



North Coast Crossings

District Superintendent: Rev. H. Daniel Drew — District Associate: Rev. V. Yvonne Conner

In This Issue...

- Page 2** - *Three Simple Rules, continued; District Mission Committee Struggles to Meet So Many Needs, continued; Welcome and Good-bye*
- Page 3** - *Nehemiah Mission News; Calendar*
- Page 4** - *Touching the Lives of Children and Youth; West Side Community House; East Ohio Ministerial Recruitment Institute (MRI)*
- Page 5** - *Faith United Against Tobacco*
- Page 6** - *Events Around the District and Conference; North Coast Classifieds*
- Page 7** - *News from the Lay Speaking Ministries*
- Page 8** - *The Festival of Caring; Action Taken at Spring District Conference; Highlighting our Churches: North Olmsted UMC*
- Page 9** - *Thank you from Jan Yandell, UMW North Coast District Spring Meeting*
- Page 10** - *Traumatic Brain Injury; Mission Moment: Lakewood UMC Helps in Extended Family*
- Page 11** - *Youth Annual Conference; Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Cleveland; Two United Methodist churches will open their doors to help with The Chosen Parent Project*
- Page 12** - *Prayer Support for General Conference*

Three Simple Rules

Dear Fellow United Methodists,

I believe that we have a Wesleyan message to share that is very relevant for today. A part of it John Wesley gave to the church in his General Rules. In a section of our General Rules we find an often forgotten call, a call that has been put together in a book by Bishop Rueben Job. The book, **Three Simple Rules**, is small, but powerful. Bishop Hopkins is quoted in the Cokesbury catalog as calling it, “...a new catechism for everyone wanting to follow Jesus Christ.”

I am personally presenting this book to every pastor that serves in the North Coast District because I believe its message, if practiced in our lives and in our congregations, could help us to see the transformation of the world (at least as we know it).

Some pastors already picked up their books at the Spring District Conference on April 6 at Avon UMC. Those pastors who were unable to attend the conference are welcome to pick-up their books in the district office. In fact, the book helped to form the theme and the agenda of the conference, “**Three Simple Rules for the Transformation of the World.**”

The agenda followed the rules and all items fell somewhere within.



Rev. H. Daniel Drew

Continued on page 2

District Mission Committee Struggles to Meet So Many Needs



The North Coast District Mission Committee recently completed one of its major projects, reviewing applications for the EOC 2009 Benevolent Fund Block Grant. The committee agonized over how best to respond to needs totaling \$450,000 from across the District with a projected 2009 block grant budget of about \$310,000. No one is ever 100% comfortable making decisions about which process best balances the assessment-making criteria.

Grappling with a sense of inadequacy, however, is certainly not what is seen when we reflect on the meaning of Easter and its connection to meeting the ultimate need of humanity. Easter makes a life changing quality available to all of humanity. This quality is GOD’S LOVE! The vastness of God’s love is demonstrated through His sacrificial gift of Christ Jesus as the savior of the world. We have no evidence of a written application process or a review committee.

Rev. V. Yvonne Conner

Continued on page 2

Three Simple Rules (Continued from page 1)

I encourage every church to use this book. Here are some possibilities:

- Share with committees as a devotional piece and guidelines for conducting business.
- Use it for membership and confirmation classes.
- Incorporate it into membership vows.
- Build around it a three-part sermon series.
- Use it in counseling.
- Find someone to hold you accountable for your practice of the three rules.
- Give an overview in your newsletters.
- ? Make copies available in your local church.

The content of this book is simple, but profound. I have been using it for about a month now and I find that it has had a deep impact on my thinking and a few of my actions. I pray that it will impact you individually as well and our churches.

Abundantly Blessed,

H. Daniel Drew, East Ohio Superintendent Assigned to the North Coast District

District Mission Committee Struggles to Meet So Many Needs

(Continued from page 1)

However, we do have overwhelming evidence that there is enough of God's love for *every* one.

Yes, we even have evidence that God's love is priceless! Not even 30 pieces of silver or 450,000 US dollars could tip the scale in favor of one individual or groups of individuals. Everyone must come by way of Jesus and the authority given him over sin and death.

So, while realizing our personal limitations, I join my colleagues representing the North Coast District Mission Committee in praying that your soul prospers and that your needs to do ministry continue to be supplied by our loving God!

Yvonne Rev. Dr. V. Yvonne Conner, District Associate

We welcome **Rev. Elizabeth Hadler**—new associate pastor at Brunswick UMC. She is an Elder in the Minnesota Conference.



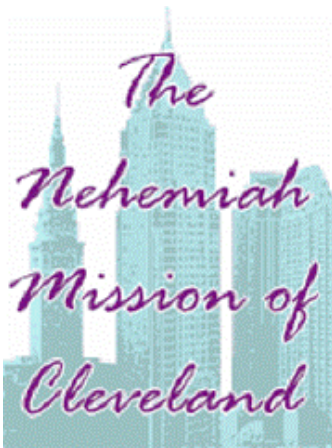
A Happy Hello and a Grateful Good-Bye

By Pastor Pamela Buzalka, Near Westside Partnership Ministries

On April 21, **Mrs. Sue Riedthaler** will begin her duties as the office manager of Near Westside Partnership ministries. An active member of Brooklyn Memorial United Methodist Church, Sue brings management experience as well as a deep commitment to the ministry of the Partnership to her new role.

