

east ohio

joining hands

- informed, inspired and in touch.

LAITY LEAD: GRACE MIXED WITH FAITH



The Vision of the East Ohio Conference of
The United Methodist Church is to make
and mature disciples of Jesus Christ.



558: We Are the Church

[Refrain:]

I am the church! You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world!
Yes, we're the church together!

1 The church is not a building,
the church is not a steeple,
the church is not a resting place,
the church is a people.

[Refrain:]

2 We're many kinds of people,
with many kinds of faces,
all colors and all ages, too,
from all times and places.

[Refrain:]

3 Sometimes the church is marching,
sometimes it's bravely burning,
sometimes it's riding, sometimes hiding,
always it's learning.

[Refrain:]

4 And when the people gather,
there's singing and there's praying,
there's laughing and there's crying
sometimes, all of it saying:

[Refrain:]

5 At Pentecost some people
received the Holy Spirit
and told the Good News through the world
to all who would hear it.

[Refrain:].

Author: Richard K. Avery (1972)

Author: Donald S. March (1972)

Copyright: © 1972 Hope Publishing Co

East Ohio Joining Hands

Winter 2011 Vol. 11 No. 2

East Ohio Conference
of The United Methodist Church
Office of Communications

Editor/Director of Communications:
Rick Wolcott
wolcott@eocumc.com

Graphic Designer
Sue Zakovec
sue@eocumc.com

Subscriptions/Administrative
Lois Speelman
lois@eocumc.com

Contributing Writers
John Booth
Peter Chakerian

Under the direction of: The Conference
Board of Communications,
Rev. Steve Bailey, Chairman

Mail: Editor
East Ohio Joining Hands
8800 Cleveland Ave. N.W.
North Canton, Ohio 44720

Phone: 800.831.3972
ext 118 Editor
ext. 105 Graphic Designer
ext. 119 Subscriptions

Web site: www.eocumc.com

Submission of articles is encouraged. The
deadline is February 15 for the Spring
2011 issue. Our theme is "Changing
the World."

East Ohio Joining Hands USPS (005-882)
is published quarterly by the East Ohio
Conference of The United Methodist
Church, Office of Communications, 8800
Cleveland Ave. N.W., North Canton,
Ohio 44720. Periodical Postage paid at
Canton, Ohio.

Postmaster:
Send address corrections to:
East Ohio Joining Hands
8800 Cleveland Ave. N.W.
North Canton, Ohio 44720

Cover photo: ©iStockphoto.com/Forest Woodward
Faces photos : ©iStockphoto.com/Özgür Donmaz
and Steve Debenport

Boat photo: ©iStockphoto.com/xyno



**John L. Hopkins is the resident bishop of the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church.*

Get Your Oar in the Water

By John L. Hopkins*

A wise pastor once told me, “You can’t row the boat and rock it at the same time!” That is, if everyone in the church is doing their personal ministry they don’t have time to be critical or judgmental of others. People serving in the name of Jesus Christ are so filled with joy they routinely attract others to a life of faith. Everyone wants to be part of a community that changes the world one person, one ministry at a time.

NANCY has a shoe box ministry. Once a year like clockwork, she passes out the boxes to her friends in the Koinonia Sunday School class who fill them with items listed on an enclosed sheet. Then these shoe boxes are delivered to women in a shelter with notes of encouragement and love.

JIM works with men who have lost their jobs, had affairs, or otherwise lost their direction. He undoubtedly hears more confessions than most pastors. Men turn to him when they are too embarrassed to go to a pastor. With a strange mixture of the directness of Peter and the encouragement of Barnabas, Jim listens for a while and then speaks the truth in love. He personally provides money, housing, contacts for a job, a referral for rehab – whatever it takes – to place them into a network of people who can help them find a way through the current crisis. Jim doesn’t send men to anyone else; he goes with them.

ANN is an advocate for immigrants. I don’t know her personal story but she certainly knows that Jesus welcomed the stranger and she does too. If you ask, she will give you scripture references to how Jesus cared for others. She has done her homework and is not intimidated by those who disagree with her politically. Ann just loves people, especially those who are new to her community.

JACK lost a teenage son in a car wreck over 30 years ago. His ministry has been to reach out to those mothers and fathers who lose a teenager. He is not a specialist in grief, but he is a living testimony that God can get you through the pain of death.

DOYLE AND CAROLYN are perpetual, exuberant volunteers in mission. Every time I see them, I get pictures of their last trip or information about the next trip. Haiti is their main area of focus. As a dentist, Doyle has led more than 25 medical teams. Doyle and Carolyn put love in action through their doctoring, teaching, and witnessing to the poorest of the poor.

I could tell more stories of people who take their personal ministry seriously. Every one of these “saints” is active in a local church that serves as a base camp for their ministry. However, they are not content with being on a church committee or only working on a specific church program. Their passion for others is personal, deep, committed. They want to use their gifts in the service of Christ. They do the impossible because they have enough faith to put themselves in situations where they need the presence of God and the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish their mission.

In our baptism and confirmation we die to self and are born to a new life in Christ. We are incorporated into the church and become representatives of Jesus in the world. We do not baptize ourselves. The church baptizes us and claims us for ministry. Water is the symbol of baptism.

Have you got your oar in the water?



Are you comfortable?

By Rick Wolcott*

Our society is obsessed with comfort. We are inundated with advertisements for luxury homes, luxury cars, fine dining and expensive jewelry. Each ad tells us how we can't live without the latest, greatest bauble and how each would be the Christmas gift our loved one will remember for a lifetime.

Sometimes we lose sight of the fact that the greatest gift ever given had nothing to do with comfort, in fact, just the opposite. Jesus was born in a stable to parents who were turned away from all of the places of comfort in Bethlehem.

