



Communicator

an edition of

The United Methodist Reporter

The people of The United Methodist Church

Two Sections — Section A

043000

Volume 156 Number 05

JUNE 5, 2009

The Healthy Church Initiative

A Pathway to Healthy Disciples involved in Healthy Ministry Leading to Healthy Churches



Conference Lay Leader Message PAGE 5



District Pages

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2009 Annual Conference

June 11, 12, 13 (Thursday-Saturday)

University of Maryland-Eastern Shore

Princess Anne, MD

Ronald Bell, Jr. Named Director for Strengthening the Black Church - Congregational Development

The Peninsula-Delaware Conference has named Ronald Bell, Jr. as the Director of Strengthening the Black Church - Congregational Development. Ron is a graduate of Morgan State University and he recently received his Masters degree in Practical Theology from Regent University.

Ron has worked as a Senior Case Manager for Rehabilitation Services, Inc. in Norfolk, Virginia. He has also served as a Senior Residential Counselor for Alternative Behavior Services in Portsmouth, VA.

Ron is the son of Rev. Ronald Bell, Sr. and Mrs. Joyce Bell. He grew up on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and was very active in his local churches while living on the Peninsula. Ron will officially assume the responsibilities of the

position on July 1, 2009.

The development and strengthening the churches in the Conference continues to be a high priority. The current economic conditions are financially testing many of the Methodist churches on the Peninsula.

When asked to share his thoughts about the assignment, Ron said "when I think of the role and vision that God has given me for the black United Methodist church I am immediately both excited and humbled. As we look toward the future we are compelled with the images of adversity, poverty, suffering, dying congregations, and dilapidated edifices. At the same time that these images engulf us, we are equally quieted with the peace and assurance that the same God who provided in our night sea-

sons remains in control.

God has equipped me with two degrees, one a bachelors in philosophy and the second a masters in theology. He has allowed me the ability to shape programs for troubled black youth, teach in an afro-centric elementary school and counsel both youth and adult offenders in the prison system. What I've learned is that no matter how marred life may present images of humanity, what grows churches and builds people is simple: God's love. Over the next few months, I look forward to praying, fasting, worshiping, building and developing together a new vision for the church and for the community."

Ron shares that he is both



Ronald Bell, Jr.

humbled and excited with this opportunity. Look for Ron to be 'out and about' traveling across the conference during his first months' in this new position.

Please join Bishop Johnson and the leadership of the Conference in welcoming Ron to this vital position and include him in your prayers as he assumes the responsibilities of this position.

Holy Conferencing

Greetings from your bishop! I am eagerly awaiting our annual conference. We already got off to a good start at the Clergy-Laity banquet on May 15th. The Summit will be another great event that will happen just before the general sessions begin. As we enter annual conference, I am calling everyone to prayer. Please pray for this conference as part of your preparation. As United Methodists we are engaged in Holy Conferencing. During Holy Conferencing we are seeking consensus: being in harmony with one another and the Holy Spirit. This enables us to do what God is calling us to do. We are diverse but we seek to be of one accord in the midst of that diversity. There are no winners or losers in our discussions and voting. We want unity of Spirit. This is a discipline that requires listening, open mindedness, humility, faith and kindness.

The early Methodists believed that it was a means of grace. Through our work together we



Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

empower all to experience God in a new way. We are like a group of sail boats all with different sails but all seeking to catch the same wind....the wind of God's Spirit.

See you at Annual Conference and may you come prepared to worship, to give generously to the offerings, work together and enjoy fellowship.

(Editor's Note: The Summit begins on Tuesday, June 9th, the Clergy & Laity Sessions take place on Thursday morning and the opening of the 2009 Conference on Thursday afternoon.)

2009

Missional Appointments

As we have sought to be faithful to God's call to mission in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference, the cabinet has made the following appointments effective July 1, 2009 (unless otherwise indicated).

Rev. Sally Russum, currently serving the Girdletree-Stockton Charge, is appointed to Crisfield-Asbury. Rev. Russum is following Rev. Jeffrey James who will be attending Seminary.

Rev. G. Kim Gilson, currently serving the Vienna-Elliotts Charge is appointed to Crisfield: Immanuel. Rev. Gilson is following Rev. William Davis who has been appointed to Cambridge: Zion.

Rev. Dr. Lawrence Jameson, currently serving the Galena-Warwick Charge is appointed to the Millington-Crumpton Charge. Rev. Jameson is following Rev. Everett LeCates.

Rev. Beverly Holland, currently serving Lee Haven, Townsend, Mt. Pleasant, Chistiana and Mt. Salem, New Castle, is appointed to Lee Haven, Townsend Brandywine Community and Haven, Wilmington.

Rev. Everett LeCates, currently serving the Millington-Crumpton Charge is appointed to Bridgeville: Cannon. He is following the Rev. Luis Almandoz.

Rev. Thomas Morrison is appointed to Woodside Charge. He is following the Rev. Elizabeth Mallozzi. This will be Rev. Morrison's first pastoral appointment.

Rev. Lawrence Purnell, currently serving the Rock Hall- Fairlee Charge, is appointed to Quantico-Hebron Charge. Rev. Purnell is following Rev. Joanne Maxwell-Jenkins.

BOYD'S BLESSINGS:

In preparation for our 2009 Annual Conference, I have been pondering the three dimensions of this year's theme: "Reach In." As I have done that, I was reminded that "talking to God," "growing through groups," and "caring for others," is at the very center of the Methodist movement founded by John and Charles Wesley.

With regard to prayer, John Wesley was adamant about our need to "pray without ceasing." He reasoned that a Christian can no more live without prayer than a body without air. And in souls filled with love, the desire to please God is a continual prayer. In fact, all that we do as Christians, even eating and sleeping, is prayer—if it is done in "simplicity." My interpretation of Wesley's definition of "simplicity," based on my reading of Wesley's sermons, is the need to do all things in moderation. Too much of any good thing—including eating and sleeping—can have adverse effects on health, as we have discovered.

When it comes to growth in faith through groups, John Wesley's societies are a perfect model! Those who gathered under the guidance of Wesley sought to raise the crucial question, "How

is it with your soul?"

The model is being revived today through Covenant Discipleship groups and Walk to Emmaus Reunion groups in our churches and communities.

Wesley's commitment to caring for others was demonstrated in his taking God's Word into the world. He lived and breathed the spirit of Jesus displayed in Matthew 25. He was concerned about both the physical and spiritual needs of the sick, the imprisoned, and children who were being deprived an education because they were forced to labor in factories six days a week.

In A Plain Account of Christian Perfection, the Rev. Mr. Wesley offered this assessment: "God only requires of his adult children, that their hearts be truly purified, and that they offer him continually the wishes and vows that naturally spring from perfect love. For these desires, being the genuine fruits of love, are the most perfect prayers that can spring from it."

