

SPIRITNET

CONNECTING CHURCHES & RESOURCES FOR TRANSFORMATION

January 2000 - Theme - "Changing the World Within Us"

Moving to Multi-media

by Harry Kaufhold, Pastor, Lititz UMC, Otterbein District

How do we share the message about Jesus with the increasing numbers of people who have been raised in the information and video age? The gospel stands a better chance of taking root within us and transforming us if it is communicated in ways that are culturally relevant. Even church leaders in the first century struggled with how to present the gospel in images and thought forms consistent with those in need of evangelization.

Lititz UMC has joined the increasing numbers of churches now using multi-media in worship. After about five years of planning and discussion (and at times begging), some of our leaders on the Trustees and Church Council caught a vision for multi-media ministry. At considerable cost, two screens were installed in the sanctuary and a video projector was purchased.

We first went to multi-media worship in June of 1999 at the 9:15 a.m. praise service. Using PowerPoint® software, we do announcements, print the words to songs, use photos and scanned material, and sometimes use video clips from current films either as part of the sermon presentation or at some other point in the worship service. We have designed some of our own video presentations, although we have not yet purchased our own video editing equipment. Scenes from our Vacation Bible School, interviews

with members regarding how they live out their faith in their job, and a segment showing some of our small groups in action have been used. Our

We constantly have to try to discern what media usage enhances our worship from the cutesy stuff that only serves as a novelty or distraction.

Christmas musical this year used a live orchestra, drama, and multi-media presentation.

Using video and graphic presentations on screen, along with more current and upbeat music provided by our praise band, have helped communicate the eternal truth in forms more indigenous to those whom we wish to reach for Christ. We usually do not use video or on-screen photos or graphics at our two traditional worship services, but occasionally we do for special presentations, such as a video segment of *Samaritan's Purse*, a Christmas gift collection for needy children.

Have there been wrinkles to iron out in moving to multi-media? Of course (surprise!). We have had to discover how best to use this technology for Lititz UMC and to find our niche – what works and what doesn't work

here. We constantly have to try to discern what media usage enhances our worship from the cutesy stuff that only serves as a novelty or distraction. Are there some in the church who do not like what we're doing? Of course (surprise again!). We try to respect those who desire traditional worship forms.

God has blessed our efforts to try to communicate the gospel in the language of people today. Before the introduction of multi-media in June, our informal praise service was averaging about 60 to 70 people per Sunday. Since that time, we have anywhere from 130 to 160 people attending.

Media — Continued on page 3

Inside This Issue

One Pastor's Electronic Connection	2
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!	2
The Lifesaving Station - A Modern Parable	3
Changing the Church from within by Creating Safe Sanctuaries	4
Lay Mobilization Conference Planned	5
Name Changes	5
Resource Review	6
What's your SHAPE?	7
Thought Starters	8
SpiritNet On-line	7
Deadline	5
Permission to copy	8
Subscription Info	8

One Pastor's Electronic Connection

by Ken DeWalt, Lead Pastor,
Hope UMC, Douglassville,
Albright District

About two years ago I heard Bill Easum, in one of his on-line forums, say, "The cyber-church will be the largest and best attended congregation in the world within 50 years." Bill is known for his outrageous and sometimes accurate predictions of what churches can and will be, so I began to think about how, and why, our small church (50 persons in average attendance then) should move out into the E-Lane of the information highway. The answer has proven rewarding, exciting, and surprisingly easy.

First you must know that even today we don't have a fancy web site at Hope Church. I wish we did, but God has not provided the person to manage our site with enough consistency and talent to make it truly viable yet. So right away I assumed there was no hope for an E-Church at Hope.

Wrong. I didn't even need a web site! All I needed was an E-mail address, and the willingness to invest about 2 hours of time a week into a brief devotional based on the message of the week and a few juicy news items to tag along with it. "Hope Full Devotions & NEWS" was born.

The initial list of about 30 addresses included church attenders and friends specifically interested in Hope Church. As use of the web has grown over the past two years the address list has grown with it, totaling over 110

separate addresses now, even though our average attendance is just rising over 70.