When he began teaching, Jesus did not set up a stand and wait for people to find him. He walked from town to town over uneven, rocky terrain delivering a message that many did not want preached. He was not a lone voice. Jesus empowered others to preach the word in his stead. The task was dangerous. Followers had to meet in secret, always fearful of being caught. Many of them paid the ultimate price for their desire to share the love of God.

What a witness of faith, to believe so strongly that threat of imprisonment or death does not deter the message from being delivered! Jesus' death on the cross was anything but comfortable, yet it was the greatest gift anyone will ever receive.

Our job as Christians is to offer this gift to everyone we possibly can. The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. To accomplish this, we must leave our personal comfort zones and the luxury of our sanctuaries and

take to the streets preaching the word of God. Notice the last sentence says "we." It does not say "the pastor." Churches thrive or fail based on the support of laity. Each of us must take up the cross and bear witness to the grace and wonder of God.

This issue of *Joining Hands* highlights the wonderful work being done by the laity in East Ohio. Their stories are different but their motivation is the same: wanting others to learn about and share in the joy that comes with knowing Jesus. Each person is a living example of the Harry Dixon gospel song we learned as children:

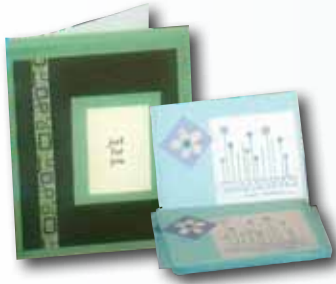
*This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine
Hide it under a bushel? No!
I'm gonna let it shine*

Our pews are filled with people, like those highlighted on the following pages, who shine. Too often, though, we treat our sanctuaries as bushel baskets and we keep the light inside. The beginning of a new year brings with it countless resolutions. This year let's resolve to live like Jesus, out in our communities, meeting people where they are, shining the light of God and making disciples for the transformation of the world.

Are you comfortable? I hope not.



*Rick Wolcott is the Director of Communications for the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church.



Bringing Smiles, Aid to Africa

By Peter Chakerian*

There's a 1969 song titled "Wooden Ships" by Crosby, Stills & Nash that begins, "If you smile at me, I will understand, 'cause that is something everybody everywhere does in the same language."

These days, it could well be **JORDAN MARTIN's** mantra.

When the Notre Dame Elementary School student and **Mentor UMC** (Western Reserve District) member heard missionary/associate pastor Kathy Dickriede talk about the dental hygiene of African children, she was stunned.

The idea that her African peers would resort to brushing their teeth "with their fingers and ashes" seemed incomprehensible to the then 12-year-old Concord Township girl.

She was so floored that she decided to do something about it: Martin began collecting toothbrushes from family members, friends — even her dentist — in advance of Dickriede's recent mission to Africa.

But this was only the beginning of Martin's humanitarianism. Another of Dickriede's sermons about a need for clean water in one of Africa's poorest countries moved Martin to act yet again.

This time, Martin hatched a plan to raise \$2,000 to build a well for people in war-torn Liberia.

An ardent scrapbooker, she began creating homespun greeting cards and asking for donations at school, parties and church. Martin raised a majority of the funds by starting Wishing Well Cards — with Colorbök Inc., a scrapbooking supply company, donating all materials for the cards.

Because of Colorbök's generosity, 100 percent of each donation goes to the people of Africa.

Jordan's mother is proud of her daughter's humanitarian efforts. "Jordan really wants to do everything she can to save the world," Karen Martin said. "She has already helped two villages, Duo and Ghoba near Camphor Mission, with clean water wells made possible because of Jordan's efforts."

She believes her daughter might end up in Africa someday with the Peace Corps. "Jordan hears about where there's a need and immediately wants to do something about it," she said. "She'd rather give than receive and is definitely drawn to service field work."

As for how long her daughter will keep up fundraising for additional wells, Karen Martin says, "She'll keep doing this until someone says there is no need to anymore. She is very motivated."

Jordan's mentor describes the youth as an amazing young lady.

"She's just such a go-getter," Dickriede says, suggesting the teenager is of equal inspiration to her. "Jordan is a great role model for this congregation."

Both Dickriede and Martin spoke to women attending P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) International to spread the word, and

Martin already has some ideas for her next humanitarian project. Once her toothbrush and well donation goals are attained, Martin's next task appears to be tackling the malaria scourge by seeking donations to procure mosquito nets.

For a \$12 donation Martin sold Christmas cards to benefit Camphor Mission, with designs created by children of the Camphor Mission Station, to help raise funds for water wells in the surrounding villages.

To order cards or make a donation, log onto www.jordanswishingwell.com or contact Mentor UMC at 440-255-3496.



*Peter Chakerian is a free-lance writer who has focused on arts, entertainment, business, features and religion during his 20-year career as a journalist.



Carrollton Native Commissioned as Missionary

By Rick Wolcott

Charitable Pharmacy of
Central Ohio staff members



Dunlap with residents
of the Volga District, Russia.



We should all share the passion for Christ exemplified by **MARIELLYN DUNLAP** of **First United Methodist Church** (Ohio Valley District) in Carrollton. Dunlap is one of 17 new missionaries commissioned by the General Board of Global Ministries.

“Missionary work is not easy,” Dunlap states. Being commissioned by the church reinforced to her that “you are important to us and the work you do matters.”

She was commissioned in October but her life in mission began long before then. After graduating with a journalism degree from Malone College, Dunlap decided to take three months “before joining the real world.” She spent six weeks in Arizona working in the American Indian field and six weeks doing mission work in Honduras. Those experiences led her to look for a way to combine her journalism background with her developing passion for mission. That decision has impacted countless people around the world.

Dunlap spent two years in Bratislava, Yugoslavia reporting for TransWorld Radio Europe. Her job was to find and report stories of people’s lives for the radio network that broadcasts in 200 languages worldwide. “Those were my favorite few years of my life so far,” Dunlap says. “They

were the most amazing people in and out of the ministry.”

