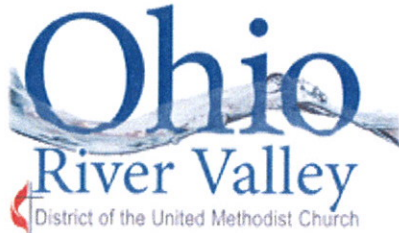




NEWS AND NOTES



December 5, 2011



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**We're praying for you!**



Remember the Breakthrough Prayer Cards you turned in at your charge conference? On those cards each pastor listed their church's goals for 2012 around the Five Fruitful Practices. The cards were designed for you by the WOC Communications team to help you focus on measurable goals and a way to track them over the course of next year. The Cabinet plans to be in prayer for each of the 1100+ churches in the conference for the Holy Spirit to breakthrough and unleash new life in each and every setting.

Additionally, we made copies of your prayer cards so that your district office staff could join the Cabinet in praying for you. So far we have lifted up Epiphany, York Street, Batavia Emmanuel, Middletown First, Hooven, Lindenwald, Cornerstone, Middletown Christ, Mt. Healthy, and Keys of the Kingdom. Each week we'll let you know in News and Notes which churches have been on our hearts. Please pray with us.

*"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there I am with them."* ~ Matthew 18:20

**Annual training day offers something for everyone**

We have a very diverse and comprehensive day of training coming up for all clergy and laity on Saturday, January 21 at Armstrong Chapel United Methodist Church.



We will offer workshops in each of the areas of the Five Fruitful Practices; some of the topics include Social Media, Stewardship, Missions, StrengthsFinder, Finance and more. We will also have vendors on hand offering resources to help develop your leadership skills and enhance your ministry.

By the end of this week we'll have details on our website about each workshop, who the presenters are and how to register. Visit [www.orvumc.org](http://www.orvumc.org).

## 2012 Mission Trip Opportunity



The first of two opportunities to travel with our new District Superintendent on an International Mission Trip takes place March 17-24, 2012.

This trip will be to Colombia, South America and will include three strategic areas of service ~ medical, construction, and VBS/basic English lessons.

The cost of the trip is \$1,895. Please pray about being a part of this life changing experience. For those desiring more information, a **conference call has been set up for 7pm on Sunday, December 11**. The phone number to call to participate is 877.621.0220 and the passcode is 863034. You may also email [Rev. Brian Brown](mailto:Rev.BrianBrown) with questions or to express your interest.

## United Methodist Appalachian Ministry Network has money for you to support your ministry

The Appalachian Hunger and Poverty General Advance Special (#982039) provides support to ministries addressing the long-term, structural, and systemic causes of hunger and poverty in Appalachia. The goals of the Appalachian Hunger and Poverty General Advance Special are to:



- encourage local churches and community ministries addressing economic oppression
- to provide advocacy for people suffering from economic injustice
- to assist and encourage development of new ministries or expansion of current ministries addressing hunger and poverty

UMAMN will provide at least 15 grants of up to \$2,500 per year. For more information contact [Rev Bob Wilkins](mailto:RevBobWilkins) at 304.677.7061. [[Application form](#)]

## Advent app joins online devotional resources

Shopping on Black Friday - DONE!

Supporting Small Business Saturday - DONE!

Online ordering on Cyber Monday - DONE

Worshiping the first two Sundays of Advent - DONE!



The gift buying, tree decorating, party planning and other pre-Christmas tasks can easily overshadow Advent and spiritual preparation for remembering Christ's birth. While [Advent 2011](#) began on Nov. 27, 19 days remain before Christmas, plenty of time to use Advent devotions and activities delivered via email, downloaded to your computer or mobile device or accessed on the Web.

"[The Journey](#)" [Smartphone app](#) is based on the new book by the Rev. Adam Hamilton, but it also functions as a standalone Advent calendar. The app, available for iPhone, iPad and Android devices, opens with seven unlocked activities for children. A new one (videos, coloring sheets, puzzles, cards, Bible quizzes) opened daily on December 1.

**But wait, there's more...**

## Intentional Interim Ministry Specialist Training

The Intentional Growth Center at Lake Junaluska is the only UMC trainer of Intentional Interim Ministry Specialists recognized by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. In the past 5 years IGC has conducted more than 33 training seminars, preparing 300-plus United Methodist Pastors for this ministry.



Each Seminar is a three-phase event:

**Phase I** is a 4-day residential event lifting up the concept of Interim Ministry and introducing tools and techniques designed for the purpose.

**Phase II** is six-months time of mentoring work back home in the participant's ap-ointment when these tools and techniques are experienced and case studies writ-ten.

**Phase III** is a 3-day residential time of reviewing and sharing case studies as a means of deepening the learnings, with limited introduction of new material.

**Learn more or register to get started!**

News from the Paws

**HSA sign ups**

Do you want to be enrolled in the West Ohio Conference health care plan in 2012? If so, you MUST complete and application for a Health Savings Account this month. A representative from our credit union will be at the Ohio River Valley District office on Wednesday, December 7th beginning at 9am to assist you in filling out your application. Be sure to bring your driver's license with you. If you can't make it on the 7th, you may visit the West Ohio Credit Union on December 8th or 9th, 431 Ohio Pike, Suite 100, Cincinnati 45255 to complete your application.

