



THE CONNECTOR

.....The Canal District Newsletter.....

Rev. Dr. Valerie W. Stultz, District Superintendent

The Canal District exists to support and encourage seventy-seven churches in the making of Disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Rev. Dr. Valerie W. Stultz

“Praise God In His Sanctuary”

SEPTEMBER 2011

The Day that Changed Our Lives

Ten years ago on September 11th our world was turned upside down when the Twin Towers were bombed. Thousands of lives were lost and millions of lives were disrupted and changed forever. Businesses were compromised, the economy shuddered, trust went out the window, and fear stormed in the door. We live in a free nation, but since that day we do not feel so free. Airport scanners, passport requirements, racial profiling, terrorist threats and war limit our lives and condition us to remember the fear.

It seems that day that our nation turned on a dime, and the world turned up-side-down. Prosperity and optimism were replaced by recession and pessimism. We shifted from perceiving ourselves as a nation of abundance to adopting a stance of scarcity. The very terrorists we physically feared, psychologically, emotionally and spiritually entered our lives.

Life always has and always will be dangerous business. No matter how many walls we build, self-defense classes we take, or missiles we produce, we can never be assured that we and those we hold dear will be safe from harm. We can merely endeavor each day to build bridges of love and alliances of peace in a world of crumbling structures and frightened people. This is the way of our Savior, who triumphed over antagonism, fear, and even the grave, is it not?

Theme of 2011 Church Conference Season

Matthew 14:22-33 “Take Heart”



Throughout the 2011 Church Conference Season we will be focusing upon Mathew’s story of the disciples in the boat battered by a storm on the sea. When Jesus came toward them walking on the water, the disciples were afraid, but found reassurance when he spoke, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

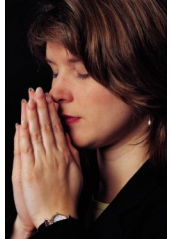
Many in our church are afraid. We are afraid that our congregations will not last beyond the current generation. We are afraid that there will not be enough clergy to lead. We are afraid that the money will run out. We are afraid of different types of worship, organization and preaching styles. Need I go on? Certainly I could!

At Church Conference this fall we further explore Matthew’s story that we might celebrate the results of the new fishing expeditions launched in our communities in the past year. Indeed, much has been happening as with Peter, we have dared to get out of the boat and walk toward the One who keeps us from sinking into the oblivion of negativity, cynicism and fear. Do not miss this opportunity to claim and celebrate what it means to “take heart” in our Lord and Savior who walks with us on the sea of life.

Valerie

ARE YOU PRAYING?

During the coming weeks, please lift these churches and their pastors in prayer:
Sept. 4 - Lakeview
Sept. 11 - St. Paul’s
Moore Memorial
Sept. 18 - Bethel
Sept. 25 - Bethel Valley
Oct. 2 - Brimfield Faith



Sign up for our **NEWSLETTER**

If you would like to be taken off the “snail-mail list” and added to the e-mail list, please send an e-mail to the Canal District Office with your name and e-mail address.

Canal E-Mail Address:
canaldistrictumc@neo.rr.com
Thank you, *Debbie*

DISTRICT NEWS

On September 11 Holy Trinity will move into the Centenary building. These two congregations will share the facility. Pastor Stephanie Lee will lead both congregations in separate worship services and shared fellowship and programming. During the next 9 months a “probe team” will explore potential ministry opportunities in the area. The Holy Trinity building and parsonage are currently for sale. Pastor LaRita Hand will be moving to New York State where she will complete her PHD work. Please shower blessings upon Rev. LaRita Hand and her husband, Rev. Willie Hand, as they leave the area.

