



*See you, September 7th, at Hyde Park UMC*

*Summer 2011*

**Mark your calendar today!**

Our next WesleyLinks program and pizza luncheon will be on September 7th at 12:00 noon at Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church Welcome Center. The luncheon will include two guest speakers, Special Agent Robert Warfel from The Federal Bureau of Investigation. The presentation will focus on the national increase in Medicaid / Medicare fraud in addition to general awareness and education about fraudulent activities and schemes targeting the elderly and senior citizens. Also joining us will be Tifini Ray, Coordinator, American Diabetes Association of Greater Cincinnati, to briefly highlight their initiatives for seniors and churches.

**Call Tyisha Short at Wesley Community Services at 661-2777 to make your reservations.**



**Do your part to Stop Senior Fraud.**

*Summary of June 1st, WesleyLinks, Fifth Third Bank presentation on financial fraud*

The second meeting of WesleyLinks' **Senior Fraud Series** on June 1<sup>st</sup> brought Christine Sichak and Stephanie Day, from Fifth Third Bank, to John Wesley United Methodist Church to inform member churches about banking fraud. They emphasized that financial exploitation of seniors might be by a family member as well as by a complete stranger.

**Financial Exploitation**

Some schemes include: **forging** a person's signature on a check, **stealing** pension or Social Security checks, **modifying** wills to become a beneficiary, being asked to **pay upfront fees** to receive a prize or "inherit" money, being asked to **donate** to a non-existent charity, offering to **repair a poor credit** report or stop a foreclosure for large upfront fees, or e-mails that appear to come from legitimate companies asking for personal and confidential information. **If it sounds "too good to be true," it probably is NOT TRUE.** *(continued on page 2)*

## *Summary of WesleyLinks Meeting, June 1, 2011 (continued)*

**Being alert to potential scams is the first line of defense.** Never act quickly or impulsively on anything that may affect your financial resources. Take time to check out the legitimacy of the person or company contacting you. Ask for advice or consultation from trusted family members or friends. Specific suggestions on protecting your financial assets and identity include:

### **Checks you receive in the mail:**

- 1) Never deposit a check you receive in the mail from someone you don't know.
- 2) Verify a check is legitimate by contacting the bank on which the check is drawn and then wait for it to clear.
- 3) If a check is written on a bank in another state, allow 7-10 days for it to clear. If it is from another country, allow a month for it to clear.

### **Requests for Money or Contracting for Services**

- 1) **Never send money** to a person you don't personally know. If the person claims to be a relative, ask questions that only a relative could answer correctly (if it's a scammer, he will quickly hang up). If you wire money to anyone, it's gone and there is no way to get it back.
- 2) Don't allow the person to **threaten or pressure** you into sending them money quickly or paying for goods or services you really don't need.

- 3) Get several **estimates** before having work done and **check references** before signing a contract.
- 4) Don't pay the entire contract amount upfront. Only pay a portion so that you can be sure the work is done properly and you have leverage with the contractor.

### **Computers and Personal Records/Bills**

- 1) **Destroy** the data on the hard drive before getting rid of an old computer.
- 2) **Shred** (a cross cutter is best) private documents you are throwing out.
- 3) Don't let your mail sit in your **mailbox** and take outgoing mail to the post office.
- 4) If you don't receive your **monthly statement** from a company, bank or utilities, contact them. Review statements regularly for accuracy and report any discrepancies.
- 5) If you use **Facebook**, be sure to set your privacy settings to control who sees your messages and photos.
- 6) Check your credit accounts regularly. Consider purchasing **Identity Theft Protection** which will alert you if new accounts are fraudulently opened in your name or someone misuses your account information.

**Our final WesleyLinks luncheon for 2011 will be November 2, location to be announced.**

## *Important Reminder*

**The most important way to protect against Medicare fraud is keeping personal records of all the medical services one receives, carefully reviewing all bills, and questioning your provider when you suspect mistakes or don't understand a charge.**

## *Welcome Aboard, Tyisha Short, AmericCorps VISTA staff member*

Wesley Community Services is proud to announce the arrival of Tyisha Short, our AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) staff member. Tyisha relocated to Cincinnati from Springfield, Ohio, and is studying at Wright State University. Tyisha is committed to strengthening our volunteer outreach and WesleyLinks program full-time for a year.

