

MVP BIG TENT 2011

November 5th, 2011

9:30am to 4:30pm

Newcomerstown Middle School

325 West State Street

Newcomerstown, Ohio 43832

Featured Speaker, Ann Philbrick

Empowering Structures

You have heard that form follows function. So also structure follows vision. Whether we are talking about the way we go about being church, put together a docket for a meeting, or the very buildings that house our ministries, empowering structures are always in service to God's mission. The problem is that habits form and without our even realizing it results in vision asking structure for permission to heed God's call. This plenary will focus on ways to create empowering structures that allow for God's people to serve with energy, intelligence, imagination and love.

About Ann Philbrick

Ann was born and raised in suburban Philadelphia but also has family roots in Ohio (her mother was raised in suburban Cleveland). She went to college in New York and North Carolina, received her MDiv from Princeton and her DMin from McCormick. Ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA), she has served churches in Wisconsin and western Pennsylvania and as presbytery staff in Washington DC and Baltimore, Maryland. Many years of independent consulting has taken her all over the country as she has supported, trained, and equipped local church leaders. She loves to hike and garden and currently resides in Nashville, Tennessee.

Afternoon Workshops:

Too Much Room?

If your congregation is smaller than it once was, then your church has a problem with its building, whether you know it or not. This workshop will explore:

- How a building built for a larger congregation can become a roadblock to its smaller current ministry
- What kinds of decisions need to be faced to make the building support rather than hold back vitality
- Tools for leaders who want to make good building management decisions

Presented twice for 90 minutes

Leader: Ann Philbrick

Know Thyself: Discover Your Role in Ministry

Your personality is a key factor in discerning appropriate role(s) for you in ministry. Are you a “people person” or do you prefer to work by yourself? Do you like to interact with sensible people or with imaginative people? Are you more comfortable with facts or with principles? During this workshop you will chart your personality on an abbreviated form of the well-known Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI). You will discover the implications of different personalities for a variety of ministries.

Presented once for 90 minutes

Leaders: Paula Lane and Bob Porter

Sustainable Youth Ministry

In today’s culture, we all know that youth are extremely busy with extra-curricular activities, school work, family outings, media, etc. It is difficult for youth to commit to any program with regard to their busy schedules. Youth Leaders are challenged to develop a vibrant youth ministry that will flourish and prosper for years to come. The youth leader must rise up and train adult leaders, call youth forward for leadership opportunities, and create a weekly program that focuses on making genuine disciples. These principles will help a youth group to grow spiritually and numerically, as well as, endure during difficult times.

Presented twice for 90 minutes each

Leaders: Erin Yoder and Ryan Johanning

Developing SMART Goals

Imagine that your congregation begins to sense that God is doing something special and is calling them to join in! Imagine you start discerning what this new ministry is to look like. What an amazing feeling that is! Many churches have experienced this moment but then weren't prepared to live into this new reality. We want to move to where God wants us to be, but often times the unrelenting power of present demand keeps us right where we were before! It seems like there is always something more "urgent" that needs to get done. To achieve the vision that God has called us to we need something to keep us on track and a way to evaluate how we are doing. SMART goals are an indispensable tool to help a Pastor, Session, Leadership Team and Congregation DO what God is calling them to do. Join into this seminar to learn how SMART goals can help you live out God's mission. In our time together you will learn how to develop your own personal goals. Remember that a vision without a plan is merely a wish!

Presented twice for 90 minutes each

Leader: Tom Houston

Healthy Leaders= Healthy Congregations

Congregational leaders are the key in promoting the well-being of the congregation. What responses create health in a congregation? What kind of interactions set the mood and tone of healthy churches? What type of functioning advances, rather than impedes, the mission of the church in the local congregation? This workshop will celebrate staying connected through differences, strengths, and mission.

Three hour presentation with breaks

Leader: Donna Robertson

Building an Awe Filled Community

In Acts 2, we read about the believers forming a community. That community was a place where *"A deep sense of awe came over them all and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders"* Acts 2:43. Earlier we read that about 3000 were added to the church. Now, who among us would like to see those numbers come through our doors??? No promises of numbers, but if you want to learn strategies for building a community and practice some of those activities as we develop a community, then join this workshop.