D.S. Calendar and Consultations for September

Thurs., Sept. 1

7:00 a.m. Nan Morgan
9 - Noon GBGM Conference Call

Tues., Sept. 6

9:00 Interviews of Vital Congregations,
Conference Office.
3 - 5 GBGM call
6 - 9 **Compass Group 5 South
of Akron, pastors only** @Manchester
UMC (bring dish to share, drinks
provided)

Wed., Sept. 7 @ District Office

8:00 Ron Shultz
9:00 Mike Somerville
10:00 Scott Hayward
11:00 Doug Lewis
12:00 - 3:00 **Compass Group 3 North,
pastors only** (bring a bag lunch, drinks
provided)
6:00 - 7:00 Ignatius Spiritual Awareness
Class

Thurs., Sept. 8 @ Uniontown UMC

1 - 5 p.m. Training for all Conference
Compass Group Facilitators.

Sat., Sept. 10

9:30 Delegation Meeting

Sun., Sept. 11 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. -

Celebration/Holy Trinity/Centenary

Mon., Sept. 12

Noon - 3:00 **Compass Group 1 East
Ohio and Canal, pastors only** @ Root
Café at Northampton UMC
7:00 **SPRC Consultations - Compass
Group 5 Akron Area 1** @ Goodyear
Hts. UMC

Tues., Sept. 13 - Thurs., Sept 15

Cabinet Retreat

Sat., Sept. 17 12:30 - 1:30 Mission

Saturation, work team

Sun., Sept. 18 @ Randolph UMC

9:00 a.m. 200th Anniversary

Mon., Sept. 19 @ District Office

8:00 Frank Woodrum
9:00 Orion Aubihl
10:00 Dale Gharky
11:00 Ken Moody-Arndt
1:00 David McGrath
2:00 Vicki Hillman Breckner
3:00 Harry and Mary Lou Merryman
4:00 Jim Patterson
7:00 **SPRC Consultations - Compass
Group 4/5 Wayne Co.** @ Smithville UMC

Tues., Sept. 20 @ District Office

8:00 Phil Raynes
9:00 Derek Kubilus
10:00 Joyce Williams
11:00 Anne Fisher
1:00 Sam Martin
2:00 LaRita Hand
7:00 **SPRC Consultations - Compass
Group 5 North East** @ Mogadore UMC

Wed., Sept. 21

9:00 - 1:00 - Canal Clergy Gathering @
Johnson UMC
7:00 **SPRC Consultations - Compass
Group 2 North** @ Macedonia UMC

Thurs., Sept. 22 @ District Office

9:00 Jim Nolte
10:00 Jennifer Olin-Hitt
11:00 Mitch Hennessey
Noon - 3:00 **Compass Group 3
South, pastors only** (bring a bag lunch,
drinks provided)
3:00 Dale Warrick
7:00 **SPRC Consultations - Compass Group 5
Akron Area 2** @ Hope UMC

Fri., Sept. 23 @ Sunny Hills Golf Course

in Kent, Pastor's Golf Scramble

Sat., Sept. 24 @ Manchester UMC

9:00 a.m. - **SPRC Consultations,
Compass Group 5 South of Akron Area**

Sun., Sept. 25 8:00 a.m. - Apple Creek

UMC Worship

Mon., Sept. 26 @ Medina UMC

7:00 **SPRC Consultations, Compass
Group 2 South**

Tues., Sept. 27

9:00 UMW, Tod Ave UMC
7:00 **SPRC Consultations, Compass
Group 4** @ Firestone Park UMC

Wed., Sept. 28

8:30 - 1:00 DCOM Granger UMC
7:00 **SPRC Consultations, Compass
Group 4/3,** @ Church of the Cross UMC

Thurs., Sept. 29 @ Doylestown UMC,

7:00 **SPRC Consultations, Compass
Group 3 South**

Fri., Sept. 30 @ Waterloo Restaurant

9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Breakfast Retirees

Sun., Oct. 2 @ Mogadore UMC

8:00 a.m. Worship

Mon., Oct. 3

9:30 - 10:30 CPAC
1:00 - 2:00 Org. Advance Com Phone
7:00 **SPRC Consultations - Compass
Group 3 North** @ Ravenna UMC

REMINDER: PAPERWORK DUE IN OUR
OFFICE A WEEK BEFORE PASTOR
CONSULTATIONS, SPRC CONSULTATIONS
AND CHURCH CONFERENCES.

