

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

November, 2010

Page 1 Reflections <i>A word – or two – from our District Superintendent</i>	Page 2 Ida Spence <i>Find out how you can help.</i>	Page 3 District Ministry Goals	Page 4 UM Men & Women <i>Join in the fellowship</i>	Page 5 Ida Spence Fund Raiser Flyer
Page 2 District News and Prayer Concerns <i>Please remember those that need your prayers</i>	Page 2 Important Announcements	Page 3 Charge Conference Gatherings <i>Make note of the dates</i>	Page 4 Future Clergy Breakfast Dates <i>a good time for all</i>	Page 6 New Church Start Newsletter
	Page 2 District News Book Study		Page 4 New Member Workshop	Page 7 Curry UMC
				Page 8 Clergy Birthdays DS's Calendar

“It’s not that I have already reached this goal or have already been perfected, but I pursue it, so that I may grab hold of it because Christ grabbed hold of me for just this purpose. Brothers and sisters, I myself don’t think I’ve reached it, but I do this one thing: I forget about the things behind me and reach out for the things ahead of me. The goal I pursue is the prize of God’s upward call in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3 12-14, CEB)

Every year, my family and I make a pilgrimage to the “holy land” of Oklahoma. I’ve made this trip every year since 1983! It is about a fifteen hour car ride, but it seems to take a lifetime! We check the GPS and mile markers to see how far we’ve come and how far we have to go. And yes, someone always manages to ask, “Are we there yet?” In all of these years we’ve never turned back or quit, no matter how road-weary we may be.

What we do every year at Charge Conference and at Annual Conference essentially is to ask, “Are we there yet?” We have 808 churches in the Kentucky Annual Conference. In 2009, our average worship attendance dropped by 501 people. Church membership dropped by 446 persons. In the Covington District we have 71 churches. In 2009, we gained 14 more members and had 3 more baptisms over the previous year. However, our professions of faith were down by 21 people, and our average worship attendance dropped by 79 people.

Our District goal is to increase worship attendance and professions of faith by 5% each year. That would have meant adding approximately 9 more baptisms and averaging approximately 246 more people in worship in 2009 than we did 2008. We obviously have some work to do.

But this is not the entire story! One of our District Ministry Goals is to plant 3 new congregations by 2012. Matt Johnson is already at work as our church-planting missionary in Hebron (The Community UMC). In the short time he has been here, he’s made contacts with over 120 people who are not connected to a church of any kind, but who are interested in The Community. By July 2011, we will launch an effort for an African American congregation. In 2012, we are targeting the Walton and Union areas. The Holy Spirit is alive and at work in the Covington District!

Have we arrived where Jesus Christ would have us be as his Church? The answer is “no.” Our task, however, is not to look at these sobering statistics and try to find a way to make them look better for the denomination, the bishop or the district superintendent. Our task is to pursue the Kingdom of God, so that we may grab hold of it because Christ grabbed hold of us for this very purpose! --

Grace and Peace! **Kevin**

District News and Events

Welcome to associate pastor Rachel Cain Wirrig and her husband Jared. They are new to the Covington District and will be serving at Asbury UMC.

Sunday, November 7, at 3:00 pm at the Cathedral Basilica in Covington on Madison Ave., the Chorale and Ecco group from Asbury University in Wilmore will be performing. Open to the public – no admission charge.

Book Study on the *Touch* will begin again at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, November 2, at Asbury UMC Office Bldg Conference Room. If you missed the first session, feel free to get the book, read the first chapter and come and join us November 2.

Erlanger UMC Chili Cook Off

Saturday, November 6, from
5 – 7 pm.

Menu
Chili, Hot Dog, Dessert, and Drink

Price \$6.00 Adults 12 – up
3.00 ages 6 – 11
Under 5 free

Come join in the fellowship.

Prayer Concerns to remember:

- John Jefferson will be having heart surgery
- 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

FALL SPAGHETTI DINNER AND CAKE AUCTION

Saturday, November 13, 4:30-7 at Immanuel UMC

Pastors-we need your wonderful culinary skills again this year so begin now planning your cake creations!!!

See the attached flyer on page 5.

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 or call (859) 581-9174 and leave a message. Christmas delivery will be Sat. Dec 18, at 10:00 am 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 (Brian Wilson is our Small Membership Church Ministry Coordinator).
- **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”).

