

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 1, Issue 3

November, 2011 Issue

Reflections—a word or two from our District Superintendent

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances...

1 Thessalonians 5:16-22

During a mission trip to Kenya, I was asked to preach in the town of Migori on Sunday at the Christ Comfort Center United Methodist Church. The church met in an old storefront that was smaller than a single car garage. Its walls were losing plaster and gathering mold. There were no windows; the only light came from the front doors. Forty to fifty adults came to worship; some had to sit outside on the porch. It was in this unlikely place that I learned about gratitude.

About 15 children crowded into the worship space with us to sing for us. One voice in particular still rings in my ears. A beautiful young girl, about 10 years old, sang a solo for us. She was wearing a dress that was faded and worn. It most likely was a hand-me-down, yet it was her Sunday best. It struck me that her Sunday best was something that we would have discarded long ago. However, it was not what she wore but what she sang that has remained with me. In a beautiful clear voice she sang, "God, you're so good to me." You could see by the sparkle of her brown eyes that she was singing out of true gratitude.

On that very spot I was convicted of how much I take for granted. As was often the case in Kenya, I came to share with them, yet I came away with the greater blessing. I witnessed in a little girl's life that gratitude and joy are not contingent on income or even circumstance. Joy comes from realizing that all of life is a gift and all good gifts come from God.

A little girl in a musty church in a dusty rural town in Kenya taught me this. Perhaps, in my sharing this story, she can teach you too.

Grace and peace,

Kevin

Prayer Concerns to Remember



- Ida Spence Mission & Director
- New Church Start — The Community UMC in Hebron — Matt Johnson, pastor
- Our Bishop Lindsey Davis and Cabinet
- Our DS and Family
- Jeff Haverfield (former pastor in our district)
- Grace Ministry
- Ellaine Hussung's daughter Andrea
- Art Honican more surgery
- Jim Bishop formerly in Dist.

Highlights in this issue:

- IMPORTANT WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT IDA SPENCE
- MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS FLORENCE CHRIST
- AROUND THE DISTRICT LACE & CLM TRAINING SUPPORT COMMUNITY UMC
- DISTRICT NEWS, EVENTS

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Covington District Newsletter

Ministry Highlights: Florence Christ Pastor C. Morgan

TO HAVE YOUR MINISTRY AS A HIGHLIGHT IN THE NEWSLETTER, SEND A 150-200 WORD WRITE UP ABOUT IT TO COVDIS-TUMC@FUSE.NET

God works in many ways, using the gifts each of us has by grace. I've been asked to share ways I see God at work in the life of Christ UMC in Florence. There are two I'd like to share.

The first involves Matt Morris, who joined the staff at CUMC as Youth and Worship Minister in the spring. Matt immediately began forming deep and substantive relationships with youth and adults in the church, and his creativity has blessed the congregation in a number of ways. One unique expression of his ministry is that he offers music lessons to the youth of the church. There is

a "charge" for the lessons—15 minutes of devotional time with God, 30 minutes of learning guitar, drums, or voice. The result is that the youth have begun to take ownership of a portion of worship on Wednesday evenings as their skills are improving. The goal is for youth eventually to lead the worship on Wednesday evenings most of the time.

The second blessing of the fall has been a group of 20-25 adults who are working through C. S. Lewis's Mere Christianity on Wednesday evenings. It has been moving to see how

hungry men and women are to look deeply into our faith and be challenged by the simple truths of mere" Christianity.

The exercise is at once sobering and liberating, eliciting both conviction at our sinfulness and profound joy at the wonders of life in Christ. For several in this group, the Christian journey will never be quite the same again.

It's a joy to be in ministry with all of you in the Covington District, and I pray that the Spirit of the living God continues to work in our lives, our churches, and our common ministry.

United Methodist Men

Our next meeting will be at

Immanuel UMC located at

2551 Dixie Highway, Lakeside Park, KY 41017

On Thursday, November 17, at 6:30 pm

Tim Goshorn, who is anticipating going to the

Mission Field in Peru

Come join in the fellowship.

Cokesbury's Christmas Open House

You are invited to Cokesbury's Christmas Open House

Thursday—Saturday, November 10 –12

Save 25% on regular items Free Shipping

Call, Fax, or Email Brenda Harris to receive free shipping (812) 654-1325 or fax (812) 654-3979

Both the Common English Bible outreach kit and the book The Journey, Walking The Road to Bethlehem

are on sale

Ida Spence United Methodist Mission Christmas Adopt a Family

Ida Spence UM Mission adopt a family for Christmas.

Please prayerfully consider adopting a family from the Ida Spence

United Methodist Mission in City Heights government subsidized housing projects in Covington, KY. There are families of all sizes available. If you are interested, please contact

Tiffany Hollums at tiffany-hollums@gmail.com or (859)462-9730.

Gifts will be delivered Saturday, December 17th from 1-3 pm.

