



WesleyLinks Meeting, November 2, North Bend UMC Fall 2011

Mark your calendar today!

Our next WesleyLinks program and pizza luncheon, **“How To Plan for Retirement Living and Long Term Care,”** will be on November 2nd at 12:00 noon at North Bend United Methodist Church. Our guest speaker will be Thomas G. Bedall, Managing Attorney, Pro Seniors. Tom has specialized in elder law since joining Pro Seniors in 1993 and is a frequent speaker on the topics of Medicare, Medicaid, Health Care Decision Making and other areas of elder law.

A 1978 graduate of the University of Akron, College of Law, the same university where he received his undergraduate degree. His 33 year legal practice has been dedicated to helping low income Ohioans. In so doing he has practiced before all levels of Ohio courts including several appearances before the Ohio Supreme Court, as well as litigating federal class actions and appeals.

North Bend United Methodist Church is located at 123 Symmes Avenue, North Bend, Ohio 45052, 941-3061. Call Tyisha Short at Wesley Community Services at 661-2777 to make your reservations.

Summary of September 7th, WesleyLinks, Senior Fraud Meeting

Business Update

A new church was welcomed to the ranks of WesleyLinks at the September 7th meeting. Keys of the Kingdom United Methodist Church has joined the other 65 Greater Cincinnati churches in the WesleyLinks network.

Steve Smookler announced that a new list of volunteer opportunities at Wesley Community Services will be available at the next WesleyLinks meeting on November 2nd. He also reported continuing success serving clients in Boone, Kenton and Campbell counties in Kentucky. In Kentucky, payroll tax dollars support human services including senior services in contrast to county real estate levies in Ohio.

WCS statistics for 2011 through the end of July show that 140,000 meals have been delivered (a 5% increase); 21,000 transports provided for medical appointments and taking people with disabilities to job sites (10% increase); 14,000 contact hours for home care services (15% increase); and more seniors are receiving personal care services (unskilled services such as bathing, dressing, personal hygiene, etc.).

The state of Ohio has cut back funds 3% to providers of Passport, home and community based services to low-income seniors. However, the state has increased the number of seniors eligible for the Passport program which is for clients 65 or older on low income who qualify for nursing home care but can choose to receive services at home. It's a fact that 95% of people prefer home to nursing home care. (continued on page 2)

Summary of WesleyLinks Meeting, September 7th (continued)

Program

Robert Warfel, Special Agent in the Cincinnati office of the FBI, is one of 12,000 agents who work in the United States as well as in 70 foreign liaison posts. He spoke on the fraud prevention and investigation programs of the FBI.

Criminal investigations include VCMO (Violent Criminal, Major Offenders) as well as white collar crime. There are many, many varieties of white collar crime: cyber crime, financial institution fraud as well as fraud relating to health care, insurance, credit cards, checks (forgery and counterfeiting), inventory, phantom vendors, false invoices and the like. Often the FBI works closely with the treasury department in tracking down fraud schemes.

Frequently the FBI works with corporations to determine what they are doing to prevent fraud. Many times corporations have non-existent or very poor internal controls. Even when they do have such controls, management often overrides them or does not follow up on irregular financial information. Corporations may also have to deal with collusion between employees and third parties.

In their efforts to deter fraud, the FBI is continually alert to “red flags” sent up by scammers. Once a scammer gets away with something, he rationalizes he can get away with almost anything and may get careless. Of course, sudden lifestyle changes, like buying a Lexus or Mercedes, building a very expensive home, or taking extravagant vacations arouse suspicion.

Health care fraud in the United States amounts to \$689 billion a year (19.6% of the federal budget), the highest of any industrialized nation in the world. It's also a fact that as Medicare funding increases, Medicare fraud increases as well. In 2010 it amounted to a \$97 billion problem. Much of the problem is because most claims are paid electronically and automatically making it far too easy to deliberately submit false claims for treatment and services. Common schemes include: durable medical equipment is ordered but never delivered or is of inferior quality; a client may use ambulance service once or twice but Medicare is billed for 4 or 5 calls; medically unnecessary treatment is ordered and billed; services

and supplies are “upcoded”; accidents are staged; medicines never prescribed and services never rendered are billed by bogus pharmacies or clinics with storefront addresses that appear for a few months and then completely disappear.