Seeking to be faithful stewards of our conference mission resources, the Partnership Director, Rev. Pamela Buzalka, in consultation with those active in Partnership ministries, re-evaluated the position of Partnership Office manager in the light of the changes in the Near Westside Partnership. After many years of faithful service, **Mrs. Marcia Richards** elected to retire from her role as Partnership secretary in April rather than in December as she had once planned. We are most grateful to her for her years of service, and while we will miss her, we understand her decision to retire several months earlier than planned due to the much needed restructuring of the position of Partnership office manager.

Nehemiah Mission News



We are pleased to announce that the North Coast District Superintendency Committee has selected the new director of the Nehemiah Mission, Jim Szakacs. Jim is excited to join our district staff. He is a lay member of Pleasant Hills UMC and a local business development consultant.

Nehemiah Mission is just over four years old and it resides in the former Cleveland: People's Hope United Methodist Church at W. 65th and Bridge Ave. It serves as a housing center for work teams coming to Cleveland. Mission teams help throughout the entire North Coast District by building wheelchair ramps, rebuilding porches, painting houses, working with Habitat for Humanity to build houses, repair plumbing and electrical and assist with food distribution and childcare programs. "There is tremendous need in the Greater Cleveland area, and we are committed to providing solutions." Szakacs stated.

Nehemiah's budget is based on expense reimbursement and room and board payments from the teams, support from the United Methodist Church, and private contributions.

Tax-deductible contributions to the Nehemiah Mission can be made payable to the Nehemiah Mission and sent directly to the mission at 6515 Bridge Ave. Cleveland, Ohio 44102.

April 2008



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 12:00 noon: Finance and Adm.	2	3 Cabinet	4 Cabinet	5
6 Spring Conference- Avon UMC	7	8	9 9:30 a.m. Secretaries—Day on the District	10	11 Lay Speakers Training, UMC of Berea	12 Lay Speakers Training
13	14 Cabinet	15 Cabinet	16 Cabinet	17 4:00 p.m. - Mission	18	19
20	21 12:00 noon - Communications	22 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting	23 12 noon - Superintendency & Personnel; General Confer- ence (next two	24	25	26 H.I.V./A.I.D.S. Event, Broadway UMC
27	28 4:00 p.m. - North Coast District UMW District Officers; 6:30 p.m. Friends of Nehemiah	29 12 noon - Finance	30			



Touching the Lives of Children and Youth

April 26, 2008
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Broadway United Methodist
Church

Updated insights addressing the concerns of HIV/AIDS in Northeast Ohio

Following the workshop, a community meal will be served at 5:00 p.m.
Attendees are welcome to stay and eat or assist in serving and cleanup.

Non-perishable food items will be accepted for delivery to the AIDS Task Force of Greater Cleveland

Public Invited * Brochures have been mailed to all churches * Brochure and registration form
available on our website, on website page: <http://www.ncdistrictumc.org/news.htm>
Questions: call David Miller at 216/409-6213

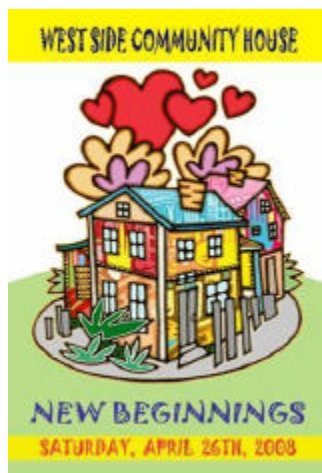
West Side Community House Fundraising Event Saturday, April 26, 2008

A fundraising event to benefit the programs and services provided to school-age children by

West Side Community House.

Join over 200 guests for dinner and music including a silent auction featuring local artists with many hand made works, and a live auction. A wonderful opportunity to network at the same time you benefit the community!

For more information, call (216) 771-7297, ext. 347.



Honoring: **The Honorable John E. Corrigan**,
Legacy of the Light Award and
Dr. Marlene Stoiber, *Ada Breen Award*
WEWS Channel 5's **Kimberly Gill**,
Guest Emcee

"I Am Anchored In Christ"

East Ohio Ministerial
Recruitment Institute
July 6-11, 2008

Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, Ohio



Come share in the "MRI Experience" which includes:

- Youth and adults hearing and responding to God's call.
- Youth and adults on a spiritual journey together.
- Time set aside to draw away from the world to reflect.
- Worship Services, Bible Study, Singing, & Praise Dancing
- Cultural Activities, MRI Olympics, & Recreation
- Mission Trip, Friendships, & Fun!!!