For more information about the Ida Spence Mission, visit www.idaspencemission.com

Events around the District

We would like to draw your attention to three very important upcoming events.

November 1 Clergy Meeting at Erlanger 10:00 Paul Brunstedder, our NCD leader will be the speaker. Lunch to follow.

November 5 the last Boundaries training for Pastors will be held at Alexandria UMC — Register now.

November 12, Prepare Af-fair Local UMC's can do ministry for the poor! (See

page 6)

Saturday, November 19, Finance Committee Training at Highland UMC. Conducted by Michael Watts, Treasurer of the Kentucky Conference 10—noon.

Sunday, October 30, at 6:00 pm, Epworth UMC will host the Ball Family singing group. Epworth is located at 1229 Highway Avenue in West Covington. For more information call Gene Penn, the pastor, at 859 356-5974.

Speaker Available

Paul Whalen, Attorney at Law, Chair of the Kentucky Conference Commission on Archives and History and member of the Highland UMC is available to speak to local churches and church organizations on **“Lincoln and the Methodists.”** He originally presented this at the Illinois Historical Society at the Lincoln Library in Springfield, Illinois. Contact: info 859 466-345

plewellinwhalen@aol.com

United Methodist Student Day Offering

Sunday, November 27,

Your participation in this Special Sunday is important to so many UM students. Every year, hundreds of students receive scholarships and loans funded by the United Methodists Student Day.

Resources
www.umcgiving.org/UMSD

Chrysalis

Pastors and Youth Leaders:

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We would like to introduce you to an ecumenical program for youth that is known as Chrysalis. It is sponsored by the Upper Room Ministries, part of the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church. It is overseen by its parent ministry, The Walk To Emmaus, which is a similar weekend experience for adults. Chrysalis is a structured weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian young people, and through them,

their families, congregations, and the world in which they live.

We would like to extend an invitation to possible youth in your congregation who would be ready for a spiritual weekend like Chrysalis. This is an opportunity for 15-18 year olds that are currently attending high school. If you have any questions about Chrysalis, or would like to talk to someone to learn more, please contact us. You can find our contact information on our website,

WWW.NKYCHRYSALIS.COM or by contact-

ing the Upper Room Ministries. You can also watch a small video created by the Upper Room, titled An Introduction to Chrysalis. You can find this by copying and pasting the following web address in your internet browser : <http://vimeo.com/10045946>.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank You and God Bless, NKY Board of Chrysalis

CLERGY BREAKFAST

SCHEDULE:

11/15, NORTHERN KY – FRISCH'S ON ORPHANAGE RD, FT WRIGHT

THIS IS JUST A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP AND GETTING TO BETTER KNOW EACH OTHER

LACE AND CLM Training for 2012

The Covington and Ashland Districts are combining efforts for finding out the interests in Certified Lay Ministry (CLM).

The training modules for CLM will also be used for LACE.

The dates and locations for the 2012 combined LACE/CLM training are:

- January 14, 2012
Maysville
- February 18, 2012
Flemingsburg area
- March 17, 2012
Vanceburg
- April 14, 2012
Flemingsburg area

- May 5, 2012
Maysville

Contact Phil Bradley, pastor of the Washington UMC and the Lay Speaker Coordinator for the Covington District for more information.

makmknown@gmail.com

Ida Spence United Methodist Mission

Spaghetti Dinner and Cake Auction

Saturday, November 12th, 4:30 pm—7:00 pm

Immanuel UMC—Wesley Hall



**Come and enjoy a yummy spaghetti dinner, buy a cake baked by a
Covington District Pastor, and support the**

Ida Spence UM Mission

Tickets: Adults: \$10.00

Kids (ages 3—12) \$5

Kids under age 3 eat for free

**Purchase tickets at the door, the District Office or
contact (859) 462-9730**

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").

The Community UMC Asks for Coupons to Support Ministry

The Community UMC is collecting coupons to put together Welcome Baskets for our new neighbors moving into the apartments in our neighborhoods. If you would publish this list and share it with the people in your churches we would greatly appreciate it!

This is an easy and free way to support the outreach of The Community!

We need coupons for:

- Tide Laundry Detergent
- Dial or Softsoap Hand Soap
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Dawn or Gain Dishwashing Liquid
- Paper Plates
- Napkins

Coupons can be mailed to The Community, PO Box 962, Burlington, KY 41005.

Thanks for your help!

-Matthew Johnson

Covington District Newsletter

Covington District United Methodist Churches --- *How is Your Congregation Engaging in Ministry with the Poor?*

Volunteer for the Prepare Affair on Saturday Nov. 12, 2011

What Is Prepare Affair?

Prepare Affair is organized by the non-profit organization People Working Cooperatively. Prepare Affair brings together more than 3,000 volunteers to help elderly homeowners prepare their homes for winter. One of the largest one-day events in the tri-state, volunteers at Prepare Affair will perform winter preparation activities that mean the world to elderly homeowners with physical limitations. Come join the fun!

