

The Spinnaker

Newsletter for the Port Huron District

January 2009

We Can Cultivate Fruitfulness

We can look and find seeds of hope growing in many places in our Port Huron District, now it's time to Cultivate Fruitfulness. To this end a special time together is being planned on March 7, 2009. We will meet at the Lapeer: Trinity United Methodist Church to learn from Bishop Robert Schnase, author of "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations". It will be a day set aside to consider what each of us is doing in our church to help make disciples for Jesus Christ, and how to do it with enthusiasm!

Come and find out more about: Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. What are they and how you can find them in your life?

Bishop Schnase has written a number of books; one of which will be presented to you upon your arrival. "Cultivating Fruitfulness" is your gift from the Port Huron Council on ministries. On your registration form there is

also a space where you can order "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations", another book by Bishop Schnase offered to you at a special seminar price. Just include the price of the book in with your registration fee. Cokesbury is also planning on having other books by Bishop Schnase for you to purchase if you wish.

Come and enjoy the day. Come celebrate and Cultivate Fruitfulness in the spot where God has planted you. Enclosed in this issue of the Spinnaker find the brochure with registration information.

Clergy Retreat Coming

As you read last month there will be a special event for Clergy in the Port Huron District. These days are being set aside for all the pastors, inviting them to spend time with Rev. Terry Euper "Reviving Your Pastoral Heart". This retreat takes place February 2-3, 2009 at the Lake Huron Retreat Center (an easy drive from where you are.) See last month's Spinnaker for a brochure with registration information. Registration deadline is January 26, 2009. Register soon, before all the rooms are filled.

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Two Coins for Justice

Well the reservations are in and the Port Huron District has twelve people signed up to attend the January 6-7 event in Fort Wayne Indiana. This event is sponsored by the North Central Jurisdiction of Town & Country/Urban Network. Workshop leader is Alan Rice, Executive director of the Rural faith - based Development Corporation.

Those who will be attending are:

Maureen & Robert Baker, Ellen Burns,
Dave Freeland, Catherine Hiner,
Leonard Lowe, Douglas McMunn
David Pratt, Linda Schramm
Paula Timm, and Peggy & Jim Paige

The Port Huron District should glean much information and many ideas from those that attend. Speak to them when they return and maybe they will share some of their insights.

Prayer Concerns

Marion Pohly spent a week in the hospital, but is back in the pulpit again.

John Potter had gallbladder surgery on Nov. 24. All went well. They were able to do less invasive surgery.

Colin Stover spent a night in the hospital with chest pains, he is home.

Carol Walborn is again at home
Dennis VanWormer is back at home
Louise Pohly - improvement is slow.
Bob Bernum's brother-in-law,
Rex Louks, is at home.

Sheila Jansen, now Financial Sec. for Port Huron: First, begins cheom. soon.

Jean Snyder is still recovering.

Joyce McCallum's sister, Jan Hile, has found the brain tumor has gotten smaller, but is having difficulty getting off the steroids..

Lucrecia Ferriby prayers for healing.



With Deepest Sympathy

Please remember the family of Rev. Kenneth Christler (Executive Dir. United Methodist Union). He went home to be with his heavenly father on Sunday, November 23, after a sudden accident.

D.S. Destinations

For January 2009

5: Conf. Mtg.

6-7: Two Coins for Justice

10: Board of Church Locat. & Build

11: DCOM Meeting at Marlette

12-15: Cabinet Retreat

17: Conf. Bd of Ordained Ministry

18: Office Closed

22: Conf. Mtg.

24: Michigan - Haiti Task Force

Liberian Team Returns

The Port Huron Volunteers In Mission Team has returned from Liberia and have many stories and pictures to share with those in the Port Huron District. If you are interested in having one of the team members as a guest at your church, please contact them after the first of the year, and request a date.

Team members are:

Rev. Maureen Baker

Rev. Jim Barnett

Bob Bernum

Rev. Peggy Paige

A Call "To Witness"

The mission of The United Methodist Church, reaffirmed at the 2008 General Conference, is "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

When persons become professing members of the United Methodist Church in addition to the vows currently found in ¶217 they will be asked to affirm two revised vows:

To be loyal to **Christ through** The United Methodist Church and do all in their power to strengthen its ministries; (2008 Book of Discipline ¶217.5) and

To faithfully participate in its ministries by their prayers, their presence, their gifts, their service, **and their witness.** (2008 Book of Discipline ¶217.6)

Paragraph 217.6 had become the United Methodist membership mantra: "prayers, presence, gifts and service." In some of our congregations, these words became the only "membership vows" many of our people knew, despite the fact that our Discipline names all the vows of the baptismal covenant as requirements for professing membership. The vows of "prayers, presence, gifts and service" were primarily "inwardly" focused and institutional in character. They offered little insight or inspiration for disciples of Jesus Christ to engage in God's mission of transforming the world. Adding "and witness" to the list may help our members, new and old, to recognize their responsibilities not only to "show up," but to "show forth" God's saving love in all that we do.

