

# WESLEYAN DISTRICT WITNESS

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## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

We are at the beginning of the Lenten Season. I was thinking after the Ash Wednesday service about God's word calling us to "rend" our hearts, not our garments—to put out of our lives--everything that is not of God—get rid of "mammon." Then I thought about Jesus Cleansing the Temple. Jesus did this because when he went in the Temple, he found people selling cattle, sheep, doves, and the money changers were seated at their tables making exchanges of money into proper temple money.

He made a whip and drove out all of them (put them out) out of the temple, even the animals, and turned over the money changers tables, dumping coins out everywhere.

And then he said to them all: "Take these things out of here! You are making my Father's House, which is supposed to be a House of Prayer into a marketplace!"

They had forgotten what the Temple was for. For those there that day, it was just another opportunity to make money. It was another opportunity for them to feed their greed and fill their own pockets at the expense of the poor pilgrims coming to Jerusalem to worship God and to remember what Passover was really about.

Now it is important to understand a little about the Temple, which points us back to the original Tabernacle. Both Tabernacle and Temple were first, THE DWELLING OF GOD. Its purpose was so that God could dwell among the people.

But, because God is holy, God must be separated from sin. The Holy God separated from sinful people is the 2<sup>nd</sup> idea behind the tabernacle. A Holy God cannot walk among a sinful people!

Now the placement of the people suggests the separation.

Behind the veil is God's presence, the Holy of Holies, and only the great high priest could enter and only with the blood being offered.

Outside that place was the area of the Priests & Levites.

Beyond that were the tribes by a special order; there was court for the women; and even further away were the Gentiles.

It was here, in the Gentiles and defiled Jews Court that the moneychanger's tables were. Here is where the sheep, cattle, doves, goats, etc. were. This was supposed to be a place where the pilgrims coming to Passover could draw nearer to God, give their offerings and sacrifices. But they were being unjustly treated and robbed by being charged higher prices than they should have had to pay to get their sacrificial animal.

But because all that was going on there, there was no room for them to come closer to God, because the area was filled with people and animals and marketing.

The Cleansing of the Temple by Jesus is days before Jesus would give himself up as the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of all people and be the sacrificial lamb without spot and blemish. The perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world...that meant the Gentiles too. That meant us.

The cleansing of the temple has to do with Jesus "clearing the way," for whosoever wants to come closer to God through Jesus.

Jesus wants them—the ones nobody else wanted-- to draw near, closer to God, that they might find salvation, for God's House is to be called a House of Prayer for **all the nations**—no one excluded.

We would do well to search out the areas, those places, where we wish to exclude others from God's Kingdom.

Who are those whom we think should not be allowed into God's presence because of their sin?

Who are we to impose judgment upon who is allowed in sacred space? Who are we to decide and judge who is holy enough and good enough for God to love them?

Perhaps during this Lenten Season, we should be searching our own hearts and asking God to reveal to us the places in our hearts that need cleared out so that Christ may fill us more?

During Lent, we are not to dwell on others' sins, other's failures, others' shortcomings in life.

In this Cleansing of the Temple, the clearing the way, in Jesus Christ, God comes to the people. At that time, the people believed, "God is in there," "we are out here."

But when Jesus walked into the Temple area, and especially into the Court of the Gentiles, It was a sign that God came out to meet them in Christ Jesus. God in Christ, walked among the unclean, vilest of sinners, the Gentiles, you and me, to clear the way. When we could not come to God, in Christ God came out to meet us, on our own turf, in our own place.

We are the Church, the Body of Christ today, and we are to be Christ's Body here on earth now. We are the Temple today.

We are the temple as the church who is always to be clearing the way for all people!

And as individual parts of the body, we are to be making a way, providing a clearing space for the people we meet from day to day.

Therefore, our task, is to always be a welcoming place for whoever comes into our midst. We, the Church, are to be Christ-like, and clear the way for all people!

Church! Open your doors! Then walk among the people in the communities surrounding you. Dare to go and meet people where they are, in life's hard places, those dealing with the struggles of drugs and addictions, poverty, hunger, lostness, aloneness, and let them know that the Christ in us loves them and will reach out and touch and love them without judging them! Open your doors, yes! But go outside the doors and walls of our church meeting places with open hearts, open minds, and open doors!