Upon returning to the United States, she served two years as a US-2 missionary at Martin Methodist College in Tennessee. US-2 missionaries are college graduates who serve two years under appointment with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church. All of those experiences led her to her current position as patient-services coordinator for the Charitable Pharmacy of Central Ohio in Columbus.

The pharmacy’s mission is: “to be a bridge pharmacy, by providing access to prescription medications for low income, uninsured and underinsured individuals who experience gaps in their insurance coverage and/or challenges in accessing medications through other programs*.”

The pharmacy opened in January 2010 as a joint venture between the West Ohio Annual Conference, Access HealthColumbus, several hospitals and foundations and Livingston United Methodist Church, where the pharmacy is located. In the first six months of operation 611 patients were seen and 5,884 prescriptions were filled*.

“Every person has a story, oftentimes sad or disappointing,” Dunlap says. “So many burdens in their lives that we can’t

help with here but there is one thing that we can do for them. Simply to see what a difference it makes to make one thing easy or certain. The pharmacy is a wonderful ministry and I feel privileged to have been a part of the start of it.”

Pharmacist Alan Zaenger, director of the Charitable Pharmacy, says, “Patients can’t stop thanking me. God wants us to be doing what we are doing. When there is a need, we are getting it filled.”

The pharmacy is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Dunlap spends Tuesdays and Thursdays working at the West Ohio Annual Conference office.

She isn’t content just helping those in her neighborhood. While we were celebrating Thanksgiving here in the U.S., Dunlap spent a week in Russia with Dee Stickley-Miner, West Ohio Director of Connectional Mission and Justice and Ryan Grace, pastor at Bluffton UMC, gathering stories in support of mission projects in the Volga District.

“My life hasn’t turned out anything like I thought it would, but in so many ways, God has blessed me more abundantly than I could have imagined,” she said.

To learn more about the Charitable Pharmacy of Central Ohio visit www.charitablepharmacy.org

*Source: Charitable Pharmacy of Central Ohio, Inc.



You Can Find Amazing Things in a Closet!

By John Booth*

Just ask some of the people at **Church of the Lakes** (Tuscarawas District). Since starting its **Lil' Lambs Closet** sales in 2003, the Canton church has seen the ministry work wonders and make a difference in lives in its own membership, its local neighborhood, and around the globe.

"The church doesn't benefit directly from Lil' Lambs," Pastor Bryan George said. "We don't really get a nickel. But it benefits tremendously indirectly, from the goodwill of the community to the people who come into our building. And the (thank-you) letters that come back are enough to put a tear in anybody's eye."

Three times a year, Lil' Lambs Closet opens as a two-day consignment store where sellers can offer gently-used items aimed at families with children. Sellers receive 70% of their items' sale price, and Lil' Lambs Closet donates the remaining 30% to charities and needy families. To date, the sales have donated more than \$110,000, George said.

Of course, it started out smaller, with one church member, an idea, and what **MISTY ARNOLD** calls a bargain with God.

Arnold, a West Virginia native, and her husband Doug had been married roughly five years and were having fertility issues in starting their family. And although they had been attending Church of the Lakes for awhile, Arnold admits they weren't very active in their faith home. She laughs now, recalling those times when she prayed for conception and promised God she'd work for Him and take a bigger role in the church. "Every day, I seemed to pray that prayer, and I would ask God to give me a baby," Arnold recalled. "Then we got pregnant through in vitro fertilization, and it was the triplets."

Yes, triplets. Jocelyn, Allison and Carson were born premature but healthy, and as the Arnolds' home life became hectic, Arnold says her promises fell to the back of her mind, until the following spring, when she was participating in a local support group which organized group sales of used items. The concept reminded her of the Lil' Lambs Closet at Forrest Burdette Memorial United

Methodist Church in Hurricane, W.Va., where Arnold's mother had volunteered.

Not long after, she was working to establish the same concept at Church of the Lakes - and in pitching the idea Arnold immediately found a sympathetic ear.

"I had been doing my doctoral work in Kentucky when my children were quite small," George said. "We were literally scraping by with nickels, and we had heard of a Lil' Lambs Closet at Centenary United Methodist, a large church in Lexington. My wife participated, and we got some things for our children."

Even after his family moved to Ohio, George said, they continued to receive postcards reminding them of Lil' Lambs sales.

"I thought, 'That's a great idea, and it really blesses so many people,'" he said. "I filed it away as hopefully a thing to do in the future."

So, with \$500 seed money from the church and the list of Church of the Lakes volunteers, Arnold pulled together the first Lil' Lambs Closet sale in August 2003, just three months after her conversation with George.

"We had about 60 sellers, and our total gross was just under \$10,000, so we had about \$3,000 to give away," she said. "Scroll ahead: Now we do \$80,000 a sale, and we have about 200 to 225 sellers each time." Lil' Lambs Closet has also expanded to three sales annually: One in March for spring and summer clothing and items, one in August for fall and winter needs, and a third in October solely focused on toys.

"Recipients of each sale's proceeds are usually chosen in advance, though there is always some kept in an emergency fund as well," Arnold said. And the organizations receiving Lil' Lambs Closet donations over the years have been many, ranging from Canton Calvary Mission to Ohio's Camp Quality for children fighting cancer to assisting the children of migrant worker families in nearby Hartville.

The group also gives away occasional shopping stipends to families in need.

"The committee works very hard and diligently pores over the requests (for donations), and they try to reach out across all means," George said.

And, he added, while Lil' Lambs Closet has itself gotten bigger, so has Church of the Lakes.

"We have several people who started volunteering for Lil' Lambs, and they are so attracted by the leadership ... that they've gotten involved with the church," he said. "Some of our new members' side entry door to our church has been Lil' Lambs Closet."

