

The Churches of the Living Waters Cluster
Brookfield, Coalburg, Hubbard and Masury United Methodist Churches

This week's

Church News and Notes

28 Aug 2011

Need to Contact One Of Our Ministers?

Pastor Ray Ake	330.531.4221	LivingWatersPreach@yahoo.com
Pastor Bill Johnson	330.507.6086	BillJLSW@aol.com
Pastor Dan Yargo	330.506.3871	danyargo@yahoo.com

Please Note New Mileage Rate -

Beginning July 1st, the IRS mileage rate will increase to 55.5 cents per mile.

Thank you to all the men who helped with the construction of the Habitat for Humanity home last week in Struthers. Our crew was able to put the trusses on one day, plywood the next, and shingles the following day. Great job and it was much appreciated by Habitat for Humanity.

The Boys Came Out to Play at Masury

Thanks to everyone who came to Monday nights work party!! Check out the ceiling when you first come in the front door – wow does it look good with the tiles replaced guys! And did you notice that what used to be thought of as the pastor's parking area behind the garage is now reserved for handicapped parking – two new spaces?? Downstairs I saw fellowship hall and stairways, registers and walls getting a fresh coat of paint. Everything looks so good. Maybe we should have a party next month too!!!

Coalburg Swiss Steak Dinner Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped with, and came out in support of the Swiss Steak Dinner. The dinner was a success and an enjoyable time was had working for the Lord. A special thanks to our Masury friends who came over to support us!

Pastors Ray and Cathy are gonna have a PICNIC

Mark your calendars and grab the plates and forks! The good people of Masury and Coalburg are invited to join us on Saturday, September 24th from 5:00 – 9:00pm at the “Parsonage Park” under the pavilion. We'll have a bonfire, and there are swings, sandbox and climbing wall for the little ones. Also a volleyball net and horseshoes for the older if laughing, feasting and talking aren't enough. We'll take care of the meats and buns, coffee and drinks. Bring a dish or two to pass and we will be blessed.

Brookfield Yoga Begins!

Yoga – Wednesday, September 7 \$5.00

- Beginners class – 5:30 pm
- Advanced class – 6:30 pm

Oh The Times, They are A Chang'en

I remember back in the 60's when Bob Dylan wrote and sang the above song in the midst of the massive social unrest, upheaval and change that our country was going through. That title embodies a truth that has never been more true than it is right now for the church! Churches are shifting to maintenance mode, closing, and worrying more about how to pay the bills than they are worrying about how to save souls. What's going on, half filled pews are the norm for many and it is becoming obvious that what we have always done is not going to be what we need to do. Do you need a word of God for today O church? How about this one from Isaiah 43:19, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness . . ."

Please read very carefully this letter that was sent to all pastors from our District Superintendent - along with the above word from Isaiah, it also is a word of hope and direction for the future that God is unfolding.

I pray that you are finding time for renewal, family and experiencing a wonderful time of worship and sharing God's love. I am writing this letter with both excitement and concern over the contents. What follows is of utmost importance, and of equal value for your attention. Please read it through in one sitting, and then begin to break the content down to bring implementation.

Call to Action

Our United Methodist Church leadership acknowledges the reality that we are in decline. As a result a Call to Action group was formed and has appropriately responded. They have made a clarion call that we must work to foster and sustain vital and healthy congregations. General Conference 2012 will address significant mission/ministry issues that will touch all of us in the coming years.

Vital Congregations

Vital congregations are identified as **GROWING** (over the past 5 years have shown a statistical increase in average worship attendance and professions of faith), **ENGAGING PEOPLE** (over the past 5 years they have engaged people in small groups, mission, and outreach), and **GENEROUS** (in the past 5 years they have shown an increase in stewardship and giving within and beyond the local church). According to the research, a vital congregation HAS:

- Inviting and inspiring worship
- Engaged disciples in mission and outreach
- Gifted, equipped and empowered lay leadership
- Effective, equipped and inspired clergy leadership
- Small groups that include children and youth designed to encourage, support and hold disciples accountable in their Christian walk.

Metrics

We, each and every local church, are being called to work toward and sustaining health and vitality. **But how do we know the fruit?** We don't like metrics (measurements), but they are a valuable tool for tracking how we're doing. There are 5 measurable indicators of the vitality indicated by the research:

- **Disciples in worship** (average worship attendance)
- **Disciples making new Disciples** (Professions of Faith)

- **Disciples growing in their faith** (number of small groups that meet together regularly in order to support, encourage and hold one another accountable in their relationship with Christ)
- **Disciples engaged in mission** (number of disciples doing outreach in the community and world)
- **Disciples sharing their resources for mission** (amount of financial resources given to mission – including World Service, etc.)

