

NOTES ON THE WAY

FEBRUARY & MARCH, 2010

A Note from Dean

Christian, how disappointed with “Church” are you?

Church is a primary, if not *the* primary, way God plans to extend Divine rule and *Shalom* throughout the world - if the New Testament is to be believed. We are to pray for that, and work to that end. We pray, “...*Thy Kingdom come on earth*, as it is in heaven.”

Trouble is, at one point or another, Church can become deeply disappointing for us, who work in its ranks. “*Thy Kingdom come on earth...?* Don’t we have days when we bitterly wish God’s Kingdom would just come into the Church?”

We find such a gulf between Church as we see it to be, and Church as we know it SHOULD be, that we wonder about the Church’s ability to reveal Divine ways to anyone. Indeed, it seems that it does the *opposite*; with its self-absorption, hide-bound tradition, lack of sacrifice and indifference to the suffering and lost of the world, Church too often seems to make God’s Kingdom less visible in the world instead of more so.

And frankly, we hate ourselves because we get sucked into meeting Mr. and Mrs. or Mz. pew-sitter’s unhealthy expectations, instead of training folks to be real disciples who love God and neighbor above all else, and who themselves joyfully make other disciples.

Dallas Willard is quoted: (*Cutting Edge* magazine, Winter, 2001)

Churches that took seriously the kingdom of God would look a lot like training centers— training centers for life, a life interactive with God. Churches would be deeply immersed in giving every bit of their resources to doing good, to blessing their communities. It is pathetic, for example, that you cannot get people to give a tithe. If the Christians in this country tithed, the church would be awash in money and there would not be a single legitimate social need that couldn’t be met, at least in financial terms.

I know we become disappointed at how hard sometimes “Church” is. A few drop out in disgust. Others mark time and become inwardly cynical. Or like Jonah, we become angry with God. Some of us find our own faith in God scarily shaky.

Can we remember that purifying the church is God’s business? Do we get up each day and remember that staying faithful to our actual calling is the business God gives us? Will we remind ourselves every single day whom it is that we serve?

(Hint: it is NOT, finally, the people in the pews and all their ideas about what we should be doing and how we should do it. It is our living Lord, who sends us to instruct God’s own in living live His way!)

Will we have the courage of our convictions? Will we FIRST be disciples ourselves and courageously call the congregation’s attention to the Way that Jesus demonstrated?

If you don’t have a teacher you can’t have a disciple. That’s another Dallas Willard quote, and it hits us right between the eyes with the only question that matters for us leaders: Is Jesus our own teacher and focus?

Pray to stay the course, friends, and pray for me as I pray for you. Seeds fall on stony ground, weedy soil, hard earth – but some always grows abundantly. Keep sowing

Dean D. Ziegler

Mission Share 2009

Charge Name	2009 Mission Share	2009 Mission Share Received	Percentage
Aliquippa	\$27,174	\$13,587	50%
Ambridge/Economy	\$3,697	\$3,697	100%
Ambridge/Economy	\$13,522	\$9,881	73%
Ambridge: Fellowship	\$4,470	\$373	8%
Baden	\$20,259	\$20,259	100%
Bairdford	\$5,452	\$5,452	100%
Beaver County: Bethel	\$3,036	\$3,036	100%
Beaver Falls: First/Central	\$7,891	\$5,995	76%
Beaver Falls: First/Central	\$6,731	\$6,731	100%
Beaver Falls: North	\$2,350	\$0	0%
Beaver Falls: North	\$2,731	\$2,731	100%
Beaver Falls: North	\$4,085	\$4,085	100%
Beaver Falls: North	\$5,961	\$5,961	100%
Beaver: First	\$33,442	\$20,000	60%
BF: College Hill	\$21,100	\$21,100	100%
BF: Concord	\$61,597	\$61,597	100%
BF: Riverview	\$15,763	\$15,863	101%
Boyers/Eau Claire: Bethel	\$7,953	\$3,600	45%
Boyers/Eau Claire: Bethel	\$6,416	\$4,000	62%
Brackenridge: Trinity	\$32,694	\$23,948	73%
Bridgewater	\$6,322	\$4,732	75%
Bruin	\$5,183	\$5,183	100%
Bruin	\$1,385	\$1,385	100%
Bruin	\$3,243	\$3,244	100%
Brush Run	\$10,551	\$7,913	75%
Buffalo	\$3,456	\$3,000	87%
Buffalo	\$2,247	\$1,330	59%
Buffalo	\$2,004	\$2,004	100%
Butler: Christ	\$38,037	\$40,039	105%
Butler: First	\$134,955	\$134,955	100%
Cabot	\$29,463	\$29,463	100%
Chicora/Karns City	\$5,813	\$5,813	100%
Chicora/Karns City	\$7,734	\$7,734	100%
Chippewa	\$95,890	\$95,890	100%
Connoquenessing	\$8,218	\$8,218	100%
Country Chapel	\$3,580	\$3,580	100%
Country Chapel	\$3,962	\$4,000	101%
Creighton: Janes	\$8,174	\$8,270	101%

