

Growing holy hearts for a whole community

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

Volume III, Issue 1

January, 2013 Issue

Thoughts from the District Superintendent

As I write this newsletter article, my heart is breaking for the families in Newtown, Connecticut. As a nation, we mourn with that community. We will never understand why a person would do such a thing. The best thing we can do is pray for the families, the community and our nation.

A tragedy like this can take the joy out of Christmas. My wife, daughter and I worshipped at Covington Epworth yesterday and Rev. Jim Bishop provided much hope and comfort as he prayed and spoke of the tragedy. As we worshipped, I noticed on the bulletin cover were these words: "And He shall turn their sorrows and grief into joy". The bulletin cover had been printed months earlier but the words spoke to me in light of this terrible tragedy.

Here are my reflections:

1) Joy is not based on the "happenings of the world". The Christian concept of joy is based on our relationship with Jesus Christ. Being "happy" or "merry" is not the same as joy. Joy is a fruit of the Spirit and it is found deep within our souls. Joy comes from knowing God through Jesus Christ.

2) We allow evil to win when we allow it to take our joy away from us. We can't permit the tragedies of this world to overcome us or we will lose our joy. No one or anything can take our joy away unless we allow it.

3) The true Christmas message tells of the One who came to earth to give us hope, peace, joy and love. Jesus is the One who turns our sorrows and grief into joy. While we are troubled and heartbroken, we still know that our Savior has come and

He is seated on the throne of heaven. We have a Savior who understands and cares. When our heart aches, His heart aches. The joy of Jesus transcends the tragedies of earth.

I have said all of this to say: We can sing "Joy to the World, the Lord is come" in the midst of tragedy and heartache because that is the reason for His coming. He who was born in a stable in Bethlehem will turn our sorrows and grief into joy.

Christmas Joy to all of you!

Owen Dolin

Highlights in this issue:

- THOUGHTS FROM THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
- UMW & UMM UPCOMING EVENTS
- NEW FAITH COMMUNITIES UPDATE
- LACE
- WINTER BLITZ

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Prayer Concerns to Remember

- Tom Pitts Family
- Our Bishop and Cabinet
- Ida Spence Mission and Director Tiffany Hollums
- Our DS, Owen Dolin, and his wife Ann
- The Community New Start
- Ken Easley-recovering
- Tim Goshorn family starting language school for their mission work
- David Johnston, NKU campus minister



Covington District Newsletter

Youth

There will be a Youth Discipleship weekend on March 15-16, 2013 at Highland UMC. Watch for more information.

Email Jonathan Mann at Florence for more information
jonathan@florenceumc.com

UMW Women

The United Methodist Women will meet

February 7, 2013 for Child Advocacy Day in Frankfort, KY.

More details to come soon!

UMM Men

The United Methodist Men will meet

March 21, 2013 at Alexandria UMC

Come join in the fellowship

NKU WESLEY FOUNDATION

We want to offer up a special thank you to all the churches and individuals who have sent in gifts. These will help us to have our own space and continue to move our ministry forward. Donations are still being accepted.

The Wesley Foundation @ Northern Kentucky University

www.nkuwf.org

[facebook.com/nkuwf](https://www.facebook.com/nkuwf)

Rev. David Johnston, Campus Minister

859-462-6224

New Faith Communities Update

This month I want to share with you the idea of "God Sightings." This is a simple thing, but daily reminds me to look for God and celebrate the ways I see Him working. God Sightings are small glimpses that we see every day. It could be watching the sunrise and being reminded of His power and beauty or talking with someone in line at the checkout and hearing their joys or sorrows. I was reminded of God Sightings as I heard about the tragic news from Newtown, Connecticut this past week. Even in the midst of such tragedy and sorrow, I see God at work through the hands of those who have reached out to the families, through the prayers that are offered up, and through the hope that He brings. In the midst of the hustle and bustle of the season, take a moment to look for a God Sighting. Stop and give thanks and praise that we serve a God who shows up every day.

May the Lord bless and keep your family this holiday season!

-Grace

Future Events at Ida Spence

Please note that mail, particularly checks, sent to Ida Spence should be mailed to the following PO Box address, not the physical address: PO Box 121319, Covington KY 41012-1319.

You can be a part of the Ida Spence United Methodist Mission. Become involved in some or all of the events listed.