An unknown writer of an African American spiritual wrote, "Who'll be a witness for my Lord?" The question begs our response.

Will you be a witness in 2009 sowing seeds of hope and love everywhere in the Port Huron District and beyond?

Shalom,

Rev. Peggy Paige

(Note: As of 2004, the vows in Baptismal Covenant III are no longer Disciplinary and should no longer be used in The United Methodist Church. Updated liturgies with new addition of "witness" are available at www.gbod.org)

GOD GRANT THESE GIFTS

God grant these gifts to you -

His Star to lead you on your way,

The joy, the faith, the friendship

That comes with this glad day,

And even in the New Year

Like an answer to a prayer

The Light of Price to bless you

And guide you - everywhere!

District Youth Director On Board

Hello Port Huron District,

As of January 2009, I will become your new District Youth Coordinator. I currently serve as a Deacon at Port Huron First United Methodist Church. My primary ministry is to the youth of the church. Previously to this, I served at Court Street UMC in Flint as the Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry for seven years and as a volunteer youth leader/coordinator for seven years before that. All in all I have been active in Youth Ministry for 15 years. While in Flint, I assisted with the Flint District Youth Council working with Jackie Euper and other adult leaders for that group. Connecting our youth with the church, the District, the Conference, and the world is a particular passion of mine. The more positive connections our youth have, the better off they will be as they journey towards independence.

My first goal with the youth of Port Huron District is to organize a youth council, consisting of 2-3 youth from each church in our district. This council would meet every other month at the different represented churches. Another goal is to provide 2-4 activities each year for them to gather and make connections with each other. A third goal will be to connect with our CCYM (Conference Council on Youth Ministry) and participate in their activities. A final goal will be to provide resources and training for the many youth leaders of this district.

These goals, of course, will not happen overnight, but with your support the youth of our district will begin to find connection with one another. Right now, I am planning an event in April for the purpose of forming a youth council. Keep watching the Spinnaker for details for this event and please pass along any information you receive regarding

District Youth Events to your youth leaders. Thank you for this opportunity to serve the youth of the Port Huron District.

Peace,

Rev. Alicea L. Williams

Assistance is Coming....

for completing the Local Church Audit online. On Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at 10:00 AM at Brighton: First UMC Rev. Brent Webster, Conference Statistician, will be demonstrating how to complete the reports on line for the Local Church Audit. Rev. Webster will also be able to answer your questions. Pastors, administrative assistants and finance secretaries are invited. Please contact Terry Keefe at terry@binghtonfumc.ore if you plan to attend.

Just for your information: GCFA has added a new link on the statistician input system for Local churches. The link is for the following charts: Membership/Attendance, Average Sunday School Attendance, Received by Profession of Faith, and Membership Growth.

These charts have been created using the data provided to GCFA by local churches.

Stewardship Event Planned

“Encouraging the Joy of Generous Giving” is the title. The workshop, sponsored by the United Methodist Foundation of Michigan, will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2009 at the Highland UMC in Highland MI. Presenters include Wayne Barrett, David Bell and their account managers from Merrill Lynch. Cost will be \$10 for day beginning at 9:30 AM until 12:30 PM. Make sure that you put this on your calendar now if you are a clergy, church administrator, treasurer, endowment chair or church leader.

DAC is Changing

Details for the 2009 Detroit Annual Conference were announced on Nov. 24.

Conference is scheduled for Wednesday through Sunday, May 13-17, 2009. In the 41st session delegates will meet over four days, as opposed to the three day conference that had been the norm. In addition, opening worship service will occur at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, May 13, the night before the official opening of conference business. Michigan Area Bishop Jonathan D. Keaton will preach at the worship service and preside over the weekend's plenary sessions.

This change in length of conference will enable delegates to find more time to celebrate our connection and make room for guest speakers to focus on "developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world". This is one of the four areas adopted by the Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table.

The first full day of the conference has been restructured with clergy & laity gathering in separate sessions in the morning and legislative sections meeting following the lunch break.

The business meeting should conclude by 3:30 PM on Sunday, May 17, followed by the Service of Ordination & Commissioning taking place beginning at 4:00 PM.

Haiti Container Project

At the Detroit Annual Conference for 2009 the Haiti container contributions are limited to basic UMCOR kits. The conference will also collect choir and pastor robes, and used eye glasses in a case. These all must be in new or good condition.