REGISTRATION FEES

REGULAR: \$150.00 PER PERSON
(postmarked by May 24, 2008)

LATE: \$200.00 PER PERSON
(postmarked May 25—June 14, 2008)

NO PAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON-SITE

Any questions or concerns, subject email 2008 MRI to jroberson21@hotmail.com. All forms and payments should be mailed to: 2008 MRI Registrar: 3406 Hametown Road, Norton, OH 44203

You can obtain the registration form from the North Coast District Website, News page:
<http://www.ncdistrictumc.org/news.htm>

Faith United Against Tobacco, By Rev. Dan Bryant, pastor, Rockport UMC

On January 27, 2008 I took part in a **Faith United Against Tobacco** Press Conference urging Senator Voinovich to support Senate Bill 625, and to stand up to Big Tobacco and protect our kids by insisting that the Congress pass legislation, supported by the public health community, to give FDA authority over tobacco. The **Faith United Against Tobacco** is a coalition of over twenty different faith traditions united in advocating for Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authority over tobacco products.

Did you know that:

- **Tobacco is the leading preventable cause of death in our country.** Over 400,000 Americans die every year from tobacco-caused illnesses; hundreds of thousands suffer every year from lung cancer and heart disease due to tobacco. **Yet, tobacco products are virtually unregulated to protect our health.**
- **Every day** over 1,000 of our children become **addicted** to tobacco. Deceptive advertising places flavored, “little cigars” in places right next to candy, and packaged in a way to draw a child’s attention. Did you know, the tobacco company reimburses vendors 100% for any of these tobacco items stolen? Could it be the Tobacco industry is encouraging young people to steal and to try candy flavored “little cigars” or “cigarettes?”
- **As people of faith**, these statistics tragically hit close to home, every day, as we must bury mothers, fathers, sisters, and brothers who die **early from preventable deaths** caused by tobacco addiction that, *more often than not*, began at a young age.
- **We're not asking for a ban on tobacco products. We aren't asking that tobacco be treated differently from other products. We're simply asking that tobacco products be subject to the same common-sense consumer protections as other products. *Isn't it a shame that lipstick is more regulated than cigarettes?***
- Countless millions of Americans have had their lives snuffed out before their time – some in the peak of their careers, with spouse/children at home, and so many other responsibilities and joys before them. The families of America deserve better, more complete chapters in their life’s journey. Men and

women deserve to know the toxic chemicals rolled into every cigarette. Our young sons and daughters deserve time to enjoy their youth without being bombarded with tobacco marketing tailored to their age

- **Nobody wants too much government regulation.** But what we are asking for is to use common sense and fairness. **It would simply level the playing field between tobacco and other products.** There is consensus in the faith community – both conservative and liberal – that this product must be regulated.
- **This is a call to action for all members of Congress. We need you** to fight to enact **Senate Bill 625. We are counting on you. You hold the key in the fight** to protect the health of all Americans and make sure that **FDA legislation becomes law.**

As United Methodists, we stand on the shoulders of our faithful ancestors seeking social justice and wholeness in our lives and society. The 2004 Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church states:

"The use of tobacco is another form of drug abuse, even though it is legal. Overwhelming evidence links cigarette-smoking with lung cancer, cardiovascular diseases, emphysema, and chronic bronchitis. In addition, cigarette smoking can negatively affect a developing fetus, and secondary smoke is a known carcinogen. The United Methodist Church discourages all persons, particularly children, youths and young adults, from using any form of tobacco." (*2004 Book of Resolutions*, "Drug and Alcohol Concerns: Tobacco," ¶83 II)

Thankfully, after the press conference in January, Senator Voinovich came out in favor of Senate Bill 625.

What does the Lord require of us? We are called to do justice, love kindness and to walk humbly with our Lord.

Rev. Dan Bryant
Rockport UMC
Chairperson, East Ohio Church and
Society Committee

Events Around the District and Conference

For more information on the following events, please check our website: www.ncdistrictumc.org.

April 13 - 20 - Art exhibit featuring panamanian artist - Church of the Saviour UMC, Cleveland Hts. 216/321-8880. The exhibit will be open Sundays, April 13 and 20 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:20 p.m. and during the week by appointment.

April 19, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Takin' Truth to Youth" Citywide Youth Crusade. Hosted by: The Kingdom Community Fellowship Church - New Dimension Youth Ministry and The Master's United Methodist Youth (M.U.M.Y.) This event will take place at Euclid: The Master's UMC. Contact persons: Pastor Willie Gary at 216-289-5232 or Pastor Jeff Branche at 216/261-0487.

April 19, 3:30 p.m. - Two Choirs join for Sacred Music Concert, Church of the Saviour UMC in Cleveland Hts. and Mayfield UMC in Chesterland will present a joyous concert series of sacred music at Mayfield United Methodist Church, 7747 Mayfield Road in Chesterland. The concert is presented again on Sunday, **April 20 at 3:30 p.m.** at Church of the Saviour UMC, 216/321-8880.

April 20, 4:30 p.m. Ridgewood UMC Concert Series - Parma - Performing ensemble of 40 professional artists providing eclectic music and dance from the great classical masters to jazz and music of faith. Call the church for more information, 440/885-1360.

April 20, 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Dust & Ashes music ministry will be at worship at 10:00 a.m. and in concert at 7:00 p.m., April 20. Brook Park UMC, 216/676-4738

April 23 - May 2, 2008 - General Conference 2008 - A Future with Hope. Fort Worth, Texas.

April 26, 6:00 p.m. - Spring Fling Night - Pasta Dinner, 7:00 p.m. "Mud in Yer Eye" learn some folkdances! Enjoy the music!, tickets Adults \$10; Children \$7; Children 4 and under free. Reservations call Sandy 216/524-5816. Garfield Hts UMC, Garfield Hts.