Winter Blitz Scholarships

We are looking for scholarships for teens to attend Winter Blitz 2013. It costs \$50 per teen to attend. Please contact Tiffany if you are interested.

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Come be a Part and Help!

Cleaning Supplies Needed

Bleach

Detergent—Pine Sol

Bathroom Tissue—Paper Towels

Dish Washing Liquid

Toiletries—Bar Soap – Toothpaste

Diapers—feminine products

Contact Tiffany Hollums at tiffanyhollums@gmail.com and be a part of your UM Mission at work. (859) 462-9730.

Another exciting new ministry beginning January 9th:

We will be serving a free sit down dinner to children every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 3:30-5 and Sundays 3-4:30 at the mission. We are praying for adults and teens who are looking for a way to share in a meaningful way in the life of a child by coming and sharing a meal, talking about the child's day at school, even help with homework. Interested? Please contact Tiffany.

Mt. Mission Pickup

February 4, 2013

Approximately 95% of our expenses this year have been provided for by your donations of good and usable clothing and household items. This includes sales in the stores as well as our recycling projects. 95% is the highest percentage we have ever reached!! This is due, in part, because it has been an exceptionally good year for our recycling.

The other 5% must come from financial donations. We could use your financial donations to make up this difference.

Thank you – you are compassionate, generous people!

Scott UMC Community Thanksgiving

Scott UMC was able to deliver 127 meals this Thanksgiving thanks to volunteers from their congregation as well as the community.



Scott UMC, Thanksgiving 2012

Ida Spence Update

A very heartfelt thank you to all the churches, groups and individuals who adopted a family or sent a donation this Christmas. We were able to bless 205 families this year through your generosity. It is amazing to see the Body of Christ come together and bless a community in this way. I've had so many families tearfully tell me that without these gifts, they wouldn't have had anything for their kids for Christmas. Thank you for your faithfulness and heart!!

Why the last Saturday meal? We have found that near the end of the month, families are running out of food stamps and the majority of the meals are served to children. I have children and teens coming every day toward the end of the month telling me they are hungry. One disabled man called me just the other day to express how thankful he is for the meals-without which, he said, he wouldn't eat the whole weekend.

We are going to change from Friday to Saturday meal from 1-3 pm for many reasons: This will give the kids a meal on the long weekend and many churches have express a desire to serve but have to work. We do serve 400 meals, but there are many ways for your church or group to help: provide and cook the meal, Partner with another church/group, or Donations. We also have individuals in the community who love to help if volunteers is a problem. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Tiffany: tiffanyhollums@gmail.com, (859)462-9730

Laity Discipleship Training

We have decided to do laity training a little differently this year. Instead of having a formal gathering, we will be utilizing some other resources. During January GBOD will be offering a series of webinars for church officers. These are a wonderful resource for our local churches. If your team is unavailable on these particular days, the sessions will be recorded and can be accessed later. Registration and full descriptions are at <http://www.gbod.org/webinars>. In addition, we will be sending out monthly emails that are specially tailored to each of your church's teams. Please email Grace (grace@thecommunityky.org) with any questions about the trainings or to make sure you're on our team-specific email lists. Look for these emails to begin the 1st of January.

The dates and topics of the webinars are:

- January 10 at 7:30 p.m. - Stewardship and Finance: Getting It Right at the Starting Line
- January 15 at 7:30 p.m. - SPRC Plans the Year
- January 17 at 7:30 p.m. - Lay Leader: What Do I Do?
- January 22 at 7:30 p.m. - Trustees Plan a Year of Ministry
- January 29 at 7:30 p.m. - Church Council Leads Discipleship
- January 31 at 7:30 p.m. - Nominations Committee Develops Leaders

LACE Training

Along with the new year comes our next session of LACE/Lay Speaker training. We'll be meeting the third Saturday of each month beginning on **January 19th** from 9am until 4pm at Alexandria UMC.

Everyone interested in participating is encouraged to attend the first meeting. There is no need for pre-registration. We will be dismissing to local restaurants for lunch that day and decide what future meal arrangements will be like.

If you have any questions, please drop me an email (makmknown@gmail.com). I look forward to getting to know this year's participants as we learn, grow and fellowship together.

Blessings,
Phil Bradley
Pastor, Washington UMC

Vacation Bible School

It's beginning to look a lot like Vacation Bible School!