2010 Charge Conference Gatherings

All gatherings will start at 2:00 pm

Augusta UMC – September 19th

1. Augusta/Foster
2. Brooksville
3. Concord/Neave
4. Germantown/Salem
5. Seddon

Foster’s Chapel UMC – September 26th

1. Mt Olivet Circuit
Piqua
McKendree
Foster’s Chapel
2. Mt. Olivet
3. Sardis/Forman’s Chapel
4. Shannon/Bethel

Williamstown UMC – October 3rd

1. Boyd
2. Carter’s Chapel
3. Drury’s Chapel
4. Walton
5. Warsaw
6. Williamstown

Cynthiana Elmarch UMC – October 10th

1. Benson/Curry
2. Berry
3. Cynthiana First
4. Ebenezer
5. Elmarch
6. Falmouth
7. Lair
8. Mt Pleasant
9. Oddville
10. Pine Grove
11. Wagoners

Maysville Trinity UMC October 24th

1. Central
2. Helena
3. Minerva
4. Nepton
5. Olivet
6. Orangeburg
7. Scott/Haven’s Chapel
8. Strawberry/Lee
9. Trinity
10. Washington

Erlanger UMC – November 7th

1. Covington Trinity
2. Eggleston
3. Epworth
4. Erlanger
5. Faith Community
6. Florence
7. Florence Christ
8. Gethsemane
9. Immanuel
10. Taylor Mill
11. Wesley

Highland UMC – November 14th

1. Alexandria
2. Asbury
3. Butler/Concord (Pen)
4. California
5. Carthage
6. Highland
7. Melbourne
8. Morning View
9. Oakland
10. Pleasant Grove
11. Staffordsburg

**Next Clergy Meeting will be on
Tuesday, November 16,
at 10:00 am
at Maysville Trinity**

District Treasurer Needed

A person is needed to volunteer to be Treasurer of the Covington District starting in January, 2011. After 15 years of being treasurer Gene Maegly is retiring. Computer skills are needed. Quickbooks experience is helpful. Please contact the District Office for more information. (859) 442-5444 or covdistumc@fuse.net

*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: TBA

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 and Women:

UMM ---

The next District Meeting of the United Methodist Men will be held at Minerva UMC on Thursday, November 18, 2010 at 6:30 pm -- come join in the fun and fellowship on November 18. John Denham, District Lay Leader will be the speaker

UMW ---

Mission Study at Germantown UMC on Saturday, November 13 at 9:00 am. Bring a sack lunch. Choose a course of study. *The Love of God* led by Howard Reynolds or *Joy to the World* led by Carol Ackley. Childcare provided. Mission Team Meeting and Officer update following session.

Clergy Dates

**Christmas Clergy Dinner
Friday, December 10 at
Highland UMC
Fellowship 6:00 pm
Meal at 6:30 pm
RSVP by December 5.**

Clergy Breakfast Dates

Thursday, November 4, 8:30 am
Frischs -- Northern Ky Orphanage Rd.

Thursday, November 11, 8:30 am
Biancks Cynthiana

Ida Spence United Methodist Mission



&

Clergy Cake Auction, Crafts & Music!



Saturday, November 13, 2010

4:30 - 7:00 p.m.

at

Immanuel UMC Lakeside Campus

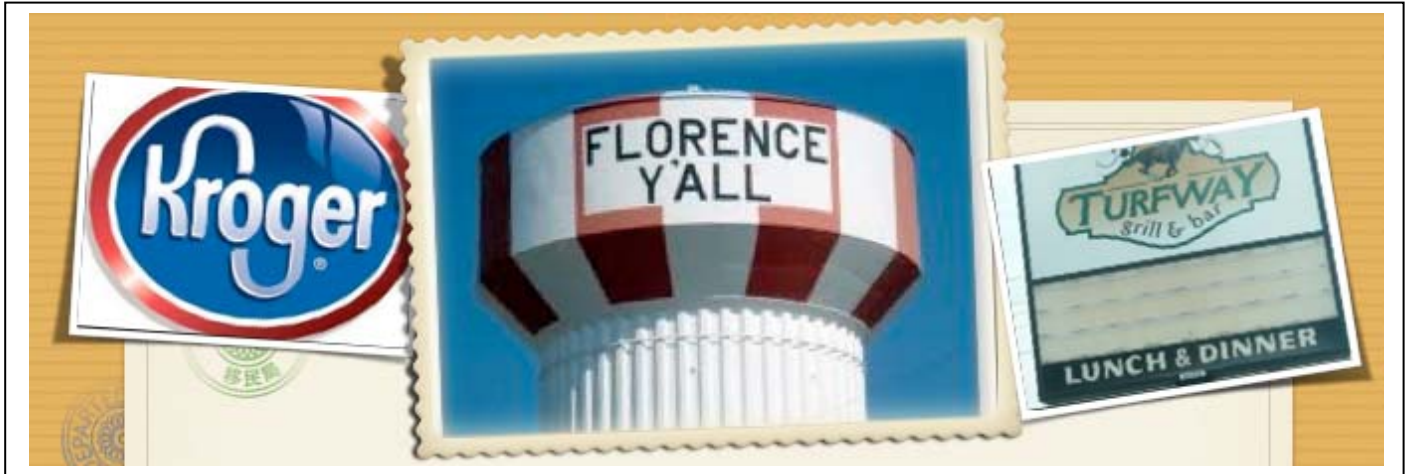
Wesley Hall

Entertainment throughout the evening!

Adults: \$8.00

Children 3-12 \$4.00

2 & Under Free



October 2010-The Community

Dear Friends,

I'm sitting at Starbucks enjoying this warm Fall afternoon and I wanted to sit down and update you on the progress of The Community. God continues to do amazing things and provide opportunities for me to connect with people and share the Gospel. I am constantly amazed in the ways that God works...Things are happening that I would have never imagined, and that can only be attributed to God's work and leading in what I'm doing. Let me give you some examples...