For further reflection, read John 15!



Rev. Boyd Etter

Over 200 Attended Wesley's Annual Egg Hunt

By Debbie Lord, Family Life Chair

Family Life sponsored Wesley's annual egg hunt on April 11th in Dover, Delaware. Over 200 children and adults attended. Despite the rainy weather, children found eggs filled with candy and small toys. There were even 2 golden and 1 silver egg found! The children also had their picture taken with the Easter Bunny! Lunch included sub sandwiches, salads

made by James Turner, Wesley's resident chef, and delicious treats for dessert. After lunch, the audience enjoyed Easter stories and songs performed by Miss Jackie McCabe from the Dover Public Library. Magic Larry followed with a fun-filled hour of neat magic. Magic Larry is a professional magician and has won several awards in his profession. The children each received a take home sand bucket filled with fun summer toys. The bucket also included a sheet with the dates



and times of VBS to be held this summer. Mardi Spangler made an announcement promoting VBS and had registration forms on hand.

"Walking With Jesus to the Resurrection"

Submitted by Pastor Fern Kester

Bethany UMC in Millsboro had a new experience for their Easter morning service. The program, "Walking with Jesus to the Resurrection," had them literally walking and experiencing the path that Jesus walked. Our first stop was in our community hall, where the table had been set for the Last Supper. There Jesus shared communion with his beloved disciples. Turning from the table, we saw the area where Jesus washed the feet

of His disciples. Outside in the garden, Jesus prayed in agony asking the disciples to 'watch and pray' with Him. From there He was seized and taken for trial. The next stop on our walk was the palace of Pilate. Jesus was accused, tried and condemned. We walked past the fire where Peter denied Christ, to the cross carved from a real tree. When Jesus said "It is finished", a veil which was hung on a handmade doorway was torn from top to bottom and we all walked through. We saw

the bowl of spices the women had prepared to anoint Jesus' body. When we arrived at the tomb the stone had been rolled away and was empty. Finally the cross which our "Jesus", John Vickers, had been carrying was thrown down. Then Jesus showed us that he had obtained the Keys to Death and Hell. It was a wonderful, emotional and inspiring journey that the Bethany family all took together that beautiful Easter morning.

"Clowning For Joy" at Epworth

May 10th was such a joyful Sunday as the NEW clowning ministry (20+ and growing) was introduced to the congregation. At the 9:30am worship, during the Children's Celebration, the clowns performed a skit about God's grace - "Love With No



Strings Attached"... the children were so astonished and in silent wonder to see so many clowns in their colorful finery. Later in worship, the clowns were commissioned "to go out and make disciples" as well as bring hope,



joy and love to all they meet in the name of Jesus Christ. It won't be long before the clowns will be found in hospitals, nursing homes or wherever a smile is needed. More photos are posted on our website, www.epworth-rehoboth.org.

Car For Sale

Pastor Luis Almandoz (Canon UMC) will be doing mission work in Nicaragua and needs to sell his 2008 Jeep Compass, 4 cylinder, and automatic trans-

mission. He purchased the car new last year so it is still under warranty with 10,084 miles. His payoff is \$13,312.00. Call him at 302.280.6197.

Long Neck United Methodist, Millsboro Summer Events

- Saturday, June 6, 2009 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, we will be hosting a "Fun Festival". Games and activities for children, face painting, gospel singers and more. A free lunch will be served at 11:30.
- Vacation Bible School Camp E.D.G.E. will be taking place June 29-July 3, 2009 from 6:00-8:30 PM - Experience & Discover God Everywhere! 302-945-9453

Up-coming District Clergy Meetings 2009 -2010

- July 7, 2009, Family Picnic, 6:00 p.m. Prospect UMC, West Harrington
- September 1, 2009, Wyoming UMC, 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.
- October 20, 2009 Bishops Day on the District, Milford: Calvary
- November 24, 2009, Selbyville: Salem, 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.
- February 3, 2010, Cheswold UMC, 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

District Page: The Dover District Page has completed it's 2008-2009 Conference year. A big 'thank you' to all that sent in articles and photos for this year. Also, a big 'thank you' to Marilyn Cleeton, District Editor, for her dedication to getting the news of the District communicated to both the district and to the conference as a whole.

Events Around the Dover District**Worship Interpreted for the Deaf**

The 9:30 am Contemporary Service at Epworth UM Church in Rehoboth Beach will now offer American Sign Language every Sunday. Epworth is located at 19285 Holland Glade Road, off Route 1 northbound by the Tanger Outlets. For additional information, contact the church office at office@epworth-rehoboth.org

Mt. Calvary-Bridgeville, DE

June 6 - All U Can Eat Pancake and Sausage Breakfast Fundraiser at Applebee's, from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. Come out and enjoy a good breakfast and fellowship at Applebees. Breakfast sponsored by Atmosphere of Praise Choir with proceeds from breakfast to benefit Atmosphere of Praise Ministries and Mission Trip to Africa for Stacy Waters-Hall.

Menu includes Pancakes, sausage, juice, tea or coffee. Cost is \$5.00 per person.

For tickets contact Stacy at 302.228.7884, Pat at 302.245.8969 or Ginger at 302.542.5752.

Pastors Mark Your Calendar for the District Clergy Family Picnic

Tuesday July 7, 2009, 6:00 p.m. at Prospect UMC, West of Harrington on Rt. 14 the summer Clergy Family Picnic will be the place to be. The cost per person is \$6.00 with children 10 and under free. Shane Hinderliter will present "How to Communicate with Young Adults using Facebook." RSVP by Tuesday, June 23.

From the D.S.

Dear Friends,

There is an excellent resource for local churches called, "Rethink Church." Recently, several people on each district were trained to be trainers who would work with local churches to explore and develop ways to strengthen ministry and develop intentional ways to be more inviting, hospitable, and focusing on the needs of the community. I would encourage churches to take advantage of this training which includes both workshops and web resources. One of the best pieces is the resource of 50 FREE (catch that word?) things churches can do to raise their level of hospitality, invitation, and care for their communities. Through the Healthy Church Initiative's Annual Conference theme of "Reach In," we are challenged to look inward in developing our relationship with God, to discover ways of "abiding in Christ," so that we can produce even more fruit of soul saving, life changing ministry. Part of "Reaching In" involves self examination of not only our lives, but also our churches. Through that self examination, we identify strengths as well as areas we need to grow and improve in. With this in mind, consider three unhealthy practices of neglect that may creep into any congregation and adversely affect ministry.