Eastbrook	\$11,004	\$11,016	100%
Ellwood City	\$18,257	\$10,529	58%
Freeport	\$17,418	\$17,418	100%
Georgetown/Smiths Ferry	\$2,129	\$2,129	100%
Georgetown/Smiths Ferry	\$1,302	\$1,302	100%
Harmony-Zelienople	\$61,118	\$61,323	100%
Homewood	\$4,537	\$4,575	101%
Kaylor/Queenstown	\$1,842	\$1,842	100%
Kaylor/Queenstown	\$1,690	\$350	21%
Koppel	\$3,462	\$3,480	101%
Mars	\$20,541	\$4,091	20%
Midland Ecum Parish	\$1,273	\$1,273	100%
Midland Ecum Parish	\$1,260	\$1,260	100%
Monaca	\$17,686	\$17,686	100%
Natrona Heights: Center	\$26,154	\$5,913	23%
Natrona Heights: Grace	\$13,306	\$9,512	71%
NC: Croton Ave	\$13,006	\$1,463	11%
NC: Epworth/West Pittsburg	\$15,646	\$575	4%
NC: Epworth/West Pittsburg	\$2,807	\$2,807	100%
NC: First	\$31,455	\$2,658	8%
NC: King's Chapel/Wesley	\$9,970	\$6,798	68%
NC: King's Chapel/Wesley	\$7,458	\$3,000	40%
NC: Savannah	\$14,646	\$14,646	100%
New Brighton UM Church	\$32,215	\$32,215	100%
New Wilmington	\$14,064	\$5,564	40%
Nixon	\$22,236	\$20,178	91%
Pulaski	\$14,527	\$1,400	10%
Rochester	\$27,553	\$25,236	92%
Rochester: Zion	\$7,410	\$690	9%
Saint Johns/Forestville	\$4,881	\$4,881	100%
Saint Johns/Forestville	\$5,587	\$5,587	100%
Sarver: Zion	\$37,825	\$37,840	100%
Slippery Rock	\$18,545	\$16,713	90%
Springdale	\$11,344	\$7,532	66%
Thorncreek/Emory Chapel	\$7,815	\$3,777	48%
Thorncreek/Emory Chapel	\$13,914	\$5,417	39%
Tucker	\$3,560	\$3,560	100%
Unionville	\$17,556	\$17,960	102%
Valencia	\$7,908	\$4,430	56%
Volant	\$5,407	\$5,407	100%
West Liberty	\$3,621	\$3,621	100%
West Liberty	\$1,740	\$1,696	97%
West Liberty	\$3,859	\$2,285	59%
Wurtemberg	\$13,015	\$9,956	76%



Clergy

February

- 5 Jim Decker
- 7 Wayne Schar
- 16 Wade Berkey
- 18 David Panther
- 27 Rita Platt-Anderson
- 28 Dawn Lynn Check

March

- 3 Hope Cummins
- 10 Steve Morse
- 26 Don Dotterer
- 29 Ed Myers

Parsonage Family Birthdays

February

- 11 Cherie Smith
- 22 Dennis Poff
- 27 Dorothy Youngdahl

March

- 1 Jerry Pickering
- 3 Jana Panther
- 3 Linda Ziegler
- 12 Suzanne Ealy
- 16 Bethany Morse
- 14 John Emmett
- 24 June Perry
- 25 Elisabeth Cox
- 26 Gabrielle Morse



Happy Anniversary

February 9 David & Jana Panther

March 5 Bob & Sandy Fennell

March 10 Bill & Mary Jane Wilson

March 29 David & Dorothy Youngdahl

Lay Ministry School

Christ Community UM Church

205 N Duffy Rd

Butler, PA 16001

Saturday mornings!

9:00 AM - 12:00 noon

Featuring - April 17 - Witness & Evangelism Seminar led by Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton

- Basic Lay Speaking Ministries
- Basic Lay Speaking for Youth
- Preaching
- Advanced Preaching
- Christian Symbols
- Lay Pastoral Care Giving
- Registration & course cost: \$27.00

Butler District Conference

April 25, 2010

4:00 PM

Cabot UMC

707 Winfield Road

Cabot, PA 16023.

Statistic Report

Submission date is January 31, 2010

Did you complete your online forms?

Leadership

This is the time of year that church leadership changes are made. Did you update your leadership at umcdata.com. You will need your user name and password to log in.

Healthy Church Finances District Days - Butler

BADEN UMC

420 Dippold Ave
Baden, PA 15005

April 21, 2010

Pastor and church leaders are invited.