April 26, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - East Ohio UVMIM Team Leader Training - East Ohio Conference Office; Cost: \$20.00 (first 20 registrants are free!) Register: Jenni Dodge 800-831-3972 x133.

April 26, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Touching the Lives of Children and Youth. Updated insights addressing the concerns of HIV/AIDS in Northeast Ohio. Cleveland: Broadway UMC (For more information, see page 4)

April 25, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Spaghetti Dinner. Donations for adults is \$7.00. Donation for children aged six through twelve is \$3.00. Children under six are free. Brook Park UMC, 216/676-4738.

May 1 and 2, Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Trash and Treasure Sale. Hosted by the Women in Mission. Brook Park UMC, 216/676-4738.

May 4, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. - Open House for newly-expanded 24,000-square-foot facility, Church of the Saviour UMC, Cleveland Hts

May 4, 6:30 p.m., 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. - Christian Thought Leaders Speaker Series. An ongoing dialogue to help Christians find our place in an increasingly secular society. Speaker: Rev. Dr. Bill McCartney. Topic: "Discipleship: Following the Footsteps of Christ." Solon UMC, 440/248-1573.

May 10, noon - Basketball tournament for Nothing But Nets - Cleveland: Pearl Road UMC, Three on three triple elimination basketball tournament. Minimum donation of \$15 per team. Call Pastor Paul for more information, 216/661-5642.

May 12, 9:00 a.m. - Black Theologian Day at Aldersgate UMC, Warrensville Hts. Guest Theologian - Rev. Christian Washington from Real Coaching Inc. Call Aldersgate UMC, 216/921-4075.

May 12, 6:00 p.m. Ashland University Choir Visits East Shore Church. Potluck dinner at 6:00 and concert at 7:30 p.m. The Ashland University Choir is preparing to travel and perform in Europe in May of 2009. Euclid: East Shore UMC, 216/261-1688.

May 18, 10:00 a.m. - Cleveland: Cory UMC Anniversary Worship Service - The dynamic preacher and friend, Rev. Dr. Julius C. Trimble, Pastor of Aldersgate United Methodist Church will be the speaker. Church phone: 216/451-0460

May 18, 3:00 p.m. - Lay Speakers Consecration Service, Cleveland: Broadway UMC. (For more information, see page 7)

June 28, 5:00 - 11:00 p.m. - SummerFest 2008 - Fun food games. Church of the Saviour, Cleveland Hts.

North Coast Classifieds

For more information on the following jobs,
check out our website at www.ncdistrictumc.org, or call the church directly

Summer Intern: The Nehemiah Mission. Searching for the right summer intern! For a job description and to schedule an interview email your resume to Jim Szakacs, Director at jfszakacs@yahoo.com.

Church Organist: Fields UMC. Send resume and references to the church. Attn: SPPRC Chairperson, Fields United Methodist Church, 34077 Lorain Rd., N. Ridgeville, OH 44039. Church phone: 440/327-8753.

Organist and Choir Director: Fairview Grace UMC, Fairview Park. Resumes may be sent by email: fairviewgraceumc@sbcglobal.net or mailed to the church at 22420 Lorain Road, Fairview Park, OH 44126. Church phone: 440/779-5414.

Church Van Driver: This very part time position is for 10 hours or less each week. Generally 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays and 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Cleveland: Broadway UMC. Contact Rev. Dr. V. Yvonne Conner, 216/271-3650.

Church Volunteer Coordinator: Cleveland: Broadway UMC. Contact Rev. Dr. V. Yvonne Conner, 216/271-3650.

Part-Time Secretary: Garfield Heights UMC, Garfield Hts. Call the church office at 216/641-4149 for a job description.

Church Secretary - Part Time: Hathaway UMC, Garfield Hts. If interested, please submit a resume or letter of interest with work history via e-mail to Debbie Steely, SPRC Chairman - DeborahSteely@aol.com. Church Phone: 216/663-8438.

Part Time Youth Pastor: Han Madang UMC, Parma. Contact: Rev. Isaac Moon, Church Phone: 440/845-1728.

Pianist or Organist needed: Maple Hts. UMC., Maple Hts., 216-663-6868 office or FAX: 216/663-6870. Send resume to 18900 Libby Rd. Maple Hts. 44137 or email: mapleheightsumc@sbcglobal.net. Attention: Beverly Kussin, S/PPR Chair.

Pianist: Hathaway UMC, Garfield Hts., Contact Debbie Steely at 216/749-4387 or e-mail DeborahSteely@aol.com.

News from the Lay Speaking Ministries

North Coast District Lay Speakers' Pastor of the Year: Rev. Valerie Stultz

The Rev. Dr. Valerie Stultz has been lead pastor of the United Methodist Church of Berea for almost seven years and has been very supportive of the Lay Speaker Ministries. Rev. Stultz has utilized lay speakers in all of the churches she has served. In addition to preaching, Pastor Valerie enjoys teaching. She is very receptive to teaching classes for the Lay Speaking Ministries. She has taught Basic and Advanced Classes in the North Coast District Lay Speaker Ministries Training events and the East Ohio Conference Lay Speaker Ministries Academy for several years as well.