The format has remained much the same as at the start. I work on it Sunday evening or Monday morning and like to focus the devotional on one part of the message I feel could stand to be elaborated on. Many folk have gotten back to me to say my "sermon"

I began to think about how, and why, our small church ... should move out into ... the information highway.

was a good one. I haven't the heart to tell them that if they think the devotional was as long as a sermon . . . well, you can talk to our attenders about how long I preach. I TRY to keep the devotional to a 3 minute read.

The NEWS portion is always about a new development at Hope, and any important activity going on in the coming week. I include some specific ministry team meetings as well, just to ask for prayer for any tough issue coming up in those meetings. We have several folk who want to know just when the meetings take place so they can be in prayer as the team meets.

On Sundays when I do not preach I will share my take on a point in the message I heard, sometimes not from Hope Church at all, if I am traveling

or away at seminary. Yes, that means I offer our E-Devo/News EVERY week. Even when on vacation, if possible. Why? Glad you asked.

I found almost from the start that the best reason to go to all this trouble in the first place was the connection-value of the process. I have had people E-mail me back to say they were in trouble and needed an ear, or to ask me to enlarge on an idea, or just to ask for an appointment to meet personally. The same stuff that happens after a service, except that each reader can get to me when they want to without forcing their way through several others who want my attention. Connection. Isn't that what this whole church thing is about, anyway? Connecting people to God through our praise and our prayers, and holy conversation? And it happens in cyber-space as easily as it does in the narthex, or from the stage.

If you are connected to the web, I recommend you consider some kind of regular E-Lane access for your folk to get to you, and you to them. Maybe another in your church is the right one to do it. I just happen to enjoy opening my mouth, (or my keyboard), so I've done it so far at Hope Church.

And if you'd like to see what it is I mail out every week, E-mail me at kdewalt@bellatlantic.net for a couple of issues. You can unsubscribe at anytime, with no hard feelings. After all, no one needs any more "spam" than they already get without asking!

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

With the November issue of *SpiritNet* we welcomed the pastors and lay leadership of the Asbury and Albright Districts of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference into our distribution network. With this issue we welcome those additional people on the expanded distribution list of the Asbury District. By action of District Superintendents Larry Leister, Fred Day, and Phil Ponce, all of us will now receive and be asked to consider contributing articles to *SpiritNet*.

This means that as you see an upcoming theme for this bi-monthly publication on which you feel led to share a story you simply need to write it, post it by E-mail or snail mail to editor Arlene Wilcock by the deadline, and it will be considered for publication.

Welcome in the name of Jesus! And on behalf of myself, *Ken DeWalt*, Albright District Contact and regularly contributing columnist, *Barbara Hartman*, Otterbein District Contact and Communications Coordinator, and *Arlene Wilcock*, Asbury District Contact and *SpiritNet* Editor, welcome indeed.

The Lifesaving Station - A Modern Parable

[See Matthew
7:12-27;25:31-46;9:36-38]

On a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often occur there was once a crude little lifesaving station. The building was just a hut, and there was only one boat, but the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea, and with no thought for themselves went out day and night tirelessly searching for the lost. Many lives were saved, and various others in the surrounding area wanted to become associated with the station and give of their time and money and effort for the support of its work. New boats were bought and new crews trained. The little lifesaving station grew.

Some of the members of the lifesaving station were unhappy that the building was so crude and poorly equipped. They felt that a more comfortable place should be provided as the first refuge of those saved from the sea. So they replaced the emergency cots with beds and put better furniture in the enlarged building. Now the lifesaving station became a popular gathering place for its members, and they decorated it beautifully and furnished it exquisitely, because they used it as a sort of club. Fewer members were now interested in going to sea on lifesaving missions, so they hired lifeboat crews to do this work. The lifesaving motif still prevailed in this club's decoration, and there was a liturgical lifeboat in the room where the club initiations were

held. About this time a large ship was wrecked off the coast, and the hired crews brought in boatloads of cold, wet, and half-drowned people. They were dirty and sick, and some of them had black skin and some had yellow skin. The beautiful new club was in chaos. So the property committee immediately had a shower house built outside the club where victims of shipwreck could be cleaned up before coming inside.

