

SOUTHWEST AREA NEWS

American Baptist Churches of Ohio
Clinton, Dayton, Miami and Western Associations

January 2008

The old year has ended and a new year with unimaginable possibilities beckons us. As we reflect on 2007, we are so thankful for the wonderful experiences we have shared with many of you in the Southwest Area of American Baptist Churches of Ohio. We have come to know you better through ordinations, installations, anniversaries, and other special events in the life of your churches. We have walked with you in your journey of searching for new church leadership and shared with you in some of your struggles and sorrows. We have felt the presence of God and rejoiced in inspiring worship services in many of the churches and in association events.

The year has gone by so fast, and now it is time for us to step aside and welcome a new Minister of Congregational Development to the Southwest Area. Although many of you know Rev. Mark Click, new relationships will be formed with old friends as well as those who do not know him. New horizons of ministry will open for all of these diverse churches as you work with Mark in discovering the amazing opportunities for ministry God has in store.

We thank you for the opportunity we have had in working with and among you. You will continue to be in our prayers and we know we will hear of many new celebrations of God's work among you. "We thank God every time we remember you...because of your sharing in the gospel...We are confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion" Phil. 1:6.

CELEBRATION:

Jason Alspaugh was ordained to the Christian ministry on Sunday, November 25, 2007 at First Baptist Church, Springfield. Jason is the Associate Pastor of Youth and Children, First Baptist Church, Dayton.

CHANGES

The Rev. Dr. Robert Schlatter has resigned as pastor of Mount Washington Baptist Church, Cincinnati, effective December 31, 2007 to become the Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Shelburn, IN.

Robert Ross, Bi-vocational Pastor of First Baptist Church, Jamestown, has been transferred by Lowes where he is employed, to Greenville, NC, effective Dec. 12.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AMERICAN BAPTIST YOUTH OF OHIO CONVENTION
FEBRUARY 22-24, 2008
Heartland Conference Center

Miami Association Moderator's Dinner

The Miami Association's Annual Moderator's Dinner will be held on March 11, 2008. This important event in the life of this association is currently being planned and more information will be announced later.

Church Leadership Conference

The Annual **Church Leadership Conference** will be held March 28-29. The facilitator/speaker will be Dave Ping, co-author of the book Outflow which presents the concept of Servant Evangelism. He is also the Executive Director of Equipping Ministries International. Check out the Equipping Ministries International website for more information.

2008 MISSION CONFERENCE IN OHIO

Planned by ABC/USA Board of International Ministries and the Staff of ABC/OH and the Montgomery Community Church, Cincinnati this mission conference will be held at the Montgomery Community Church on May 16-18, 2008.

Meet our Missionaries, Share in worship, learn about Mission. Put this on your church calendar and begin planning for a wonderful event!

A NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT IN ESTES PARK, COLORADO

More Than a Week '08, Equipped for Life

5 days of Dynamic Speakers

July 5 - 11, 2008,

Sponsored by National Ministries,
American Baptist Churches USA

Register Online www.morethanaweek.org

KEEP THESE CONGREGATIONS and SEARCH COMMITTEES IN PRAYER :

Church of Matthew 25, Cincinnati, Pastor.

Fellowship of Mercy, Independence, KY, Co-Pastor

First Baptist Church, Greenfield, Pastor.

First Baptist Church, Jamestown, Pastor.

Heritage Community Church, Cincinnati, Part-time Director Children/Youth Ministry.

Mount Washington Baptist Church, Cincinnati, Pastor.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Woodlawn, Cincinnati, Pastor

St. Clair Avenue Baptist Church, Hamilton, Pastor.

Sugar Creek Baptist Church, Washington Court House, Pastor.

Remember, the ministry of this insert and the ministry of your Minister of Congregational Development, as well as many mission endeavors are made possible by your generous support of the America for Christ Offering, United Mission, and ABC/OHIO Specifics.

Revs. Alvin and Rachel Lee

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