**Rev. Mary Ellen Finegan, DS**

welcome everyone is



## Anniversaries and Birthdays

### Birthdays and Anniversaries for March and April

#### March

1	Clara Peggs	B
3	Ed Trimmer	B
	Don & Helen McCauley	A
4	Vicki Bukovesky	B
5	Bonnie Johnson	B
6	Celia Tenney	B
	Mary Ann Schell	B
	Darrel & Cynthia Gooden	A
8	James Malick	B
9	Rodney Heckert	B
	Sharon Carr	B
12	Donald McCauley	B
	Clifford Schell	B
17	Dwayne Brown	B
20	Ed & Peggy Trimmer	A
22	Ronald McCauley	B
24	Kevin & Sandra Bender	A
26	Sherrie Walsh	B
27	Gloria Fisher	B
	Nancy Johnston	B
30	Lisa Godwin	B
31	Harry & Clarice Jenkins	A

#### April

1	Darlene Wine	B
	Rod & Paulette Heckert	A
3	Mina Luzader	B
	Andrew Bukovesky (Ch)	B
7	Curtis & Virginia Saville	A
	Jim & Debra Murphy	A
10	Ron & Peg McCauley	A
11	Nancy Hart	B
13	David & Jane Thompson	A
	Thom Keely	B
19	Montana Phillippi (Ch)	B
20	Barbara Kyle	B
21	Jackie Chambers	B
	Eric Phillippi	B
25	Michael Starkey	B
26	Ed & Bonnie Hardman	A
	Saundra Boley	B
30	Nel Kimble	B

ENJOY YOUR SPECIAL DAY!!

***Parish Coordinators are asked to send Birthday and Anniversary Cards to our pastors and families.***



Please remember all those in our district who are dealing with illness, death, and other personal situations with family and friends. Trust I have not missed anyone who should be on this list. Please let me know.

Remember these in prayer: Thelma Carr, wife of Billy Carr; and Billy waiting for surgery; Beverley and Ron Brown; Cliff and Mary Ann Schell; Cliff West with continuing health problems, Sam and Nancy Cale III; Bill Kniceley; Mitch and Mary Ann Griffin; David Thompson; Jerry Boyce. Kathy is giving him all his care at this time. Please remember Kathy as she takes care of Jerry.; . Alicia Rapping healing from surgery. Sarah Carr healing from break in shoulder. Jo Criss healing after surgery in March. Jackie Chambers with fractured Fibula.

Dorcas Conrad with chemo, Chris Stadleman, Paul's son); Bonnie Starkey; Josie Tenney, George Hamrick. Janis Hensley. Remember Richard Fretwell; Stephanie, Belinda Toms' daughter; Bill Kniceley; Oren Loyd. ; Joe Shreve, Knee Surgery; Bill Eskew confined at home; Joe Rodrigues, Pancreatic Cancer, hospice at home; Kelly Simmons as she heals from her leg surgery. Destry Daniels recovery from Heart Surgery. Jeff Zickefoose who is undergoing some treatment before having surgery later.

Please remember our Flood victims across our state. This is a devastation that will last for many months, if not years. We appreciate everyone going the second mile to meet their needs.

We thank God for giving us His Son to be here on earth to walk and teach among us, and then give His life so that after His resurrection we have the gift and promise of eternal life. What a wonderful gift God has given us!



# Lay Servant Academy

## Wesleyan District Lay Servant Ministries

Have you ever heard the saying, "If you're in a bad situation, don't worry, it'll change. If you're in a good situation, don't worry, it'll also change?" Change is inevitable, but God has a plan for all of us. We must accept that we don't always know where He is taking us, and we have to be open to change. That isn't always comfortable for us.

Many of us shy away from change often because it can produce stress, but we can feel safe in God's arms, and in His will. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." We are all in the place we are today because we have followed God's will in our lives.

We have seen a good deal of changes in Lay Servant Ministries over the past few years.

The latest discussions at the General Conference level, and newest updates in the 2016 Book of Discipline, includes clarification for many of the questions that lay servants have had over the past few years. We will discuss this more during our lunchtime Q&A session at the Spring Lay Academy this year, as well as info about the Certified Lay Minister program.