At the next meeting, there was a split in the club membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the club's lifesaving activities as being unpleasant and a hindrance to the normal social life of the club. Some members insisted upon lifesaving as their primary purpose and pointed out that they were still called a lifesaving station. But they were finally voted down and told that if they wanted to save the lives of all the various kinds of people who were shipwrecked in those waters, they could begin their own lifesaving station down the coast. They did.

As the years went by, the new station experienced the same changes that had occurred in the old. It evolved into a club, and yet another lifesaving station was founded. It evolved into a club, and yet another lifesaving station was founded. History continued to repeat itself, and if you visit that seacoast today, you will find a number of exclusive clubs along that shore. Shipwrecks are frequent in those waters, but most of the people drown!

every week!

We have a long way to go in using the available technology of today as thoroughly as we can. But we have made a beginning and God has honored our attempt to speak the message of Christ to people in ways that are more hearer friendly.

NOTE: This parable originally appeared in an article by Theodore O. Wedel, "Evangelism - the Mission of the Church to Those Outside Her Life," *The Ecumenical Review*, October, 1953, p.24. The above is a paraphrase of the original, by Richard Wheatcoft. It appeared in *Letter to Laymen*, May-June, 1962, p.1.

District Superintendent

Larry D. Leister
District Office
1992 Park Plaza
Lancaster, PA 17601-3821
717-569-9673
717-569-2038 FAX
E-mail: POTterbein@aol.com

Editors and Asbury District Editorial Team Members

Dick & Arlene Wilcock
1218 W. Arch Street
Coal Township, PA 17866-1808
570-648-2842
E-mail: awilcock@alpha-omegacomp.com

Otterbein District Communications Coordinator

Barbara Hartman
919 E. Walnut Street
Lancaster, PA 17602-2438
717-392-2708
E-mail: lancasterchrist@juno.com

Albright District Editorial Team Member

Ken DeWalt
100 Holly Drive
Douglassville, Pa 19518
610-385-3127
E-mail: kdewalt@bellatlantic.net

Otterbein District Editorial Team Member

Lynn Somers
103 Glen Court
Ephrata, PA 17522
717-738-4993
E-mail: somers@ptd.net

Media — Continued from page 1

There is an air of excitement in worship that is absolutely thrilling. We recently bought a second video projector and now use the two screens because the sanctuary is more filled with worshipers. Somehow word is getting out about what we are doing, and we see new people coming just about

Changing the Church from within by Creating Safe Sanctuaries

By Lynn M. Somers, Editorial Team, SpiritNet

What does it mean to create a Safe Sanctuary? Does this mean some type of renovation to our worship space? No! Safe Sanctuaries is a movement and a concept within the UMC to create a safer environment for all God's children when involved in every aspect of church programming. There is specific emphasis placed in reducing the risk of child abuse in the church. The Safe Sanctuaries concept is based on the book by Joy Thornburg Melton, who is a Christian educator and a lawyer, as well as an ordained deacon in the North Georgia Annual Conference of the UMC. Joy's book provided the groundwork for a series of national training events sponsored by the General Board of Discipleship, The General Board of Global Ministries and the General Council on Finance and Administration of the UMC.

The book and the national training events were conceived and born from the 1996 General Conference mandate aimed at reducing the risk of child abuse in the church. Even though we all want to believe our churches are loving, caring trustworthy environments where it is unthinkable that such traumas would occur, we need to take steps to insure that what we believe *is* reality. Therefore, child abuse prevention and risk reduction policies and procedures are essential for every congregation, not only for the protection and safety of our children (all those under age 18) but also for volunteer and employed workers with children.

How can your church take steps to create a Safe Sanctuary?

- First, you need to be open to facing the issue.
- Second, you need to be willing to be educated in the Biblical, theological, social, cultural and even economical frameworks and rationale behind Safe Sanctuaries.

- Third, you need to realize actual, practical application of these concepts of Safe Sanctuaries WILL require change from within your church and may cause conflict due to the emotional nature of this issue.

Education and training are the major essential ingredients to raise awareness and gain understanding of the full-scope of Safe Sanctuaries. Purchase of the book *Safe Sanctuaries - Reducing the Risk of Child Abuse in the Church* by Joy Thornburg Melton published by Discipleship Resources would be an excellent first step.

