

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

October, 2010

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- Reflections -

“A leper came to him, begging on his knees, “If you want to, you can cleanse me.”
Deeply moved, Jesus put out his hand, touched him, and said, “I want to. Be clean.”
(Mark1:41, *The Message*)

One morning, while attending the School of Congregational Development, as I entered the hotel restaurant for breakfast, I saw Julie Love, Anthony Everett, and some others from our conference sitting together for breakfast. When I asked if I could join them, Julie said that they would be talking about urban ministry, but I was welcome to join them. I didn't know at the time that I was in for a wonderful experience.

As I sat down, an African American man joined us and introduced himself as Rudy Rasmus. I didn't have a clue who Rudy Rasmus was! The more he talked, however, the more I was determined to get to know more about him and his ministry. Rudy and his wife, Juanita, are the co-pastors of St. John's United Methodist Church in the heart of Houston, TX. They led St. John's from having a congregation of 8 Anglos to a multicultural congregation of 10,000 that is made up of the very poor and the very wealthy. St. John's intentionally brings together people from diverse backgrounds. Mike Slaughter, the pastor of Ginghamburg United Methodist Church, has said “I have never experienced a church or pastor that better demonstrates the heart and mission of Jesus Christ than what God is doing through Rudy Rasmus and the people of St. John's church.”

Rudy will be at the 4th Avenue UMC in Louisville on October 26th to meet with those who are interested in urban ministry. He's written a book about his faith journey and the ministry of St. John's. The title of the book is “Touch: Pressing Against the Wounds of a Broken World.” The ministry insights in this book are applicable to all of us, whether we are in urban or rural churches.

I would like to spend some time reflecting on what we can learn from St. John's and Rudy. If you are interested in studying Rudy's book, join me at Asbury UMC on Tuesday October 19th. We'll meet at 7 p.m. and will conclude by no later than 8:30 p.m. Buy the book (ISBN 978-0-8499-1985-5) and come ready to learn from each other! --Grace & Peace! *Kevin*

District News and Events

Mountain Mission Truck will be in our area on Monday, October 11 and Tuesday, October 12.

VIM Annual Rally and Picnic, Saturday, October 2 at the home of John & Fran Denham. Call (606) 564-9363

LACE (Lay Academy at Church Excellence) starts October 16. See Page 5

CLERGY SCHOOL

October 11- 12, 2010

KY Annual Conference Center

Effective Evangelism in a Changing Culture

Clergy School 1.5 CEU October 11-12, 2010
 Location: Kentucky Annual Conference Office, Crestwood, KY Cost is \$90.
 Includes lunch both days
 To Be Considered Registered for this event payment must be received at least 3 business days prior to the event.
 Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. EST

Prayer Concerns to remember:

- John Jefferson (pastor at Nepton)
- Ida Spence Mission
- New Church Start - *The Community UMC* in Hebron -- Matt Johnson, pastor
- Grace Ministry
- Our Bishop and Cabinet
- David Ryan



Ida Spence Fund Raiser

FALL SPAGHETTI DINNER AND CAKE AUCTION

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

Adults \$8:00 Children 3 – above \$4.00 Under 2 Free

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

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!!!

Upcoming Events:

TRICK OR TREAT October 31st at 4:30-6 Get a group from your church to decorate the car trunk and fill it with prizes or candy and come to bless the children of this community! Please contact Tiffany if you can come

Adopt a family Christmas is also coming up! Please pray about adopting a family from Ida Spence this Christmas. Interested? Please contact Tiffany

Contact Tiffany Hollums at Tiffanyhollums@gmail.com
 call (859) 581-9174 and leave a message

We are sending out a special Ida Spence mission newsletter via email-if you are interested in receiving this please contact Tiffany via email.

OUR MISSION TOGETHER

Our Mission Together Covenant represents the minimum mission and ministry needs of our annual conference. The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist states that full payment of Our Mission Together is the first missional responsibility of the church (cf. ¶ 247.14).

Based on our conference treasurer's report in June, the following churches appear to be well on their way to paying 100% of their Our Mission Together Covenant!

Alexandria	Helena	Olivet
Asbury	Immanuel	Orangeburg
Bethel (Mason Co.)	Lair	Pine Grove
Brooksville	Ludlow Wesley	Piqua
Concord (Bracken Co.)	Maysville Central	Sardis
Concord (Pendleton Co.)	Maysville Seddon	Shannon
Eggleston	Maysville Trinity	Wagoners Chapel
Erlanger	Melbourne	Walton
Faith Community	McKendree	Warsaw
Florence Christ	Minerva	Washington
Florence	Morning View	Williamstown
Foster's Chapel	Mt. Olivet	
Ft Thomas Highland	Nepton	

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
Thursday, October 14, at 10:00 am
at Cynthiana Ebenezer**

*How to
Get More Members*



Jim Griffith

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. The "pig roast" at Florence was fantastic -- come join in the fun on November 18.

UMW The Kentucky UM Women's Annual Mission Celebration will be on Saturday, October 23, at Christ UMC in Louisville. The theme will be *Telling our Mission Story*.

Registration starts at 8:00 - 9:00 am Deadline to register is October 14.

Cost \$10.00 (includes breakfast and lunch)

Email Beth Stewart, stewarters@yahoo.com to register.

