

This week's

Church News and Notes

25 Sep 2011

Need to Contact One Of Our Ministers?

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| 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 |

Change Notice, **Change Notice**, Change Notice, **Change Notice**, Change Notice

A couple of important changes that you will want to be aware of in our Fall LWC Faith Academy:

- 1) Christ-Follower will not be starting until Thursday, September 29th at the Coalburg Church. Pastor Dan has had to push back the starting date a week do to an out of the area wedding he will be officiating at. Again: please take note of the updated class information. Christ-Follower (New Testament – Gospel of Luke) will begin at 6:30pm on September 29th!
- 2) There were not enough folks who chose to participate in the Weight Management session, so we are canceling it and will be offering it at a later date (actually Pastors Dan and Ray had a great time together, but no lay folks came out – which may signify that you guys are in better physical shape than your pastors!!)

Mondays 1:30pm Disciple Bible Study – OT, starting September 12th, at Brookfield
7:00pm Disciple Bible Study – OT, starting September 12th, at Coalburg

Tuesdays 6:30pm Zumba, \$3 per session, (Tue & Thurs is \$5), ongoing, at Masury
7:00pm Grief Recovery starting October 11th, at Brookfield

Wednesdays 4:30pm Pathways for Children, starting October 5th, Masury
5:30pm Beginning Yoga, \$5, starting September 7th, at Brookfield
6:30pm Advanced Yoga, \$5, starting September 7th, at Brookfield
Kid's Ministries, starting in October, at Hubbard

Thursdays 6:30pm Zumba, \$3 per session (\$5 per week), ongoing, at Masury
6:30pm Christ-Follower – Gospel of Luke, starting September 29, at Coalburg
7:00pm Small Group/Devotional, starting September 8th, at Masury

Shared Giving Challenge Announced at Brookfield

The folks at Brookfield are beginning a “Shared Ministry 100 Day Challenge”. They have been struggling to address their Apportionment responsibilities and to try to rectify the short-fall: Every Sunday we will have a **Shared Ministry Moment**. Pastor Bill writes “I’m planning to give a dollar a day for the next 100 days and place it in the designated envelope. The envelope is marked “Shared Ministry” and you can include your Envelope number for Income Tax credit”.

Well done Pastor Bill – great leadership – super leadership - for all of us in the Living Waters Cluster! Let's jump on the Brookfield “Band-Wagon” and make a concerted effort to address the shortfall in our LWC churches. Coalburg I know has been trying to make 'double' payments to get caught up, Masury has been paying \$200 a month since June and Hubbard is on track to end up at about 60% (Some may question the appropriateness of putting this type information in a LWC wide e-news, but, it is not private, it is very public, and will be printed in the Conference Journal and become not only public , but forever a public record. In fact, it is already out there on the web! Check out www.umvitalcongregations.org/, (go to the 'home' tab, click on your city & select your church and you will find attendance, mission giving, professions of faith etc etc. – so let's do something about it while we can folks!)

Brookfield is going to do the “ Shared Ministry 100 day Challenge” A **big** praise God for the folks/leadership at Brookfield. Well done, good and faithful servants!

Coalburg, is not quite as far behind: Let us proclaim October 16th as THE DAY. Let's make October 16th a special offering day when we take up a second offering that brings us back to being current with our Shared Giving responsibilities. According to Helen, it will take \$ per our average Sunday attendance to catch up. I can do it, and in fact hereby commit to give double that amount because I know how hard it is financially for some of our families. Join me!!!!

Masury, let's step up to the same 100 days of Shared Giving Challenge along side Brookfield. So, a can of soda or cup of coffee is about a \$1. Yes, I can give up a drink a day (and by now you know how I love coffee/soda), I'll match Pastor Bill's Brookfield commitment at Masury – beloved friends, what can you dedicate to the Lord that is above and beyond what you are currently offering to the church for basic support to help?

Hubbard is in the midst of their \$100 per person challenge that has already begun (in August). Similar to the 100 day challenge, it is a challenge for everyone to support their Shared Giving commitments by increasing their level of giving with an additional \$100 earmarked for Apportionments by the end of year.

SHARED MINISTRY (Apportionment) What is it, and what is it used for?

It is:

A Portion Meant for Ourselves

For all pastors, active and retired, including part of pastors' moving expense and counseling. We also support campgrounds, training for congregational leaders, and youth ministries.

A Portion Meant for Neighbors

For assistance for our United Methodist-related institutions: Berea Children's Home, Copeland Oaks/ Crandall Medical Center, Elyria Village, and Flat Rock Children's Home.

For support for our five United Methodist colleges in Ohio: Baldwin-Wallace, Mount Union, Ohio Northern, Ohio Wesleyan and Otterbein.