Several weeks ago Beth and I wandered down to the Oakbrook Cafe, just on the edge of our subdivision. The Oakbrook is a restaurant and bar and we went to play a game of live team trivia. Before we walked into the the bar we reminded each other that this is a slow, long process and that it will be a while before we are able to build relationships with people. Much to our surprise, we met 10 people that night and we've continued to grow our relationships and our numbers. When these folks found out what I do, they told me that they would like to attend a service. These folks are completely unchurched, and some have never attended church in their lives, so I began to think about ways that I might start a service for this group of people. A few days later I approached the owner of the bar and asked him if I could have a service at the bar on Sunday mornings. He was extremely enthusiastic and asked if I could start the following Sunday! While I wasn't ready to do that, I've been talking to my new friends at the bar and learning what a service in a bar might look like. My friend Geoff has become my biggest fan, although he doesn't currently attend church. Geoff is a young man who has already suffered through a divorce and who desperately wants to get involved in church, although he doesn't feel like many churches would have him. Please pray that Jesus will become real to Geoff and that God will continue to move in many lives. In the next few weeks I'll be starting to hold services at Noon on Sundays at the Oakbrook Cafe, sharing the Gospel boldly in a bar and living into the tradition of John Wesley.

This weekend is a big weekend for The Community. While I continue to meet people who are unchurched and ready to learn about the church, I desperately need a a team of people to come around me as we continue to plan for launch. I've invited 40 or so folks from the area to join me this weekend as I share the vision that God has given me for what The Community can become. Please pray that God will bring the people that need to be there and that we can grasp God's heart for reaching people who need to hear that redemptive beauty of the Gospel.

Finally, I've started to raise some funds by partnering with Kroger. If you shop for your groceries at Kroger and would be interested in supporting The Community at no cost to you, please let me know.

Thanks again for your prayers and support. Your notes in response to me are always a great encouragement to me. God continues to work, and we continue to go along for the ride, making disciples as God allows.

In Christ,
Matt

Curry UMC

By Brian Wilson - Covington District Small Church
Ministry Coordinator; revbnw@fuse.net



Nestled in a beautiful setting with commanding views of the surrounding countryside, you will find the Curry United Methodist Church. Located at 1609 Upper Curry Road, north of Cynthiana, the church has been at its current location since 1903 (The church was started in 1840 at a different location).



The Curry church involves themselves in various ministries and outreach projects. One of the most prolific is their annual Fish Fry Community Dinner. The free dinner is an outreach for the residents of Curry, usually feeding about half of the three hundred residents. This outreach project was initiated by longtime member, Teresa Taylor. *"This outreach was her baby,"* one member said, *"She would work tirelessly to make it happen each year."* Teresa has gone on to be with the Lord, but the church carries this event on in her memory.

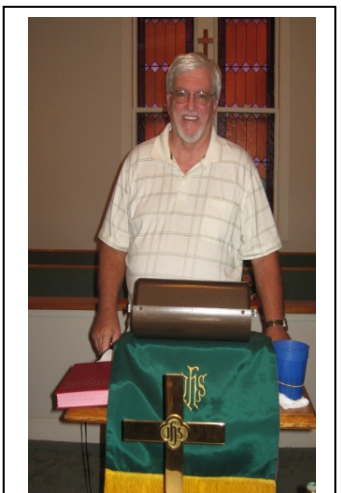
In addition to this highly anticipated event the church also reaches out with money and resources for families that fall on hard times, participation in the community food pantry, and food baskets at Christmas.

As is the plight with many small churches, there is much ministry to do, and not always enough hands to carry it out. But by using a N.O.W. Team structure (Nurture, Outreach, Witness) they are able to maximize their efforts, truly making a difference in the life of the church and community.

The congregation has a group of about fifteen young adults that will more than likely be the next generation of leaders, carrying the church into the future. But that is with the realization that involvement and leadership will be carried out in a different manner than it has been in the past. This next generation of leadership will come about with the nurture of the current leadership, with an openness to being a permission-giving body for the discovery of new ministries that will be relevant and meaningful.



The Wednesday Night Group at Curry UMC



Since June of 2009, John "Woody" Woodford has been the pastor, who, with his wife Wilma, are bringing their gifts and graces to shepherd this faith community.



Covington District
The United Methodist Church
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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



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DISTRICT CALENDAR AND BIRTHDAYS

November Birthdays: **14** Kevin Messer; **19** John Kalz; **20** DG Hollums; **26** Gene Penn; **28** Jimmy Owens; **30** Tiffany Hollums and E.J. Saint

Superintendent's Calendar for November **4**, Clergy Breakfast; **5**, Red Bird Mission; **6**, CC Erlanger; **9**, DLT Meeting; **11**, Clergy Breakfast Cynthiana; **14**, CC Highland; **16**, Clergy MTG. Maysville Trinity; **22**, Cabinet Meeting;
25 – 27 THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED

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.