What kinds of services are performed during Prepare Affair?

Services range from raking leaves and cleaning gutters to other small winter preparation tasks. Most of the service sites will be located in Boone, Kenton, and Campbell counties.

How do we volunteer for Prepare Affair?

Your church's designated coordinator should contact Sara Bourgeois at the PWC volunteer department (513) 351-7921 for more information (www.pwchomerepairs.org).

Also, you can call on Jere McIntyre, 859-653-4609 (jeremcintyre@zoomtown.com). Jere has coordinated volunteers from Immanuel UMC and is happy to talk with you about his experience with PWC.

About People Working Cooperatively

People Working Cooperatively (PWC) is a non-profit organization that was incorporated in 1975. It serves low-income, elderly, and disabled homeowners in 20 counties of Southwestern Ohio, Northern Kentucky and Indiana. PWC strengthens communities by providing professional, critical home repair, weatherization, modification, and maintenance services to help residents stay safely in their homes. In the last 36 years, PWC's staff of licensed, trained employees and dedicated corps of 6,000-plus volunteers have assisted more than 200,000 individuals.

This service opportunity is brought to you by the UM Covington District Leadership Team and Rev. Kevin Burney, DS

November 2011

Innovation Creates Uncertainty

From: LEADINGBLOG (http://www.leadershipnow.com/leadingblog/2011/10/innovation_creates_uncertainty.html)

10.03.11

We don't like uncertainty. It's not comfortable.

We want innovation. We like creativity. It's engaging.

But innovation creates uncertainty. So while we say we want creativity and innovation we often reject it because it is new, different and risky. It takes us to places that we are not familiar with and places where we don't have all the answers. The irony is that while we say we like innovation we develop a deep bias against it.

Interestingly, a recent study from Cornell University states that "Anti-creativity bias is so subtle that people are unaware of it, which can interfere with their ability to recognize a creative idea." In other words, our aversion to uncertainty means we find it difficult to even recognize a creative idea when we see it, focused as we are on removing the risky, uncomfortable strain on the status quo.

Consequently, new ideas are often rejected out-of-hand in favor of the tried and trusted at times when we need new ideas the most. This resistance is so strong at times that even supporting objective evidence may not help break down barriers.

The study concludes, "Our results show that regardless of how open minded people are, when they feel motivated to reduce uncertainty either because they have an immediate goal of reducing uncertainty, or feel uncertain generally, this may bring negative associations with creativity to mind which result in lower evaluations of a creative idea."

If you want to change the world, get comfortable with the uncomfortable.

Innovation creates uncertainty. Creativity changes the status quo, but if we want to grow and develop we have to get comfortable with the unknown and accept reasonable risk. Our fear of uncertainty can cause us to reject new ideas just because they are new.

Growing holy hearts for a whole community

THE COVINGTON DISTRICT

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District Calendar and Birthdays

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Tuesday, November 1,**
Clergy Meeting Erlanger
UMC. 10:00 – 12:00 -
Lunch to follow
- **Saturday, November 19,**
**Finance Committee Training
at Highland UMC**
10:00 – 12:00 conducted
by Michael Watts, Treas-
urer of the Kentucky Con-
ference
- **Friday, December 9,**
Clergy Christmas Dinner
Highland UMC

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- Nov 1— Clergy Meeting
Erlanger; CC Melbourne

- Nov 2— CC Morning View
- **Nov 5 BOUNDARIES
TRAINING ALEXANDRIA**
- Nov 6 — CC Washington
2:00; CC Maysville Cen-
tral 3:00; CC Maysville
Seddon 4:00; Maysville
Trinity 5:00
- Nov 7 — CC
Buler/Concord 6:30 pm
- Nov 9 — CC Highland
6:30 pm
- Nov 10 — DLT Asbury
- Nov 13 — CC Sar-
dis/Formans 2:00; CC
Shannon/Bethel 3:15; CC
Nepton 4:15; CC Helena
5:15
- Nov 14 — Cabinet Meet-

- ing
- Nov 15 — 8:30 am Clergy
Breakfast NK Frisch's
- Nov 16 — CC Asbury
6:30 pm
- Nov 17 — United Method-
ist Men Minerva 6:30 pm
- **Nov 19 — Finance Com-
mittee Training Highland
UMC 10—12 am**
- Nov 20 — CC Drury
12:00; CC 3:00 Flor-
ence CC 4:15 Florence
Christ CC 5:30 Immanuel
- Nov 21 — CC Faith Com-
munity 6:30 pm

Birthdays:

- Nov 2 Michael Albertson
- Nov 4 Kevin Messer
- Nov 19 John Kalz
- Nov 20 DG Hollums
- Nov 26 Gene Penn
- Nov 28 Jimmy Owens
- Nov 29 E J. Saint
- Nov 30 Tiffany Hollums