Rev. Valerie and her husband, Buck, have been married for 40 years. They have two daughters and one son. Cara and her husband are both United Methodist pastors in the East Ohio Conference. Marny is an elementary school teacher and Daniel is in business as a salesman. Rev. Valerie and her husband also have two grandsons.

Valerie grew up in Cuyahoga County and graduated from Orange High School. She began her studies for a B. S. degree in elementary education at Ohio Wesleyan and completed her studies at State University of New York and has held a teaching certificate for grades nursery to eight. She has earned M. Div. and M. A. degrees from the Methodist Theological School in Ohio. She also has earned a Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Leadership from Wesley Theological School in Washington, D.C.

In addition to serving the United Methodist Church as a pastor, Valerie has served as the Mount Vernon District Superintendent UMC. She has volunteered as a Director of the General Board of Global Ministries of the UMC and has been a Delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences. Currently, she is on the Board of Trustees of the Methodist Theological School and the Berea Children's Home and Family Services. On July 1, 2008, Rev. Valerie will return to the East Ohio Conference Cabinet as the Canal District Superintendent. Her interests are being with people of all ages, learning, reading, traveling and walking.

Rev. Stultz's personal mission statement is, "I am called to connect people with Jesus Christ through preaching, teaching and spiritual guiding."

North Coast District Lay Speaker of the Year:

Linda Higbee

Linda Higbee is a life-long Methodist. She has been a member of St Matthew United Methodist Church in Cleveland for 25 years. She is a certified Lay Speaker and a member of the North Coast District Lay Speakers Steering Committee and is also one of the representatives who attend the East Ohio Conference Lay Speakers Committee in Canton, Ohio on a quarterly basis.

Linda and her husband, Langston, have been married 35 years and live in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. They have three children: Leslie, Leah and Langston Earl Higbee Jr. It has been very important to them that their children be raised in the United Methodist Church.

Linda has held many and varied leadership positions over the years at St. Matthew UMC. She is presently the lay leader, serving on Staff Parish Relations Committee, Administrative Council, Stewardship Committee and Finance Committee. Linda sings in the choir, is the coordinator of Youth Outreach (reaching out to children and youth in the community) and is a Sunday School teacher. She is a member of the United Methodist Women of St. Matthew UMC and serves as its vice-president.

Linda is a licensed practical nurse and has served as such for over 37 years, currently as a long-term care specialist. Her other interests include bowling, reading and crafts.

One of her greatest joys is the worship experience at St. Matthew UMC and she feels blessed to be a worship leader and deliver the message when asked by the pastor. We asked Linda why she serves the Lord, and she answered, "I am thankful for each day and I pray that whatever I do, may I do it to the glory of God."

Lay Speakers Consecration

May 18, 2008 - 3:00 p.m.

Broadway United Methodist Church

5246 Broadway Ave. — Cleveland, OH 44127

All Lay Speakers who have completed the Youth and Adult Basic or the Advanced Course will be consecrated.

This will be a special day of celebration for lay speakers and their pastors, families, church families and friends.

Plan on attending.

Those being consecrated: Bring a pulpit or choir robe to wear and be recognized by the district for your willingness to serve God as a Lay Speaker!



The 2008 Festival of Caring

Saturday, September 20 at Richland County Fairgrounds

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

FOOD * MISSION PROJECTS * GAMES * SILENT AUCTION * CRAFTS * PIE AUCTION *
 QUILT AUCTION * WORSHIP WITH THE BISHOP * PEDDLING PARSONS * MUSIC * CLOWNS *
 MISSION KITS * CHILI CONTEST * PLUS MUCH MORE

Interested in more information? Contact: **Sandy Bittner 216-524-5814**

2008 Seat Cover Drive - Seat Covers for All God's Children

North Coast District—T-shirts/briefs & socks—Size 7-14, 6-12 years, **BOYS**

District Contact Person, Seat Covers: **Gloria Allen-Levert 216-451-1324**

All Seat Cover items are to be new and still in the original packaging.

Bring your Seat Covers to the Festival or take them to the church office at Windermere UMC,
 14035 Euclid Ave., East Cleveland- Tuesday thru Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

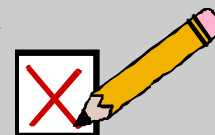


Action taken at our April 6, Spring District Conference -

Results of an intentional vote for one young adult and one youth to attend this year's (2008) Annual Conference

Youth elected - from Cleveland: Mt. Pleasant, Devin Beville

Young adult elected - from Brook Park, Brianna Craig



Highlighting Our Churches



North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Pastor: Rev. Don Kuntz

Address: 4600 Dover Center Rd. - North Olmsted, Ohio 44070

Phone: 440-779-6634

Web site: www.noumc.org **Church E-mail:** noumc@noumc.org

Worship: Sundays, 10:30 a.m.; **Sunday School for all ages:** 9:00 a.m.; **Fellowship:** 10:00 a.m.

