

NEWS AND NOTES

November 7, 2011



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50 Days of Prayer

Today we begin our 37th day of prayer. Are you getting the emails and praying with



us? You are encouraged to not only be praying but to record your prayer results. [Encourage others by sharing your story.](#)



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Epiphany resources created just for you!



When Rev. Brian Brown came to the Ohio River Valley District on the first of July as Superintendent, he brought with him big dreams and big plans to equip each and every church in our district with resources to make disciples for Jesus Christ. He didn't wait long to begin the work - 3 weeks after his start date, the district held the first *Synergy Worship Design Retreat*. Eleven churches participated in the 3-day retreat. They learned or sharpened their skills at collaborative worship design in a workshop led by Jason Moore, the new Media Specialist for the Ohio River Valley District.

As a result of the work of the creative teams from Anderson Hills, Armstrong Chapel, Cornerstone, Epiphany, Faith Community, Gaines, Goshen, Hyde Park Community, Miami Whitewater, Mt. Moriah and New Vision, you now have quality resources at your fingertips to use in your worship celebrations during the first four Sundays of Epiphany, 2012.

Click here to view the resources:

<http://dl.dropbox.com/u/3834935/Epiphany.zip>

Here's what you'll find in the zip file:

main (titled) graphics, sermon point and blank graphics, as well as song backgrounds. These can be dropped into PowerPoint or any other presentation program, and custom points and song lyrics can be placed on top of them. You'll also find a layered Photoshop file. This file is for the more advanced user. It contains all of the layers that make up the titled graphic and can be used to edit just the title, or completely redesign the image. Lastly, the included PDF guide gives all of the background on how the image connects to the scripture.

To help those of you new to these ideas and how to use them, we are offering a workshop on Tuesday, November 29th at the district office. For your convenience, we'll have two offerings at 1:00 pm or 7:00 pm. Plan to join us with your questions as we provide answers on how to best use the tools that you have in your hands. Send your RSVP to nnewton@wocumc.org by November 22nd so we can make appropriate preparations. We

[United Methodist Credit Union](#)
[Ohio River Valley District website](#)
[West Ohio Conference website](#)
[MTSO's Campus View](#)
[Rethink Church](#)
[Find-A-Church](#)
[COD's Did You Know ?...](#)
[Jackson Area Ministries](#)

are truly excited to be able to offer these resources to you.

Jason is currently working on the graphics and materials from our second Synergy Retreat which was held in September. The 19 churches who participated came up with great resources to use for Lent, 2012.

The district office is here to serve you as you serve your outpost for the transformation of the world!

2012 West Ohio health insurance rates announced

The Board of Pensions and Health Benefits officially set health insurance rates for the upcoming year at its meeting in October. The 2012 West Ohio insurance rates reflect cost savings for churches and comprehensive coverage for retired and active employees.



The new plans are being outlined in detail at several previously announced regional meetings. **The final two meetings are November 8 in Bowling Green and November 9 in Worthington and we strongly encourage attendance if you haven't had a chance to attend the earlier ones.** Your Board of Pensions and Health Benefits and our partner experts have worked very hard to fine tune plans which support our shared mission. [\[Click here for meeting locations, rates and highlights of 2012 plan\]](#)

Help UMCH power boost fundraising



For 24 hours, Thursday, November 10 through Friday November 11, United Methodist Children's Home Family Services has an unprecedented opportunity to power boost their fundraising ability - helping them generate much needed funds to support their mission to strengthen families and children throughout central Ohio through their adoption, treatment foster care and family mental health services programs.

The Columbus Foundation is hosting THE BIG GIVE, an extraordinary 24-hour event of giving to support 600 nonprofits in its database. UMCH Family Services is extremely fortunate to be one of those agencies. Anytime they raise funds, every dollar counts to strengthen families and children, but if you are able to make a donation within the 24-hour window November 10 - 11, your gift dollars will expand as the Columbus Foundation extends them through a matching fund pool of over \$1 million dollars! Learn more by visiting www.columbusfoundation.org.

Here's how it will work: You can make a minimum gift of \$20 to support UMCH Family Services through Columbus Foundation's PowerPhilanthropy website beginning on Thursday, November 10, at 11am through Friday, November 11 at 11am. To make a donation, visit [The Columbus Foundation](#) and click on The Big Give homepage banner.