Presented twice for 90 minutes each

Leader: Ron Walker

The Journey: Growing Up in Christ

There is a lot of talk these days about Transformation, which for some has become synonymous with church growth. Yet scripture is clear that transformation begins with us, with the renewing of our minds (see Romans 12:1-3). But is such renewal truly possible? The Apostle Paul tells us that it not only possible, but that the heart of our call as Christians to be *“transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory”* (II Corinthians 3:18). Of course, this is not an over-night event. Rather, if we are intentional, degree-by-degree, we come to reflect the Lord’s glory. Nor is this is something we can do by our own initiative. It can only be accomplished in and through the power of the Holy Spirit. To be sure, our participation is required. As the writer of I Timothy reminds us, we must train in godliness (see I Timothy 4:8). So then, how do we begin? What does training in godliness look like? This workshop will reflect on pathways of growth as modeled by Jesus earthly journey. In and through his journey, may we come to understand our own formational journey as we find our own core identity born out of relationship with God in Christ, character transformation born of the Spirit, and call born of the intersection of our gifts and passions with the needs of community. This workshop will combine elements of study and practice as we share in the journey together.

Three hour presentation with breaks

Leader: Debbie Rundlett

Formational Prayer and Spiritual Caregiving

Do you ever feel stuck in a rut? Do the same feelings seem to produce the same wrong responses? Events in your past may be keeping you from moving to the next level of emotional and spiritual growth even if you have tried sharing it with others. In this workshop we will ask the Holy Spirit to join us as we discover various types of trauma and how our brains react to them. We will learn how He can be with us through various “Stages of Healing”. Explore with us how we can identify and confront our wounds by experiencing a “Safe Place” and God’s healing touch.

Three hour presentation with breaks

Leader: Rick Hastings and Diana Circelli

Elder Communion Training

In “Elder Communion Training” we will train the elders of your church to do the communion liturgy. At this training elders will be trained and qualified to do visitation communion in ones congregation without having to take the communion directly from the church service to those receiving the communion. To participate in this training, one needs only to have been an elder. Following the training the elders will receive a certificate and their names will be registered with the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery as being qualified to do communion. This is very useful for churches with supply pastors who cannot administer the sacraments or churches where visitation teams go out to have communion on weekdays.

Presented once for 60 minutes

Leader: Jim McCurdy

The Missional Clerk of Session

The Clerk of Session's job is very important, but at times it seems trivial. All those minutes and records that have to be done just right! It's easy to lose sight of the big picture, which is your church fulfilling its full potential for the Kingdom of God. In this workshop, we'll look at record-keeping as a means to this end. We'll discuss how to take minutes, how to keep the church register up to date and how to prepare for the annual reading of the minutes by presbytery. Most of all, we'll look at how all of this can bring glory to God and strengthen the church.

Presented twice for 90 minutes each

Leader: Marty Radcliff

The Missional Treasurer and Tomorrow's Church

How does the missional church do business, finance, and combine it with accountable leadership? What is your mission? When was the last time you rediscovered your mission? How are God's gifts to the church being used? Does revenue and expenses connect with your mission? Who decides if your expenses are appropriate, well spent, and mission directed? How much time does your session spend talking money? How much time does your session talk about business? Is an audit important? What is a "checks and balance system"? How do you budget? Today's missional church needs to rediscover the meaning of mission, how it affects the work of our church, and how does God's call to us effect how we operate and function?

Presented once for 90 minutes

Leaders: Jim Spain and Barb Schie

Will Your Church Exist Ten Years from Now?

The secret is out! We no longer live in a world that presumes a Christian culture. There was a day when one generation was born into the church as one generation passed away. This is no longer the case. Now, many churches across our nation are missing whole generations. Often, those who remain in the church are present because that is what they know--that is what we know. We are faithful in devotion but do not know how or why we are to live out a Christian mission in the world. If we continue this pattern, the church in America will fall, though it is flourishing on other continents. In this workshop we will explore two main issues. First, we will identify benchmarks that will help you determine if your church will exist in 10 years. Second, we will outline practices and Biblical theology that open us to radical and deep change--allowing Jesus to transform our hearts, way of community, and practices of faith.

Presented twice for 90 minutes each

Leader: Matt Skolnik

Small is Strong!