And speaking of the Spring Lay Servant Ministry Academy, which is being held on April 29<sup>th</sup> this year, classes will include, as always, *Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries* (Basic) and *Advanced Lay Speaking* (Go Preach!) classes. Our other Advanced courses will be *Leading Worship*, *Public Prayer*, and *Spiritual Gifts*.

Remember that the Basic course is open to anyone who has a desire or calling to serve in their church or charge in any capacity. They do not have to be interested in speaking or preaching from the pulpit.

We have over 150 Lay Servants certified in our District, but many still have not retaken the new Introduction to LSM course as a refresher. This guideline was put into place a few years ago so that all Lay Servants would get "on the same page," so-to-speak, in our approach toward our individual ministries and the United Methodist Church. The grace period deadline for taking the new Basic course is July of 2017, so there will only be one Academy left to take it. For those Lay Servants who have still not taken the new Basic course, Conference guidelines state that in order to continue as Certified Lay Servants, you must take this course. To my fellow Lay Servants, thank you for your service! Your commitment to your churches, to this district, our Annual Conference, all the way to our General Conference, it greatly appreciated and needed as the United Methodist Church moves forward. Please plan on attending our District Conference in May and be recognized as a Lay Servant. I hope to see you there, and talk with you at the upcoming Academy.

If you ever have any questions along your journey, don't hesitate to contact me. Registration forms are attached.

Jim Minutelli, Chairperson, Wesleyan District Lay Servant Ministry Committee  
Certified Lay Speaker & Certified Lay Minister  
West Milford United Methodist Charge  
minutellij@gmail.com  
Facebook @ Jim Minutelli

## CERTIFIED LAY MINISTRY COURSES

Discipleship Ministries and The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry have worked together to develop the basic coursework to prepare leaders for this form of ministry. In this case, certification provides a layperson with the training, support, supervision, and accountability needed to lead in team ministry.

**The required coursework has four modules:**

**MODULE 1:** call and Covenant for Ministry

Description: Understanding of theology and call for ministry, exploring spiritual gifts, and developing a ministry covenant. Minimum Time: 30 hours

**MODULE 2:** The Practice of Ministry

Description: Four Sections on Leading Worship, Preaching/Sharing Faith, Discipleship Ministries, and Caring for a Congregation. Minimum Time: 8 hours per section or 32 total hours

**MODULE 3:** Organization for Ministry

Description: Focus on the leader's task of organizing a congregation for mission and ministry. It provides specific guidance on topics central to a congregation's health. Minimum Time: 8 hours

**MODULE 4:** Connection for Ministry

Description: United Methodist theology, practice, and polity are explained with the roles of the local congregation, district, conference, and general church. Minimum Time: 8 hours

These modules are available only as PDF downloads from the Upper Room Bookstore at <http://bookstore.upperroom.org> and are non-discountable, non-refundable and non-returnable. Some annual conferences offer alternative equivalent training or they allow online education through <http://BeADisciple.com>. Please be sure to check with your annual conference to determine what they will allow as an equivalent.

The coursework (4 modules) can also be used as a group study with the supervision of a clergy person and the support of a mutual ministry team (key leaders) of the congregation being served by the CLM. Whatever the format chosen, it should include work/interaction with people in the local congregation being served.

For more information, visit [www.umcdiscipleship.org/leadership-resources/certified-lay-minister](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/leadership-resources/certified-lay-minister)

Or send a message to [laity@umcdiscipleship.org](mailto:laity@umcdiscipleship.org)

Discipleship Ministries | The United Methodist Church [www.umcdiscipleship.org](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org)

(877) 899-2780 EXT 7179

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### TREASURERS!!

All **PROMO FUNDS** for Wesleyan District Office  
Should be mailed to: P.O. Box 230, Buckhannon, WV 26201  
And be made out to **Wesleyan District Office**.

This also includes any money for **Ministerial Education Funds (MEF)** for 2017.  
Please send to the Buckhannon office.