For more information about Church of the Lakes Lil' Lambs Closet, contact the church, or visit www.cotl-lillambscloset.com.



*John Booth is a free-lance writer who attends Faith United Methodist Church in North Canton.



Door Image: ©iStockphoto.com/artyclone

Sheep Image: ©iStockphoto.com/La Fleur Magique

LAITY LEAD: GRACE MIXED WITH FAITH

Laity serve the local church and beyond in an amazing number of capacities. Consider the following individuals whose work has been brought to our attention by their local pastors or district superintendents.



HAZEL DEBARTOLO and her late husband Sam, **Brimfield Faith UMC** (Canal District) have been involved with a Community Food Cupboard since 1985. From its beginnings as a small pantry it has grown to serving 80 to 100 families a month.

A member of **Strasburg UMC** (Tuscarawas District), **LONDA MYERS**, shared her vision with the congregation and Carpenter's Cupboard was 'birthed' serving about 100 families per month by providing five days of food per client. Funding needs, which can exceed \$1,000 per month, are provided by donations from church members, civic organizations, area businesses and local churches.

Two North Coast churches, **NORTH OLMSTED UMC** and **EAST GLENVILLE UMC** have found a way to cross an imaginary line separating Cleveland into East and West. For more than 30 years members of North Olmsted UMC have traveled to East Glenville UMC the last Tuesday of the month to take and prepare food to feed 150 people. When North Olmsted UMC was a new church start in the 1970's East Glenville UMC was generous and this started the partnership.

JOHN AND SHARON HILL (Three Rivers District) are members of the **Keene UMC**. They are involved with the Hospitality Task Group and help care for the details of an Apple Butter stir in October. John serves as the district coordinator for work mission trips and has made two mission trips to New Orleans, as well as a trip to Nashville, Tenn., during the last two years. Keene UMC has a ministry called Extending His Hands. John Hill has performed many tasks such as repairing lawn mowers, replacing windows, and much more. The Coshocton area has a free clinic for those in medical need and John was the leader of a group from the church that did some of the remodeling of a building that was given to the clinic.

CHUCK AND RENITA NOHEJL are members of the **Ridgewood UMC** (North Coast District). They have been active in youth ministry at the district level for many years, and have organized an annual summertime Youth Mission Trip at the church. The trips have taken youth all over the country doing hands-on work on behalf of Christ and his kingdom.

The **Harsh Memorial UMC** (Ohio Valley District) is blessed to have two lay leaders who have worked together for a number of years to lead the church. **ROBERT WAGNER** serves as the Ohio Valley District lay leader. Both he and **SHIRLEY DEVITT** have completed the basic and advanced lay speaking courses and have been involved with Laity Sunday, serving as liturgist and giving testimonies during worship. They have helped to serve communion not only in the church but also to the community's homebound. During 2008-2009 Harsh Memorial and **Kilgore UMC** (Ohio Valley District) each went without a pastor. Wagner and Devitt either filled the pulpits or found others who would.

TIM TAYLOR, Lakeside UMC, (Firelands District) represents the kind of leadership that can inspire a congregation. Taylor fulfills all the job requirements for his office of lay leader and has his Lay Speaker's license. Taylor takes charge of pastoral duties when the pastor is not present and has served as interim pastor at **Kelleys Island UMC** (Firelands District).

Another area of lay-led ministry is audio/video coordination. The team at **Malvern UMC** (Tuscarawas District) is led by **LARRY BUGH**. He does most of the set up each week of a system that records services utilizing both manually and remote-operated cameras and a separate recording booth. The system takes four people to operate. **GREG WELLS** is the co-director of the A/V group. He and Bugh work closely to schedule and train volunteers, develop equipment needs and purchase, install and maintain equipment. **VICKIE GEIGER** coordinates the youth volunteers for each Sunday's service. These include the camera operator, acolytes and youth liturgists. The rest of the team includes **DAN SELLERS, ERIC SELLERS, RON McCORT, JACKIE FOSTER, CHUCK ROSS** and **MIKE RINEHART**. The team puts in a total of close to 15 volunteer hours per week.

CALVIN PARMITER is a member of **McConnelville Trinity UMC** (Southern Hills District). Parmiter does not hold a church office but quietly expresses Christian love as he provides transportation to elderly people in the community, at all hours and to all kinds of places. He also runs errands for them, checks on them almost daily, and prays for them daily as well. They consider him their angel.

If you would like to highlight laity work being done in your church for possible use in a future edition, send an email to joininghands@eocumc.com.



Photo: ©iStockphoto.com/
ranplett

The Bedrock of Flat Rock Church

By Peter Chakerian

Few people in this country can claim to be lifelong members of the same church. But **JIM ANDREWS** of Ebenezer UMC (Firelands District) in Flat Rock is most certainly one of them.

Andrews has been an active member in the church since he was baptized at 6 months of age — more than 75 years ago. But even the word “active” in describing Andrews is the understatement of a lifetime.

For the past 20 years, Andrews has served as Ebenezer UMC’s choir director and has done so without compensation. He has also been trustee, council chair, Gideon speaker, lay speaker and lay leader.

“That’s true,” Andrews said with a laugh.

“I’ve held just about every office there is to hold at the church, except administrative council and the women’s group! I don’t think I was the president of that.”

Andrews is fairly pragmatic about how he settled into a seven-decade stay with the same church.

“I guess it really all comes down to heritage. My family grew up there and were in the church long before I was,” Andrews smiled. “I suppose it’s a hereditary kind of thing.”

Involvement with the children’s home (then an orphan’s home) and with the youth group were a part of his early experiences at Ebenezer.

“Getting involved with the church started there, and definitely kept me going there,” he said.

“I definitely kept busy.”