Clergy Meeting Dates for the rest of 2010 plus one

Please put on your calendar NOW !!!

Thursday, October 14, 2010	10:00 am
Cynthiana Ebenezer	
Tuesday, November 16, 2010	10:00 am
Maysville Trinity	

DECEMBER 10, CLERGY CHRISTMAS DINNER

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

**Future Clergy Breakfast Dates
Put on your calendar NOW!!!!**

Thursday, November 4, 2010	8:30 am
Frischs Northern KY Orphanage Rd.	
Thursday, November 11, 2010	8:30 am
Bianckes Cynthiana	

LACE

The Lay Academy of Church Excellence (LACE) will have its first session in the Covington District starting in October, 2010. LACE is for any United Methodist who wants to know and understand more about Methodism and improve their leadership skills in the church.

All LACE sessions will be held at the **Alexandria United Methodist Church**, centrally located in the District at **8286 West Main Street in Alexandria**.

The session dates are as follows:

October 16, 2010	November 13, 2010	January 15, 2011
February 19, 2011	March 19, 2011	

There will be make-up dates for cancelled sessions due to inclement weather.

Sessions will begin each Saturday at **9:00 am**, and conclude by **3:45 pm**. Lunch will be provided. The cost is **\$16.00** per session, or **\$80.00** for the entire program.

In addition to Basic Lay Speaker training, topics include: United Methodist Beliefs on Baptism and Communion, Leadership, Caring and Compassionate Service, Conflict Resolution, Evangelism, Organization of the United Methodist Church, Duties of Church Officers... and more.

Advance registration is required. For more detailed course offerings and registration, contact Brian Wilson at revbnw@fuse.net.



Holy Land Classic 2011
 Join Bishop Lindsey Davis
 and the
 Kentucky United Methodist Conference
January 19, 2011
10 Days of Biblical Discovery
 Jerusalem Galilee Bethlehem Jericho

10 Days of Biblical Discovery departing **January 19, 2011**
 from Cincinnati, OH; Louisville, KY; Lexington, KY;
 or Nashville, TN for just \$2298

The educational theme of this trip will be *Jesus: His Life,
 His Time, His Land, His Hebrew Faith.*

A Letter from Matt Johnson – New-Start-Church Pastor in Hebron

Dear Friends,

I hope that this finds you well...This Pennsylvania boy is hoping for cooler temperatures! 90 degrees in late September is just too hot!

It's been an eventful month to be a church planter. I'm learning what it means to be an Luke 15 kind of pastor...This week, I've spent two evenings at a bar and another at the horsetrack...I was thinking about that when I realized that Jesus did the same thing in Luke 15, so I realized that I was probably in pretty good company. An interesting thing happened Thursday at the racetrack that I wanted to share with you...

I had been at the track about an hour when I was approached by a woman in her late 30's. She said "Are you the church guy?" I said yes and she said "I need to talk to you. Come over here to my beer." This was a new statement to me, as no one had ever said that to me when I lived in Nicholasville! I followed her to the bar and she began to talk...she told me that she's been out of church for 20 years and has done everything that she could do to run away from God. She's tried everything...buddhism, yogism, wicca, pagan worship practices, so she was very spiritual. I asked her if any of these had worked and she said "I'm still looking for something." I smiled and said "I think that you're looking for Jesus." For the next hour I shared Christ with her...I told her stories of God's grace, of God's hope, of God's forgiveness, about what it's like to meet the risen Christ. Towards the end of our conversation, I looked at her and said "Stephanie, God is seeking you. God desperately wants to know you" and she started to cry. I invited Stephanie to the church where I was preaching on Sunday and she came. God is working in her life, so please be praying for Stephanie.

I had another conversation that night that was very similar. There was revival at the horsetrack...not a place that we'd expect. I'm learning to value prevenient grace...the idea that God is at work in people's lives before they are even aware of it. I'm learning that I am becoming a vessel of prevenient grace in people's lives and praying that this will continue. If you would join in me in praying that God will be using me as a vessel of grace to reach out to the "tax collectors and sinners" (Luke 15), I would greatly appreciate it!

There are ups and downs with this work...I desperately need some people who will come alongside of me with a passion and vision for the Gospel. I need a team, so please be praying that God will raise up others who want to work as missionaries in Northern KY, as I truly see what we are doing as mission work. May the Gospel of Jesus Christ be proclaimed in all places...the horsetrack, the bars, our neighborhoods, our churches, our homes...may we all join in God's work that the world may know!

In Christ, Matt

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”).

Covington District
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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



The Covington District
of the United
Methodist Church
www.covingtondistrictumc.com

DISTRICT CALENDAR AND BIRTHDAYS

October Birthdays: 5 Karla Fullwood and Elizabeth Smith; 19 Brian Wilson; 30 April Gray; 31 Jerry Watkins

Superintendent's Calendar for October: October 2, VIM Picnic 3, Charge Conference Williamstown; 5 - 6 Cabinet Mtg. 10, Charge Conference Cynthiana Elmarsh; 11 – 12, Clergy School; 14, Clergy Meeting, Ebenezer 16, LACE 23, UMW KY Conference; 24, Charge Conference Maysville Trinity; 28 – 29 Cabinet Meeting

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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.