In this uncertain economy, as poverty rates have nearly doubled in central Ohio, the most vulnerable among us are even more vulnerable; these are the families and children the United Methodist Children's Home serves.

The Song of Thanksgiving

At Thanksgiving, we are thankful for the abundance we have, and we celebrate with a feast. But tens of millions of Americans go hungry, even as the nation celebrates.

The Society of St. Andrew, the national gleaning ministry, has teamed up with singer Doug Allen, and

songwriter Sam Zamarripa, to produce a brand-new song called *The Song of Thanksgiving*.

This song may be used at home or in churches to give thanks for all that we enjoy. Additionally, it will raise money that will be used to feed the hungry. The song is available on iTunes for just 99-cents, and every song purchased will provide 15 servings of fresh fruit and vegetables to some of our neighbors who need it most. [Learn more on the Society of St. Andrew website.](#)



The [Harding Scholarship Competition](#) is now open to new Fall 2012 students. The nation's most capable students compete each year for the Harding Scholarship, which offers full tuition plus a \$10,000 annual stipend. The Harding is available to Fall 2012 students with a 3.6 undergraduate GPA. The competition is open to all denominations and all master's degree programs.

Students with a 3.0 GPA are also eligible to compete for the [Premier Scholarships](#). The Methodist Theological School in Ohio offers nearly fifty full tuition scholarships, as well as many partial awards.

A Season of Praise

The Cincinnati Choral Society will present their Christmas concert, *Praise the Heavens with Harp and Voice*, on Saturday, December 3 at 7pm at Sharonville United Methodist Church (3751 Creek Rd, Cincinnati 45241). Under the direction of Dr. Douglas K. Belland, the program will include contemporary carols as well as traditional favorites accompanied by harp, cello, flute and piano. A dessert reception will follow the concert. Admission: adults \$15, students and seniors \$10, groups of ten or more \$8 each. Tickets are available through the CCS website: www.cincinnatichoralsociety.org or at the door.



Praise the Heavens with Harp and Voice is the first of three performances in CCS's Season of Praise series. The thirty-member group will present another concert featuring classic sacred music for chorus and organ on Saturday, March 10, 2012, at 7pm at Mason United Methodist Church (6315 S. Mason-Montgomery Road, Mason 45040). That evening will include a silent auction as well as a reception.

On Saturday, May 5, 2012 at 7pm the CCS will present a program of spirituals arranged by William Dawson at Anderson Hills UMC, 7515 Forest Road, Cincinnati, 45255. In addition to the spirituals, the CCS will perform *Te Deum* by Otto Olsson with the AHUMC Chancel Choir.

Discounted tickets for the Cincinnati Choral Society's entire 2011-12 season are available at the [CCS website](#).

News from the Pews

Christmas Bazaar and Chili Supper

A large variety of hand-crafted gifts, decorations and baked goods will be for sale at Newtonsville UMC on November 12 from 10am-7pm so you can get a jump on your Christmas shopping. While there, take some time to enjoy lunch with a variety of choices including barbeque, chili, vegetable soup, hot dogs, chili dogs and a selection of pies and cakes. Newtonsville is located at 518 Liberty St, Newtonsville 45158.

Planned Giving Seminar

Anderson Hills United Methodist Church is hosting a Planned Giving Seminar on Sunday, November 13 at 12:30pm. Presentations by professional panelists will include the various types of programs available, the funding of them by a number of methods including cash, stock or insurance policies and the importance of such a program to churches. The seminar includes lunch at \$5 per person. Call Anderson Hills United Methodist Church at 513.231.4172 to make your reservation.

Ladies' Advent Service

Women of the ORV district, you are invited to Olive Branch United Methodist Church on Monday, November 28 for their Ladies' Advent Service. There will be refreshments, crafts and baked goods for sale, and an Advent skit presented entitled "Have you Heard the Latest?" Please come and enjoy fellowship with other women while you prepare your heart for the celebration of the blessed birth of Jesus Christ. Olive Branch is located at 7315 Wilmington Road, just ½ mile east of I-71 at Exit 36. For more information, please call the church at 513.932.3943.

Caring and Sharing

Rev. Robert L. Simmons (retired 1985), died on October 4, 2011. Messages of condolence may be sent to his daughter Nancy Gonzalez, 4142 Radcliff Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45241.

Deadline for News and Notes articles is noon on Fridays

Ohio River Valley District office hours are Monday - Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM



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