During 2010 Andrews kept very busy. Outside of his encircling contributions, the self-taught artist also repairs

stained glass windows for the church and is one of Ebenezer UMC’s last “chalk talk presenters.” Both offer satisfying outlets for the septuagenarian’s artistic expression.

“A neighboring UMC called and asked if I could try stained glass repair work, mostly because I had experience with a glass company before. So I started doing stained glass windows,” he recalled.

“They liked my work and I was asked to do work for several other churches now. The most fun part of the work is the cutting and grinding, but the designing really is the rewarding part.”

As for chalk talks, Andrews makes the rounds to surrounding churches and other locations with programs based on scripture and hymns. By his own recollection, “I’ve done some 3,000 to 4,000 chalk talks, including ones at nursing homes, service clubs, weddings, anniversaries and surrounding churches.”

Andrews enjoys delivering a message through this early form of multimedia art.

“There’s a message with background music and a narrative,” he said. “I’ve done that for 43 years now and always enjoy it. My programs usually last a half-hour, with a short talk and I use black and fluorescent lights that change the pictures at the end. I’ll usually sing a song at the end as well.”

Andrews credits Ebenezer’s Reverend Emerson Iles with inspiring him.

“He had been doing chalk talks for a long time,” Andrews remembered. “I bought the equipment he used with his programs when he got sick and retired. It has been a big part of my church involvement ever since.”

Andrews shows no signs of slowing down, especially as it relates to his church involvement.

What is Chalk Talk?

Chalk talk is a thought-provoking method of combining Jesus’ teachings from the Bible with a visual representation to which the congregation can relate. The artist uses an easel, drawing paper, lighting, colored chalk and black light chalk to bring the gospel message to life.

Some artists create a picture to reinforce the story they are verbally telling while others speak not a word but instead draw with a musical accompaniment. The end result is a visual experience that leaves a lasting impact on all who view its transformation from a blank page to a work of art.

To learn more about chalk talk ministry and to view examples visit the online edition of Joining Hands at www.eocumc.com.



Chuck McClintock Served as Youth Leader for More Than Half a Century

By John Booth

One Sunday in March 2008, north central Ohio was buried beneath 16 inches of snow, and **Wooster United Methodist Church** (Canal District) Pastor David Wilcox saw maybe a third of his usual congregants in attendance. One was **CHUCK MCCLINTOCK**, who, though tardy, still managed to make it to his regular seat in the balcony.

"He said, 'I'm sorry I was late: I had to shovel snow,'" Wilcox recalled. "At the time, he was 91."

Such was the rolled-up-sleeves dependability of McClintock, who passed away in late October at the age of 93, a day after suffering a fall at the church where he'd served as a youth leader for more than half a century. He was married to his wife Lorna for 58 years before her death in 1999, and they raised two sons, Mark and Jon.

A lifelong resident of the area — a 1936 graduate of Wooster High, and at the time of his passing, among the oldest living members of the 107-year Wooster-Orrville high school football rivalry — McClintock served in Europe during World War II and found his calling upon returning home.

"He came back from the war and felt God was calling him to work with teenagers to make this a better world," Wilcox said. "He worked with youth from 1945 until the Sunday he fell. And he almost never missed: If he missed one (Sunday) in the last 10 years, I'd be shocked. He was absolutely steady."

Wooster UMC junior high Sunday school teacher Dave Stenglein knew McClintock as his mentor and guide through navigating the choppy waters of youth and their faith.

"God created junior high kids so that He could give a definition to words like 'unresponsive' and 'disengaged,'" Stenglein wrote tongue-in-cheek in a piece eulogizing McClintock.

"Chuck McClintock mentored, loved, and taught these kids for 60 years! He probably ministered to over 500 students in Sunday school alone, not to mention those that he coached and impacted in other ways.

"The real extraordinary thing about Chuck was not what he did, or the numbers, but the 'how,'" Stenglein continued. "He followed their accomplishments. (He knew) who was on the Honor Roll, scored a goal, was in a play, sold a steer at the fair.

He knew their interests and passions, and what subject could cause them to engage. He cared."

UMC-ordained Deacon Diane Johnson met McClintock in 1994, shortly after beginning her ministry with Wooster UMC, and calls McClintock one of her favorite people, describing him as "faith-filled, energetic, and interested in the lives and concerns of others."

In 1995, she recalls, the church celebrated McClintock's 50th anniversary as a youth leader — which, Johnson believes, based on conversations with Christian educators nationwide, made him the church's longest continuously serving youth worker in the country.

"Many people talk about 'me time' or 'time away,'" she said, "but Chuck's energy came from his constancy and his presence. Although he slowed a bit, he never seemed to burn out or run down. He adapted to the changes in youth culture while holding steady to the ever-present need for young people to have Christ at the center of their lives. Chuck led by personal example, held high expectations of students, and believed that they were capable of achieving anything ... including heaven."

She also said McClintock's teaching came from the most solid of foundations: "He had little patience with popular theory and held Scripture as primary in his own study life," Johnson said. "When I gave him curriculum samples to look over, he would read each example cover to cover. He usually came back to me with, 'Why not use the Bible?'"

McClintock's service to others reached beyond the church, too: He coached a youth basketball team from 1945 to 2003 and, for the past 25 years, spent part of most Mondays packing groceries for the needy.

"In the parable of the last judgment in Matthew 25, there's a wonderful lack of self-consciousness on the part of the faithful, and that's kind of the way Chuck was," Wilcox said. "He didn't make a big deal out of the many things he did to enrich people's lives."

Conference Historian Chronicles Church's Living Past

By Rick Wolcott

To get where you are going you must first understand where you have been. This statement could serve as a job description for **BILL DROWN**, the East Ohio Conference historian and, since 1975, director of the **Bishop Seybert Museum**.