First, there is neglect of the faith. The number one purpose of the church is proclaim the gospel and win souls to Christ. Anything that a church does that diverts time, energy, commitment, effort and resources from this will ultimately lead to neglecting the faith. An excerpt of paragraph 201 of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2008 says, "... The function of the local church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is to help people to accept and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to live their daily lives in light of their relationship with God." Neglected faith cannot be found, nor can it be life changing for those seeking it. Don't neglect the faith. Keep the

faith fresh.

Second, there is neglect of the fellowship. Acts 2 and 4 paint some of the clearest pictures of congregational life. They met regularly for prayer, worship, mission, and caring for one another. They were busy meeting people's needs. God added people to their numbers daily. Hebrews 10:25 says: "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Healthy churches have healthy people committed to supporting one another in healthy relationships. They continually expand their fellowship as new people come in. Fuel the fellowship.

Finally, there is neglect of the facility. Church is not about buildings, but the stewardship of our facilities impacts how effective we are in ministry. A speaker on church health once commented that he could immediately tell whether or not a church was dying the moment he entered the facility and sniffed. If he smelled mold and mildew from lack of care, his experience had taught him that the church was dying. Their growing neglect of the faith and fellowship were being reflected in their neglect of their facility. What do the toys in the nursery look like? Is the diaper pail clean? What are the bathrooms like? How about the kitchen? Is there old dust and trash in the pews? What about the lighting? Is it dim? Can people see well? Does it need painting? What are the safety issues? How we take care of our churches reflects what is going on in our faith and fellowship.

While we pursue the "best practices" presented by training opportunities such as "Rethink Church," keep an eye out for practices that rob you and your ministry of the best.

Blessings. Bill



Rev. Bill Sterling

By Jack Batty

St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Easton has dedicated its recently-opened new chapel to its senior pastor, the Rev. Gary L. Moore. Citing his vision and leadership in the "Growing to Serve" building expansion campaign, church leaders surprised Pastor Moore with the honor.

In remarks at the recent dedication, Hugh Dawkins, Advanced Gifts Chairman for the Capital Campaign, thanked Pastor Moore for his leadership, guidance and commitment to St. Mark's. "You undertook the work, knowing God had a hand on your shoulder and that success was the only acceptable outcome," he said.

Administrative Board Chairman & Lay Leader Jim Denny noted "Gary led where needed, tweaked here and there, offered sympathy and understanding when we faltered, but most of

St. Mark's Dedicates New Chapel in Honor of Pastor Gary L. Moore

all, he was there and loved every minute of it."

Referring to the honor, a surprised Pastor Moore remarked, "Am I dead?" He went on to give credit for the chapel to church leaders, the congregation and to God.

The chapel plaque reads: "This chapel is in honor of Pastor Gary L. Moore, whose vision and leadership initiated the 2005 Growing to Serve Campaign, leading to the expansion and growth of St. Mark's United Methodist Church FOR THE GLORY OF GOD."

As a boy, he received God's call to ministry at Mt. Gilead Congregational Christian Church, Olney, Illinois.

Rev. Moore has been senior pastor at St. Mark's since 1999. In his 36 years, he has also served Methodist churches in Elkton; Newark, Delaware; Greensboro; Rockawalkin; Church Hill-Price and Magnolia.



Revs. Gary Moore and William Sterling

Rev. Moore has held a number of offices in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference: Chair of archives and history, Conference Secretary and editor of the Delaware Conference Commemorative History. He achieved the rank of colonel in the Delaware National Guard and served as state chaplain. Moore graduated from Eastern Baptist Seminary in May 1972. He is married to Jeanne and they have four children and three grandchildren in their family.

(Editor's Note: photo courtesy of Jackie Dianich and Tom Barwick)

Easton District Celebrates Administrative Professional Day

By Beth Stevens

The Easton District honored 75 Administrative Assistants, Church Secretaries, Volunteer Assistants and Pastors on Thursday, April 23, with a luncheon at First UMC in Chestertown, MD. District Superintendent, Rev. William T. Sterling, Jr., welcomed all pastors and their assistants with a time of devotion and communion. The lunch was prepared by the ladies of First UMC. Musi-

cal selections were provided by Rev. Rebecca Kelly, Pastor of the Harmony-Ames Charge on the Easton District. She was accompanied by Mr. Russell Phillips. The meal and music was followed by, guest speaker, Rev. Michael C. Johnson. Rev. Johnson is an Elder in the United Methodist Church, serving local churches for the past 30 years. Currently supplying the pulpit of Principio and Perryville United Methodist Churches in the Wilmington

District. He is a member of the Academy for Spiritual Formation and is an Academy of Mission Renewal interpreter with the Board of Global Ministries. He is the husband of Bishop Peggy A. Johnson and the father of their two grown sons: Peter and Gabriel. Rev. Johnson spoke about our "spiritual footprint" and how we are utilizing God's gifts and talents with our churches and community.

Easton District UMW Holds Spring Event

On Saturday, April 4th, 2009, St. Luke UMC in Cambridge was the setting for the UMW spring event with the theme: Diversity - "Music Ministry."

Seventy-five persons, including local members and units, district and conference officers, two past district presidents, and past district officers Juanita Murray and Alice Palmer were all in attendance. Also present was the District Superintendent, Rev. William Sterling and host pastor Rev. Yvonne Wallace-Penn.

Many were spiritually moved by the two praise dance teams from UMC's of Hurlock and the Ridgely-Marydel charge, mIMe dance team and the Total Praise Ministry Team.

Sandra Redd, Executive Director of Neighborhood Service Center in Easton gave instructions on services available which

cover Talbot, Queen Anne and Dorchester Counties.

Alwinta Lake, from Midshore Mediation Center, talked about services available to families in legal and judicial matters.

Conference MNO, Regina Nichols, acknowledged participating units sending in reports as to how many members in unit while district treasurer, Nona Stanley, recognized units for 2008 Five Star Giving, with Debbie Vines assisting.

District Vice Vines and Program Resource Coordinator announced 18 units of the Easton District participated in the reading program in 2008. Delores Greene was acknowledged in completion of eight years plus filing many positions as district officer. Delores received the Special Mission Recognition pin from the district and a

standing ovation for her years of service. She will continue as Spiritual Growth until a volunteer says yes to the call.

Host pastor Penn shared a powerpoint presentation of the VIM volunteers and the living conditions in New Orleans from Hurricane Katrina. Rev. Penn talked about the importance of sending the donations to Brenda Gaines earmarked for Katrina. Also, Rev. Penn informed us that giving directly to UMCOR is just as effective if not more than giving to the Red Cross.

Communion was served to all with Brenda Gaines and Debbie Vines as ushers. The spring event closed with remarks from Barbara Lake and Alice Palmer, benediction and two selections from the newly formed United Methodist Women Easton District Choir.