District Concerns and Prayer Requests



Condolences to:

Cynthia Danals at the passing of her mother in Columbus, Ohio.
Paul and Lynn Farren in the death of Paul's father.
Michael Swab at the passing of his mother, Marie Swab.

Prayers needed: Please keep Mary MacKenzie in your prayers as well as her husband Jim. Mary was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Congratulations

Congratulations to: Frank Woodrum and his new bride Peggy. The happy couple were wed on August 13. Frank is the pastor of Burton City UMC.



Happy Birthday/Happy Anniversary Canal Clergy Families

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3	Lois Turner
6	Mitch Hennessey
10	Stephanie Lee
11	Michael Teston
15	Bill Lawson
17	Ron Shultz
23	Robin Dillon
26	Doris Patterson



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

1	Bill & Robn Lawson
5	Susan Zurc & Byron George
6	Dave and Sharon Kowaleski
10	Larita & Willie Hand
11	Gary and Sandy Glasscock
18	Dale and Patricia Gharky
24	Jim and Malinda Woodring

Holy Land Trip - January 31 - February 9, 2012 Join Bishop John, Elaine Hopkins and Valerie Stultz

The 10 day pilgrimage will depart January 31 and tour the Holy Land for 10 days with visits to Jerusalem, Galilee, Bethlehem, Jericho and many other biblical sites.

The first time I traveled to Israel in 1994, I was fearful of the reported conflict in the region. What I experienced, however, was safety and security beyond what I had yet to discover in the States. I am eager to visit Israel a third time in early 2012, and would welcome your participation in this trip with me. Total cost for travel, room and board, transportation and fees for the 10 day trip is approximately \$2,750 flying out of Cleveland. Consider joining Bishop John Hopkins and myself for the trip of a lifetime. Contact the District Office for a brochure. — Valerie



Church Capital Campaigns: Why, When and How

Saturday, September 24, 2011-Montrose Zion UMC - 565 N. Cleveland Massillon Rd., Akron Sponsored by The East Ohio United Methodist Foundation Call our office for a registration form and brochure

Transitions - Challenge and Opportunity

The Institute for Transformative Leaders and Communities Presents: From Pastor-Centered to Program Focused A workshop for leaders of mid-size congregations in the midst of change. September 30 - October 1 at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. www.TransformativeLeaders.org

🎵 Fall Retreat for Clergy Spouses - November 18 and 19, 2011 🎵

This November we have a second opportunity to gather with spouses from East Ohio and Western Pennsylvania Conferences for a fun and meaningful weekend just for you! Mark Friday and Saturday, November 18 & 19, 2011 on your calendar! Nearly 90 persons had a wonderful time together last fall in beautiful accommodations at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel North of Pittsburg and they overwhelmingly asked to do it all again!

This year's speaker will be a highly acclaimed writer and retreat leader, Marilyn Brown Oden. Author of over a dozen devotional books and novels, Marilyn's theme will be "Listening for the Grace Notes 🎵" and will focus on the little extras that enhance our life song. These are the actions, words, cards, texts and emails that can express appreciation, sympathy, encouragement or forgiveness in our lives. (Enjoy an online search for Marilyn's titles under her name. She is an experienced speaker and a friend of Elaine Hopkins & Sally Bickerton through the Council of Bishops)

Networking with others who share your same connection with ministry and having down time for rest & relaxation were cherished last year so we are building in more time for both in 2011. There will also be workshops and topical discussion groups for you to participate in as you choose. The hotel has excellent food, a wonderful pool/spa and is just 30 minutes from the Grove City, PA outlets to the North and the IKEA shopping area to the South. Printed brochures will be mailed to clergy spouses homes soon. Our joint conferences plan team can't wait to return....and having you there will make it perfect.

For more information, contact Debbie Bryant in the Canal District Office.