Protect your Medicare card and credit card numbers. Remember that all claims are tracked for life and a million dollars is the maximum a person can claim for a lifetime. Fraudulent claims made with your Medicare information may bring you to the point of no insurance coverage. Always double check you Explanation of Benefits statements and call the provider if you have any questions or have any suspicions about the services listed.

Two final precautions were emphasized by Mr. Warfel. **First, do not deal with any internet pharmacies, even in Canada.** You cannot be sure you are getting the right dosage or that the drug has been produced with strict standards of cleanliness. It may have been produced in China, shipped to Russia, then to Australia, to England and finally to Canada. **Second, when you donate to a charity, be very positive it is a known, reliable organization, such as the Red Cross, United Way, etc.**

The second speaker at the September 7th meeting was **Tifini Ray, Coordinator, American Diabetes Association of Greater Cincinnati**. She stressed the alarming increase in diabetes in recent years and said the Diabetes Association is interested in working with WesleyLinks churches to help them educate local congregations about the disease. Although heredity has the greatest influence in whether a person develops diabetes, proper diet and exercise are very important components of its prevention and successful management.

The meeting concluded with a brief discussion of ideas for using the vast amount of fraud information and materials we have accumulated this year. It is hoped that **WesleyLinks representatives will now arrange programs to educate their local congregations on how to prevent becoming a victim of the many kinds of fraud.**

Don't Miss Out On This Opportunity

PROTECT YOUR ID SHRED DAY
OCTOBER 22, 2011 - 9 am to 2 pm
UC BLUE ASH COLLEGE (formerly Raymond Walters College)
9555 PLAINFIELD ROAD * BLUE ASH, OHIO 45232

What Can You Shred For FREE?

- Bank Statements
 - Canceled Checks
 - Credit Card Receipts
 - Expired Passports
 - Insurance Documents
 - Legal Documents
 - Medical Records
 - Pay Stubs
 - Credit Card Statements
 - Voided Checks
 - Debit Card Receipts
 - Expired ID Cards
 - Tax Documents
 - Mail with Address Labels
 - Dental Records
 - Utility Bills
- Bring your old cell phones to be donated to 911 cell phone bank
- Limit 5 boxes per vehicle
- Prohibited Materials: Binders, Plastic and Pre-Shredded paper

May We Help You With Your Outreach Ministry To Seniors?

WesleyLinks is an ecumenical network of area churches created by Wesley Community Services to enable member churches to better serve seniors in their congregations. Information is made available to seniors who need support so that they may stay in their own home for as long as possible. WesleyLinks meets at member churches for a luncheon and informative program. If you are interested in having your church be a WesleyLinks partner contact Stephen Smookler, Executive Director, Wesley Community Services, at 661-2777.

Anderson Hills Christian Church
 Anderson Hills UMC
 Armstrong Chapel UMC
 Brecon UMC
 Calvary UMC
 Cherry Grove UMC
 Christ New Beginnings Ministries
 Christ Prince of Peace UMC
 Church of the Saviour UMC
 Clough UMC
 Elberon UMC
 Episcopal Retirement Homes
 Faith United Church of Christ
 Forest Chapel UMC
 Fosdick First Church of God
 Friendship UMC
 Gaines UMC
 Groesbeck UMC
 Guardian Angels Catholic Church
 Hartwell UMC

Hartzell UMC
 Hyde Park Bethlehem UMC
 Hyde Park Community UMC
 Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish
 John Wesley UMC
 Keys of the Kingdom UMC
 Knox Presbyterian Church
 Loveland UMC
 Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
 Miami Whitewater UMC
 Monfort Heights UMC
 Mt. Carmel Christian Church
 Mt. Healthy UMC
 Mt. Moriah UMC
 Mt. Washington UMC
 Nast Trinity UMC
 New Vision UMC
 Newtown UMC
 North Bend UMC
 Oak Hills UMC

Our Lady of Visitation Church
 Parkside Christian Church
 Pilgrim United Church of Christ
 Sharonville UMC
 Shiloh UMC
 St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church
 St. Bernard Catholic Church
 St. Ignatius Catholic Church
 St. James Episcopal Church
 St. Joseph Church North Bend
 St. Luke's Evangelical Church of Christ
 St. Martin of Tours Church
 St. Peter and St. Paul United Church of Christ
 St. Vincent DePaul/St. Bernard
 Clairvaux Church
 United Methodist Women, Ohio River Valley District
 Vineyard Community Church
 Westwood UMC
 Zion UMC