Goals

Each congregation is being called to set goals for each of these five areas for 2012, 2013, and 2014. You will note that on your CFC (Continuing Formation of Clergy) form these numbers are to be recorded. While these numbers could be placed on the CFC form, they can also be turned in later, with a deadline of December 31, 2011. (See the attached form)

Strategic Plan

In order to set realistic goals in these 5 areas, it will be important to create a strategic plan. The plan looks like this:

1. **Church Health History** – each church should access their unique history, community situations, and stories and circumstances that have affected the congregational health. This is the look back.
2. **Current Health Assessment** – each church needs to look at how they're doing today. Focus can be on clergy and lay leadership, number of small groups, average worship attendance, professions of faith, mission participation and mission giving. Growing out of this assessment you can generate an action plan that will take you into the future.
3. **Goal Setting** – each church will set goals for 2012, 2013, and 2014 that are reasonable and achievable. (Example: if you have been on a 10 year decline in worship attendance of 5% annually, perhaps a reasonable goal would be to slow decline from 5% to 4% in 2012, and to 2% in 2013, and to grow by 1% in 2014.)

To assist you on this work, a website has been put up at www.umcvitalcongregations.org where you can work with your specific church. To aid your work:

1. You will find a historical section that will show your church's history.
2. In addition, you will find a section that will help you with assessment tools to measure your current health. From the website there is a link to "The Congregational Ministry Plan" which could be a valuable tool in self assessment. If you have worked with another program, e.g. Natural Church Development, then you may wish to forgo using the congregational ministry plan and rely on the other tool to help direct your action steps. Others of you worked hard with the MissionInsite information a year ago and developed a strategic plan; you may want to continue working with that plan. **You do not need to start over, but you should have some plan to work with as you set your goals.**
3. Finally, you will be able to post your goals. And once again, these need to be turned in by December 31, 2011.

In the coming months you (the local church) will be asked to submit in a weekly report the information on the 5 indicators. That's how we'll be able to track progress and hold each other accountable. When that time goes, you will be contacted. For the interim, I will be asking two different compass groups to pilot this process beginning this summer.

I know that this is a huge task and may seem a bit daunting. But this is a very important step toward becoming and sustaining church vitality. The East Ohio Conference will be required to report our

metrics to the General Conference in April, 2012.

During our fall charge conferences, we will check in and review the process. And our compass groups will also be a place to resource each other with ideas to reach new people for Christ and in Christ's name.

Don't hesitate to call (or email) the district office if you have questions.

Be Encouraged Always,

Rev. Dan Bryant

Give Me Five!

A few years ago, "Give me five" became popular, folks smacking hands together in celebration, soon it became known as a High Five with sports professionals leaping up into the air to exchange a 'High Five' of victory and celebration after a great play or moment of excellence.

Let's claim that High Five moment as a touchstone image for the Church -

Want to see your church not just survive, but thrive?

Give me five! The 5 key ingredients of a highly successful church

- 1) **High Profile**
- 2) **High Impact**
- 3) **High Commitment**
- 4) **High Engagement**
- 5) **High Tech**

Since this is our LWC e-news, and as a church we are being drug kicking and screaming into the digital age, here are some other digital resources of the UMC for you. Copy this and save it somewhere. It may be a boring read, (and I assure you it has been boring for me to type out) but someday way to soon you are going to what to know where to go to

What's it mean to have a **high profile**?

Get the word out, advertise, make sure our church isn't the best kept secret in town rethinkchurch@umcom.org
Reach out to other effectively, evangelism, offer a relationship with Christ

www.umcom.org/churchmarketing

Can folks find us on-line if they try? Can they get a snap-shot of what we offer? www.find-a-church.org

Roll out the welcome mat with radical hospitality & make people feel welcome www.umcom.org/welcoming

How can we have a **high impact** in our world and community?

Select a project that will make a difference, invite the community to multiply our efforts and join in the "Change the World Weekend" www.rethinkchurch.org/changetheworld Let's imagine saving millions of lives each year – imagine No Malaria – it can be as simple as www.nothingbutnets.org Need your ideas jump started? What to know what has worked for others? www.interpretermagaize.org/subscribe

High Commitment

What does it mean to be a United Methodist anyway? What do we believe? Here's a FREE handbook about the United Methodist church and how we live out our faith in the local community and around the world. Did I say yet it is free!! www.umcgiving.org/handbook I've been preaching about giving

recently - together we can make a difference! Learn how our shared ministry together enables us to do what no church, district or annual conference could do alone. Visit www.umcgiving.org see what happens when we put our money where our mouth is.