SHALOM 2012 HOLY LAND WMEI 30th Anniversary International Evangelism Seminar - January 10 - 17, 2012 "Good News of Peace to All Creation"

What an exciting opportunity. For members and friends of the worldwide Methodist and Wesleyan family. Register now at: www.wmei.ws or call 800-247-0017. For more information e-mail: wmei@emory.edu

Gleanings and Recommendations from Summer Reading



- Valerie

Jean Vanier, *Becoming Human*, 1998 (Paulist Press, New York/Mahwah, N.J.). Vanier, a noted theologian and philosopher, is the developer of L'Arche's (after Noah's Ark) over 100 communities in 30 nations for people with developmental disabilities. Vanier was a close friend and mentor of Henri Nouwen.

"The history of our world is a history of conflicts, of one group demonstrating its strength over another. Weakness is at the heart of the need to belong; weakness that we may fear, because we have been hurt. So we band together in groups in order to share our common strength. So easily from this does conflict arise. Each group is secure in certitudes and ideology. From there is a small step to indifference, to disposal and to suspicion: the fear and hatred of others."

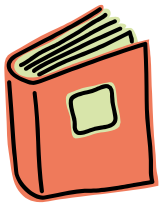
In all conflicts between groups Vanier suggests that there are three elements:

1. "The certitude that our group is morally superior, possibly even chosen by God. Everyone else should follow our example or be at our service. In order to bring peace to the world, we have to impose our beliefs upon others through manipulation, force and fear, if necessary.
2. A refusal or incapacity to see or admit any possible errors or faults in our group. The undeniable goodness of our own nature makes us think we are infallible; there can be no wrong in us.
3. A refusal to believe that any other group possesses truth or can contribute anything of value. At best, others may be regarded as ignorant, unenlightened, and possessing only half-truths; at worst, they are seen as destructive, dangerous, and possessed by evil spirits: they need to be overpowered by the good of humanity. Society and cultures are divided into "good" and "bad"; the good attributing to themselves the mission to save, to heal, to bring peace to a wicked world, according to their own terms and under their controlling power." (pp. 46-47)

William Bridges, *Managing Transitions, Making the Most of*, read at the recommendation of Doug Anderson, I was not disappointed! Bridges contends that "it isn't the changes that do you in, it's the transitions." He writes that change is situational while transition is psychological. He sees transition as "a three phase process that people go through as they internalize and come to terms with the details of the new situation that change brings about." He describes change without transition as "just a rearrangement of the chairs." One of the images that Bridges uses is Moses' leadership of the Israelites out of Egypt.

This is a very helpful book for people and organizations that are faced with change. This would be all of us all the time, for to live is to change. Bridges offers a simple three phase process to help us go through times of transition:

1. Letting go of the old ways and old identity. This really results in an ending during which people need to name and deal with their losses.
2. Going through the "neutral zone" in which the old is gone and the new is not yet fully operational. This is a time of great opportunity in which psychological realignments and re-patterning take place.
3. Coming out of the transition into new beginnings as people discover their new identity and experience new energy in a refocused mission.



Doug Lewis recommends the following book:

Theirs in the Temple: The Christian Church and the selling of the American Soul.

G. Jeffrey Mac Donald

BOOK STUDIES THIS FALL Open to Laity and Clergy The Joy of Mission

Led by Carl Dulin

November 5th or 13th
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Managing Transitions, Making the Most of Change

William Bridges (*3rd Edition*), 2009
(De Capo Press, Philadelphia) \$16.95

This study will be led by Valerie Stultz in a retreat form on
Wednesday November 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
at the Seville UMC. Cost \$10 for lunch and materials.
Contact the District Office to register.



FORMATIONAL PRAYER SEMINAR

The Institute of Formational Counseling at
Ashland Theological Seminary and
Healing Care Ministries presents the
SEMI-ANNUAL FORMATIONAL PRAYER SEMINAR

January 11 - 14, 2012.

Contact the Canal District Office for a brochure or
www.ashland.edu/seminary/ifc/index.html



Canal District Pastor's Golf Scramble 2nd Annual

Friday, September 23 at Sunny Hills Golf Course in Kent. Tee off beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Cost for 18 holes and a cart is \$20. Please contact Barry French at Tallmadge UMC at 330/633-3734 or Scott Hayward at Stow UMC at 330/673-7752 if you would like to participate.