Choose from five workshops!

6:15 Registration

6:30 Opening Worship and a word from District Superintendent

7:00 Breakout Classes:

Treasurers : New Finance and Admin. Website; Mission Share interpretation information; New Treasurer's manual; Questions/Answers. **Leader: Pat Morris – Conference Treasurer**

Trustees: Safety Issues – come and here reports of churches in your district that have completed the Church Mutual safety audit; Parsonage: New parsonage guide, inspection issues; Trustee guide; Accessibility issues. **Leaders: Bill Jacka, Church Mutual Staff**

Stewardship: “Why People Give” - A comprehensive look at factors that both encourage and discourage giving as well as practical suggestion for congregations to respond. **Leaders: Staff and Board Members of The United Methodist Foundation**

Credit Score: What is a credit score and how does it affect your financial well being?; The importance of your credit score, how to improve it, how to get copies and how to correct errors. **Leader: Patti Columbe, CEO Keystone United Methodist Federal Credit Union**

Statistical Reports: Yes, help is available for those of you that must complete these reports; Information on these forms and answers to questions regarding the forms. **Leaders: Thelma Castor**

Board of Pensions: This breakout will present Conference Board of Pension topics relating to health care, future legislation and much more. **Leaders: Members of the Conference Board of Pensions**

Also available at the registration area: Media Resource Library – Emma Smith

ALL CHURCH MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO COME AND ATTEND ANY CLASS.

2009 AUDIT REPORT--DUE MARCH 1, 2010

It's that time of year to do the audit report. The Audit Report form is downloadable from the Conference web page, www.wpaumc.org, under FORMS. If needed, a hard copy can be obtained from the District Office. Audits are due at the District office by Mar. 2nd. Please activate your Audit Committee to complete their work.

Butler & Pittsburgh Districts Overnighter with Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton

Where: Jumonville

When: May 25 & 26, 2010 (Tuesday & Wednesday)

Cost: [Washington Lodge](#) (\$75) includes bedding and meals.

[Inn](#) (\$80) double occupancy (\$95) single occupancy
includes bedding and meals.

Register online — [details below](#)

Registration deadline: May 18th

Make checks payable to:

Pittsburgh District and send to – 223 Fourth Avenue, Suite 700, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

***Please mark envelope: Clergy Retreat – attention Guin Gregory

You can now register online for this event!

Instructions - How to register for an event on the Internet.

Go to the Conference website – www.wpaumc.org

On the left side of the screen, the 2nd box down is labeled “Quick Links”

Click on “Event Registration”

On the blue bar across the middle of the screen labeled “Event Type,” click on “District”

Under the blue “Event Type” bar is “View Type,” click on “List”

Select “Butler” from drop down menu listing districts

Find the event in the chronological list and click on it. (Bishop's Overnight Retreat – Butler/Pittsburgh Districts)

Select “Register for this event”

Follow the directions on each screen.

A confirmation email will be sent to you.

11. **Send payment to: Pittsburgh District and send to – 223 Fourth Avenue, Suite 700, Pittsburgh, PA 15222**

First day schedule: TENTATIVE

2:00 pm	Registration
4:00	Opening Worship Bishop's Presentation
5:30	Dinner
7:30	Evening Presentation – Bishop, Devotion
9:00	Break and Informal Discussion

Second Day

7:30 am	Breakfast
8:30	Worship
9:00	Bishop's Presentation Communion
12:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00	Closing Questions/Reflections

*District events and dates are
now available on the
Conference website!*

You can find them listed at

<http://www.wpaumc.org/districts/detail/24> under "Upcoming Events", or by visiting the calendar at the conference

website, and narrowing the search by district (select **Butler** from the drop-down menu).

The new WPA conference website gives the District Offices more control and direct input. The individual district websites will be phased out, possibly in a month or so. This will mean that all information, forms, district web pages, and more will all be accessed from the Conference website (www.wpaumc.org), in place of the old Butler District webpage.

*Check out our new feature on our WebPages!

**You can now submit information
about your church, etc.**

Follow this link to submit information in any of the areas below.

<http://wpaumc.org/pages/detail/1780>

- [Submit a Classified Ad](#)
- [Submit an Event for the Calendar](#)
- [Submit a Newsletter](#)
- [Submit an Obituary](#)
- [Submit an "It Worked For Us" Story](#)
- [Submit a "Faith in Action" Story](#)

Submit a News Story (coming soon)

Submit a Volunteer Opportunity (coming soon)

While you are on the site.....browse around to see everything that is happening in our district(s) and WPA Conference.

Our new district website can be accessed by going to<http://wpaumc.org/>choose district from the left side bar....then from the map choose your district.

