

Growing holy hearts for a whole community

The Covington District Newsletter



Volume 1, Issue 4

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

December, 2011 Issue

Reflections—a word or two from our District Superintendent

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20

Inside this month's newsletter you will see a few statistics for the Covington District (see page 7). When you look at those graphs you'll note that in 2010 it took approximately 79 United Methodists in the Covington District for each profession of faith. Looking at average

worship attendance for our district, it took about 29 of us in worship to bring one person to faith in Christ.

During charge conferences season, I challenged each church to have one more profession of faith next year than they had this year. Translated to the district level, this means 69 more professions of faith next year (a 40% increase over 2010). This will require all of us to be more intentional in developing relationships with people who are not following Jesus. It may mean that our church does less to meet my needs so that it can do more to meet the needs of those who don't

know Jesus.

Think of the excitement to welcome people into faith in Christ! Think of the joy of fulfilling the mission of the church!

With Hope and Anticipation,

Kevin

Prayer Concerns to Remember



- Phil Duff, the Isaiah Intern at Florence Christ and Cabinet
- Ida Spence Mission & Director
- Our DS and Family
- New Church Start — The Community UMC in Hebron — Matt Johnson, pastor
- Jeff Haverfield (former pastor in our District)
- Our Bishop Lindsey Davis
- Grace Ministry.

Highlights in this issue:

- ADOPT AN IDA SPENCE FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS!
- MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS
WESELY FOUNDATION
- DISTRICT VITAL STATISTICS
- 10 REASONS TO JOIN A NEW CHURCH START
- KY CONFERENCE WORKERS COMP PROGRAM
- DISTRICT NEWS, EVENTS

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Covington District Newsletter

Ministry Highlights: the Wesley Foundation @ NKU



If I had to summarize what God is up to at the Wesley Foundation at Northern Kentucky University (WF@NKU) in a phrase it would be: God is capturing the imaginations of a new generation with the beauty of the gospel.

It has been a long time since the Church was a place for true creativity to happen; we may think back to the Middle Ages or the Renaissance when cathedrals were built, great frescos were painted, and sacred music was written that still inspires and crosses cultural boundaries. Over the last hundred years or so, one could argue that the Church in the US has been more about following and (trying to) shape culture than making it.

At the WF@NKU, Aaron Klinefelter has connected with a small, but dedicated group of students who are offering up their God-given talents in service of Jesus, talents such as film, visual arts, and music. If you can make it out to on of their Sunday evening Hallah worship services (7pm at the University Center), you will hear creative worship music that would explode any concept of “contemporary” you currently have. It is worship music that explores new frontiers of sound through group improvisation. So while you may be familiar with some of the songs, such as “Here I am to Worship,” the element or improvisation brought to each song is a theological gesture to the work of the Holy Spirit that makes us

into a new people called church in and through worship.

The WF@NKU has many other ministries including community gardening, a coffee ministry, and bible studies. It is a community in which a new generation can make the faith their own and try to listen to God together about how to proclaim that gospel in new and exciting ways.

Please also consider financial supporting this ministry. Checks can be made out to “Wesley Foundation” and mailed to 2916 Alexandria Pike, Highland Heights, KY 41076

For more information including a video, visit the WF website www.nkuwf.org

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



Ida Spence United Methodist Mission Christmas Adopt a Family

ADOPT A FAMILY!

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.

Also see additional information and the adopt a family form on page 6.

Ida Spence is also looking for churches to partner in providing the monthly meal. Contact Tiffany (see her contact information above) or Joan Morgan at joan.morgan@insightbb.com

For more information about the Ida Spence Mission, see our website www.idaspencemission.com

The Witness of the Methodist Church of Cuba

I was blessed to be able to be a part of a VIM team that went to Cuba in last October. We helped Juan Wesley Methodist Church in Baguano pour a new foundation for a new church building. Though we were there to help our brothers and sisters in Christ there, they blessed us so much more through the witness of their faith.

God is at work in powerful and exciting ways in the Methodist Church of Cuba. The Methodist Church of Cuba is vibrant and growing.

Most churches have more people attend worship than official members (one has to go through 2 years of classes to become a member!). They have an active "missions" at every church (Juan Wesley had 3) where a lay "missionary" holds weekly evening services of witness and singing in order to evangelize new people. Being an official member of the church can be costly in Cuba. A member is expected to attend worship at least once monthly. Also, one's church membership might mean giving

up ones job or membership in the Communist Party. In what ways should our identity as Christians challenge our cultural assumptions and allegiances in the United States?

