

TEAMMATES

Greater Ohio District Ministry Bulletin
October, 2006

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

Let me expand that to say, “Ministerial Appreciation Month.” Certainly we appreciate you who are serving in pastoral roles, whether senior or staff. You are providing unique ministries that demonstrate care, instruction, administration and more to your local congregation. You are a very special breed of Christian worker and human language is insufficient to fully convey the importance of the work you do.

This time around I also want to commend those in our ranks who affirmatively responded to the call of God to Christian ministry, have/or are completing the prescribed course of study and presently serve in some capacity of ministry other than pastoring. You, too, are very special in the work of building God’s kingdom. Your role may be in support of the local church that helps to augment the work of the pastor. Many may be engaged in a unique ministry that stands outside the local church as it addresses the needs of people untouched by the established church. This month be assured that your labors are making a difference.

I also want to express appreciation to the host of men and women who have transitioned out of active ministry into retirement. You are an inspiration to those of us who are still actively involved in ministry. Further, your ministry of prayer on our behalf is making a huge difference in our district. I want you to know that you are not forgotten.

Haddon Spurgeon is credited with the statement, “If in your spirit you can find release to do any other work than Christian ministry, do it.” To those who are constrained by the Spirit to give their lives to the work of the gospel I say, “Thanks!” The world is better because you have answered the call with, “Here am I! Send me!”

SPECIAL LOCAL EVENTS

Greenville Bethel Long celebrated their 150th anniversary in a special service on Sunday, September 24th. The church was full to capacity as old friends came together to recognize a special day. Rodney Shade is the pastor.

Coolville Whites Chapel celebrated their 100th anniversary on Sunday, October 1st. Their afternoon service featured representatives from nearly every founding family. Charles Martindale is the pastor.

Milford Mulberry will celebrate their Homecoming on October 29th.

PASTORS’ GATHERING ‘07

The registration now exceeds 1,500. Registrations received after October 15th will be assessed a \$50 late fee. Therefore, if you are planning to attend you should respond immediately. There is still room on the district’s charter bus for anyone wanting to take that form of transportation to Florida. Scholarships are still available also to assist with the trip.

GOLD INSTITUTE

GOLD Institute will feature classes in “Spiritual Formation” and “New Testament Introduction” this month. Other classes scheduled for this year include “Church Leadership” in February, “Pentateuch” in March, “Pastoral Counseling” in April, and “General Epistles” in May.

Classes cost \$100 plus books. They are taught by excellent teachers and provide a great vehicle for

ministerial training, Christian worker enhancement or a time of refreshment. You may register on-line or by calling the district office.

PASTORAL CLUSTER MEETINGS

Pastoral Cluster Meetings were held in the Miami Valley, Erie and Shawnee Zones in September. Topics for the fall session include a Wesleyan perspective on hell, dynamics of spiritual formation and developing a missional church. This month I will be meeting with ministers of the Frontier, Delaware and Capital Zones. Ministers in these zones should be hearing from their Zone Pastor regarding time and location.

IWU INAUGURATION

Dr. Henry Smith will be inaugurated as the 8th president of Indiana Wesleyan University on Friday, October 6th. Numerous special events will accompany the inauguration including a prayer breakfast and chapel service. Of special note: Dr. Smith's wife, Teresa, grew up in our Port Clinton Wesleyan Church.

DISTRICT DAY OF PRAYER

The Greater Ohio District is being called to a day of prayer on October 22ND. Every pastor is asked to remember the needs of our district during their time of pastoral prayer during the morning worship service. Specific requests will be forwarded prior to the 22nd.

DISTRICT JOURNALS

District Journals have been mailed or delivered to nearly every church and retired minister. If you did not receive yours please contact the district office. A limited number of Journals are still available for purchase at \$8 each. If you wish to purchase one call the district office.

WATERSHED LAUNCHED

Our newest church began public worship on Sunday, September 10th. 56 persons attended the initial service, nearly 1/3 being formerly unchurched. Nathan Feathers is the pastor. Please continue to hold Nathan and his new congregation up in prayer.

SYMPATHY EXTENDED

Rev. William Salley, retired, passed away Thursday, September 28th from a heart attack. His pastoral ministry extended 28 years and included the Pleasant Valley, Williamsport and Bradford Wesleyan Churches. He also served in evangelistic ministry. He is survived by his wife, Donna.

PASTORS' WIVES GATHERINGS

Regional gatherings of pastors' wives are scheduled around the district for this fall. Designated pastor's wives in each area will be making contact with the pastors' wives of their area with meeting information. Events are planned in the following regions this month: Northwest- 14th, Julie Staiger; Southwest- 21st, Lisa Planck; Central- 27th, Aimee Pratt; and Southeast- 28th, Marilyn Dodrill. Pastor, encourage your spouse to take advantage of this special event planned for them.

PASTORAL COMINGS & GOINGS

Greenville Trinity has asked Bob Boyd to serve as their interim pastor through this conference year.

Port Clinton has called Noel Hubler to serve as their pastor.

The South Parkersburg, South Webster and Toronto Wesleyan Churches are continuing their search for a pastor.

CHRISTMAS BANQUET

You are encouraged to reserve the evening of December 1st for the annual Ministers' and Spouses' Christmas Banquet. It will be held at the Cypress Wesleyan Church. hors d'oeuvres will be served at 5:30pm with the meal and program to begin at 6:30pm. Invitations will be mailed later this month. Cheryl and I hope to see you there.

TIME CHANGE

Do not forget to set your clocks back one hour on October 29th.

BOARD OF MINISTERIAL DEVELOPMENT

The DBMD will be conducting interviews on October 20 & 21. Interview team leaders will be making contact with those students who are to meet this fall. Others will be interviewed at the spring session in May. If you wish to schedule a meeting with the DBMD you should either contact your team leader or the DBMD secretary, John Brock at 419-253-7034.

NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

Danny Gordon has been studying the results of over 200 respondents who have taken the Natural Church Development church health assessment survey through the district. These surveys have been conducted in approximately 10% of our Anglo speaking churches. The churches range in size from 30-450.

In the area of financial giving respondents indicated:

28.8% are giving 10% or more; and

28.1% are giving less than 5%.

(From the district statistical report it can be determined based upon our covenant membership that the per capita giving is \$1,819.)

In the area of prayer, 59.1% of our people indicate they pray less than 20 minutes per day.

January is often a month given to the theme of stewardship. Now would be an appropriate time to begin praying about sermon topics that will strengthen your people's walk with the LORD in the areas of time, talents and treasures.

The NCD is an excellent tool to assess the health of your church. The cost to our churches is \$100. If you would like to schedule an assessment contact Danny.

SUPER SATURDAY AT DISTRICT MINISTRY CENTER

April 28th is going to be a day of training for a multitude of local church workers. Seminars will be offered for adult & children teachers, youth workers, worship leaders, church treasurers and mission leaders. The time is 9:30am to 12:30pm at the District Office. Plan now to include this in your leadership training schedule for your church leaders and workers.

Cost: \$50 per church or \$8 per individual. Registration and refreshments will begin at 9:00 am.