Lay Ministers



Certified Lay Minister Retreats

Retreats will be held in Cranberry Twp. At either the Conference Center or Dutilh Church. Locations will be announced in January. Dates for the retreats will be March 5-6th and May 21-22nd. Both are Friday and Saturday events. Participants must be present at both programs to complete CLM training. Cost for both will be \$250, which includes registration, materials, and room/board. All registrations must be received by Feb. 7, 2010. Registration applications or questions regarding the CLM program should be made to the Rev. Pat Nelson at (724) 946-8486 or pastorpat.nw@zoominternet.net.

Licensing School for 2010

Candidates which have been recommended by the District Committee on Ministry will have two opportunities to enroll in licensing school in the coming year. The Commuter School will be in Cranberry Twp from April 16th through May 15th. Participants will be required to stay Friday/Saturday at the beginning and conclusion of the Commuter School. Cost will be \$350, which includes registration, materials, and room/board. The other option will be a Residential Program to be held at Olmsted Manor from August 20-29th. Cost for this event will be \$950 which covers room/board at Olmsted, registration and materials. Applications for either program will be provided to candidates when they have been recommended by the DCOM.

EO Trips

Alpine Wonders and the Oberammergau Passion Play 2010 – 9 day European Adventure

Depart July 6, 2010 register online at www.eo.travelwithus.com

Full color brochure available at this site.



Confirmation Tours at WPA Conference Center
 - register online at www.wpaumc.org

February	19	9:30 AM - 1:30 PM
March	5	9:30 AM - 1:30 PM
March	26	9:30 AM - 1:30 PM
April	30	9:30 AM - 1:30 PM
May	1 (Sat)	9:30 AM

Butler District United Methodist Women

2010 Dates to Remember

March	27	Mission Study.....TBA
April	24	Spring Meeting.....TBA
April	30 – May 2	Assembly 2010 at Amercia's Center, St Louis, MO
July	12-16	Cooperative School of Christian Mission
July	16-18	Week-end School

School of Christian Mission 2010

The Cooperative School of Christian Mission will be held at Grove City College. Mark your calendars now. The four day school will be July 12-16th and the weekend school will be July 16-18th. Both programs will be at Grove City College. Additional info. will be made available this spring.

Mark your calendar!

February

6	Sat	DCOM at Unionville
9-11	Tue-Thur	Cabinet Mtg.
17	Wed	Ash Wednesday/Lent begins
23-25	Tue-Thur	Cabinet Mtg.

March

1	Day	Local Church 2009 Financial Audit Reports due – District Office
2-4	Tue-Thur	Cabinet Mtg.
7-16	Sun ...	Bishop & Ordinands – Wesley Heritage Tour, England
23-25	Tue-Thur	Cabinet Mtg.
28-3	Apr	Passion Week

April

4	Day	Easter: Joyful Worship
6-8	Tue-Thur	Cabinet Mtg.
10	Sat	Lay Ministry School begins – six Saturdays
20-22	Tue-Thur	Cabinet Mtg.

May

1	Day	Clergy Evaluation & SPRC Self-assessment reports due
15	AM	Final Lay Ministry School Session – Worship & Celebration
18-20	Tue-Thur	Cabinet Mtg.
25-26	Tue-Wed	Butler/Pittsburgh Dist. Overnight w/Bishop (NOT at Lutheriyn)

June

8-9	Tue-Wed	Cabinet Mtg. before Annual Conference
10-13	Thur-Sun	Annual Conference
16	Wed	DCOM at HZUMC – Reorganization Mtg.
22-24	Tue-Thur	Cabinet Mtg.

NOTE: Many more events will be scheduled and some dates are subject to change as the year unfolds. Always check the Butler District Website and *Notes-on-the-Way* for updates and/or corrections.

Calendar additions and updates:

April 21 – Healthy Church Finances Workshop – Baden UMC

April 25 – Butler District Conference – Cabot UMC

April 10 – May 15 – Lay Ministry School

May 25 & 26 – Butler and Pittsburgh Districts Overnighter with
Bishop Bickerton...Jumonville

Watch for details for C.L.U.E. Day III

SPARK Youth Retreat

2/26/2010

5:00pm - 12:00pm

Register NOW through January 20, 2010 to receive the Early-Bird Discount!

Regular registration from January 20, 2010 through February 12, 2010. If you register after February 12, 2010 you may have to book your own hotel room.

All prices include breakfast and lunch on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday, all programming, and housing at the hotel. Dinner on Saturday is on your own.

A deposit of \$50.00 is required for registration.

Housing: If you do NOT write down a roommate during registration, a roommate will be chosen for you. Adults and youth can NOT room together.

Everyone Attending SPARK 2010 must bring a completed [Medical Release/Covenant form](#) with them to the event.