Drown's task is to accumulate, catalog and communicate the rich history of our denomination. "Church history is a passion in Bill's life," says Rev. Bruce Kent (Seybert UMC & Ebenezer UMC). "He has created a museum at **Seybert United Methodist Church** (Firelands District) that has been described as one of the most extensive museums in Methodism."

That is not an easy feat when you consider the many changes that have occurred in the church between John Wesley's time (1703-1791) and 1968 when The United Methodist Church was created with the merger of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and The Methodist Church. Drown is a lifetime member of Seybert UMC and has seen its evolution from an Evangelical church to an Evangelical United Brethren church and now a United Methodist church. A historical marker was placed outside Seybert United Methodist Church in 2003 by the state of Ohio to commemorate the Bicentennial of the Circuit Riders.

"The Bishop Seybert Museum is the premiere collection of papers and artifacts relating to the Evangelical Church history and contains several rare books and records of the Evangelical Church," says Drown. "The museum houses the papers of Dr. Roy B. Leedy the great historian of the Evangelical Church in Ohio." It also includes Bishop John Seybert's horse



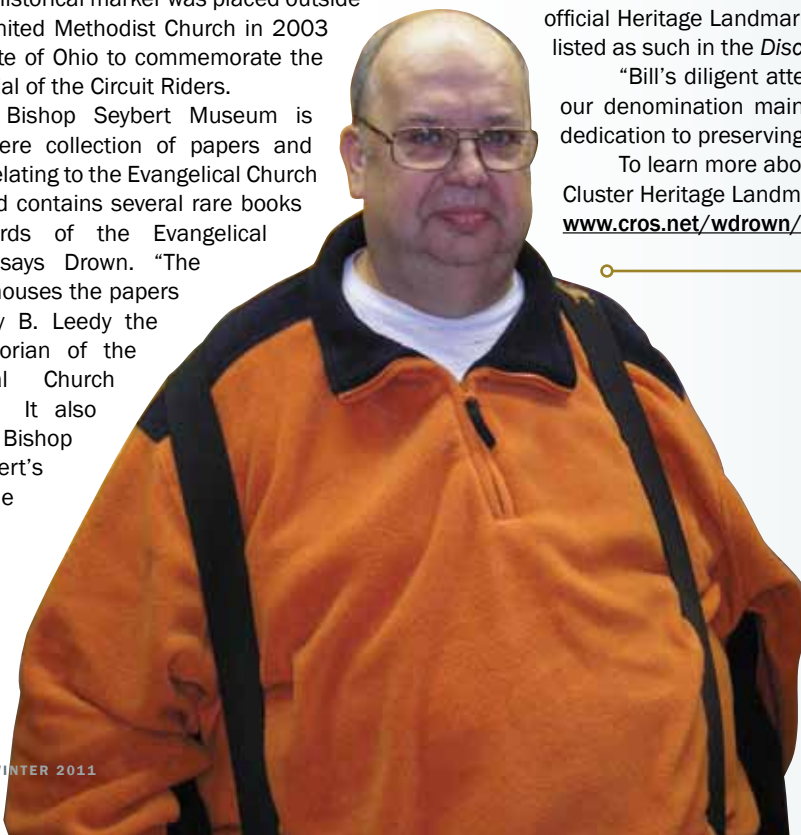
drawn wagon as well as one of the oldest portraits of Bishop Seybert. Kent says Drown "scours eBay auctions, trade magazines and other journals, keeping an eye out for historical church mementos."

The museum is not Drown's only passion. He played a major role in acquiring and relocating the Detterman log church in 1992 from its original site on the Detterman farm to Lyme Village in Bellevue, Ohio. The log church was dedicated in 1848 and originally housed a Methodist Episcopal congregation. The church contains a pump organ and old pews. Worship services are conducted at the log church every Sunday beginning in June and running through October. Kent is quick to point out that, "Bill also makes sure Detterman has a Christmas Eve midnight service and an Easter sunrise service."

The museum and log church host groups that come to learn about the history of The United Methodist Church. "The Bishop Seybert Museum, Seybert United Methodist Church and the Detterman log church are part of the official Heritage Landmark of The United Methodist Church and are listed as such in the *Discipline* of the Church," states Drown.

"Bill's diligent attention to EA/EUB/UMC history has helped our denomination maintain its historical roots," says Kent. "His dedication to preserving our heritage is second to none."

To learn more about the Bishop John Seybert Flat Rock Area Cluster Heritage Landmark log onto www.cros.net/wdrown/seibert.htm



God Has a Plan for You

By Allen Laferty*

James 2: 17 – “So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.”

In this passage the writer of James makes two challenges to the people of Jesus Christ. The first challenge is to love God with all our heart, mind and soul. Doing so will allow all who call on Jesus to live with confidence that our life eternal is safe in His love. The second challenge is to encourage one another and to entice others into faith by our love and good works. This challenge is a little more difficult to carry out because we have to leave the safety of our comfort zone.

As a young man my understanding of being a good Christian was to attend church regularly and give my hard earned money to better the kingdom. I served on Trustees, because as a home builder that felt comfortable and natural. I even became chairperson of the Trustees but no one challenged me to do more. If God hadn't called me to do more I could have remained in my local church doing what I do best, looking over the buildings and grounds for needed repairs. Remaining content is not what Jesus set out for himself or for his followers. Wherever he went people gathered and each time Jesus would challenge those in his presence.

Out of the challenges of life in ministry we can find major growth. Along my faith journey I am learning that God has a plan for me and if I remain faithful God will use me. It took time and patience for me to come around to this thinking and I imagine God must have wondered if I would ever get it. I found that God didn't always call those that were qualified but instead would qualify all those whom He called.

This past summer God called me to go to Haiti, a country that was devastated last February by an earthquake that claimed more than 200,000 lives. When offered the opportunity to go, I did not hesitate. I knew God had been preparing me for this moment my entire life. I was able to use my God-gifted skills to help those in dire need.