NOUMC Mission Statement:

For the glory of God and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we will strive to love our neighbors as ourselves, sharing the great joy and comfort we receive from the teachings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

North Olmsted United Methodist Church is in the suburban setting of North Olmsted, Ohio. The number one reason members say they were drawn to NOUMC is the friendliness of the congregation. Visitors are welcomed and invited to participate in whatever may be happening after the service. It frequently involves food – either potluck or the youth preparing lunch as a fundraiser for work mission.

Rev. Donald Kuntz has been pastor since July, 2005. He is assisted by Administrative Assistant, Jackie Dudra, Director of Christian Education, Sharon Werner, and Youth Director, Joanne Krueger. Alice Backus was recently hired as Director of Music and Organist with piano accompaniment by Josh Walsh.

The Bell Choir was on hiatus and is now in rehearsals with the hiring of the music director. Sunday mornings begin with Sunday School for all ages at 9:00 a.m., fellowship at 10:00 a.m. and worship at 10:30 a.m. Communion is the first Sun-

day of each month.

We have a rotational Sunday school class for students in grades K-8 where there are Bible stories, cooking, crafts, and Bible games. There is a discussion-oriented, dynamic high school group also. For adults we have the options of a traditional Bible study class or the new Sunday Un-School class whose topics are as varied as reading **The Velvet Elvis** to current events.

Our church does a great deal of mission work, both in our community and beyond. Some of our continuing efforts include working at the North Olmsted Food Pantry, East Glenville Supper Kitchen and monthly dinners for patients and their families at a Hospice unit. We partner with Brooklyn Memorial UMC for a Christmas toy sale. NOUMC members donate toys, which are sold to families in the near west side neighborhood at discounted prices and the funds raised support summer camperships for neighborhood children.

Each summer our youth combine with two other UM Churches for work mission. Over 60 youth and adults make a trip to a location within 500 miles of the church to do mission work for a week. In 2007, the trip was to East Peoria to help build their first Native American United Methodist Church and 2008 will be to Baltimore. Many of the adults also have done Katrina recovery in the south, Habitat for Humanity and work at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham, IL.

Thank You - From Jan Yandell

Dear Friends in the North Coast District,

Every once in a while there occurs amazing “God Moments” when a thought comes forth and before one can even process the thought, action is being taken to make it a reality. So it was on August 3, 2003, the birthday of The Nehemiah Mission. The beginning seems like a hundred years ago; the special moments seem like yesterday. Who would have known when the idea was first spoken about that over 5,000 people would have slept in her beds and worked in over 2,500 places all over the city of Cleveland? Who could have imagined people from as near as Lakewood and as far away as Elmsett, England would have dedicated time to serve the poor? Who would have dreamed that ramps could be built, porches repaired, walls painted, offices created and many other jobs be done by youth as young as 12 and adults as old as 96? Who could have estimated the number of churches from all over the country who would come to the Near West Side of Cleveland, stay in the poorest church in the district and serve the many desperate needs of the people? Certainly not this servant who has been completely humbled by the richness of her experience and the relationships developed in service.

Please allow me to take the time to say thank you to the many, many people who made The Nehemiah Mission a reality. They include those who gave money, put together bunk beds, rebuilt walls for dorms, cooked for volunteers, cleared out storage areas for paint and supplies, put together wood sheds and tool rooms, washed dishes, drove vans, led teams to sites, etc. Thank you to the members and friends of People’s Hope who graciously gave of their facility and delighted in sharing time with the groups. Thank you to the district staff, Dan, Debbie, Beverly and Julia and all of the committee members who became involved in the mission as a district project. A special thanks to Dave Kappenhagen, the Nehemiah Technical Advisor and friend, to the four interns, Jesse, Jeremy, Paul and Adam and especially to my family, Jim, Aidan and Adam whom I left early on summer mornings and did not see again until very late on summer evenings, but who supported the mission and my work in it.

Being a camp director is really a full time job. When Dave heard they were looking for someone for 20 hours a week, he asked, “Well, what are we going to do for the other five days?” I will continue to be in prayer for Jim Szakacs, the new director, and I would ask that all of you who have been so supportive of me in this role, support Jim and the mission even more. It is ready to turn a corner from being a fledgling idea to becoming a wonderful mission which is becoming known throughout the world. Jim is up to the task, but it will take all in the district to continue to make it happen.

I told East Shore Church a couple of Sundays ago, that after the month of March, I would be turning over all of my energy to them. Some smiled and nodded pleasingly; others had that “deer-in-head-lights” look. I’m afraid the latter group is the one that knows me better.

Thanks for all that everyone did for me as The Nehemiah Mission director. I couldn’t have done it without you and God sure blessed us with a wonderful ride.

Blessings with love,
Jan



*I couldn't have done it
without you!*



North Coast District UMW Spring Meeting Growing Our Spirituality Saturday, May 3, 2008

Continental Breakfast 9:00 a.m.; Program: 10:00 a.m.

Westlake United Methodist Church

27650 Center Ridge Road—Westlake, OH 44145

Speaker: Rev. Dan Bryant, Rockport UMC—“PUT THAT DUCKY DOWN!”

Fee: \$5.00 (\$2.00 for registration; \$3.00 for breakfast)

Register by unit if possible. (Deadline 4-25-08)

Name of Unit _____

Contact person and phone number _____

Number of Women attending _____ Amount of check \$ _____ (\$5.00 per person)

Please return form with check made payable to NCD UMW: Send to: Carol Broadbent, 2678 Cranlyn Road, Shaker Hts., OH 44122, E-mail: clbroadskate@ameritech.net, phone: (216-360-0465)

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Is The Fastest Growing Disability in the U.S. Today!