Kits will begin coming in today starting with Group's Kingdom Rock!!! Athens, SonWest Roundup, God's Backyard Bible Camp, and several others will be coming in soon!

Our annual VBS Previews are being scheduled for January 29th at 1:00 and 7:00 PM, February 9th, and February 16th. Save the date and look for details coming soon!

NKY Chrysalis

A Chrysalis "flight" is a three day journey with Christ for youth ages 15-18 (rising 9th-12th graders) of any denomination. The purpose of Chrysalis is to support the church's efforts to guide the spiritual formation of Christian young people. Providing them with an opportunity for spiritual growth and renewal, Chrysalis is a time to experience God's grace through Christian love and support. The point of Chrysalis is to inspire a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and to equip participants to live their lives as Christians—at home, church, school, and in the community.

Northern Kentucky Chrysalis flights are coming up shortly. The boys flight will be held January 19-21, 2013 and the girls flight will be held February 16-18, 2013—both at Christ UMC in Florence, KY. Each potential candidate must be sponsored by a member of the Emmaus or Chrysalis communities. Please share the following application/registration information with interested parties. For further information regarding Chrysalis, please visit www.nkychrysalis.com. Sponsorship information and applications can be found on the website as well.

Application Deadlines:

Boys—January 9th (\$75 registration fee)

Girls—February 6th (\$75 registration fee)

Winter Blitz 2013

Plans look awesome for Winter Blitz 2013!

Winter Blitz will be held the weekend of January 25-27, 2013 in Louisville. We have **Reggie Dabbs** coming back the fourth time in our history as keynote.

The worship band, **Mosteller**, was with us last year at the Conference Youth Rally. We will have some fun from the stage and celebrate together with **The Bucket Boys**.

Early Bird Registration through December 1st is still \$40/person – the same price since 2005. Registration for \$45/person is December 2nd through January 15.

After January 15 registration is only at the door for \$55/person. A weekend parking pass is \$25/pass and is only available pre-purchased through January 15. More information will be coming.

VIM Training

VIM Workshop on Feb 23, 13 at Highland UMC 9 – 3:30. You can register on line. The cost is \$30.00 which includes lunch -- cost is free to anyone under 30. Call or email John Kalz at kalzjd@gmail.com 462-4766 for more information.

Needed!

Local church representatives are needed for the United Methodist Homes. You will receive promotional materials for fifth Sunday offerings and other news items. Please keep your congregation informed and push the offerings and the needs of the homes. If interested, please send your name, address and name of your church to Gene Maegly, Representative, to the District Office.

Growing holy hearts for a whole community

THE COVINGTON DISTRICT

36 Johns Hill Road
Suite C
Highland Heights, KY 41076

Owen Dolin
District Superintendent
Phone: (859) 442-5444
Mobile: (859) 916-0331
Fax: (859) 442-5444
Email: covdistumc@fuse.net

Visit us online at
covingtondistrictumc.com

District Calendar and Birthdays

IMPORTANT DATES

**Dec 20-Jan 2, Christmas—
Office Closed**

Office reopens Jan 3

- **Jan 12** Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration
- **Jan 14-15** Cabinet
- **Jan 17** Superintendency Committee
- **Jan 19** LACE
- **Jan 22** District NCD Meeting/Joyce leaves for Holy land
- **Jan 25-27** Winter Blitz

January Clergy Birthdays

Jan 9 Ken Easley

Jan 11 Jeff Jackson

Want to Get Involved?

Health Ministries

- Parish Nursing:
Contact **Linda Howarth**
(859) 572-9110
howlin@fuse.net
- Flu Shots/Blood Drive Van:
Contact **Marlene Faegan**
St. Elizabeth Health Ministries (859) 292-4149
- Mobile Mammography Van:
Contact **Madonna Vinicombe**
(859) 301-2031
Madonna.Vinicombe@stelizabeth.com
- **Ida Spence Mission**
Contact: Tiffany Hollums
462-9730
tiffanyhollums@gmail.com

- Financial gifts can be sent to: Ida Spence Mission
P.O. Box 121319
Covington, KY 41012-1319
- **People Working Cooperatively**
Contact: **Jere McIntyre**
(859) 653-4609
- **Don Markesbery Home Repair Ministry**
donmarkesbery@fuse.net

We are always open to new suggestions and feedback on how to make this newsletter better serve you email your thoughts to covdistumc@fuse.net