Check out the [SPARK brochure!](#)

Coordinator: Renaye Hoffman

Coordinator Email: youth@wpaumc.org



Healthy Leadership Events

The Conference staff will schedule five Healthy Leadership events for local congregations in 2010. Dates are: February 20th, March 27th, April 18th, and 25th, and May 23rd. Watch for additional information coming in the Inter-link and District newsletters.

Keystone United Methodist Federal Credit Union

Did you know that there is a credit union just for United Methodists in Western PA? Keystone United Methodist Federal Credit Union can help you with all of your financial needs—mortgages, car loans, savings accounts, CDs. When you join the credit union you become one of the credit union family and receive the personal attention that has made Keystone United Methodist FCU so popular. Log on at www.keystoneumfcu.org or call (800) 9886-3382 to learn more.

Upcoming Event at Cabot UMC

**BE A DONOR AND GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE
SATURDAY JANUARY 30TH FROM 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM @ CUMC
707 Winfield Road, Cabot PA 16023**

The Central Blood Bank of Pittsburgh serves several counties in Pennsylvania including Allegheny, Butler & Armstrong. Local hospitals serviced include Butler Memorial Hospital, Butler VA Medical Center, Armstrong County Memorial Hospital and many Pittsburgh area hospitals. Currently, Central Blood Bank employs more than 330 dedicated employees and collects, tests and distributes 170,000 units of whole blood annually to more than 40 hospitals and health care facilities

PLEASE seriously consider participating in the blood drive; giving blood is a "Community Responsibility". Blood can only come from volunteer blood donors like YOU.

To register please call or stop by the church office 724-352-2074

For more information contact Lynn Harbison at 724-316-1020 or Don McEwen at 724-352-3137.



A stroke screening is coming to your neighborhood:

Where: Cabot U M Church
707 Winfield Road, Cabot, PA 16023 724-352-2074
When: Tuesday February 23, 2010

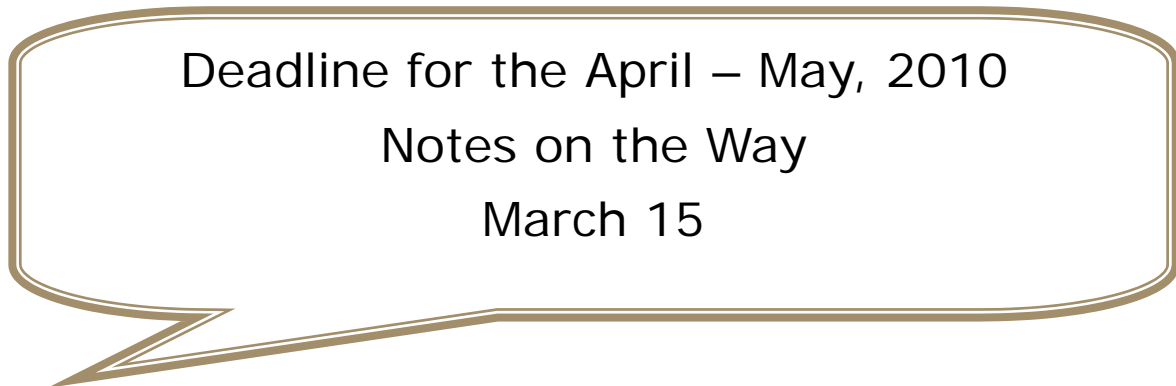
A stroke screening is coming to your neighborhood:

Where: Cabot U M Church
707 Winfield Road, Cabot, PA 16023 724-352-2074
When: Tuesday February 23, 2010

Pre-registration required. Please call for details and cost. 1-800-324-1851

Screenings offered include:

1. Stroke/Carotid Artery Screening \$45
 2. Heart Rhythm Screening \$45
 3. Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening \$45
 4. Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening \$45
 5. Osteoporosis Screening
- First four screenings for \$139
*Add Osteoporosis screening to above package for just \$10.



URGENT NEED FOR HEALTH KITS AND SCHOOL KITS FOR HAITI

To donate to UMCOR's Haiti Relief efforts make out checks to **UMCOR** with "Advance #418325 Haiti Emergency" in the memo line. Put the check in your church offering plate or mail it to: UMCOR, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087. Donations to UMCOR can also be made directly online: [Haiti Emergency, UMCOR Advance #418325](#). The entire amount of each gift will be used to help the people of Haiti.