The Christians in Cuba had a church culture of willingness to serve in leadership roles without as much regard to talent and expertise as I've seen in our churches. We live in a culture that believes deeply in experts. In church, the pastor is the expert at being

church while the choir contains the hymn singing experts. Everyone else is off the hook. The Cuban Christians practice a faithful "amateurism" and don't let lack of expertise hold them back from God's call. Moses wasn't a public speaking expert when he was called!

David Johnston is pastor at Butler UMC and Concord UMC in Pendleton County. You can contact him by email at johnstond@gmail.com

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

Bits and Blurbs Around the District

Master Gardener Program, Campbell County Extension Service will have a Master Gardener Program on Fridays, 12:30 – 4:30 pm from December 2, 2011 – March 23, 2012 For more information call (859) 572-2600 Classes will be held at 3500 Alexandria Pike, Highland Heights.

The Community UMC Seeks a Van, The Community, a new church start in our district, is currently looking for a van that a church or local organization is ready to "put out to pasture." As we move towards weekly worship, we constantly find ourselves looking for nooks, crannies and garages to store our stuff, and we've realized that the best way to do so might

be in the back of a van, so we're looking for a "mobile church." If you know of a church somewhere in the District or in the Conference that might be getting rid of a van and would be willing to donate it to The Community, please let us know!

Contact Matt Johnson by email, matt@thecommunityky.org or by phone 859-334-0375

New Blog, Faith Community's new web site is completed. Check it out and tell them what you think. Visit www.faithcommunityky.org



Covington District Newsletter

The Kentucky Annual Conference Workers Compensation Program

Provided by Neace Lukens Insurance

Program Highlights:

1. Low Minimum premium (\$240 + tax and surcharge)
2. Insurance Carrier Summit Holdings/Business First
3. Flexible pay plans

Business First is an admitted carrier backed by the Guarantee

1 Fund of Kentucky

Employers Liability up to \$1,000,000

Name of Church: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Contact Person: _____ Federal ID #: _____

Effective Date: _____ Current Insurance Agent: _____

Current Workers Compensation Insurance Company: _____

Church Established Yr: _____ Pastor Name: _____

Payroll:

Professional Employees (Pastor) and Clerical: \$ _____

Child Day Child Professional Employee: \$ _____

Child Day Child Non Professional: \$ _____

All Other Employees: \$ _____

Please return this completed Workers Compensation form to: **Eric Harden/Russ Wardlaw**

Neace Lukens Insurance: 2305 River Road, Louisville, KY 40206

Fax: 502-259-9202, Email: Eric.harden@neacelukens.com russ.wardlaw@neacelukens.com

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").

Top 10 Reasons to Join a New Church Plant

Top 10 Reasons to Join a Church Plant:

1. If you want to see Jesus do something new and are sick of the status quo.
2. If you dream of being part of something bigger than yourself.
3. If you want to get into a fight/enter a battle for the kingdom of Christ.
4. If you feel a constant itch to see people who don't know Jesus come to know Jesus and you believe church planting is the best way for the gospel to

advance.

5. If you want to give your time, money, energy, and talents to starting something new and you want to make sacrifices to see a mission to succeed.
6. If you fully support the vision, mission, doctrine, and leadership of a church plant.
7. If you want your faith to grow and you want God to fundamentally meddle with and change your life.
8. If you want to love your city.

9. If you want to watch God move in ways you never imagined and you want an adventure (with all it's discomfort and risk).

10. If you're not afraid to bank your life on Matthew 16:18 ("I [Jesus] will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it").

Many thanks to some members at Garden City Church who gave and inspired some of the ideas for this list.

This article was written by Justin Buzzard and was originally published online at <http://theresurgence.com/2011/11/14/top-10-reasons-to-join-a-church-plant>

Covington District Newsletter

Ida Spence United Methodist Mission



Christmas Adopt a Family Guide

Think about adopting a family from Ida Spence mission this Christmas. Each family was asked to fill out a form with the following information on each child under the age of 18 yr old: shirt size, pant size, any clothing needs (such as a coat, socks, underwear, etc), and then 2 gift/toy ideas UNDER \$20. Then each adult chose from the following: a laundry basket with cleaning supplies, a personal hygiene basket with items such as shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste for their family, pots and pans, or towels and washcloths. (It is important to note that these cannot be purchased with food stamps, therefore, there is a huge need for these items for the families at Ida Spence).