Check out the conference web-site for more information on this year's Haiti Container and what your church can do to help.

District Directions

For January 2009

- 6-7 Many attending "Two Coins for Justice" in Indiana
- 10: Board of Location & Bld. Mtg.
- 11: DCOM Meeting 3:00 PM, Marlette
- 13: P.H. Town & Country Mtg. 1:00 PM, Sandusky
- 19: Martin Luther King day-Office Closed

Feb.

- 2-3: P.H. Clergy Retreat "Reviving Your Pastoral Heart", Lake Huron Ret. Cntr
- 11: P.H. Superintendency Comm. Mtg. 2:00 PM, Dist. Office
- 12: DBOM Mtg., 7 PM, W. Goodland

March.

- 7: Cultivating Fruitfulness (Leadership Day) at Lapeer: Trinity UMC
- 19: P.H. Committee on Ordained Min

Any material to be included in the February issue of The Spinnaker needs to be in the District Office before January 5. Thanks!



Port Huron District Books for DCOM and DBOM will close on December 19, 2008. Please make sure that your checks are in the office prior to that date. Thanks!

Looking for Leadership

It is the beginning of a new year and I am still looking for the leadership lists of the following churches:

Applegate
Attica
Bad Axe: First
BASS - all churches
Capac: First & Zion Community
Davis & Mt. Vernon
Deckerville & Minden City
Dryden & Leonard
Elkton
Harbor Beach & Port Hope
Howarth & Paint Creek
Imlay City
Jeddo & Buel
Kilmanagh & Unionville
Lexington
Marysville
McGregor & Carsonville
New Haven: Faith
New Hope
Omard
P.H. Gratiot Park
Port Sanilac
Romeo
Ruby
Sandusky: First
Sebewaing: Trinity
Thomas
Washington
West Goodland
Yale

Some have not had their church conference, so are not listed.

District Directory Updates

More updates for the District Directory
On page 37 please note:

Mallinson Scholarship Fund applications go to Sang Yoon Chun, PO Box 194, 1465 W Samaria Rd, Samaria MI 48177 telephone number is 734-856-6430.

Local Pastor's registrar Beth Librande's telephone number is corrected as 248-474-3444 and email should be blibrande@yahoo.com

Lexington UMC has a new secretary: Danielle Henry. (page 10)
John Ball should be included on page 14
John Ball 5471 Treasurer Rd, Mayville 48744, telephone 989-843-6082.

John is available and open to preaching etc. He is currently on a leave of absence.

Supporting Our Churches

Continuing the practice of holding up churches in the district for a special week of prayer. Please Remember:

First Sunday in January:

Algonac: Trinity & Marine City UMC's
Rev. Dennis Irish

Second Sunday in January:

Applegate UMC
Rev. James Barnett

Third Sunday in January:

Armada & West Berlin UMC
Rev. Dianna Rees

Fourth Sunday in January:

Attica UMC
Rev. Margie Bryce

Welcome New Secretary

Lexington UMC has a new secretary. Please welcome Danielle Henry when you contact the Lexington UMC and let her know how friendly the Port Huron District is.

Retirement Seminar for Clergy

The retirement seminar for Clergy and conference lay employees within 10 years of retirement will be held this year at the Midland: First UMC on February 20-21. If you are in this category and have not received a brochure, contact Rev. Brent McCumons at Midland: First UMC



- January 12:
Rev. Maureen & Robert Baker
- January 17:
Rev. Patricia & Chris Hoppenworth
- January 26:
Rev. Marvin & Joyce McCallum
- January 31:
Rev. John & Janine Ann Britt

Celebrations in the Port Huron District



- January 2008
- 2: Rev. Patricia Hoppenworth
- 3: Rev. David Pratt
- 11: Rev. Jean Love
- 13: Rev. Alger Lewis
- 15: Charlene Heim
- 15: Patricia Schomaker
- 17: Valerie Barnett
- 17: Kim Ronald Katzmark
- 21: Barbara Gerritsen
- 23: Rev. Richard Andrus
- 24: Rev. Thomas Badley
- 27: Tina Genoff
- 28: Rev. Randy Whitcomb
- 29: Maxine Curtiss

Seeking Upper Rooms

The Harbor Beach & Port Hope UMC's are looking for your old "Upper Rooms" devotional books that get tucked away in odd corners of the church because no one knows what else to do with them. They are giving them new life...The church are putting them in with the grocery bags of food that they pack at their food pantry. They have used up their supply of books and could sure use any you might have available. Contact Rev. Paula Timm at revpmt@avci.net.

And Thanks for your help!!