SCHOOL KIT

Packing sequence	Item description	Notes
1	1 cloth bag with handles (14" x 16")	See instructions on reverse of this sheet
2	1 pair of blunt scissors (rounded tips)	
3	200-350 sheets of ruled paper (8½" x 11" <u>or</u> 8" x 10½")	Acceptable: Wrapped loose leaf (350 sheets max) or 3 spiral-bound notebooks (70 sheets each) or 4 notepads (50 sheets each)
4	One 30-centimeter ruler	NO rubber, thin, or metal-edged rulers
5	1 hand-held pencil sharpener	Must have receptacle for shavings or have two holes. No small sharpeners that can be swallowed.
6	6 <u>un</u> sharpened pencils with erasers	No characters, animals, patriotic or promotional designs
7	1 eraser (about 2 ½")	
8	1 box of 24 crayons	Only a box of 24 (not some combination to make up 24) check that no crayons are broken

NOTES:

All items must be NEW items.

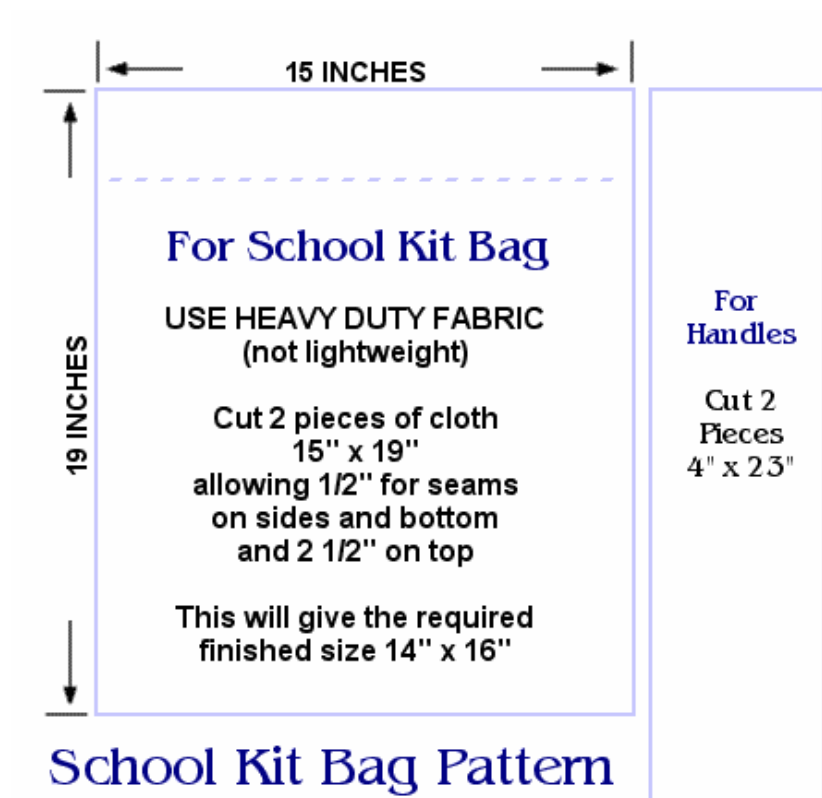
Remove all items (except paper) from packaging.

Do NOT include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits.

Assembly instructions:

Place paper long-wise in bottom of cloth bag. Ruler will fit diagonally on top of paper. Add all other items.

Fold bag in half and tuck handles for shipment.



NOTES:

Handles should be attached on the "tall" side of the bag (14" wide by 16" tall).

An optional closure for the bag can be made from Velcro®, snap or button.

No characters, animals, promotional or patriotic designs on the fabric.

Health Kits for Haiti

Can you help out by providing materials for a Health Kit that can be sent to Haiti? This would be a good opportunity for you to personally assist in the disaster response, without leaving New Castle. We will have a box in the Narthex beginning Sunday, January 24. If you can only provide a few items, place them in the box and we will use them to complete a kit.

Health Kit Items Value: \$12 per kit

Place these items inside a re-sealable one-gallon plastic bag.

- 1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", No kitchen towels)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, No child-size brushes)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages

\$1.00 to purchase toothpaste

(NOTE: UMCOR Sager Brown is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk to be added to health kits before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire before they are sent.)

Important Kit Assembly Information

All items included in kits must be NEW items.

All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items- nothing more.

Do NOT include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

The Eastbrook Mission Barn will accept individual items for use in assembling kits at the Barn. For example, donors could sew cloth bags for the School Kits without including the other items.

Haiti Emergency

Support for emergency relief efforts can be made to Haiti. One hundred percent of gifts goes to the emergency efforts in Haiti. **Please make checks payable to WPAUMC**, designate Haiti Emergency 2010, Advance #418325 and mail to:

United Methodist Center - Treasurer's Office, PO Box 5002, Cranberry Township, PA 16066

President Signs Law Accelerating Haiti Donation Deductions

Also on Friday, President Obama signed into law the Haiti Assistance Income Tax Relief Act. The new law allows taxpayers to deduct contributions made for the relief of victims in areas affected by the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti on their 2009 tax returns instead of on their 2010 returns. To be eligible for an accelerated deduction, the contributions must be made after Jan. 11, 2010, and before March 1, 2010, and meet the requirements of IRC § 170.