It occurs *more frequently* than AIDS, breast cancer, multiple sclerosis and spinal cord injuries, *combined!*
Brain Injury Assoc. of America

HANSONHOUSE TBI CLUBHOUSE

Part 2 of 2: Family and Friends of Traumatic Brain Injury Survivors

In Part One of Traumatic Brain Injury, the focus was the program and services of HansonHouse and the growing need for community services. Another important part of our program is the support of family and friends. At the present time the support group meetings are sponsored by the United Methodist Church of Berea. The time, space and the mission support that we receive from them is greatly appreciated. Our lead pastor, Valerie Stultz, is supportive of our endeavors to serve the friends and family of TBI survivors. Her assistance with the support groups is valued and respected.

At the recent conference of Brain Injury Association of Ohio, there were several speakers that are professional and have personal experience with TBI. One of the speakers discussed the spirit of successful families that have a loved one that survived a TBI. The families that manage best are involved with education, have good common sense, do not play the blame game, know where the resources are, get help before things are out of control, have healthy stress management, spend leisure time productively, have a sense of humor, and **participate in a faith based group.**

The "whatever it takes model" is another characteristic of families that manage best. No two people are alike, so they manage in different ways. However, some of the means by which they manage are:

- Skills are more likely to generate when they are taught where they are used. If skills are learned in another environment, you must persist in development of these skills in their home surroundings.
- Environments are easier to change than people. Successful management might require some changes to the furniture arrangement, steps to the door, duties that must be done each day, etc.
- Natural supports last longer than professionals. Community support groups and clubhouse activities will assist

the survivor to form new friendships, activities and support that will last longer than the professionals.

- Interventions must not do more harm than good. Families must make sure that the support required will improve quality of life for the survivor, not a poorer quality of life.
- Service systems present many barriers to community integration. Survivors have difficulty with working their way through service systems. Most of the survivors have no advocate and cannot navigate or understand the system of services that might assist them. Sorry to say, there is fragmentation and inexperience with TBI survivors in our system of services, although most systems are working diligently to improve this deficiency.
- Respect for the individual with dignity and right to privacy. The survivor must be treated as a human being and does expect to be treated in the way each person should be treated.
- Needs of the individual last a lifetime and so should resources. Unfortunately, many service systems are based on short term success; however, TBI survivors have a life-long disability and need life-long service systems.

HansonHouse TBI Clubhouse was founded in order to provide life-long services to adult TBI survivors. We are an organization that provides services for as long as needed. There is no charge for the services and our members are life-long members that can benefit from our services on a regular basis or at intervals. Unfortunately, in Ohio there is NO funding for TBI clubhouses, so it is very difficult to manage the services. HansonHouse cannot accept more than 12 members since we do not have paid staff to effectively manage more than 12.

Your prayers for TBI survivors, returning military, families and children of TBI survivors are needed. Please remember to put HansonHouse TBI Clubhouse and the people that we serve on your prayer list.

HansonHouse is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization and is funded solely by private donations, fundraisers and small grants.

*HansonHouse TBI Clubhouse, 173 Front Street,
 Berea, OH 44017*

Phone: 440-234-9900 E-Mail: www.hansontbiclubhouse.org

Mission Moment: Lakewood UMC Helps in Extended Family

By Anita Gill, Lakewood UMC

On October 20, 2007, nine members of Lakewood United Methodist Church (LUMC) – four adults and five youth – traveled to Shawnee, Ohio, in Perry County on a mini-mission trip. The group performed work at the Shawnee United Methodist Church, my home church.

Shawnee is a small town located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. In 1900, Shawnee had over 5,000 residents, but the closings of the coal mines and clay mines have depleted the jobs and the community. The town now has approximately 800 people. The Shawnee United Methodist Church was built in 1917. The church is in need of some major repairs, but with a small and elderly congregation it is impossible for this church to do much work.

The members of LUMC were able to repair the crumbling steps, replace light bulbs in the vaulted ceiling, clean the stained glass window, carpets and floors. The members of the LUMC were greatly appreciative and showed their appreciation by feeding our crew homemade chicken and noodles, vegetable soup and more desserts than we could eat. Additionally, we were able to enjoy local Gospel singing after the services on Sunday.

North Coast District Youth

Check out our website page at: <http://www.ncdistrictumc.org/news/youth.htm>
and The East Ohio Conference Youth page at: http://www.eocumc.com/youth/youth_events.htm

Youth Annual Conference - YAC 2008, June 13-15



At YAC 2008 we will explore John Wesley's call to see the "world as our parish." The event will begin at Cedar Point with the longstanding communion rallies in the ballroom, and then move to Hoover Auditorium at Lakeside for worship, conversation, and fun!

The worship band for the weekend will be **Harlend**, a Christian rock band from Lima, Ohio.

Check out the East Ohio Conference webpage above for cost and other information and to download registration forms.

Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Cleveland

By Belinda St. Leger, *North Coast Crossings* writer

In its tenth year of helping Cleveland's homeless families, the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) serves homeless families by working with religious and volunteer communities in the Greater Cleveland area.

IHN provides hospitality in the form of meals, activities, and overnight shelter to guests by local faith congregations. Over 2,000 volunteers support this program. Two licensed social workers help find housing, day care, counsel with work issues, and address other barriers to stability for clients. Transportation to children's schools by IHN vans is provided. Life skills training sessions, including help for employment, financial literacy, nutrition, landlord-tenant relations, mentoring, plus cultural and recreational outings, are provided.

Some North Coast District United Methodist churches volunteer as hosts to provide meals and a safe place to sleep for homeless families. These churches are Bay, Church of the Saviour, Lakewood, North Olmsted, Ridgewood and Rocky River. United Methodist support congregations are Aldersgate, Bedford and Church of the Redeemer. The East Ohio Conference provides benevolent funding for the IHN.

Volunteers serve in many ways in the IHN program. All volunteers receive training and support and serve in ways which fit individual schedules. The IHN welcomes inquiries about service in the organization. The website is ihncleveland.org and

phone numbers are, for the east side, 216-991-6277, and for the west side, 216-771-9600. Sarah Cruise is the Executive Director of the IHN.

Forty-two families were served by IHN in 2007, totaling 150 guests, 101 of whom were children. Eighty-one percent of guest families secured stable housing upon exiting IHN's 60-day program. Thirty percent of IHN guests became employed during their IHN stay in 2007. Every school-age child was transported to her or his original school in seven school districts during 2007, providing continuity for each child in spite of family upheaval.

Funding sources for IHN include congregation and denomination support (20%), foundation support (27%), individual giving (15%), government funds (15%), special events (22%), and other giving (1%). IHN is an affiliate of Family Promise which is made up of 135 independent networks. This is a growing program and United Methodists are part of its growth. **Editor's Note:** The Interfaith Hospitality Network receives district funding through our shared ministry givings to the East Ohio Conference. Your faithfulness enables the North Coast District Missions Committee to provide financial support for the wonderful gift of IHN.



Two United Methodist churches will open their doors to help with The Chosen Parent Project - by Dr. Thea Wilson, Cleveland Metropolitan School's Office of Early Childhood and a member of Church of the Redeemer UMC

The Cleveland Metropolitan School's Office of Early Childhood is in the midst of an Initiative to eliminate the achievement gap with its first graders, who will be third graders in 2010. The charge is that these children will score at or above the average state third grader in reading and math in 2010 as measured by the Ohio Achievement Test.

An extension to this Initiative is The Chosen Parent Project. As part of the success of the students, we must engage the parents in the process. One of the components of the plan offers parents an opportunity to come with their children to study academic content areas in a relaxed guided atmosphere. We are excited to offer three locations on the west side of Cleveland and three on the east side. We are delighted at the prospect to use two United Methodist locations, Brooklyn Memorial United Methodist and St. Matthew United Methodist Church.

This Initiative is led by Dr. Thea Wilson, who is the executive director of Early Childhood for the Cleveland Metropolitan School district and a member of Church of the Redeemer United Methodist Church in Cleveland Heights.

**NORTH COAST DISTRICT
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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www.ncdistrictumc.org

If you are willing to read and/or print this newsletter from our web site and receive a notice by e-mail each month letting you know that the new issue is on our web site, e-mail Debbie Bryant at debbryant@ncdistrictumc.org. We will take you off our "snail" mail list and add you to the e-mail list. *Thank you!!!*

**North Coast Crossings
Mission Statement**

*To inform local church leadership
of district activities and
local church
events as they relate to the district,
with an emphasis on our
United Methodist
spirituality and connectionalism.*

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welcome for publication (200 words
max.) along with other items which
may be of interest to local church
leadership (80 words). Submit
material as text only format on e-mail.

We reserve the right to edit
all submissions.

E-mail:
ncdistrict@ncdistrictumc.org

Deadline: 15th of month preceding issue

Prayer Support for General Conference



**Fort Worth, Texas
Apr. 23-May 2, 2008**

As you are all aware, General Conference is fast approaching. Your elected delegates are preparing for the arduous work that lies ahead, by reading the volumes of material, listening to DVD's, checking UM magazine articles and receiving mail from UM persons both in our conference and beyond.

We are all aware of the importance of this conference and the impact it has on the whole of the UMC. That's why prayer is so important as we both approach the event and enter into the work of the conference. Because of this, we would like to ask for the prayer support of each district on specific days to grid up all those who present, preach, preside and work in the legislative

groups. As we all share the common goal for the event of knowing and doing God's will in our holy conferencing, the need for prayer becomes obvious.

Below is a list of the districts and their designated day for prayer. Please help promote this vital ministry of support for the making and maturing of disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Wed., April 23
Thurs., April 24
Fri., April 25
Sat., April 26
Sun., April 27
Mon., April 28
Tues., April 29
Wed., April 30
Thurs., May 1
Fri., May 2

Western Reserve
Mid Ohio
Firelands
Three Rivers
North Coast
Ohio Valley
Mahoning Valley
Tuscarawas
Canal
Southern Hills

May all of our prayers and service be pleasing to the Lord our God.