God wants us to be His hands and feet in this hurting world. So don't hesitate. Go into the world and make disciples.

*Allen Laferty is Lay Leader for the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church.



“Within the first 15 minutes of arriving at Port-au-Prince International Airport, the high expectations I held to try and help were broken. I thought I was prepared for this challenge, but I remember telling myself that they should take me back to the airport to go back home because this was something I could not handle. I have worked with poor people before with Habitat for Humanity and in Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina. I have been to several border towns in Mexico where people live in cardboard boxes and open sewage ditches. None of that prepared me for Haiti and how poor the people had become. What I saw on the drive to the compound was poverty, garbage, makeshift homes, and people trying to sell whatever they could to survive. On the hour drive to the far eastern part of Port-au-Prince to a town called Croix-Deux-Bouquet (Qua-Day-Bu-K), I saw the troubled people and the still remaining rubble first hand.”

To read more about Laferty's mission trip to Haiti visit **Joining Hands Online** where you will find extended coverage, articles and resources about **Laity Lead: Grace Mixed with Faith**. Visit www.eocumc.com/joininghands

“So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.”

James 2: 17

Leading Caring Communicating

Lay Ministry Is About More Than Speaking

By Jim Kelly*

Lay Speaking Ministries date back to the days of John Wesley. Over the years the name has changed, from Class Leader to Exhorter to Lay Speaker and now Lay Speaking Ministries, but the mission remains the same. The early church would not have survived without a devoted laity working closely with the clergy. When the pastors, or circuit riders, were not in the community it was the laity that kept the church going. They served as an extension of the pastor to care for the flock.

Over the years, laity have relinquished many of our responsibilities to a paid staff. Regardless of how many staff members a church has they cannot, and should not have to, do the job of ministry alone. I believe a strong laity, working with the clergy, is the only way United Methodists will achieve our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The Lay Speaking Ministries program offers classes to enhance the skills of laity so they can better serve in their local churches and communities. Training materials for the courses stress ministry over speaking. In fact it is no longer required for participants to give a speech before completing the class. The classes focus on the following areas:

LEADING:

Lay Speakers are trained to be leaders in their local church and beyond. Courses are offered on how to lead meetings, prayers, Bible studies and how to lead others to Christ.

CARING:

Lay Speakers are taught to take care of others through prayer, teaching, stewardship and mission outreach. Nursing home ministries, hospital and home visitations, food distribution and meal preparation/serving are some of the many ways Lay Speakers assist pastors in caring for people and bringing them to Christ.

COMMUNICATING:

To be an effective committee or program chair, a leader has to know how to communicate the goals of the group or it will not function properly. Lay Speaking Ministries offers a servant leader training course designed to improve communication skills. Not all Lay Speakers are called to fill the pulpit if/when the pastor is away but for those who are there are wonderful preaching courses that would need to be completed first.

All offered courses include sections on how to share what you have learned with your local church so the message of Christ moves from your heart to others.

To learn more about becoming a lay speaker, contact your local district office or email Jim Kelly at jkelly6@neo.rr.com.



**Jim Kelly is Director of Lay Speaking for the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church.*



April 9 2011

2011 Laity REVIVAL

The world is waiting for Christ's body to reach, touch, heal, comfort, name realities, bless children and care for the poor; offering a Kingdom that melts hearts and meets real needs.

Photo: ©iStockphoto.com/Prikhodko

Here's your Opportunity to Step Forward and Lead

*By Rev. Dave Scavuzzo**

Imagine a church where every member sees themselves not as a consumer but as a servant minister. Envisage every United Methodist Christian trusting that their unique DNA was made specifically with a key to release another person into the love of God. Picture each lay person within our conference encountering a burning bush and hearing their calling to passionate ministry without waiting for a phone call from the pastor or the nominating committee. The world is waiting for Christ's body to reach, touch, heal, comfort, name realities, bless children and care for the poor; offering a Kingdom that melts hearts and meets real needs.

Laity from around the East Ohio Conference will be gathering on April 9th at **Westbrook Park United Methodist Church** (Tuscarawas District) to receive blessing, pray and acknowledge the ministry of all believers in Christ. It is our hope that each might discover a new burning bush of calling into a particular ministry or affirm a whisper once heard. Lay Speakers from each district will be invited to give witness to some creative and passionate ministry that has enabled their church to see fruit in their respective mission field. We will be circling in groups of prayer to request from the Lord of the Harvest that God's Church would burn as in the days of the Wesleyan Awakening. The Bishop will be sharing reflections regarding the empowering and permission that has been offered to all believers. Our time together will culminate with the Bishop and Cabinet anointing with oil our District Lay Leaders and Directors of Lay Speaking. They in turn will pray for and anoint all other disciples of Christ in attendance. Come and catch the Spirit and be a part of the viral movement that could spread into every corner of the conference.

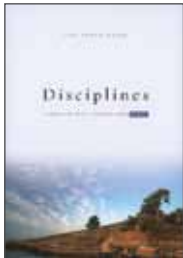
**Rev. Dave Scavuzzo is an East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church Superintendent assigned to the Western Reserve District.*



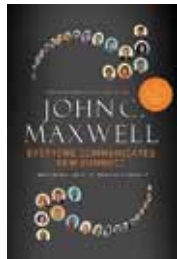
resources

Laity Lead: Grace Mixed With Faith

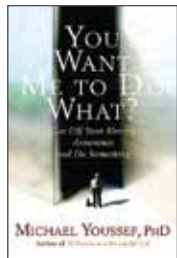
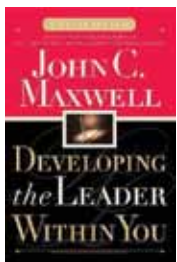
Books



As Conference Lay Leader, Allen LaFerty uses Upper Room's **Disciplines** as a daily devotion.