District Page: The Easton District Page has completed its 2008-2009 Conference year. A big 'thank you' to all that sent in articles and photos for this year. Also, a big 'thank you' to Beth Stevens, District Administrative Assistant, and Tonya Pinkett, District Editor, for their dedication to getting the news of the District communicated to both their district and to the conference as a whole.

CARE TEAM CONCERNS:

Criminal Background Checks for Church Members?

By Rev. Sally Dolch

A “thorough screening process” provides “the control and security necessary to assure the safety of children participating in ministries.” If you have read Joy Thornburg Melton’s *Safe Sanctuaries – Reducing the Risk of Abuse in the Church for Children and Youth* then you recognize the opening statement as part of the important advice she offers in the entire chapter devoted to *Recruiting, Screening, and Hiring Workers*.

Step one in making our sanctuaries safe is to read Melton’s book! As one who cares about children and youth, and one called by God to lead your congregation, you will find yourself equipped to explain to others our scriptural and Disciplinary mandate to perform background checks on all persons who work or volunteer with children.

Joy has made our work easy by providing sample forms (page 107-158.) Ask volunteers and staff to complete: position applications, reference forms, and a consent for a criminal background check. At first this may seem awkward, yet once the practice is established, it becomes part of “what we do to keep our children safe.” Long time members can be helped to understand that asking only newcomers to complete the form would be discriminatory and would only be implementing half of the policy. From an insurance perspective, this would be like having a sprin-

kler system in the sanctuary but not in the Sunday school rooms.

Once you have reviewed the sample forms, you may personalize them or create your own. On pages 15-16 Joy lists the “must have” information to ensure due diligence in gathering data. At a minimum you need the applicant’s full name, other names ever used by the applicant, date of birth, place of birth, social security number, driver’s license



number, state of issue, and expiration date.

The next decision is: what criminal records check company you want to use? Some congregations may have law enforcement or human service professionals who have access to background check resources. Finger printing is not required for Safe Sanctuaries, but may be chosen. Information about access numbers or implementing checks should be requested from the company you choose or persons familiar with the process selected.

Another low cost option is available through Property and Casualty Trust of the United Methodist Church via Trak-1 Technology and the Gallagher Religious Practice Group. There

is a 29.99 church membership fee and an \$18 search fee for each applicant. The search includes: multi-state criminal check, national search of sex offender registries, social trace including name, social security number, and previous addresses, and motor vehicle trace of driver’s license and tickets. More information contact Carol Alberts at 630.285.4360 or 1.877.862.7228 or log on to the PACT website at www.umcpact.org for more information.

We know the world we live in 2009 calls for “due diligence” - taking every precaution to protect our precious children and all of God’s people. If one child is harmed, we are all harmed, and God’s church suffers. Since we adopted our conference policy last year, over 1200 folks have participated in district trainings and the Joy Melton training in December of 2008. Kudos to all who have embraced Safe Sanctuaries as an evangelism strategy for your church!

Rev. Sally Dolch can be reached at sdolch@comcast.net.

You may also address questions to any member of the CARE Team. Their names and phone numbers are: Rev. Cindy Koski 410.275.1172, Rev. Dolch 410.742.2357, Rev. Tim Duffield 302.875.3064, Rev. Alice Ervin 302.734.9505, Rev. Patty Frick 410.742.6975, Gil Hoffman 410.758.3519, Rev. Cheryl Jensen 302.764.6503, Jeff Kelchner 410.352.5065, or Rev. Jack Shitama 443.553.2190.

Healthy Churches Look Out and Move Out!

By Rev. Dr. Sandra Steiner Ball

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors: The People of The United Methodist Church. Most of you recognize this as the Igniting Ministry slogan. It is certainly not a bad slogan and it has helped The United Methodist Church become a community that is recognized by many in the world as an organization that accomplishes some good things. But isn’t a healthy church called to be more than that? To be different from the other community service organizations who do good things? For The United Methodist Church to be truly healthy the answer to this question needs to be, “yes.” The reality is that in order for our community of faith to become

healthier we need to claim or reclaim our identity as a movement of God’s Spirit that is called to make disciples of Jesus Christ, to share the teachings of Christ, to baptize, and to move out into the world with this movement in a way that makes a difference, in a way that transforms. The United Methodist Church exists not to be described as an institution that does some good things, but it exists as a vehicle for God’s Spirit, a movement, that brings change, that makes a difference – to be light, hope, and love.

A healthy United Methodist Church needs to be out in the world opening hearts, minds, and doors – not just people and buildings who claim to have open hearts, minds, and doors in and of themselves. Healthy Churches

are communities of faith who look outward to connect with those who are not yet part of the group. Church, if you have not thought about it yet, now is the time to RETHINK Church. It is time to take our prayer, ministry, and mission circles and instead of holding hands in those circles so that we face one another, we need to get out of our comfort zones and hold hands so that we face outward, intentionally focusing on the mission to open others to a personal relationship and saving action of Jesus Christ. Take the challenge! Reclaim your United Methodist Identity as a movement of the Spirit! If you are ready to move, there are many of your brothers and sisters in Christ who stand ready to help!

Young People’s Ministry

Is your youth ministry budget feeling squeezed? If so you are not alone. The current economic reality has certainly affected many of our churches and youth ministries. The good news is that challenging times can cause us to evaluate our ministries and determine what we are doing well and where we can be more efficient and more effective. Most of us can learn a lot by taking a second look at our ministries and making these types of changes. A group of conference youthworkers met recently to discuss the economic impact on our ministries and share creative ideas for doing effective ministry on a tight budget. The following tips are based primarily on that discussion:

Look for ways to cut costs:

- Going to the National Youth Workers Convention? Contact us for a discount code to get \$100 off your registration fee.
- Have a lot of expensive outings on your schedule? Replace costly outings with low cost or free activities. Contact other youth ministries in your area to see if they want to have a game night or play a ball game.
- Looking for new resources for lessons, games, confirmation and so on? Check with surrounding churches to see if you can share/borrow resources they have sitting on their shelves.

Take advantage of what the conference offers:

- Want to do a mission trip but you think you are too late or you don’t have enough money in your budget? Check out Mission Possible. It is being held at Red Lion Christian Academy in Bear, DE. This mission trip only costs \$175 per student and for every five paid student registrations one adult registration is free. Your travel expenses will be low and the cost is hard to beat.
- Looking for high quality (but low cost) leadership training? Check out The Well. This leadership training event is a combined effort of nine different organizations within our conference. Young People’s Ministries are sponsoring the youth leadership



Shane Hinderliter

track. Bring your volunteers and student leaders to ‘The Well’ on October 10th for only \$10.

- Make the most (the most savings that is) out of youth rally. We are happy to announce that the cost of the 2010 Youth Rally will not be increasing! Other ways you can save on costs at Youth Rally are to prepare your own meals, and do a free activity like a scavenger hunt instead of activities that have an admission fee.