We appreciate your effort to pay these askings each year

**We have over a dozen treasurer who have already sent the money to  
Conference Treasurer for 2017.**

**Please contact your treasurers and inform them of the proper address to  
which to send these funds.**

**Check should be made out to Wesleyan District Office**

Any **monies for Fair Share** apportioned by the Conference should be mailed to the  
**WV Conference Treasurer** at  
P.O. Box 2469, Charleston, WV 25329.

Please keep your churches informed as to where they stand for the year.  
Balances are sent to pastors on a monthly basis of all that has been paid.

**Travel for Pastors this year is: 54 cents per mile. This is a change from previous years.**

### **Ministerial Education Fund**

District Conference approved raising the amount assessed the churches in 2016.  
**If your church has more than 400 members we are asking \$600 per church**  
**Churches with 200-400 members are asked to pay \$500 per church**  
**Churches/Charges with less than 200 members are asked for**  
**\$250 per church/charge.**

**The amount each church owes will be noted on the Fair Share page at  
Charge Conference.**

The Conference has assessed our District **\$9,044** this year, 2017.  
Please make checks to Wesleyan District and mail to us in Buckhannon.  
Place MEF in the Memo of your check. Thanks so much!

## Attention Wesleyan District Pastor's.....

We also have space for retreats. Church planning retreats, small church committee meetings, or I will even do Christian Care Giving retreats. The only cost would be a donation for food. We have a wonderful large fire pit for singing and rejoicing .

Call today to set up your reservation.

Sherrie Walsh  
Coordinator of Hospitality and Care

**304-472-0514**



I spent this Earth Day in retreat and quiet prayer at this beautiful spot just outside Buckhannon . [Sherrie Lohr Walsh](#) has an extraordinary gift of hospitality and took great care of me so I had plenty of quiet in the blessed presence and peace of God. To my pastor colleagues, please think about spending a day here. The surroundings are a feast for the eyes and ears and good for the soul *Alicia Rapping*

"Come to Me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. All of you, take up My yoke and learn from Me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for yourselves.

Matthew 11 :28-29 (HCSB)

Sometimes we need rest and we know the Lord is our source.

Sometimes we are so busy and depleted that we have trouble plugging into the Source. Sometimes Christ uses willing servants to help us find that place of rest and refreshment.

Sherrie and John Walsh offer their home Grateful Acres for that very purpose. If you are tired because you have spent your energy helping others or caring for others, then please contact these servants of the Lord at 304-472-0514. There in their care you can find rest and refreshment from the suffocation of the busy.  
*Sandra Boley*

## **DATES TO REMEMBER!**

March 6-8	D.S. Cabinet Meeting
Mar 10-11	John Wesley's Understanding of Salvation. Monty Brown, John XXIII
Mar 13	Retirement Workshop at Charleston. Persons 2-5 yrs from retirement.
Mar 13	Retirees Luncheon, WVWC, French See Dining Hall at 11:30 a.m.
Mar 16-17 & 18-19	Spiritual Growth Retreat, Cedar Lakes. UMW. Either 2 days.
Mar 18-21	Cabinet Western Saturation, Huntington
Mar 30	Clergy Meeting at Quiet Dell with Lunch 10 a.m.– 12:30 p.m.
Apr 2-3	Cabinet Meeting
Apr 3	Deadline of Registration of Lay Academy
Apr 8	UMW Spring Meeting First (Buckhannon) Reg. starts 9 a.m.
Apr 8	Lead Team meeting Quiet Dell 9 a.m. – noon with lunch.
Apr 10-11	Cabinet Meeting
Apr 13	Retirement Workshop 10a.m.-4 p.m. Conference Center
Apr 23-25	Cabinet Meeting
Apr 27	Clergy Meeting – Gassaway UMC, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. with lunch
Apr 28	Deadline for Reports for District Directory due
Apr 29-May 6	PMLS at Huttonsville
Apr 29	Lay Academy – Chapel Hill UMC, 7:30 Registration, all day classes
May 4	Lead Team, 9 a.m. till noon with lunch at Quiet Dell with lunch
May 6	COME at Quiet Dell UMC
May 10-11	Cabinet Meeting
May 21	District Conference at Chapel Hill UMC, 3-5 p.m.
May 22-24	Cabinet Meeting
May 29	Office Closed for Memorial Day
June 5	Pre-conference Cabinet Meeting
June 8-11	Annual Conference at WVWC
Jun 15-16	Post Conference Cabinet Meeting
June 22-25	Rally on the Mountain – for Kids
June 22	Move-out day for Pastors
June 23	Move-in day for Pastors
July 3-4	Office closed for July 4 <sup>th</sup>
July 20-22	Mission u at WVWC for UMW
July 24-28	Mission Trip for Cabinet
August 24	District Picnic at Quiet Dell UMC – Gather at 5:30/eat at 6 p.m.
August 26 – Sep 2	Mary Ellen on vacation
Sep 4	Office closed for Labor Day
Sep 5-7	Cabinet Meeting