LaFerty uses John Maxwell's books for training. He particularly likes **Developing the Leader Within You** and **Everyone Communicates Few Connect**.



For good reading LaFerty recommends **You Want Me to Do What?** written by Michael Youssef, PHD, who explains how God challenges every Christian to fulfill the call placed on their lives.

All books are available at Cokesbury.



Media Center Resources

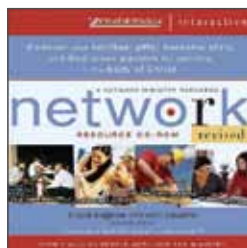
It: How Churches & Leaders Can Get & Keep It

Discover the powerful presence of God that the author, Craig Groeschel, calls "it." Your church leadership is encouraged during nine sessions on the tangible ways your church and ministry can find "it," keep "it," and display "it" so that people will finally get "it."

Network: The Right People ... In The Right Places

Network revised is a process to help Christians understand who God has made them to be and guide them to a place of meaningful service in the local church. The popular Network approach has been revised and updated for even greater effectiveness and ease of use. The material includes a DVD with six segments plus vision and coaching material.

To reserve these resources contact Susan Arnold at the Conference Media Center at 1-800-831-3972 ext. 139.



The Web

Discover Your Spiritual Gifts

www.umc.org/spiritual_gifts

Every person is gifted by God. This site offers answers to your questions, spiritual gift tools, a spiritual gift assessment test and additional resources to provide you with ways to discover your unique spiritual gift.

Our People

www.umc.org/our_people

The people of The United Methodist Church have many stories to share. Meet more members of The United Methodist Church who are helping people in their communities, caring and supporting each other and guiding others to find deeper meaning.

Equipping Disciples

www.gbod.org

The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church assists church leaders in disciple-making within and beyond the local church setting. Learn how small group ministries can empower and support congregation Lay Leaders.

East Ohio Laity

www.eocumc.com/laity

Find contact information for Conference Lay Leaders, Lay Speakers, Lay Speaker training and more right here.

Faces: ©iStockphoto.com/Özgür Donmaz

Mission trip to Haiti

Have you ever felt you got more than you bargained for?

By Allen Laferty, East Ohio Conference Lay Leader

This July I began a trip that would change my life. Donald Holter of Bucyrus and I arrived in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to help rebuild after the earthquake that occurred in January.

The earthquake decimated the city of Port-au-Prince, and crippled the already troubled nation. More than 200,000 people lost their lives and even more were left injured and homeless. Without food, water, or shelter, many people are left trying to survive from meal to meal relying almost solely on the generosity of mission groups to help restore basic necessities that their government can't or won't provide.

Within the first 15 minutes of arriving at Port-au-Prince International Airport, the high expectations of helping were broken. I thought I was prepared for this challenge, but I remember telling myself that they should take me back to the airport to go back home because this was something I could not handle.

I have worked with displaced people before with Habitat for Humanity and in Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina. I have been to border towns in Mexico where people live in cardboard boxes and open sewage ditches. None of this prepared me for Haiti and how poor the people had become.

On the hour drive to the compound located at the far eastern part of Port-au-Prince in a town called Croix-Deux-Bouquet (Qua-Day-Bu-K), I saw the troubled people and the still remaining rubble first hand.

The Christian Service International group (CSI) compound was surrounded by a nine foot high concrete wall laced with barbed wire and two big steel gates. Inside the gates was a large two story building which was home to a free clinic and apartments and facilities.

Donald and I met our host family, the Garrett's from Lexington, Ohio. They showed us the facility and made us feel at home. I have to admit it was a great place, and it was like home but not what I had expected.

The jobsite was a quarter mile walk from our compound, again surrounded by a large wall topped with barbed wire. The plans were to establish a two story earthquake-proof concrete building for a girls' orphanage and educational facility. Specifically, our job was to build wood forms for the concrete to be poured on the second floor - 250 yards of concrete were to be poured. Ten days later under the blistering sun, concrete trucks began arriving at 7:00AM.

Over the next eighteen hours, we encountered obstacles that would be totally unheard of in the United States, from engineering mistakes to a broken pump truck that forced the workers to place the last ten yards of concrete by bucket brigade.

I'm planning to return to Haiti within the next year. I'll be doing some presentations until then hoping to stir up interest to support my next trip. If anyone is interested in having me come to your organization or gathering, please contact me at 419-683-3897.



More Accolades of Laity in Action

Greensburg UMC (Canal District) is intentional about service. The church focuses on the talents of parishioners when nominating members to serve on committees. Parishioners find joy when they serve Christ by using their gifts and talents.

DOUP OPLINGER was instrumental in bring a staff person on board to help the Greensburg congregation identify and claim their distinctive gifts. Oplinger is a gifted communicator. Since joining the church in 1979, he has utilized that skill to serve in a variety of leadership positions, teach Sunday school, play hand bells and sing in the choir. The congregation particularly enjoys Oplinger's creative children sermons in which he uses "drama, props and amazing story telling to convey a theological message."

JOHN WILLIAMSON was the primary force behind the creation of the Job Support Group at **Church of the Lakes** (Tuscarawas District). The group was created to serve church and community members who find themselves out of work. At least once a year seminars are taught on networking, resume writing and interviewing skills. Williamson also serves as a counselor at the Royal Family Kids Camp. The camp offers abused and neglected children ages 7-11, who have been placed in foster care, a week of fun and the chance to experience God's unconditional love. Two years ago Williamson created a RFKC Grads program that allows children over the age of 11 an opportunity to come back for a weekend adventure at the church.

Learn More About and View Chalk Talk Art

www.chalkmart.com - instruction and training for beginning and experienced chalk talk artists

www.youtube.com - type "Christian chalk talk" in the search bar to view works of chalk talk art