If you have to do some fundraising:

To some of us the mere mention of the word causes fear and trepidation. To some of us it is a necessary evil. To others of us it is (sadly) the only way we have any financial resources at all. It can help keep costs low for students and helps make your budget stretch further. We determined that the key to fundraising is to do as few as possible but to do them well! Some of the best fundraising ideas brought to the table were the following; stock sales, dinners, golf outings, auctions (silent or otherwise.) Please contact us to learn more about these and other possible fundraising opportunities that might work for your ministry.

As always, we are available to help you with anything related to youth and young adult ministry.

If you have some questions or need some help figuring out how your ministry can thrive, even in the midst of very challenging economic times, please contact us. We would love to help out.

Shane Hinderliter, Director of Young People’s Ministries and Jera Lammy, Young People’s Ministries Intern

Communicator

Peninsula-Delaware Conference

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Message from your Conference Lay Leader



Greetings!

I can hardly believe that my first year as Conference Lay Leader is coming to an end. Where do I begin? I would like to thank you for your support

Mrs. Betty Gooch and your prayers. I have had a wonderful year serving you because I knew that you were praying for the Conference Board of Lay Ministries, especially for Demetrio and myself.

I would like to personally thank you for attending the Clergy/Laity Banquet on Friday, May 15th. What an awesome night. Our Brother John Thompson did an outstanding job with the music he chose to perform for us.

His love for music and his love for God were very obvious. From the beginning of the evening you could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Then we were blessed by our dear sister Darlene Webster. Her message was on time and was for everyone. Darlene in her message said, "that when you Reach In, you have to Reach Up then Reach Out to others." The annual conference is asking everyone to share in the theme of Reach In.

Congratulations to those who received the St. Barnabas Awards. Thank you for the many ministries that you support. When we continue to abide in God's love and His love continues to abide in us, we shall bear much fruit according to His word.

Please join the Conference Board of Lay Ministries in daily prayer for our conference, our Bishop, our Pastors, and for one

another. When we share our love with others we can make a difference in our congregations and our communities.

Demetrio and I would like to say thank you to Tammy Ward for giving us the opportunity to submit articles for the Communicator. Tammy, thank you for your hard work and dedication to Peninsula-Delaware Conference.

As the body of Christ let us continue to seek God's guidance in our ministries so that we can see as God sees, we hear as God hears which will enable us to love others as he continues to unconditionally love us.

God of open doors, show up and surprise us right where we are in our lives! Help us to know the peace you give so graciously and freely. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Betty M. Gooch
Conference Lay Leader

Cokesbury Connection



Madeline Beall

lifts up...Bibles such as the new *Wesley Study Bible*, Bible studies such as *Disciple*, small group studies on stewardship and living a simpler life such as *Three Simple Rules for Christian Living* by Bishop Rueben Job, *Enough* by Adam Hamilton, Christian Education resources such as *Rock Solid* the new and less expensive children's Sunday School material, music and worship helps, electronic media such as *LINC* for Youth and *Faithlink* for adults, and popular authors who bring insight to our journey. Did you know if you call to order *Disciple* student books for a prison ministry, you can get one free for every four you purchase? Did you know that *Cokesbury Cares* is a program that provides new start-up congregations with core resources for worship and Sunday School and assists churches after fires, floods and other disasters? And in the midst of the worldwide financial crisis, you'll find at www.cokesbury.com a new section called **FAITH IN HARD TIMES**. It lists an assortment of low-cost and free resources. Wishing you God's blessings over the summer. May your days be filled with inward, outward and corporate spiritual practices that bring the abundance of God into your life.

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Camping & Retreat Ministries

Army Reserve Families Come to Camp Pecometh for FREE

Camp Pecometh is one of 17 camps across the U.S. selected to participate in the Army Reserve Enrichment Camp (AREC) Program. AREC will cover the entire cost to attend Pecometh's summer program during the week of August 2-7. To be eligible, the camper must be related to an Army Reserve soldier. Army Reserve Families are eligible for this program, regardless of deployment. As of this writing, there were 25 children registered for the 50 available openings.

Do you know a child who is related to an Army Reserve soldier? If so, let's make it possible for them to participate in the AREC program at Camp Pecometh. Send them to our website at www.pecometh.org

and look for the AREC link in the Summer Camp Section of the Home page. The deadline has been extended from May 1 to June 15, so hurry.

Signs & Wonders: Camp for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

This year Camp Pecometh is offering a camp specifically for Deaf and Hard of Hearing youth. Signs and Wonders will run the week of July 19-24 and is open to middle and high school youth. We know that God is evident through the beauty of Creation, the fellowship of Christian community and the non-stop fun that are the foundations of the Camp Pecometh experience. Signs & Wonders is designed so that Deaf and Hard of Hearing youth can have this same experience through a unique combination of Deaf culture and Camp culture.

Campers will enjoy activities such as campfires, hayrides, swimming, canoeing, challenge course and Bible study; all guided by a team of experienced Pecometh summer staff, ASL proficient staff and adult volunteers.

Thanks to grants from the Peninsula-Delaware Conference Youth Service Fund and the United Methodist Committee on Ministry with Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind People, Pecometh can offer this program for only \$199 per camper. Plus, camperships are available, so money should NOT be a concern. If you know Deaf or Hard of Hearing youth, please make sure they don't miss this great opportunity. Contact Julie Lutz at (410) 556-6900, x128 or julie@pecometh.org to register or for more info.

or malnutrition. There are people in our own country who worry about getting sick as they have no medical insurance. In other words, as bad as we feel, there are many in much more pain than we ever hope to find ourselves.

Of course you know where this is going; after all, don't I always end up in the same place? Keep up your giving to your church and other charities you support. Churches, stay current with your apportionment payments, even if that means telling your members you need extra gifts (it worked at my church!) Also, don't forget the AC Appeal - our student pastors and the people of the Congo are counting on us!

On a Scale from 1 to 10...

By Kevin Goodwin, Conference Appeals Coordinator

After our Ash Wednesday service, I started having back pain. By the time I got home, I was on the floor in more pain than I've ever felt. One of the first things the EMT people asked was, "On a scale from one to ten, how bad is your pain?" I rated it a solid NINE!!!

In today's economy, many are asking, "How bad is the pain going to get?" If we only measure that on a personal scale, we can lose perspective on the larger picture; in the case of being a United Methodist, which means

remembering "The world is my parish." The person reaching the emergency room just before me had been in a car accident. She was totally restrained including a special device to prevent any movement above the neck. As bad as my passing a kidney stone felt, I am sure her pain was worse; if not physically, mentally in not knowing how badly she was hurt.