## *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.**

Andeson Hills Christian Church	Hyde Park Bethlehem UMC	Pilgrim United Church of Christ
Anderson Hills UMC	Hyde Park Community UMC	Sharonville UMC
Armstrong Chapel UMC	Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish	Shiloh UMC
Brecon UMC	John Wesley UMC	St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church
Calvary UMC	Keys of the Kingdom UMC	St. Bernard Catholic Church
Cherry Grove UMC	Knox Presbyterian Church	St. Ignatius Catholic Church
Christ New Beginnings Ministries	Loveland UMC	St. James Episcopal Church
Christ Prince of Peace UMC	Lutheran Church of the Resurrection	St. Joseph Church North Bend
Church of the Saviour UMC	Miami Whitewater UMC	St. Luke's Evangelical Church of Christ
Clough UMC	Monfort Heights UMC	St. Martin of Tours Church
Elberon UMC	Mt. Carmel Christian Church	St. Peter and St. Paul United Church of Christ
Episcopal Retirement Homes	Mt. Healthy UMC	St. Vincent DePaul/St. Bernard Clairvaux Church
Faith United Church of Christ	Mt. Moriah UMC	United Methodist Women, Ohio River Valley District
Forest Chapel UMC	Mt. Washington UMC	Vineyard Community Church
Fosdick First Church of God	Nast Trinity UMC	Westwood UMC
Friendship UMC	New Vision UMC	Zion UMC
Gaines UMC	Newtown UMC	
Groesbeck UMC	North Bend UMC	
Guardian Angels Catholic Church	Oak Hills UMC	
Hartwell UMC	Our Lady of Visitation Church	
Hartzell UMC	Parkside Christian Church	

## *Directions to Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church*

### **FROM NORTHERN CINCINNATI, DAYTON, MIDDLETOWN, MONROE, HAMILTON, FAIRFIELD:**

Follow I-75 South.

Exit at St. Rte. 562 East (Norwood).

Exit at I-71 South.

Exit from I-71 at Dana Avenue.

Turn left on Dana and follow it to the church.

The street name changes to Observatory Avenue at the first stoplight (Madison Road). Continue straight on Observatory Avenue .

Go past five stoplights (including Madison Road).

The church is on the right - one block past the fifth stoplight.

### **FROM CLEVELAND, COLUMBUS, KINGS ISLAND, LANDEN, LOVELAND, MONTGOMERY AND KENWOOD:**

Follow I-71 South.

Exit from I-71 at Dana Avenue .

Turn left on Dana and follow it to the church.

The street name changes to Observatory Avenue at the first stoplight (Madison Road) . Continue straight on Observatory Avenue.

Go past five stoplights (including Madison Road).

The church is on the right - one block past the fifth stoplight.

### **FROM INDIANAPOLIS, HARRISON, AND WESTWOOD:**

Follow I-74 East.

Exit at I-75 North.

Exit at St. Rte. 562 East (Norwood) .

Exit at I-71 South.

Exit from I-71 at Dana Avenue .

Turn left on Dana and follow it to the church.

The street name changes to Observatory Avenue at the first stoplight (Madison Road) . Continue straight on Observatory Avenue .

Go past five stoplights (including Madison Road) .

The church is on the right - one block past the fifth stoplight.

### **FROM NORTHERN KENTUCKY:**

Follow I-71 North.

Exit at Dana-Montgomery Road exit.

Turn left at the first stoplight (Duck Creek Road).

Go past one stoplight.

Turn right on Dana Avenue and follow it to the church.

The street name changes to Observatory Avenue at the first stoplight (Madison Road) . Continue straight on Observatory Avenue .

Go past five stoplights (including Madison Road) .

The church is on the right - one block past the fifth stoplight.

Please note that the return trip to I-71 South is by a slightly different route:

Follow Observatory Avenue back toward I-71. The street name changes to Dana Avenue at the fifth stoplight (Madison Road) .

Follow Dana Avenue to the I-71 South entrance.

### **FROM NEW RICHMOND, AMELIA, ANDERSON, MT. CARMEL, AND BATAVIA:**

Go to the Beechmont Levee (Beechmont Avenue) .

Cross the levee going toward Columbia Parkway (don't get on the parkway).

Follow the curves to Linwood Avenue (the street name changes by the parkway entrance).

Bear right as you enter Mt. Lookout Square (still on Linwood).

At the first fork, bear right onto Delta Avenue .

Turn left at the second (?) stoplight (Observatory Avenue) .

Follow Observatory Avenue to the church - two blocks further on the left.