Don't Miss the

**DEADLINE!**

**Celebration of Mission Event COME**

**May 6, Saturday, at Quiet Dell UMC.**

**Mark this date on your calendars!**

Brian and Sandra Boley will be hosting this event at Quiet Dell UMC.

Brian has sent a letter to your pastors which have all details for this year and requests for raising monies and how to submit them.

There is a COME Flyer to be used as a bulletin insert and it has an item listed for each week which you are to bring. Each family is asked to bring an Easter donation of \$5, \$10, or \$20 per family.

Fund raising events are also listed in which you may participate at your church.

Brian has given many ideas of things you may do as individuals and churches.

At the end, one check may be submitted to the Conference Treasurer and sent in with regular monthly payments form.

**PARISH COORDINATORS**

Please call the office or e-mail with Lay Equalization member, Youth, Young adult, and Pages for Annual Conference.

Judi Kenaston is asking for these A.S.A.P. We need Tellers also.

(Actually a couple of weeks ago)

**HELP!!!**

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN CALENDAR FOR 2017

### 2017 Wesleyan District Calendar of Events

January 14	Wesleyan District Leadership Team Meeting
February 1	District Spring newsletter deadline
March 1	Local unit treasurer's first quarter remittance due to Yvonne Foster Make checks payable to Wesleyan District UMW
March 16-17 18-19	Spiritual Growth Retreat at Cedar Lakes, Ripley Speaker: Julie Taylor Theme: Legacy of Faith
April 8	District Spring Meeting – First Buckhannon UMW Speaker-Alicia Rapping of Upshur Parish House
May 5-7	Mission Encounter -Burlington United Methodist Family Service
May 6	Celebration of Mission Event- Quiet Dell UMC
May 1	District Summer newsletter deadline
June 1	Local unit treasurer's second quarter remittance due to Yvonne Foster Make checks payable to Wesleyan District UMW
July 20-22	Mission U (formerly SOCM) at West Virginia Wesleyan College Theme: Legacy of Hope
August 1	District Fall Newsletter deadline
August	Wesleyan District Leadership Team Meeting
September 1	Local unit treasurer's third quarter remittance due to Yvonne Foster Candle burning and Love Gift due -- Make checks payable to Wesleyan District UMW
September 30	District Fall Meeting- Beverly UMW Speaker- Dr. Michael Linger of House of the Carpenter
October 15	MNO form #1 for Deceased Members and 50 Year Members and Membership Counts due
October 27-28	Annual Meeting -Christ Church Wheeling, WV Speaker- Rev. Thomas Bickerton Theme: Legacy of Love
November 1	District Winter Newsletter deadline
November 4	Day Apart- Lost Creek UMW Speaker. Sarah Carr
November 4, 11	Training Event by the Conference Officers
December 1	Local unit treasurer's fourth quarter remittance due to Yvonne Foster Make checks payable to Wesleyan District UMW

**WESLEYAN DISTRICT'S**

**NEW WEBSITE IS NOW  
UP AND RUNNING**

**WE ARE STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION  
BUT PLEASE VISIT US AND  
LOOK FOR NEW ITEMS AS  
WE IMPROVE THE SITE**

**OUR WEBSITE ADDRESS IS:**

**[www.wesleyandistrictumc.org](http://www.wesleyandistrictumc.org)**

*Please contact us with your suggestions to better serve you.*

**New-and-Improved  
WEBSITE** 