As individuals and as churches, these times could lead us to focus only on our own needs. We must guard against that urge! There are mothers in Africa wondering if their children will die in the night because of malaria

Conferences and Churches Recognized for Reaching Apportionment Goal

Seventeen of the denomination's 63 annual conferences paid 100 percent of all apportionments in 2008. The 17 conferences paying 100 percent of all 2008 apportionments include Alaska Missionary, Baltimore-Washington, Central Pennsylvania, Central Texas, East Ohio, Eastern Pennsylvania, Illinois Great Rivers, Greater New Jersey, Kentucky, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma Indian Missionary, Peninsula-Delaware, Red Bird Missionary, Rio Grande, West Michigan and Wisconsin. These conferences account for \$34,151,073 in apportioned dol-

lars that will help to educate clergy and laity, build new churches, pay missionary salaries, expand Bible studies, provide leadership for church ministries, work with members of other faiths, support the denomination's colleges and universities, and more. The United Methodist Church has seven apportioned funds considered avenues for congregational "first-mile giving." Those funds include World Service, Africa University, Ministerial Education, Black College, Episcopal, Interdenominational Cooperation and General Administration.

TOUCHED by the HEART of
SALISBURY**Tomorrow Morning**

This morning as I sat quietly on my sofa listening for God I felt a great sense of peace. The quiet of the morning; the birds singing; dawn breaking with its' early light drew me into His almighty presence. For a moment I enjoyed being loved and cared for by His Holy presence.

How many more of us this morning was experiencing that same joy, I wondered? In retrospect I wish I had taken the time to pray for all those who were too troubled with worry or concern for a sick loved one. I wished I had taken advantage of that moment while in God's presence to pray for the family that would come to SUM today to ask for a bag of food or help with their utility bill.

As I sat quietly on my sofa listening for God I wished I had prayed for the little boy who told one of my staff that he couldn't go on the school field trip because he was too poor. I wish I had prayed for the little girl who is being raised by her grandmother because her Mom is on drugs and her Dad is in jail.

No, in the quietness of the morning I simply rested in God's presence thinking nothing of the man sleeping in the woods or the woman living in a tent with her small children right here in our county.

I could beat myself up pretty badly for not praying for those in need. I could make myself feel



guilty for being so selfish and self-centered, but somehow I don't think that's what God wants me to do. I think God wants me to remember that I am always in His presence. I think that God wants me to remember my sisters and brothers created in His image who are having a difficult time in today's' recession. I think God wants me to take this new

day that He has given me and lift before him all the cares and concerns that come to my heart and mind and then trust Him to guide me by the presence and power of His Holy Spirit.

Tomorrow morning, should it come, I pray that I will enjoy God's presence just as much as I did this morning, but I also pray that tomorrow morning we will remember to pray for those in need; the suffering child, the lonely man sleeping on a damp blanket and the little child who is wondering when Mommy and Daddy will come home again.

As I write this final article before the summer I give thanks for each of you who have remembered SUM with your prayers, your gifts and your service this year. During the silence of the summer months intercede with me for those who are in need and pray with me for all God's children.

Grace and Peace,

Ronald Bell, Sr.

Ronald Bell, Sr.
Executive Director

Firemen Hold Annual Memorial Service in Crisfield

The Crisfield Fire Department continued a tradition this year that has been an annual event since 1974. Each year the firemen reach out to the Crisfield area churches and ask them if they would consider hosting their Memorial Service. This year, they attended Immanuel UMC on Main Street. The 'host church' is blessed with a dozen or more local firemen, in full dress uniform, proudly entering the church service and sitting together as a group. Sometime during the service, the chaplain is invited to the pulpit to begin the Memorial Service. This year, Mrs. Natalie Blizzard introduced and welcomed the firemen. In her welcoming, she explained that her son, who is serving in the Marines, is a member of the Crisfield Fire Department and



even though he is away defending our country, he always asks about the members and how they are doing.

The chaplain begins by thanking the congregation for sharing the Memorial Service with the department and then honors the names of their deceased members and auxiliary by reading all of those that have gone to be with the Lord. The Service ends with a special Fireman's Prayer.

Our firemen are dedicated, hard-working, neighbors and friends. They are unsung heroes in many communities. If your local fire department holds annual Memorial Services, ask how you can take part. If not, consider hosting what could be the first of an annual event in your town. (Pictured: Russell Ward, Chaplain and Steve Marshall, Asst. Chief)

Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church Meditation Garden Dedication

The Meditation Garden at the Mt. Nebo U. M. Church was orchestrated by a Youth member of the Church. This young man (Jeremy Smith) is very active in School and Church. He is the son of Rosamae Smith and the late Edward White, Sr. he was raised in this small community called "Nebo", outside of Delmar, Delaware with the little country church beside the road. He is a member of Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church under the leadership of Rev. Dr. George B. Moody. Jeremy has been the youth representative to the Administrative Council for Mt. Nebo for several years. He is a very quiet and humble individual with a strong Spirit to lead and he loves the Lord.

He is currently the oldest Youth in the Church and he attends most church functions when his busy schedule will allow, but one thing he does know that God is first in his life. He is not only the Youth Representative, he is President of the boys step team "United Brothers in Christ," he is a member of the Youth Choir "Anointed Voices of God," he is a member of the 'Zion Charge

Choir", he plays the bass guitar during Sunday Morning Service, and he also attends our Monday evening Church School when his schedule will allow. During the summer months he mows the lawn at the fellowship hall, and helps where he is needed. When Rev. Moody was appointed to the Charge, he could call on Jeremy for a helping hand. He is a leader, the Youth of the church look-up to Jeremy and respect him for who he is, a follower of Christ.

Jeremy is an 18 year old senior at Delmar High School and is currently active with the Delmar Fire Department as a Fire Cadet/Fire Fighter 1 and an Eagle Scout candidate and is employed part-time as a Dietary Aide, at Delmar Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Delmar, Delaware. He is currently working toward the highest honor a Boy Scout could receive, the Eagle rank. He had to outline

a community project, with details along with a project plan and cost. This young man's project for his Eagle rank is at the Mt. Nebo U.M.C. Fellowship Hall. We are a little country church that loves to praise the Lord out in the country and we have a septic system



that's surrounded by wooden stakes to prevent parking in that area. He decided that he would renovate this area and make it a "Mediation Garden". He outlined and submitted this project, which was accepted by his Boy Scout leaders. The Mediation Garden was completed on Saturday, March 14, 2009, and Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church, had a formal dedication of the Mediation Garden on Monday, May 4, 2009 in the honor of Jeremy Smith. In attendance at the dedication along with his family and friends were, the officers and members of Mt. Nebo, Donald Dunn Scout Master of Troop 174 in Delmar, and Tom Smith Eagle

Advancement Coordinator.

He organized and solicited help from other youth and adults from the community and outside the community. He put God first in his plan and at the end he had accomplished his goal. He did not let a few obstacles along the way stop his determination.