The act also allows such donations to be substantiated by a telephone bill showing the name of the donee organization, the date of the contribution and the amount of the contribution.

Answers to your questions.....from Diane Miller, Volunteers In Mission

Q: An urgent call for Health Kits has gone out – as our Churches work to get them together, where do we take them? Are there local "drop off" points within Western PA?

A: Health kits can be delivered directly to the Mission Barn. [<http://www.wpaumc.org/mission-barn-directions>] Follow the signs at the barn which will direct you to the back of the barn where there's a green door. Kits can be dropped off at the Conference Center (1204 Freedom Road, Cranberry Township) and we'll find volunteers to take them to the Mission Barn. In the Erie region, they can be dropped off at Christ UMC (2615 W 32nd St, Erie). That church has volunteered to be a drop-off site and will deliver kits left there to the Mission Barn. If you belong to a church that wants to become a drop off point – and are able to transport kits to the Conference Center periodically, please let me know.

A: I know that Health kits are what UMCOR wants right now. What about the other kits. Are we done making them?

Q: NO – we're not done with other kits. The top priority right now is the Health kits. With hundreds of thousands of Haitians homeless, the Health kits will provide what is needed for people to keep themselves clean. If you've got other kits at your church (School kits, Flood/Cleaning buckets, Layette kits, Sewing kits, Bedding paks, birthing kits), they can be sent to the Mission Barn too. All kits are needed someplace!

Q: What about the money we are asked to include with the kits - \$1 for toothpaste, \$1 for transportation costs? Should we include money in each kit, or put it in an envelope, or write out a check?

A: If you put money in the kits, those who verify the kits will remove the money, tally it, and deposit it. A check for toothpaste will be sent to Sager Brown, the UMCOR depot in Louisiana, when we send the kits there. If you wish to put the money or a check in an envelope and include that with your kits, that's fine. Make out the check to "Eastbrook Mission Barn."

Q: We'd like to volunteer at the Mission Barn. Is that possible?

A: YES. To schedule yourself or your group to volunteer at the Mission Barn contact Rev. Barb Moore, coordinator for volunteers: 724-654-3390 or mission.barn@wpaumc.org. Through the winter, volunteers at the Mission Barn verify kits and sew bags for school kits. There are currently two sewing machines that function – and three more that don't. We need a volunteer to repair machines.

Q: We have some materials left over from making the kits. Do you want incomplete kits or left over materials?

A: YES! Bulk materials for all the kits are useful. For example: boxes of adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages (band-aids), washcloths, hand towels (15"x25" up to 17" x 27"), combs (large and sturdy – no pocket sized), one-gallon clear plastic sealable bags, toothbrushes (single brushes in original wrappers), bath size bars of soap. Heavy duty fabric (at least 2 ft square) is needed for each school bag.

Butler District Clergy Book Club

Christ Community UMC

205 N Duffy Road, Butler, PA 16001

10: AM – 11:30 AM

April 13, April 20, May 4, May 11 and June 1, 2010

Book: *Tell It Slant*.....by Eugene Peterson

Pastor Parish/Clergy Evaluation due May 15th.

LABEL_NAME	CHARGE_NAM	2009	2010	2011
X determines year Long Form Eval due				
REV DAVID WILSON	ALQUIPPA		X	
REV TODD DAVIS	AMBRIDGE: FELLOWSHIP			X
REV BERTRAM DOMINECK	AMBRIDGE: FIRST/ECONOMY			X
REV KAREN PRESCOTT	ARNOLD			X
REV D. EDWARD BAILEY	BADEN	X		
PASTOR JERRY PAWLOSKI	BAIRDFORD			X
REV CATHY NEWPORT POFF	BEAVER		X	
REV MARK ONGLEY	BEAVER FALLS CITY CHARGE			X
REV GREGORY COX	BEAVER FALLS COLLEGE HILL	X		
PASTOR KENNETH JACOBS	BETHEL OF B CO./TUCKER			X
PASTOR DAVE ALLEMAN	BF: NORTH CHARGE			X
REV LARRY CORNER	BOYERS/EAU CLAIRE: BETHEL			X
REV ALYCE WEAVER DUNN	BRACKENRIDGE: TRINITY		X	
REV JAMES LEWIS	BRANCHTON			X
PASTOR JEAN SMITH	BRIDGEWATER		X	
REV WADE BERKEY	BRUIN/FAIRVIEW/RIDGEVILLE			X
REV GARY BAILEY	BRUSH RUN	X		
REV JEREMY ANDREWS	BUFFALO CHARGE		X	
REV DAVID PANTHER	BUTLER: FIRST		X	
REV MATTHEW JUDD	CABOT		X	
REV GLEA FOSTER	CHICORA & KARNS CITY			X
REV RODNEY E. SMITH	CHIPPEWA	X		
REV HOWARD BURRELL	CHRIST COMMUNITY		X	
REV BRADLEY NEEL	CONCORD	X		
REV THOMAS KENNEDY	CONCORD-ASSOCATE			X
REV NANCY K. SHUTE	CONNOQUENESSING	X		
REV DARLENE RYNIEC	COUNTRY CHAPEL CHARGE	X		
REV DAWN LYNN CHECK	CREIGHTON:JANES	X		
REV RONALD A WANLESS	CROTON	X		
REV NELSON T. THAYER	EASTBROOK		X	
REV JAMES DURLESSER	ELLWOOD CITY FIRST		X	
DEBRA FLINT	EXTENSION MINISTRY	Deacon		
REV EDWARD H MYERS	FREEPORT	X		
REV WILLARD C ADKINS	GEORGETOWN & SMITHS FERRY			X
REV JOHN JEFFERIS	HARMONY-ZELIENOPLE		X	
PASTOR GARY HILTON	HOMEWOOD			X