The Eastern PA Conference of the UMC has two individuals who attended the national training event for creating Safe Sanctuaries last Spring. They are Lynn M. Somers, Diaconal Minister of the EPA of the UMC, serving with Hand of the Master Ministries, Inc., Ephrata, PA and Ann Shultz, active lay member at Hope UMC, Ephrata. These women are available to come and consult in churches or they can, through work with the Eastern PA Chapter of Christian Educators Fellowship, gather resources and individuals who can equip churches in this area. One "Creating Safe Sanctuaries" event was held this past Fall at Pocono Plateau. Other Safe Sanctuaries events are being planned for the year 2000 around the Annual Conference. Included in many of these training events is Attorney Bill Kennedy from Paoli UMC, who provides a wealth of information helpful to churches regarding the legal and policy-making aspects of Safe Sanctuaries.

Upcoming dates to consider:

- Sat. Jan. 22nd, 2000** – A workshop for workers with children in Pre-School, Daycare, SS and other Children's ministries. 8:45am-Noon. Willow Grove, Willow Grove, PA
- Sat. Feb. 26th & Tues. Feb. 29th, 2000** – A workshop for workers with children in PreSchool, Daycare, SS

and other Children's ministries at Hope UMC, Ephrata, PA (same event offered at two different times. Sat. 9:30am-Noon and Tues. 7pm-9:30pm)

Sat. March 4th, 2000 – Creating Safe Sanctuaries – Full-day seminar addressing both policy-making, procedures and practical applications of reducing the risk of Child Abuse in the church. Recommended for pastors, members of boards, trustees, as well as workers with all age groups to attend. Held on the Asbury District 8:45am-3pm Contact Fred Day or Elaine Smith regarding location. CEU's available.

Sat. April 29th, 2000 – Creating Safe Sanctuaries – Full-day seminar – 8:45am-3pm at Gretna Glen. CEU's available.

Sept. 23rd and Oct. 28th, 2000 are tentative dates for Philadelphia-area Full-day Safe Sanctuaries Seminars. More information will be available later.

Finally, The Eastern PA Chapter of Christian Educators Fellowship executive team, who has been responsible for much of the planning and implementation of Safe Sanctuaries training is seriously considering production of a teaching/training video on this topic. In this way, some of the basic, important information can be readily available to churches to use at their convenience. We will strive to keep you informed as this project further develops.

Meanwhile, please prayerfully review and consider the following questions that pertain to creating a Safe Sanctuary:

- Do we screen and check references for all paid employees, including clergy, who have significant contact with children?
- Should we screen all volunteer workers for any position involving work with children?
- Is it important to at least annually train all volunteer and paid work-

Safe — Continued on page 6

Lay Mobilization Conference Planned

What do most thriving congregations have in common? They take seriously the concept of the priesthood of all believers by extensively involving the laity in ministry.

Plan now to attend the Lay Mobilization Conference being sponsored by the Spirit Network of the Otterbein District. (Spirit Network was formerly the Otterbein District Transformation Team.) This conference will be held on March 31 and April 1, 2000 at Hempfield UMC in Lancaster, PA.

Tammy Kelly, Executive Director at Ginghamburg UMC in Tipp City, OH, will be the major presenter at this two-day event. Tammy is nation-

ally known for her work in lay mobilization and is on the staff of the Leadership Training Network.

The following topics will be covered in the keynote and general sessions:

- Biblical/Theological Foundations
- Role of the Pastor
- Overcoming Obstacles and Managing Resistance
- Getting Started
- Accountability/Administration/Follow Through

In addition there will be the following breakout sessions:

- Especially For Pastors - Dave Loughery

- Especially For Laity - Ken DeWalt and Tanya Bracken
- Lay Pastors - David Woolverton
- SHAPE Ministry Profile - Tom Fries
- Systems and Structures for Mobilizing People for Ministry - Tammy Kelly and Pete Cullen

Brochures and registration information will be mailed early in January.