Next Steps: Decide what size family that you think you can care for - one with children or just an adult.

You will be assigned a family or a single person according to what you feel you can manage to do.

After you are assigned a family you will :

1. Purchase and wrap gifts. Be sure to mark the gifts with gift tags for each family member.
2. Bag up the gifts in black trash bags clearly labeled in the following way taped securely onto the outside of EACH bag:

Family Number
Family Name
Address
Bag # of <u>total # of bags</u>

3. Deliver your bags to TAYLOR MILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, (5160 Taylor Mill Road

Taylor Mill, KY 41015-2147) on **Saturday, December 3rd from 10 am- 2 pm.**

Gifts will be delivered to the Ida Spence families on Saturday, December 17th beginning at 1 pm-- please join us if you are able.

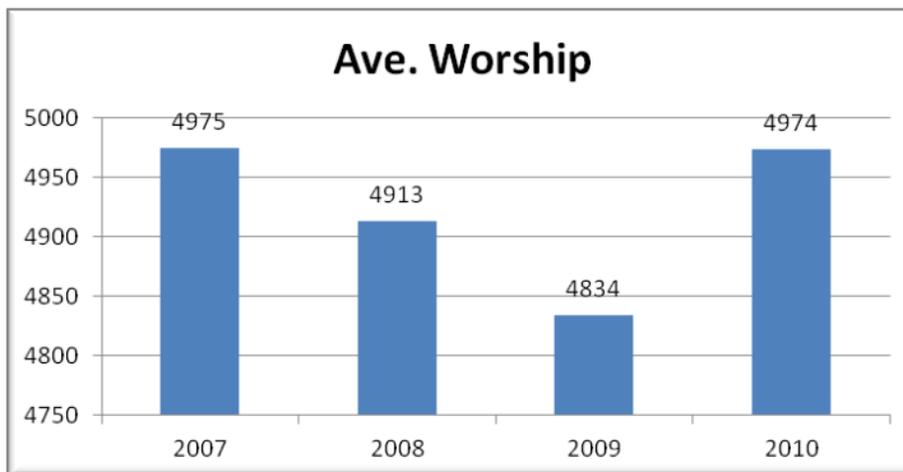
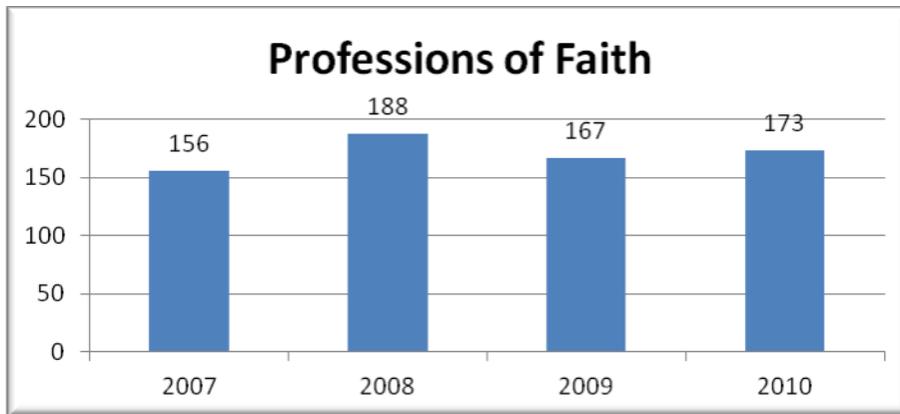
Please feel free to contact me with any questions: Tiffanyhollums@gmail.com or (859)462-9730.

Thank you so much for your generous heart--you are truly blessing a family with the love of Christ.
Tiffany Hollums, Director of Ida Spence

Sincerely,

Tiffany Hollums, Director of Ida Spence UM Mission

Covington District Vital Statistics 2007-2010



Growing holy hearts for a whole community

THE COVINGTON DISTRICT

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Highland Heights, KY 41076

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Visit us online at
covingtondistrictumc.com

District Calendar and Birthdays

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Friday, December 9,**
Clergy Christmas Dinner
Highland UMC

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- Dec 1 – 4, DS on retreat
- Dec 5- 6, Cabinet Meetings
- Dec 8, Consultations
- Dec 9, Clergy Christmas
Dinner
- Dec 12 – 15, Consultations
- **Dec 22 – Jan 1, District
Office Closed**

Birthdays:

- Dec 7, Susan Eaton
- Dec 9, Daniel Simonton
- Dec 19, Roger Wallace
- Dec 30, Mark Shepherd