Epworth Center, Bethesda

Sat., Sept. 17: Clothing giveaway from 10a.m. - 2 p.m. We are collecting gently used clothes on Sept. 12 & 13 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. and Sept. 14 from 4 - 7 p.m. Call to make other arrangements if needed. Helpers are needed to sort clothes on Thursday and Friday of that week and also to work the giveaway. Call or email to get involved. (740)484-4705, email: epworthcenter@sbcglobal.net, www.epworthcenter.org

Go to the Canal District Website: www.canaldistrictumc.org and under Lay Speakers you will find forms and information and Lay Speakers Newsletters

Canal District Lay Speaker Course Offerings

9/16 (evening), 17 and 10/1 - BASIC The beginning course for those interested in becoming a lay speaker. Course registration closes 8/23.

11/4 (evening), 5 and 19 - STORY TELLING Learn storytelling styles, techniques, and practice creating stories from your own experience.

3/2 (evening), 3 and 17 - BASIC Course registration closes 10/ 11

4/20 (evening), 21 and 5/5 - ACCOUNTABLE DISCIPLESHIP. Course focuses on the concept of the household of God, the importance of Scripture as divine revelation, Wesleyan understandings of grace and the importance of the office of class leader in the Methodist movement. Course registration closes 3/27

5/18 (evening), 19 and 6/ 2 - TRANSFORMING EVANGELISM. Participants learn how to share their faith by telling and doing. Course registration closes 4/24.

Please note: Friday classes begin at 6:30 p.m. and end about 8:30 to 9:00. Saturdays begin at 9:00 a.m. and end 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. Registration is an absolute deadline in order to provide about three weeks for preparation. Materials are mailed a few days following registration. Forms are on the District website under "Lay Speakers" section.

Sign up early: Questions about training in general contact Ron Rinehart, Associate Director for training, at 330-592-2161 or e-mail, rlinehart@walsh.edu. For enrollment (registration etc.) contact Debbie Sloan, Registrar, at 330-283-6893 or dlsloan@aol.com.

EAST OHIO LAY SPEAKERS 2011 TRAINING ACADEMIES - 10/14 and 15 or 10/21 and 22.

Theme: "Transforming Evangelism, the Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith."

Contact the Canal District Office or the Conference Office for a brochure and registration form.

Deadline for South Academy is Sept. 30 and North Academy is Oct. 7.



ITEMS FOR SALE- Holy Trinity UMC

There will be a sale at Holy Trinity UMC on **Monday, September 12**

from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. ,

1127 Copley Rd., Akron 44320

Items for sale: electric heaters, tables (long and round), mirrors, pictures, flower arrangements, chairs and six pianos.



2011 Fall Gathering - East Ohio Conference United Methodist Men

Revitalizing The Men of Our Church.

Saturday, November 12, 2011

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

Grace UMC - 1720 Schneider St., North Canton

Breakfast and Registration: 8:00 a.m.

Keynote Speaker: Mike Hargrove -

Former MLB manager Cleveland Indians

Contact the district or conference for a registration form.

Calling all Young Adults (ages 18-26) Considering Christian Service Exploration 2011, November 11-13 in St. Louis



Consider the "Passion and Possibilities" of ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church. Explore God's call to Christian service in this three day event tailored specifically for 18 to 26 year olds. Travel to St. Louis for this exciting event. The registration fee is only \$150 if you register by September 5th (which includes a discount from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry if you go to the website below and register and receive a discount code.) This fee includes your hotel stay. After Sept. 5th the fee goes up. The Ca-