Come and learn how your church can grow as a congregation where members know their gifts and are supported in ministry “so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God.” Eph. 4:12 & 13

Name Changes

by Val Hastings, Chair, Spirit Network Team of the Otterbein District and pastor, Emmanuel UMC, Brownstown, Otterbein District

What do Ernest Evans, Henry Deutschedorf, Dianne Belmont, Joseph Kubelsky and Allen Konigsberg have in common with the District Transformation Team of the Otterbein District?

ANSWER: They have all changed their names.

Ernest Evans changed his name to Chubby Checker, Henry Deutschedorf became John Denver, Dianne Belmont became Lucille Ball, Joseph Kubelsky became Jack Benny, Allen Konigsberg became Woody Allen, and the District Transformation Team became the Spirit Network Team of the Otterbein District.

Every year more than 50,000 people apply to have their names changed. Some might think that this is a new phenomenon. But consider that in 844 A.D. a pope changed his name from Borca de Porco (which means pig’s mouth) to Sergious II.

The Bible also contains several ac-

counts of name changes: Abram became Abraham, Sarai became Sarah, Jacob became Israel. The name change was a reminder of the change that had either already happened or was promised to happen in that individual’s life. The name change was a

Every year more than 50,000 people apply to have their names changed.

symbol both to the individual and others of the movement of God in this person’s life.

This past Fall the District Transformation Team (now called Spirit Network Team) entered a time of prayer and discernment. During a retreat we prayerfully reviewed, reworked and renewed our desire to resource the churches of the Otterbein District. While fine tuning our mission statement we decided that in addition to resourcing, we wanted to energize and mobilize those on our district. We developed a new mission statement: To Energize and Mobilize Church Leaders for their Ministry and Mission. We felt that a change in our mission state-

ment warranted a change in our name. Jim Carver pointed out that the name of this newsletter, *SpiritNet*, contained the essence of our mission statement. To Energize=Spirit and Mobilize=Net. And so we became The Spirit Network Team of the Otterbein District.

Our hope, as the Spirit Network Team, is that our name change will become for all of us a reminder of the continual change that God is orchestrating in our personal lives, churches and communities for the advancement of His kingdom and that it will be symbolic of the continued movement of God’s Spirit in the Otterbein District.

Next *SpiritNet* deadline

The **deadline for submitting articles** for the next issue of *SpiritNet* will be **February 15, 2000**.

The next issue will be dated March, 2000 and the theme will be “Mobilizing for Ministry.” Articles may be submitted to: Arlene Wilcock, 1218 W. Arch St., Coal Township, PA 17866-1808 or E-mail articles to: awilcock@alpha-omegacomp.com

Resource Review

by Shirley Ludwig

Imagining a Church in the Spirit: A Task for Mainline Congregations by Ben Campbell Johnson and Glenn McDonald, 1999, (*Grand Rapids: Michigan, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.*) 157 pages, soft cover, \$16

“Our greatest need is a vision of Christ’s living presence, here and now working through the members of the body.” Co-authors, Johnson and McDonald, suggest that the antidote for the disillusionment and decline of mainline churches lies in revisiting the essential aspects of the church - community, initiation (receiving new people into the church), prayer, mission, preaching, inclusivity, leadership, and teaching. A compelling vision of a “church in the spirit” will challenge and energize a congregation to be grounded in the person, ministry, and teaching of Jesus Christ.

With a new vision discerned, McDonald describes how his congregation at Zionsville Presbyterian in Indianapolis transformed from a pastor-driven church to a decentralized ministry style with the spotlight on the gifts and calling of every believer by the Holy Spirit. Given permission, people moved from Sunday spectators to ministry players. The idea of the six marks of the disciple were set before the congregation. These include a heart for Christ alone, a mind transformed by the Word, arms of love, knees for prayer, a voice to speak the good news, and a spirit of sacrifice.

By reflecting on the model that Jesus used to call and teach his disciples, Johnson and McDonald demonstrate the priority of community and training or initiation of those called to serve. Jesus’ disciples most certainly shared their insight and longing, studied the scriptures, talked about their pain and hopes, engaged in ministry, and gave testimony to their personal transformation as they grew spiritu-

ally with Jesus as their mentor and teacher. In the same way, today, amazing things happen when small groups alive to the Spirit of Christ gather in community.