Jeremy loves the Lord and he has accomplished so much in his Youth. The bible states that a child shall lead the way, and that the steps of a good person are ordered by the Lord; he is a true example of someone in his youth leading the way. He has demonstrated spiritual vision development and leadership. He is the first African American to achieve the rank of Eagle from the 70 year history of Boy Scout Troop 174, Delmar. Jeremy has been serving his Lord acting as the Assistant Chaplain for the troop holding group prayers and Sunday morning services on many camping trips. Jeremy will join only a handful of African American scouts in the Salisbury/Wicomico area who obtain the rank of Eagle. It is definitely an elite group! The Pastor and Members of Mt. Nebo are honored to have such an active youth on our Charge.

Generation to Generation, We have come this far by faith

During the month of February the members of St. James United Methodist Church in Pocomoke, designed a legacy quilt in honor of those disciples who work and have worked diligently for Jesus Christ. The process of this hand made quilt took over three weeks of love to create, and lifts up the journey of the soliders for Christ.



This photo of the quilt will hang on the Sanctuary wall and shouts the victory, "We have come this far by faith." From Generation to Generation, we the members of St. James Pocomoke stand on the shoulders of our ancestors and walk by our faith in Christ.

From the D.S.

I am writing this article with the Pre-Conference and Annual Conference Sessions on my mind. I have just read the Rev. Dr. Sandra Steiner Ball's letter in the Pre-Conference mailing reminding us of this year's annual conference theme: Reach In!: Abide in Me."

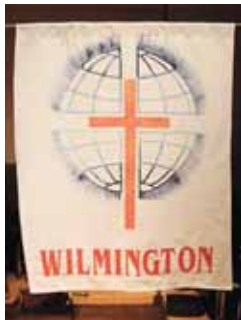
I would invite you to stop and read John 15: 1-17 before reading the remainder of this article. What follows are some of the key verses from this scripture passage along with some of my personal commentary and reflections. I commend these to you for your personal prayer and meditation as we prepare to commit ourselves to another annual conference year of faithful Christian service.

I begin my personal commentary on this scripture passage by asking: To what or to whom should we be attached? (Jesus declares that he is "the true vine.") The passage declares that the Father "removes every branch in me that bears no fruit." (Now, that is a scary thought!) "Every branch that bears fruit he prunes . . . (That may not be a very pleasant thing to experience!)" God, the Father, does all of these things "to make it bear more fruit." (That makes sense to me!)

SO . . . "Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me." (How do we go about "intentionally abiding?" Perhaps, we do so through Prayer (public and private), Worship, Bible reading and study, Holy Communion, Fasting, and Acts of mercy.)

What is "the fruit" of abiding? (Could that fruit include, justice, forgiveness, generosity, humility, self-giving and love: personally and socially?) "Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit. . . Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; (That's scary!) such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and

burned "(That's scarier!) "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love, (How do



I do that? How do you do that?)

"If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love . . . (What are his commandments?)" "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you (Are we truly friends of Jesus?)"

"I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another . . . (What is your working definition of love in the context of this passage and of the life of Jesus of Nazareth?)" THE WESLEY STUDY BIBLE, NRSV, Abingdon Press, "Life Application Topic: Loving God." p. 1310, reads: "LOVE is such an easy word to say and such a hard thing to do. Ultimately love shows itself not by declarations of affection but by the service we tender to the one we profess to love, especially service that inconveniences us or that calls for sacrifice. . . (What "inconvenient" or "sacrificial" service is necessary for me and for you in the Annual Conference year before us?) Let us commit ourselves anew "to abide in Christ" in order that our love for our God and our Lord might be authentic and our Christian service faithful.

Your Partner in Ministry,
William M. Fitzhugh

Volunteers in Mission Team Traveled to Cuba

By Denise Scoles Knettler

"It was like looking straight into the face of Jesus! It was awesome!!!" These are the words that Pastor Asher Tunik uses to describe his recent UMVIM trip to Cuba.

On Easter Sunday (April 12, 2009) a UMVIM team consisting of 11 persons from Greater New Jersey, Troy, Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula-Delaware Conferences left for Cuba. Rev. Asher Tunik, currently serving Asbury, Mount Pleasant and Tome Memorial Churches in Cecil County, was a member of this team. The team was working on various construction projects in Camp Canaan (Camp of the Methodist Church of Cuba) located outside of Santa Clara.

Rev. Tunik found out about this mission opportunity through an e-mail he received from the Conference VIM Coordinator (Rev. Amy Yarnall) last November. As a result of this trip, Pastor Tunik, though physically exhausted and tired, came back refocused, recharged, inspired and excited with a much clearer understanding of what God is doing in the world. Pastor Asher reflects: "Going to Cuba, we knew that the language of God is the language of love. While in Cuba our team learned new words and phrases in God's language of love by interacting with our Christian brothers and sisters. We saw hope, faith and total dependence on God lived out. It was like spending two

St. Paul's Church (Earleville, MD) Celebrates 235th Anniversary

On Sunday, May 17th, the Cecilton Parish celebrated the 235th anniversary of the establishment of the Johntown Methodist Society in 1774 by a Mister William Waters. According to the publication Cultivating the Methodist Garden, there were only 256 members in all of the Methodist Societies throughout the Delmarva Peninsula, and the Methodists of Earleville area were counted among them. The original church building was referred to as the Johntown Chapel, and it was replaced in 1892 with the present sanctuary that is known as St. Paul's Church. Johntown (the area north of Earleville) was named after John Garrettson, brother of the early circuit rider, Freeborn Garrettson.



The Sunday Celebration held at St. Paul's Church was a two-hour combined service of the St. Paul's and Zion's congregations with 142 persons attending. The Rev. Joseph Burris, pastor of the charge, offered some history of the church and the early Methodist Societies, and the Rev. Dr. William Fitzhugh, Jr., Superintendent of the Wilmington District, offered a challenging sermon entitled, "Find

Someone: Past, Present, and Future." A parish chancel choir and the parish handbell choir offered special music, and several members and former members offered brief accounts of special memories and how their lives had been touched by others within the St. Paul's congregation over the years. The service was immediately followed with a luncheon in the church hall.

On Sunday, June 14th, another 10:00 am combined service will be held at the Zion United Methodist Church in Cecilton as they come to celebrate their 190th anniversary of organizing as a congregation of the Methodist Episcopal Church. A light luncheon will follow that service as well.

Wilmington District Urban Center Ministries Committee Announces 2009 Grant Award

By Rev. Dr. Patricia Bryant
Harris, Chairperson

The legacy of Silverbrook United Methodist Church, which was located on Lancaster Avenue in Wilmington, continues. As many of you may recall, it was established that the monies from the sale of this United Methodist Church property would be used to infuse, support and increase new and existing ministries within the urban center of Wilmington.