For support of seminary students, and ministries with low-income people in Akron, Ashtabula, Cleveland, Lorain, McConnelsville, Morrow County, Steubenville, Warren, and Youngstown etc etc.

A Portion Meant for Others

Through World Service, we fund evangelism, Sunday school curriculum development, and stewardship efforts in the USA and around the world, in addition to providing partial funding for 9,000 mission projects and over 1,000 missionaries in the USA and around the world.

Are Apportionments important to us as members in the local church? Only if you believe in Christ and what he told us to be about in the world today as the living body of Christ. If you would like some more information check out:

http://www.ecumc.com/shared_ministry/about.html

Lay Speakers Training Academy October 14-15

Theme is “Transforming Evangelism, the Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith.” Registration begins at 6:30 pm and the event concludes at 4:30 pm Saturday. Location is Cambridge Christ UMC. Open to all local churches, certified lay speakers and pastors. Participants must have completed basic lay speakers course. Scholarships are available. Please call Jim Kelley at (330) 784-9371 or email jkelly6@neo.rr.com

2 Items of Personal Privilege from Pastor Ray

Have you felt it? I have, there is a wonderful and exciting change in the air – cooler, cleaner, crisper, fresher. Fall is upon us! As the season's change, so do our needs, and Pastor Ray has a couple of things that being new to the area I haven't figured out yet – can you help??

- 1) I need a place to store my boat for the winter and am looking for a place to put it under roof when that white stuff flies! If you have space in a barn, shed, garage etc etc please let me know.
- 2) I love to have a fire in the fireplace on chilly evenings and need a truckload of wood to burn.

If you can help with either of these IMPORTANT LIFE NEEDS let me know! I can of course simply rent a storage unit and buy firewood, but would much rather support someone in one of the congregations. Please call me at 330-531-4221 – THANKS!!!

Ohio's Tax Check-Off Option

Ohio's natural areas and endangered wildlife income tax checkoff programs have fostered the return of bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and trumpeter swans to the state's skies. Donations made through simple checkmarks on the state income tax form help ODNR protect natural areas and scenic rivers, reintroduce endangered wildlife, and preserve wetland habitat.

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations by Bishop Schnase

So, here's the challenge before us folks:

- 1) Every family in the church(s) is challenged to get a copy of 5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations and we will read it together as a church, one chapter (Practice) a week.
- 2) Pastor Ray will be preaching a series of 5 sermons each based on one of the practices at Coalburg and Masury. If I am not mistaken, I believe Pastor Dan is also going to use 5 practices to focus upcoming sermons too.
- 3) We will have a discussion/study time or times if necessary to help everyone participate in a church wide conversation during based on the sermon and chapter for the week. I already have received study guide materials so we will start soon, it will be our Advent focus.

Bishop Schnase contends that successful congregations often have certain characteristics in common. These fundamental practices demonstrate congregational health, vitality, and fruitfulness. They also help churches fulfill their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The five practices of fruitful congregations:

- Radical Hospitality
- Passionate Worship
- Intentional Faith Development
- Risk-Taking Mission and Service
- Extravagant Generosity

Did you notice the power of the adjectives used in describing these practices? Not just hospitality, but “Radical” hospitality etc., “Passionate”, “Intentional”, “Risk Taking”, “Extravagant”. Wouldn't those be great words for people to use in describing OUR churches! If you already have a copy of 5 Practices, find it, dust it off and get ready! If you don't have a copy there will be a place to order as many copies as we need on the Communication Card at the Coalburg and Masury churches. The books will be \$12.50 apiece including shipping, or if you have a Kindle, you can download one for \$9 from Amazon. Folks at Brookfield and Hubbard who are interested in getting a copy, please let your pastor know and we will get the order together and sent in.

Nehemiah Mission UMVIM Teams

The Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland wants to host your group for a Fall/Winter adult UMVIM program. Summer is always a busy time of highly motivated volunteers doing God-inspired work. Unfortunately, as teen volunteers return to school in the fall, the needs of area residents continue to grow. Nehemiah Mission is looking for groups of adults to spend a week working at home sites we were unable to complete this summer. Spend days doing physical work and evenings refreshing yourself spiritually through planned programs. The cost of \$125/person for the week includes lodging, supplies, food and one night out on the town. For more information and to reserve a week for your group, please [visit our web site. http://nehemiahmission.org/planyourvisit.aspx](http://nehemiahmission.org/planyourvisit.aspx)

Pulpit Exchange Coming Up

The pastors of the Living Waters Cluster are going to do a few pulpit exchanges in the next few months so that we can get to know the folks of the other churches and all of you can get a feel for who we are too. Pastor Dan and Pastor Ray are going to switch pulpits the end of October, Pastor Bill and Pastor Ray are going to switch pulpits the end of November, and a Pastor Bill and Pastor Dan exchange date is still in negotiations!