The challenges that face the small church in many ways resemble those presented to any church... but the way they meet those challenges will determine whether they are a strong small church or a struggling small church. Participants are invited to explore the dynamics of small churches. *A Struggling Small Church*: tries to define success by numbers; is unwilling to consider doing things in a 'new' way or fails to adapt; wastes time comparing itself to other churches; spins its wheels in unhealthy patterns/relationships; is not self-aware of either their gifts or of their challenges; waits for a leader to give direction and make decisions; lends support to a ministry instead of initiating and directing ministry. *A Strong Small Church*: encourages the development of community; places a strong emphasis on relationships; develops strong lay leadership and spawns lay pastors; is eager and willing to work with sister churches and is ecumenically minded; has a balance of originators and conservers; owns the title 'disciple' and is actively engaged in ministry; is faithful and can do anything. The sky is the limit!

Presented twice for 90 minutes each

Leaders: Chris Stewart & Karin Wright

Becoming a Blessed Church

"Becoming a Blessed Church" is a book about "Forming a Church of Spiritual Purpose, Presence, and Power by N. Graham Standish. "Becoming a Blessed Church" is a systematic and Spiritual shift from the standard way of conducting church business to a more Christ centered approach to ministry. It challenges the governing body and the congregation to move from the functionality of "business as usual" to a more Biblically empowered, vital decision making church. The appendices follow 8 chapters of common sense guidelines which aids to the functions of the church.

Presented twice for 90 minutes each

Leader: Tim Thomas

I Wonder?!! The Godly Play approach to Christian Education

GODLY PLAY is a neo-traditional, creative, imaginative approach to Christian nurture. The goal of all Christian Education should be to show children how to be open to the Creator, Redeemer and Holy Spirit, helping them to be deeply rooted as Christians. GODLY PLAY makes use of the young person's innate curiosity and imagination in experiencing the mystery and joy of God, allowing them to connect the stories to their personal lives. GODLY PLAY is a hands-on resource that is equally effective with the non-reader, or the child with no church experience as well as those who have grown up in the church.

Presented twice for 90 minutes each

Leader: Joan Brode

Registration for Big Tent Event Saturday, November 5th 2011

In the challenges of today's ministry we need fresh new ideas that complement the ministry of the church while bringing new life to the church. Muskingum Valley Presbytery will host the Big Tent Event on Saturday, November 5th at the Newcomerstown Middle School. 15 workshops and a special speaker will provide an entire day's worth of seminars varying from 'Discover Your Role in Ministry' to 'Will Your Church Exist Ten Years from Now'. These workshops will strengthen and encourage you in your life as a Christian regardless of how you're serving the Lord. This event is intended for the body of Christ which includes clergy, elders, and church members and is open to all churches and all denominations. Registration begins at 9:00am with key note speaker, **Ann Philbrick**, from 9:30am to Noon and Breakout seminars from 1:00pm-4:30pm; lunch can be purchased at the cafeteria. The cost is \$10for MVP members and \$25 for non-MVPthat includes lunch. **To register for workshops:** Return this form with check payable to: Muskingum Valley Presbytery, 109 Stonecreek Rd. NW, New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663. Memo: Big Tent Event 2011. -OR- Online at www.mvpjourneyingwithjesus.org

Return on or before Monday, October 24th

Name: _____ Church: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Please choose 2 Afternoon Workshops:

- Too Much Room? Ann Philbrick (two 90-minute) _____
- Know Thyself: Discover Your Role in Ministry (one 90-minute) _____
- Sustainable Youth Ministry (two 90-minute) _____
- Developing SMART Goals (two 90-minute) _____
- Healthy Leaders = Healthy Congregations (one 3-hour) _____
- Building an Awe Filled Community (two 90-minute) _____
- The Journey: Growing Up in Christ (one 3-hour) _____
- Formational Prayer & Spiritual Caregiving (one 3-hour) _____
- Elder Communion Training (one 60-minute) _____
- The Missional Clerk of Session (two 90-minute) _____
- The Missional Treasurer & Tomorrow's Church (one 90-minute) _____
- Will Your Church Exist Ten Years from Now? (two 90-minute) _____
- Small is Strong! (two 90-minute) _____
- Becoming a Blessed Church (two 90-minute) _____
- I Wonder?!! The Godly Play (two 90-minute) _____