REV THOM SCOTT	KAYLOR/QUEENSTOWN			X
REV BARBARA MOORE	KING'S CHAPEL/WESLEY		X	
REV DONALD ANDERSON	KOPPEL		X	
	MARS			X
PASTOR SUSAN PICKERING	MIDLAND			X
REV BRUCE MOULD	MONACA	X		
REV JAMES RITCHIE	NATRONA HEIGHTS: CENTER			X
REV JUSTIN JUDY	NATRONA HEIGHTS: GRACE		X	
REV RITA PLATT-ANDERSON	NEW BRIGHTON		X	
REV REX A. WASSER	NEW CASLTE EPWORTH	X		
REV JOHN D. MILLER	NEW CASTLE FIRST			X
REV MARK E GOSWICK	NEW CASTLE SAVANNAH		X	
REV PATRICIA NELSON	NEW WILMINGTON	X		
REV BRUCE MERRITT	NIXON		X	
REV ROBERT KIFER	PULASKI		X	
REV JAMES PARKINSON	RIVERVIEW			X
REV ORVILLE JONES	ROCHESTER :ZION	X		
REV DONALD DOTTERER	ROCHESTER FIRST			
REV. KATHY MIKESELL	SARVER ZION	Deacon		
REV HOWARD GREENFIELD	SARVER ZION		X	
REV PAMELA GARDNER	SLIPPERY ROCK		X	
PASTOR WAYNE SCHAR	SPRINGDALE			X
REV DAVID EALY	ST JOHNS/FORESTVILLE			X
REV KURTIS KNOBEL	THORN CREEK/EMORY CHAPEL	X		
REV W. STEPHEN MORSE	UNIONVILLE			X
PASTOR ROBERT MARTIN	VALENCIA			X
REV RONALD G NAUGLE	VOLANT			X
PASTOR HOPE CUMMINS	WAYSIDE EMMANUEL			X
REV THOMAS A TOPAR	WURTEMBURG	X		

The PPRC/Clergy Training Power Point Presentation and "How To" complete the forms booklet available at the District Office.

Mission Share Note:

Dear Friends,

A last minute appeal went out to pastors and finance leaders of churches that fell short to ask for final 2009 Mission Share contributions. At the time, virtually year's end, the conference was still \$700,000 short of paying dispersal directives at an already slashed payout level of 60%.

The response to the final "push" was interesting. Many are sensitive about this. It is not that easy come up, with last minute contributions, and some ways of asking can create more "push-back" than "pull-together" responses.

As always, we remember our connectedness as United Methodists. Caring about what we do around the world together, we then do our best to pay our portion of the shared costs.

None-the-less.... Some noted the low payout by a few churches and asked, "why do they get away with not paying."

Sometimes a church's negative attitude about Mission Share, rather than financial inability, does undercut support. We grieve those attitudes, challenge them when we discern them, and educate to change them for the better.

In other cases, churches have serious internal issues to deal with that those looking in from outside cannot understand. From a distance, you cannot tell what the real story is.

Appearances are often deceiving.

Will you give your most gracious response when there are questions about another church's lack of payment? When you see that another church has paid little, do not assume that it "thumbs its nose" at the system, or is satisfied with its payment record.

Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ, Paul wrote. And have "generous eyes" as Jesus taught. If your eye is 'generous,' Jesus asserted, then your whole body will be filled with light.

Let's have that generous eye, and stay faithful in giving OUR portion!

In closing, let me express gratitude for the support we have been able to provide together. Thank you ALL for what you HAVE given!

The Holy Spirit Who Encourages ALL be with you!

Dean D. Ziegler



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Harmony, PA 16037

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Fax: 724-452-1628

Butler.office@wpaumc.org

Notes On the Way

February - March 2010