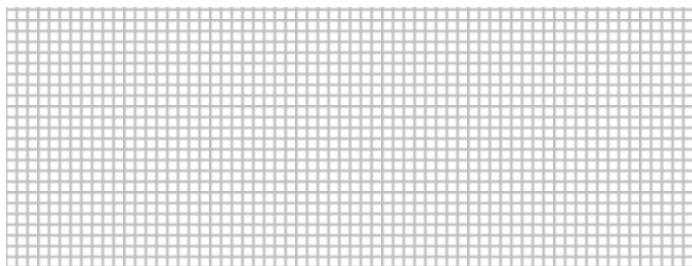
nal District will offer \$100 toward the registration fee and is encouraging local churches to help with the other \$50 cost. Additional scholarship support of 100% toward your travel expenses are available through the Board of Ordained Ministry in East Ohio; but, you need to contact Tim Morrison and book your travel plans through him. He is the chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry for the East Ohio Conference. Contact Tim by e-mail: tmorrison@spencerchurch.com. Check out the web-site at www.gbhem.org/exploration for further information. Contact the Canal District Office for details regarding funding and spiritual support from the superintendent.

"The Connector"

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Akron OH 44305

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September

HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS!

Note: If your church has a news item or an event to publish, send the information to the District Office by the 20th of the month.

- > **September 8, Dinner & Jazz Night featuring Wallace Coleman. Centenary UMC** (Akron), in a cooperative effort with the Akron Community Foundation. Door Donation \$5. Refreshments at an additional charge. Call 330-376-9648 for more information.
- > Starting **September 10, 5:30 p.m.**, a new **Saturday evening service at Lakemore UMC**. For information call 330-733-6531.
- > **September 16, 7:30 p.m.**, **Tom Mroczka and the Music Box**, polka music, mini-Oktoberfest, at **Manchester UMC**, 330-882-4818.
- > **September 17, 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.**, **Swiss Steak Dinner, Lakemore UMC**. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children (3-12), and free under 3. Call 330-733-6531 for more information.
- > **September 23, 6:00 p.m. - September 24, 4:00 p.m.** Overnight or only on Saturday. **Women's Retreat, Chocolate Boutique - Smithville UMC** - Inspiration Hills Retreat Center, Burbank, Ohio. "Where woman taste and see that the Lord is good." RSVP by 9/1, 330-669-2372 or 330-669-2371.
- > **September 24, 12:00 noon, Women of Centenary Fundraiser, Centenary UMC**. Premier Designs Jewelry. R.S.V.P. 216/402-4243.
- > **October 1, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**, **Women's Retreat sponsored by Lake Brady UMC** with an optional afternoon tea from 3 to 4. Topic: The Beauty of A Life Transformed. Held at Pilgrim Christian Church in Chardon. For info or ticket information contact: Sandy Shilling at 330/620-6548.

Lake Brady UMC - looking for a **pianist or organist/choir director**. Contact the church 330-673-0145 or email to lbumc@juno.com

UMC Stow - seeking to fill two staff positions: **Church Organist and Praise Team Keyboardist**. Call the church at 330-673-7752 and ask for Julie Stunck.

First UMC of Akron - seeking an experienced **Organist**. Approximately 15 hours a week. For more information, please contact Tammy at the church office 330/376-8143 or e-mail resume to akronfirst@att.net

UMC in Uniontown - seeking a **Part-Time Youth and Young Adult Minister**. Deadline for application is September 16. Send resume to: Rev. Nolte - revnolte@yahoo.com. Contact the church for a full job description: 330/699-3587.

Church of the Cross UMC - seeking a **Christian Worship Leader**. Part-Time. Submit resume to: Worship Leader Search, 5100 Cleve. Rd., Wooster, 44691.

Hudson UMC - looking to expand the paid childcare giver roster. Flexible hours: Sunday mornings, daytime and evenings at the church. Must be over 18. Contact church for application: 330/650-2650.

If you would like to be taken off the "snail-mail list" and added to the e-mail list, please e-mail Debbie Bryant your name and e-mail address.
canaldistrictumc@neo.rr.com

PLEASE NOTICE! NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS ALWAYS THE 20th OF THE MONTH. THERE'S A COMBINED NEWSLETTER JUNE/ JULY and DECEMBER/JANUARY

"The Connector" is published by the Canal District Union of the United Methodist Church 10 times annually.

Comments or suggestions are welcome.

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