In the new mission field of the 21st century, persons lack even a rudimentary knowledge of the gospel. Rather than seeking “social” members, churches must help new and old members focus on discipleship and the meaning of membership in the body

The idea of the six marks of the disciple were set before the congregation.

of Christ. A carefully developed method of initiation of new members will include invitation to join a vital, Spirit-filled small group, training that includes the basics of the faith, the mission of the church in the world, the church’s expectations of new members, and a challenge to faithful discipleship. Further, these disciples become missionaries as the church helps them identify their gifts and discern their call.

Prayer, corporate and personal, is central as the life-breath of the church in the spirit. The prayer life of Jesus and the early church ignited by prayer provide images on which the authors imagine “a church that not only grounds its life and mission in prayer but depends on this communion with God for guidance, nurture, and empowerment for ministry.” The church needs to take responsibility for teaching all its members to pray by providing classes, sermons and retreats on prayer. Mentors and spiritual guides help individuals live in the presence of God as they look for the Holy in all of life.

A transformational church changes its quest from “What did we do last year?” to “What is God calling us to be and do now?” The instruments sug-

gested for discerning God’s call are scripture, context (To whom and how do we do mission?), the gifts of the people of God and the revealing work of the Spirit. The process of discernment, as described, can help the church fulfill the mission of Christ in the world.

The final chapters urge inclusivity with unconditional love to all and give practical insight for preachers, leaders and teachers. Christ reveals Himself to those who seek to become the voice of Christ. In turn, preachers will study and pray the Word and deliver it with creative imagination that helps 21st century people experience the Message. Spiritually awakened leaders must share what they know, develop new leaders and be accountable to other leaders. Teachers are encouraged to take seriously the educational task of the church, spiritual formation, not merely the passing on of information about the faith. Again, in all these areas, Jesus is lifted up as the model for those growing in the Spirit and helping others do the same.

Safe — Continued from page 4

ers with children to understand the nature of child abuse?

- Are buildings and classrooms equipped for assuring an environment of safe sanctuary?
- Does our church/organization have a policy or guidelines regarding this issue?
- What effect would it have on the faith development of our children if we’re not a safe sanctuary?

These are just some of the questions that are considered in the process of creating a Safe Sanctuary.

For further information regarding Safe Sanctuaries, please contact:

Lynn M. Somers (717-733-0192)
somers@ptd.net

103 Glen Ct. Ephrata, PA 17522

Elaine Smith (610-644-5300) or
(215-699-8733) elaine@nni.com

A. Richard Erisman (717-738-3774)

What's your SHAPE?

by Kay E. Bailey, Minister of
Evangelism and Lay Mobilization,
Hempfield UMC, Lancaster,
Otterbein District

Most of us are concerned with our physical shape and what shape we're in. We know our blood pressure, resting heart rate, body fat ratio... What about your ministry SHAPE? Do you know yours? Do you know what God created you to be and do?

At Hempfield United Methodist Church we are using an evaluative tool based on the Ministry SHAPE Profile of Saddleback Valley Community Church and Fuller Theological Seminary. Using this profile to match individuals to areas of ministry helps them mature spiritually by using their God-given gifts to serve each other and those outside the church.

There are many spiritual gift inventories available for folks to explore their spiritual giftedness. The difference between these instruments and the SHAPE Ministry Profile is that SHAPE considers the whole person, not just spiritual giftedness. The acronym SHAPE stands for the following.

S = Spiritual Gifts
H = Heart's Desire (Passion)
A = Abilities
P = Personality
E = Experiences

S = Spiritual Gifts

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." I Peter 4:10

A spiritual gift is given by the Holy Spirit to every believer to be used to minister to others for the purpose of building up the Body of Christ. The other factors in the SHAPE profile help determine what ministry will best use these gifts.

There are gifts that celebrate God's presence (through worship and prayer), communicate God's word, educate God's people, demonstrate

God's love, and support the gifts of others.

Those who are new to the faith sometimes have difficulty with spiritual gift inventories because they are too "churchy." The language is esoteric and the concepts too new. SHAPE takes into account the whole person and how their unique combination of spiritual giftedness, passion (heart), ability, personality, and experiences can be used in ministry.

