



THE J.A.M. JAR

Jackson Area Ministries

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A Grateful Farewell

I have been delaying, putting off and even deliberately postponing authoring this article. My longstanding plans have always been to give up being JAM's Director at the 2023 Annual Conference. A surprise turn of events has resulting in my "retiring" in the next 30-50 days. I both hate and regret these developments. God does move in "mysterious ways His wonders to provide".

The ideal schedule was this:

1957 it began as pastor of the Hallsted Institutional Methodist Church in the south side of Chicago Last year in seminary served the Hawthorne Church in Cicero, Illinois. 1958 my fulltime appointments started as Associate Minister Bowling green Methodist in Ohio, Hebron and Wellston-churches followed between 1961 and 1977

It all starting becoming the Director of Jackson Area Ministries in 1977 some 45 years later in come to an end.

In 1998 I retired after 40 years and these past 24 years have been in that role.

ENOUGH.

This summer we constructed a handicap ramp for a church who had lost their elevator. As the crew was working one day a person stopped and asked: "Will this be done by Sunday?" Of course, came the reply. Good I bring two persons to church and haven't been able to do that for several months.

If you have the time to watch the Sunday worship Service on YouTube July 24th from Bethel UMC, Spartanburg, SC you will discover why we have been doing this all these years. One of their youth talks about having a homeless youth come to their VBS. Her response and the actions of the rest of the youth is both touching and Christ like.

I could go on with others but these two accounts represent the hundreds of LOVE DEEDS that have transpired these many years. Southern Ohio, churches near and far, hurting persons, youth and adults and especially me all seen the TOUCH OF THE Lord Jesus Christ.

The Leadership Team and the Board of Directors are in search of a paid Part-Time Director. That person will quickly discover that this position is not a job but an honor and blessing to have.

Thanks for allowing the Davis clan to be associated with all of you. Your passion and friendship has made me who I am.

May the Lord Bless and keep you.

Rev. Bob Davis



JAM CONDUCTS IMPORTANT MEETING

On Monday, August 8th. The Board of Directors of Jackson Area Ministries will gather to take significant action. It is our hope that the board will be able to establish a successor to its current director. The Leadership Team was assigned the task to both recruit and interview a person or persons interested in being our next part-time Director. This will be a paid position. The Job Description has been circulated across the region. The Board of Directors has established a pay schedule that might need to be revised.

The meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. in the Family Life Center, Christ UMC, Jackson.

Like all our meetings this is open to any interested/concerned persons.

JAM'S TWO CHEERISHED MINISTRIES

As we make our transition to different leadership there is concerns about our two well-known ministries—gardening, work camping. It is important to note that both of these efforts are self-sufficient, requiring NO additional funds from the budget. The gardening project has long been solvent due to the wide acceptance of the ministry. Donations and gifts have long underwritten this program. Further, work camping can be the same through adjustment is the staffing, application fees.

JAM HAS A COUNTRY, DENOMINAL REPUTATION FOR ITS GARDENING MINISTRY AND THE SUMMER WORK CAMPS. The seed project currently might well be the largest such effort in the United Methodist Church. This past summer affirmed our youth/adult mission effort in that a church from South Carolina heard about us through denominational promotion and two new churches from the East Ohio Conference joined us.

THERE WILL BE NEW FACES BUT OUR MISSION TO APPALACHIAN OHIO REMAINS PARAMOUNT.

THANKS TO GOD—SIDNEY FIRST WORK TEAMS CONTINUE ON

Southeast Ohio has been blessed by many volunteers that have come our way. It would be impossible to measure the good they have done. At the top of the list has to be Paul Soliday had his band of cheerful workers. Paul, Sidney First and all of his contacts from the area have been doing this in the spring and on Labor Day weekend for at least 20 years. Their skills are amazing but their friendship is so much more important.

This year's visit will be a bit different in that they are coming the weekend of September 16th instead of Labor Day. First UMC, Ironton has agreed to be their hosts. Mike, Clayton and myself will serve as hosts and take care of the projects and materials. Looking forward to another significant weekend.

SUMMER WORK CAMP SEASON CONCLUDES

Jackson Area Ministries on the week of July 17th through the 23rd concluded this year's summer work camp ministry. We started these adventures in 1977 in Manchester along the Ohio River. Our records indicate that since then 669 mission events have occurred. Many churches have come year after year, several have been with us for over 20 years. It is my guess that our friends from New Orleans might have been the most distant.

In 2020 JAM like most other organizations did not conduct work camps due to the Covid Virus.

This past summer 10 congregations joined us for mission efforts.

Christ UMC, Baltimore, Ohio

Summit Station UMC, Summit Station, Ohio

York UMC, Medina, Ohio

Beldon UMC, Medina, Ohio

Damascus UMC, Salem, Ohio

Middle Sandy Episcopal, Salem, Ohio

Milford UMC, Milford, Ohio

Maumee UMC, Maumee, Ohio

Church of the Saviour, Cleveland Heights, Ohio

Bethel UMC, Spartanburg, South Carolina



Our special thanks go out to the local churches who willingly hosted these groups

Grace UMC, Jackson, Ohio

Trinity UMC, Chillicothe, Ohio

First UMC, New Lexington, Ohio

Wheelersburg UMC, Wheelersburg, Ohio

Haverhill UMC

First UMC Ironton, Ironton, Ohio

JAM was genuinely blessed to have David and Jane Beattie, Perry Prosch, Mike Corn and Clayton Glenn devote significant time and energy to assist us in the day-by-day logistics. Their commitment to this ministry is both significant and appreciated.

Personal Note: This past summer for me has been one with mixed emotion. I have always anticipated and enjoyed these events. There have been challenges, problems, long days but they always turn out to be a blessing to the recipients, host congregations, the youth and their adults BUT especially me. For 45 years the summer months have always been special to me.

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