom I had met in September, was calling me for the first time. He was coming to the point in his life where he realized that he needed something more...and he remembered meeting me at a bar at the horse track several months before. I invited Anson to our Sunday night meeting, and to my surprise, he accepted! God's grace goes before us as we connect with people...God prepares the way for the Gospel message to be heard. Please pray for Anson and those like him that we continue to meet and connect with, that God may be at work in the lives of those people that need to know God's great love.

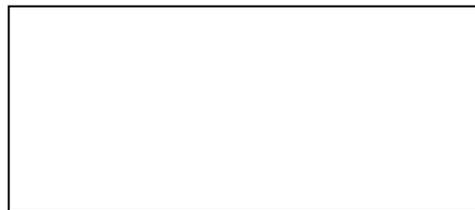
We've got much that's moving from the back burner to the front of my mind! **I'm hopeful that our first monthly worship gathering will be March 5th, and if your church would be willing to help with hospitality, parking, worship, etc I would appreciate any help!** We're hosting a Super Bowl party (GO STEELERS!) and we're continuing to meet and invite new people to experience God's presence through community! Please let me know if there is a time when I can come and share with your congregation or your mission committee how God is at work and how we might engage together in God's great mission of redemption!

In the Name of Him that can do through us more than we can dream or imagine,

Matt

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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



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DISTRICT CALENDAR AND BIRTHDAYS

February Birthdays: 6, Alice Crawford and Jim Wofford; 10, Darrell Mains and Phil Bradley; 18, George Edwards; 22, Carol Mains; 24, Rachel Wirrig; 25, David Bonnell

Superintendent's Calendar for February 1, BOM mtg.; 2 – 3 PT Pastor Consultations 5, PT Pastor Cons. 8, Clergy Mtg. 12, PT Pastor Cons.; 17, Clergy Breakfast Frischs; Meth Men; 18 – 21 Houston; 28, BOM Interviews

Check out our updated website at

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 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.