H = Heart

The term "heart" is used to represent your passion or heart's desire. Your heart's desire is what motivates you. We each have a unique "emotional heartbeat". We are instinctively drawn to and motivated by our "heart's desire." What motivates you? What do you love to do? What are you good at?

The key to identifying your passion is to look at past accomplishments and things you enjoyed doing and did well. God gave you these motivations and they can be used for effective ministry.

A = Abilities

When someone says, "He just seems to have a natural ability or talent," it's more than likely true. We all have some inborn abilities and talents. Some are naturally coordinated and athletic. Others seem to have natural musical ability. Still others have the ability to be artistically creative.

The key to an effective ministry is identifying and matching these abilities to a ministry and using them to glorify God.

"There are different abilities to perform service." I Corinthians 12:6

P = Personality

We all have a unique God-given personality. Some of us are extroverted, some introverted. Some like routine, others variety. Some are very self-controlled, others self-expressive.

Your ministry should match your personality.

Write your name on a piece of paper. Then write it with the opposite hand. What happened? When you tried to do what was not natural to you, you feel uncomfortable, it takes extra time and effort, and the results are poor. The same thing will happen if you try to minister in an area not suited to your personality. It won't feel natural. You'll be uncomfortable. It will take extra time and effort and you probably won't be very effective.

E = Experiences

"And we know that in ALL things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purposes." Romans 8:28

Scripture says "ALL things," not some things. God never wastes a hurt. Even the most painful experiences can be used to help and encourage others. The SHAPE Ministry Profile encourages folks to reflect on their spiritual, painful, educational, and ministry experiences. This reflection often points the way to a ministry.

Ministry is where faith becomes active in love. The secret to a fulfilling, meaningful life is to discover how God has designed you for ministry – to discover your ministry SHAPE.

SpiritNet On-line

The Otterbein District's Web site can be found at:
<http://www.epaumc.org/otterbein/>

Back issues of *SpiritNet* are archived in pdf format under the "SpiritNet Archives" link. The archived files are searchable (with the latest version of the FREE Acrobat Reader) and have links in each issue's Table of Contents to jump to the desired article.

Permission to Copy *SpiritNet*

Since *SpiritNet* can only be mailed to a limited number of people in each local church, **please feel free to make copies of *SpiritNet* for anyone in your congregation who might benefit from reading it.** We want the information to be shared as widely as possible so it can serve as a valuable resource now and

into the future.

Each issue centers in on a specific theme. This issue focuses on “Changing the World Within Us.” The March issue will deal with “Mobilizing for Ministry” and the May issue will deal with “Connecting with God Through Worship.”

See below for **Thought Starters** on this issue’s theme and some questions to think about for next time. If your church has experienced transformation in “Mobilizing for Ministry” or “Connecting with God Through Worship,” let us hear from you! We’d like to share your story.

Paid Subscriptions to *SpiritNet* Available

Several people in each charge on the three sponsoring Districts get *SpiritNet* free of charge. Although we give permission to copy *SpiritNet*, we have received inquiries about paying for additional subscriptions. The Spirit Network Team has set a subscription price of \$10.00 per year to help cover costs of printing and mailing these additional copies. To order paid subscriptions, send full mailing address(es) and a check payable to “Otterbein District” to the District Office (address below).

SPiRiTNET

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Thought Starters

January Theme - Changing the World within Us

How do we prepare the Church to minister (reach, teach?) to those raised in the information and video age?
Is your church Y2K compatible?
How do we need to change ourselves and our attitudes to prepare for bringing the unchurched to Jesus and into the church?
How do we continue to feed and nurture our leaders and teachers (caring for the care-givers)?
Does your congregation have S.H.A.P.E. for ministry?
Is your church fostering a healthy faith by offering safe sanctuary?

March Theme - Mobilizing for Ministry

How do we prepare disciples to move out?
How do we live out the Great Commission?
How do we take the first step in mobilizing for ministry?
What gas have we poured on the fire?
How do we train and equip leaders to move out?
How do we mobilize when all 4 tires are flat?
How do we transform from supporting missions to being in mission?