Masury and Coalburg Churches are gonna have a PICNIC

Mark your calendars and grab the plates and forks! The good people of Masury and Coalburg are invited to gather on Saturday, September 24th from 5:00 – 9:00pm at the “Coalburg 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. Dogs and buns, coffee and drinks will be provided. Bring a dish or two to pass, table service for your family and we will all be blessed to be a blessing together. If the weather doesn't cooperate

us us it is OK! We will have the “Picnic” anyway and just move into the fellowship hall of the Coalburg church next door to the “Parsonage Park. And by the by, if you bring food, anybody for any church is more than welcome to join in the fun.

Exploration 2011 November 11-13

Exploration is sponsored by The United Methodist Church and is a national event for young adults who are looking into ministry as a vocation. Churches and districts are encouraged to cover the registration cost for those wishing to attend. In addition, the Conference Board of Ministry will pay travel expenses for all participants if you email Rev. Tim Morrison by 9/30/11 at tmorrison@spencerchurch.com.

Training Session are Coming to a Church Near You Soon!

We will be having some training sessions for the people in our churches after the 1st of the year when all our new Committees, Groups & Teams get rolling. At this point a session on the requirements, job, expectations and realities of serving or chairing: SPRC, Finance, and Trustees is in the works. If you are interested in training for another 'job' or area which you will be undertaking in the coming year and are nervous about doing, please let one of the pastors know and we will do our best to get a session arranged to help you do your best for the Lord.

Compass Groups of the East Ohio Conference

Purpose: EOC compass Groups strengthen the ministry and mission of the local church as we continue to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. **Picture:** Compass groups point us to church vitality through Wesleyan accountability. **Plan:** Our intent is to help churches become vital congregations by finding ways to resource one another to be stronger, healthier, and more effective in ministry. Coimpass Groups also provide an arena for the supportive accountability of our Wesleyan heritage as we work together assessing and increasing the vitality of our local churches. **Partners:** Teams of clergy and laity from the local churches coordinated by the district coordinator and the District Superintendent. **Prayer:** Compass groups build a prayer community holding each other and the needs of our churches before God.

Growing into a World Wide Methodist Community

At the District Strategy Team meeting the other day we spent some time looking at the Vital Congregations website and talking about what will be taking place and a new changes for tracking information and data in our future.

1) Go look at: www.umvitalcongregations.org/ You will find tracing data for you church is already there pulled from your year end reports, and the future forecast based on the data points of our churches. This site is part of the web-community that by February will be where our weekly attendance date is keep, our goals and dreams are listed for each church, and where we will be sharing our 'ministry stories' together.

Spaghetti Dinner at Coalburg

Please join us Saturday, October the 8th from 4pm until 7pm for dinner! Prepared for your dining pleasure will be a spaghetti dinner, home made meat-balls, salad, bread and butter, beverage of your choice and for desert enjoy a fine piece of cake! Adults are only \$7.00 and children \$4.00!



Best Gift Ever

I was thinking about “What was the best gift I ever got the other day”. You know, kind of rolling around in my mind all the birthdays, Christmas, anniversary presents etc etc. I realized that, not only do I know what the best gift is, but that I still have it – God's unmerited grace in Christ! Oh man, I think it must be time for me to give it to someone else so they can have the best gift ever too. . . . how about you?

Just in from Brookfield

SEPTEMBER MISSIONS COLLECTION WILL BENEFIT *Habitat for Humanity*. *Our church has been spending time building a house in Struthers and now we would like to donate to make it possible for these homes to be built.* You can use your **SEPTEMBER** Missions envelope the entire month.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO PROVIDE HANDS-ON HELP at the mid-week Children's Ministry which will resume in October. Please sign up in the back of the church.

2011 CROP WALK IS ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 9th BEGINNING AT 2:00 P.M. at the First Baptist Church on Orchard Ave. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. For more information contact Marilyn Morgan (330-534-4366).

OUR 4 CHURCH CLUSTER “LIVING WATERS” IS OFFERING several opportunities for personal and spiritual growth. Please see the sign up sheet in back of the church and select an option that best fits your needs.

ON OCTOBER 2ND, THERE WILL BE A PULPIT EXCHANGE. Hubbard First will be hosting Pastor Luke Oskin from First Baptist Church.

TABITHA GROUP WILL BE MEETING ON Wednesday, October 5th at 10:30 a.m. in the workshop room. We are finishing fleece blankets to be sent to the military. We need your help!

The Last Word:
do you know this bird?
Correct identification will win you a free subscription to News and Notes!



Note the vivid eye ring