High Engagement

What if church was a verb? What if instead of going to church, we did church everyday in every place? Check out www.umcom.org/rethinkchurch Want to impact our community through grass-roots outreach with free advertising, public relations tips and training (again that free word here) www.umcom.org/impactcommunity Need to liven up a class or group? www.ecufilm.org Trying to make sense out of all this new 'social media' stuff that seems to be all the rage – facebook and twitter, blogs and u-tube? www.umcom.org/socialmedia Looking for the right answer to questions about the church? www.info.serv.umc.org will answer you questions thru 'live chat'. Ready to hook up with the larger church and find out what's happening? www.UMC.org

High Tech

As if this whole thing isn't **high tech** enough, here's a few more!! To play the game you've got to train – here's a site that will train you to engage in life changing ministries: www.umcom.org/cmtraining welcoming training, media-relation training, United Methodists basics – United Methodist 101, web-ministry training, rethink church training. Got a problem with Technology? www.umcom.org/techshop

This one, if you have read the D.S.'s letter above, is going to become very very important to you, very very soon

www.umcvitalcongregations.org

Ketchup Sunday and Fellowship Hall Dedication at Brookfield

Sunday September 4, 2011

Following morning Worship

Brookfield Rally Day “Strength for Service”

Sunday September 11, 2011

Sunday School – 9:30am

Worship – 10:45am

COALBURG RALLY DAY

Find your treasure at Coalburg UMC RALLY DAY! Sunday, Sept. 11. Worship at 9:30am, Sunday School at 10:40am. Picnic at the Coalburg UMC pavilion at 12:30 with Pastors Ray and Cathy and our friends from Vienna UMC. Hot dogs, beverage, and table service provided. Bring a dish to share. Sunday School offers fun and exciting classes for all ages! We also offer 2 adult groups! "Sunday School...it's not just for kids!"

Masury Rally Day

Sunday September 11, 2011

Bibles will be handed out during Worship

Sunday School

Pastor Ray's Ciabatta Bread recipe

Several folks have asked about the recipe for the Ciabatta Bread from the sermon a few weeks ago

First, you make the **Poolish**

2 ½ cups unbleached bread flour
1 ½ cups water at room temp
¼ teaspoon instant yeast

Stir together the flour, water, and yeast in a mixing bowl until all the flour is hydrated. Dough should be soft and sticky and look like very thick pancake batter. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and ferment at room temp for 3 – 4 hours. Until the sponge is bubbly and foamy. Put in refrigerator, will keep for up to 3 days.

Ciabatta – makes two 1lb loaves or 3 smaller loaves

½ the poolish you made earlier (best if in Fridge at least overnight)
3 cups unbleached bread flour
1 ¾ teaspoons salt
1 ½ teaspoons instant yeast
6tbl to ¾ cup lukewarm water

- 1) remove poolish from Fridge 1 hour before making the dough to take of the chill
- 2) Stir together flour, salt and yeast in 4 qt mixing bowl. Add poolish and 6Tbl water. Mix until ingredients form a sticky ball. If there is still some loose flour, add but additional water as needed and continue to mix. Repeatedly dip hand in cold water and use as a dough hook to work the dough while rotating the bowl with the other hand to create a smooth, sticky dough. The dough should clear the sides of the bowl, but stick to the bottom – quite soft and sticky for a bread dough.
- 3) Sprinkle enough flour on the counter to make a bed about 8 inches square. Transfer the sticky dough to the flour bed and use a stretch and fold method to kneed. When finished transfer back to bowl, mist with spray oil, dust with flour and cover with plastic wrap and the a dish towel to rest for at least 30 min.
- 4) Roll out dough with rolling pin add 'yummies' (below) fold up dough, spray lightly with oil, cover and rest on counter for about 1 ½ to 2 hours. Should swell, but not necessarily double in size.
- 5) Roll out dough with rolling pin again, add more yummies, divide into 2 or three loaves. Dust with flour, proof for 45 to 60 min. under dish towel until loaves have noticeably swelled.
- 6) Preheat oven to 500 degrees F. (yes, really 500)
- 7) Generously dust the back of a cookie sheet with cornmeal and gently transfer the loves to the pans, gently tug out the ends of the bread to make a football shape, or leave round.
- 8) Slide bread into the oven (I do one at a time, but if you can fit them two will work), place 3 ice cubes on the oven floor. In 5 min, add 3 more ice cubes, turn oven down to 450 and bake for about 10 min. Turn bread 180 degrees and continue baking for another 5 to 10 min or until done. Should “thump” nicely and be a golden brown color. Will feel quite hard and crusty at first, but will soften and be perfect after they cool on the rack under a towel for at least 45 min before slicing

Yummies:

6 chopped garlic cloves, big handful of fresh Basil, 1 cup fresh grated hard Romano cheese
[this is my favorite and the one I make most often]

or

2 cups sliced onions, ¼ cup olive oil, 2Tbl sugar, 1Tbl balsamic vinegar mix with herb blend
herb blend: any combination of fresh parsley, basil, oregano, tarragon, cilantro or other favorites

or

Skip the onions and add about a double handful of your favorite wild mushrooms and the Romano

or

I've also used sunflower heart, pine nuts, walnuts etc with the cheese & Garlic & Basil