**Gospel Giggles Comedy Show**

Gospel Giggles Comedy Show returns to First UMC (120 S. Broad St, Middletown) on December 10 at 6pm. Comedy headliner is "Crystal P" and her special guest is "Big Tone". The show is free and open to the public. A freewill offering will be taken and a portion of the proceeds will be given to local charities. For more information contact SRS Entertainment at 513.424.7214 or 937.626.0350.

**Advent Good Morning God! Retreat**

Visit Deerfield UMC on Saturday, December 10 from 9:30am-noon for a unique event that will be a great way to start your day - spending one-on-one time with God! This Advent retreat will begin with a short worship service followed by a time for you to contemplate the "reason for the season." During the contemplative time, you can experience the provided reflective exercises, do some mandala coloring, read your Bible or bring something that you would like to do. The retreat will end with a short sharing time. Led by Sandy Vogeles and Luke Copley, childcare is available with one week's prior notice. Question? contact Sandy at 513.476.7673.

**Cookie Walk**

Cherry Grove United Methodist Women will hold their 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 10 from 9am-12pm or until the cookies and candies are sold out, whichever comes first! Church members will spend the week prior to the Cookie Walk baking homemade specialty Christmas cookies and candies to sell by the pound (\$6.50). This is a great way to get a variety of cookies for holiday entertaining and gift giving without having to spend hours in the kitchen! If you are pressed for time, simply stop by during the sale and choose a pre-packed assortment. What could be easier?! Cherry Grove is located at 1428 Eight Mile Rd in Anderson Township. 100% of the proceeds will support ministries and missions that serve children, youth and women. For more information, call the church office at 513.474.1428.

**Messiah Sing Along**

Franklin First United Methodist Church will host a Messiah Sing Along on Sunday, December 11 at 3pm. Dust off your Messiah score and join the fun! You don't sing? Come enjoy the music anyway! Singers from the Lebanon and Otterbein-Lebanon UMC's will join Franklin's Chancel Choir. A reception will follow. The church is located at 303 S. Main St, Franklin, 45005 "under the green steeple." The building is handicapped accessible. For more information, call 937.746.5232.

**Drive-Through Nativity**

Church of the Saviour UMC will present their 25th Drive-Through Nativity as a Christmas gift to the community on Sunday, December 11 from 5:30-9pm. Ten different live scenes capture biblical times with animals and inspirational music. These scenes are placed throughout the parking lot and it just takes 10 minutes to complete the drive in the warmth of your car. Actors in the scenes are all youth from the church. Admission is free. Church of the Saviour is located at 8005 Pfeiffer Rd, Cincinnati 45242. Watch a YouTube video explaining the event by clicking [here](#).

**Mission Trip Opportunity to Managua, Nicaragua**

A VIM team to the Managua, Nicaragua barrio of Nejapa is scheduled for June 15-23, 2012 with applications now being accepted. Led by Jack Reif, VIM Coordinator for the Ohio River Valley District, the team will work with the Fundacion El Samaritano ministry and the Nicaragua Methodist Evangelical Church on various projects. The cost is estimated to be \$1,300 per person plus materials. An informative brochure is available by clicking [here](#). Contact [Jack Reif](#), at 513.831.5550 for more information.

### Caring and Sharing



**Rev. Norman Brom**, retired, passed away at home in Xenia on Tuesday, November 29. A memorial service is planned at Parkview UMC in Miamisburg; date and time to be announced. Condolences will reach his wife, Phyllis, at 191 W Krepps Rd, Xenia 45385.

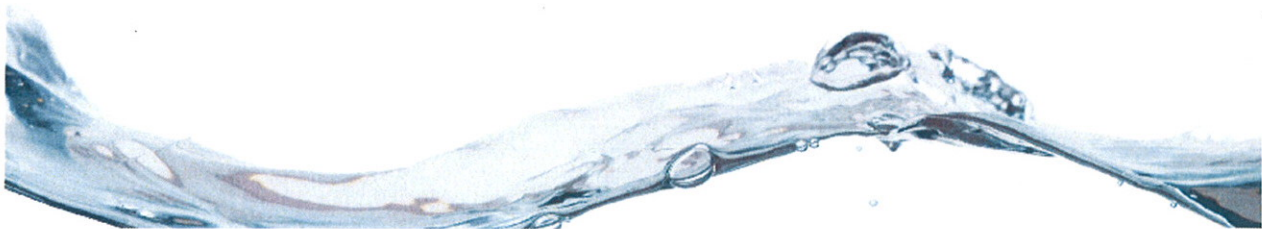
**Mrs. Julie Beach**, wife of Rev. Stephen Beach (retired, Indiana Conference - also served in the Miami Valley District) died Tuesday, November 29. Condolences may be sent to Stephen at 11102 Sapling Ct, Miamisburg 45342.

**Rev. Dr. Gale E. "Skip" Colvin**, 63, passed away in Zanesville on Friday, November 25. He served many churches in the West Ohio Conference during his ministry, was a Ham radio operator and a Vietnam veteran. To send a note of condolence to the family visit [www.snoufferfuneralhome.com](http://www.snoufferfuneralhome.com) or mail a card to Janet Colvin at 725 Deerfield Rd, Zanesville 43701. In lieu of flowers, please consider Genesis Hospital and Palliative Care, 713 Forest Ave, Zanesville 43701.

**Mrs. Carol Ward**, mother of Rev. Dana Ward, passed away Thanksgiving evening, November 24. Services were held for her on November 30 at Wesley UMC in Fostoria. Condolences will reach the Revs. Dana and Lilanthi Ward at 6043 Glenbeigh, Sylvania 43560.

### 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



### [Forward email](#)



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