

TEAMMATES

Greater Ohio District Ministry Bulletin
November, 2007

The month of November showcases changing leaves, crisp mornings and Thanksgiving. It also precedes December which ushers in the Advent Season. These two months represent important opportunities to attract new persons to your church. Life is returning to normalcy after the hectic pace of summer. Christmas, though highly commercialized, still holds religious significance for many Americans, though it's significance is often shrouded in great uncertainty.

Do not expect, however, persons to come uninvited to your services. It is imperative that Pastors be proactive in extending personal invitations to the unchurched. We lead by example, therefore do not expect your laypersons to beat the bushes if you are not already doing it. Secondly, special events on the church calendar that have an appeal to a general audience are crucial in giving your laypersons something to invite their friends and family members to attend. Provide attractively printed invitations they can distribute announcing the events. Capitalize on the opportunity before you!

NUMBERS TO TRACK

Growing churches all have at least one thing in common- they are attracting guests in greater number than those that slip out the back door. In growing churches at least 5% of their AM Attendance is comprised of guests. Further, for a church to grow it needs to retain 15% or more of these first-time guests. This works out to approximately 1 out of every 8 persons. So, what is the guest attendance for your primary worship service(s)? Take a separate attendance of this group making note of who is in attendance for their first, second and third visits to your church. Limit your count to those that are within the ministry area of your church. Family visiting from Duluth don't count nor does Grandma who faithfully attends the Nazarene church across town who came to hear her granddaughter perform in the children's drama. Do your best to obtain the name and address of every guest so they can be followed up with. Good follow-up will push up the retention rate and consequently the growth of the church. 85% of guests who return for a second visit within a six month period are likely to become regular attenders.

PASTORAL CLUSTER MEETINGS

The Pastoral Cluster Meetings for this fall are nearly over. There has been good participation in most Zones. We have been covering materials related to managing stress in the parsonage, sermon preparation, processing change in the local church and Advent observances. Meetings are generally 2 to 2½ hours in length. These meetings are open to all pastors and ministers in the district.

The winter circuit will begin this month with meetings in Lima, Erie and Sandusky zones. Zone Pastors will be in touch with their ministers to inform them of the place and time of their zone's meeting.

GOLD INSTITUTE

GOLD classes have begun for the new year. *Wesleyan Church History & Discipline* will be offered in November.

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.

MEXICO

The dates for the next pastoral training conference in Mexico are coming together. It looks like the trip will occur on February 28 to March 10. This trip will utilize two teams, one following the other as we attempt to conduct back to back conferences. The cost of the trip will be approx. \$1,000 per person. If you have an interest in participating please contact the district office.

Assisting with the training of a new generation of pastors in Mexico is Job #1 in our partnership efforts with The Wesleyan Church of Mexico. An endowment fund has been established by the district for the purpose of creating a base for an ongoing scholarship fund to assist ministerial students attending their Bible College in Puebla. Contributions to this fund are welcomed and should be earmarked, "Mexico Bible College Scholarship Fund."

The work team from Chillicothe has returned from Mexico. They assisted with construction work on a church in a remote area. A lot of work was accomplished and the congregation and pastor were very appreciative.

SELF-DENIAL OFFERING

Your support of Global Partners' annual Self-Denial Offering truly makes a difference. Through the generosity of our churches that contribute to this special offering we are able to assist in the training and equipping of a new generation of international leaders.

Your gift to this year's offering will help provide scholarships to more than 25 leaders representing more than 12 countries. You are now able to use your VISA/MasterCard/Discover cards to give online by going to www.praygivego.com.

DISTRICT PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for several district pastors who have moved to Ohio leaving behind unsold homes.

If you have prayer needs for yourself or your congregation you are encouraged to forward them our Prayer Director, Rev. Verl Light. They can be sent to prayer@gowesleyan.org or phoned to him at 937-667-1745.

WELCOME

The Greater Ohio District welcomes Jack and Daisy Williams who have been called by the Portsmouth Riverview church to serve as their pastor. The Williams are life-long residents of the Portsmouth area. Jack has pastored several non-Wesleyan churches in the area over several decades.

CHURCHES LOOKING FOR PASTORS

The following churches are currently seeking pastors: Mansfield Lighthouse, Empire, Jackson Good Shepherd, South Parkersburg and South Webster.

SPECIAL EVENTS & NOTES

The Wesleyan Village in Brooksville, Florida is announcing their Camp Meeting. The dates are January 15-20 and will feature the ministry of Revs. Mark Wilson and David Clardie. Their Bible Conference will be held February 26 - March 2. Dr. Clyde Dupin and Rev. Ron McClung will be the special speakers. Additional information can be obtained by contacting by calling 352-799-1644.

Cambridge Solid Rock- "A line to let you know we broke our record of 77 with 81 yesterday (Sunday, Oct. 21st) at Solid Rock in Cambridge! Even more important, we had 2 people pray the sinners prayer." Pastor Norm Wright

Huber Hgts Hope- A radio broadcast on a local oldies station will begin Sunday, 11/4. It will reach a potential audience of 100,000 persons. It is written and produced by Pastor Rick Smith and several laypersons.

DISTRICT BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

The DBA will meet Monday, November 12th. If you have items that need district approval please forward them to my office by Monday, November 5th.

DISTRICT CHRISTMAS DINNER

Preparations are underway for this year's Christmas Banquet. The date is Friday, December 7th. Invitations have been mailed with RSVP's requested by November 16th. This year's Banquet will be held at the District Ministry, NOT Cypress as in previous years. A good meal, good program and good fellowship will make this a pleasant evening for all.

YOUTH NEWS

It is time to start the district's quizzing season. If you have a team, or want to start up a team please contact either Rick Rucker, District Youth President at 614-878-8192 or RickR@cypressonline.net or Bible Bowl Coordinator Belinda Kitsos at KitsosB@aol.com. Teams will be quizzing on the books of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon. Teams are to be registered by October 30th.

"Set Apart" will be another huge event in the life of The Wesleyan Church. Denominational youth conventions have historically been times of renewal within our youth and has often provided significant surges in the number of persons called into Christian ministry. These events also provide great value for pastors and youth leaders who experience great teaching and networking opportunities. Registration is currently underway. To register, go on-line at www.setapart07.com The convention dates are December 28-31.

The District Youth Cabinet is announcing the dates for next summer's Youth Camp. Those dates are June 9 - 13, 2008. It will be held again at Higher Ground Campground near Cincinnati. These are great facilities. Please share this date with your youth leader.

MINISTERIAL RETREAT

The 2008 Ministerial Retreat is scheduled for January 28-30th. It will be held at the beautiful Carlisle Inn in Sugarcreek, Ohio. Dr. Tom Armiger will be our special speaker. Music will be provided by Harmony. The program will be rounded out with great fellowship, delicious meals and a relaxing climate. Early bird registration is \$220 per couple. Scholarships are available for Retired Ministers. Informational Mailings will be sent this month.