In the year of 2008, grants were awarded, totaling approximately \$54,000 (two and one-half years of interest), to United Methodist churches and agencies, as well as to

weeks at the feet of Jesus."

Having been raised behind the iron curtain where professing religious beliefs resulted in persecution, Pastor Asher did not know what to expect when the team arrived. What he discovered surprised him. Currently the Methodist Church of Cuba has approximately 300 active churches with 200 or so pastors. Churches are vibrant communities of faith bringing hope, renewal and emotional support into the lives of their members and constituents. "We saw faith, we saw personal connections with God that make very real differences in people's lives," Tunik said.

The UMVIM team was working in Camp Canaan (Methodist Camp located near Santa Clara) about 3-4 hrs. from Havana. Currently the facility can host up to 600 people with plans to expand to 1500. At present it is one of the largest such facilities in the Central America and Caribbean basin and is used by many different religious and

some of the community agencies serving the Wilmington urban center. This year, the total monies available for grant awards was \$20,000.

Four applications were received and four awards were granted. Following are the 2009 grant awards.

Methodist Action Program \$7,600 (Program – gang intervention & prevention)

Mt. Joy UMC \$4,400 (Program – Internet technology for Young people) This may become a model for other UMC's

Mt. Salem UMC \$3,000 (Church marketing & adapting a congregation to a changing neighborhood)

secular groups. For example: while the UMVIM team was on campus, the Baptist Church of Cuba held a "Connect With Christ 2009" youth congress, and representatives from the Lutheran church of Mexico visited the campus in order to evaluate whether Camp Canaan will meet their needs for a conference.

Pastor Asher shared his philosophy and understanding of mission work: "mission trips are about three things: learning about God, learning about our fellow Christians and last but not the least, getting some work done." Pastor Asher compared his experience in Cuba with the Fire of Pentecost coming down and settling upon their team. "It was like looking straight into the face of Jesus!" he exclaimed with excitement.

The team also learned much from their hosts and their fellow workers about everyday life in Cuba. Current economic conditions result in severe shortages of everything. Grocery shopping is done on a ration

Neighborhood House \$5,000 (Summer day camp)

Though evaluations were requested for 2008 grants, an evaluation form was developed by the committee and will be provided each grant recipient with a required response date for the 2009 grant.

May God bless the grants and the ministries that shall be fueled by these monies. May each recipient and the extended recipients (those who are recipients of the ministries) be fueled by the same spirit of God that the saints of Silverbrook UMC knew which fueled their spirits to be faithful witnesses for Jesus Christ in the City of Wilmington.

system. Only the items you have ration coupons for can be purchased in a state-run store and then only if they are in stock. Doctors and top echelon engineers are paid approx \$28/month, nurses earn approximately \$18-20/month. To put these numbers into perspective: one kilogram (2.2 lbs) of rice costs approximately \$3.50 on the black market. Cuban citizens are rationed 4 oz of coffee/month. Besides the manual labor of digging ditches, chipping concrete and painting, the team visited seven churches during the two weeks that they were in Cuba. During these visits the team met Cuban Christians who had lived through the past persecution and had kept the church alive. Rev. Tunik was privileged to preach two consecutive Sundays in Santa Clara and Guanabacoa Methodist Churches (with the help of an interpreter of course). Cuban Christians are filled with the Fire of Pentecost and spirit of cooperation, they know how to put their differences aside and live together in Christian unity. They know how to walk in forgiveness and that spirit of forgiveness and cooperation flavors all aspects of their lives.

Rev. Tunik is willing to share his experiences on the Cuban mission trip with your local church, Please contact him at his office in Mt Pleasant UMC, 410.658.5457.



Community and Urban Transformation: An Opportunity for Partnership(s)

(by Rev. Dr. H. Ward Greer)

We live in a time when the lines between urban, suburban and rural are more blurred than ever. The challenges facing our cities, large and small, are the same challenges faced by every community. Indeed the current economic crisis, (long in the making), affects every city, town, village, hamlet and community. I recently had the opportunity to share my perspectives on urban and community transformation, with others from across the globe. One of the most respected theological and transformational minds and practioners in urban theology and transformation of our time, Rev. Dr. Robert Linthicum invited me to be part of this conversation. As he considered his retirement well over a year ago he considered ways to keep alive his vision for real urban transformation and renewal. To this end the organization he founded twenty years ago, (Partners In Urban Transformation, PIUT) sponsored an ecumenical dialogue on the subject of "Urban Transformation". The context was a two-day retreat held in Upland, CA. where several theologians, pastors, and other "urban" practioners were invited. Of the several dozen invited only three or four are United Methodist. It is my firm belief that those of us who claim any Wesleyan heritage have an obligation to keep the vision of empowering the least, the lost and left out. So I eagerly responded to this invitation in the affirmative. The fundamental question raised at this two-day event was, "is there a place for this urban transformational theology and vision"? The secondary question is/was: how can we shape a vision and organization that would sustain and promote this transformational theological and practical vision? As the retiring founder and President of PIUT Dr. Linthicum felt a moral and ethical obligation to provide a venue for this historic and critical dialogue. As a retired Presbyterian Minister and a life long practioner in the urban context, Rev. Linthicum has seen first hand the declining condition of urban centers across the globe, from Detroit to Chicago. In response he has spent a lifetime in total emersion and engagement in empowering urban communities to access, address and shape their own destiny. First introduced to Community Organizing by a couple of United Methodist



Cooper, Greer, and Ainsworth

clergy, he enthusiastically embraced the notion that those best equipped to organize and address the growing challenges of urban reality are those who are directly affected. To United Methodists this should sound very familiar. Communities of shalom, a community organizing paradigm developed by our Denomination in response to the 1992 riots in California, uses a similar model for transformational ministry in communities. Indeed, in the past few years a partnership has developed between PIUT and Communities of Shalom and Dr. Linthicum and his printed resources have been used extensively in the training of leaders and the organizing of Communities of Shalom. We would do well to continue this effective partnership as we seek to be more visible, effective and transformational in our urban centers and other communities where we find the broken, marginalized and poor. Since the Peninsula-Delaware Conference is in what is arguably the most urban Jurisdiction in United Methodism, we must get more serious about our presence and ministry in the city. Over the past decade, we have closed far more churches in the urban Northeast than we have planted, started or renewed. To the point, as a result of our decline we have lost one Episcopal Area.

Rev. Linthicum and his vision of transformational power, offer our communities and our churches and opportunity to turn this around. Indeed, the prophet Jeremiah articulates the vision in the 29th chapter. In the Book "Building a People of Power," Linthicum offers both a theological foundation and practical possibilities for creating and sustaining churches, communities and partnerships which will transform people, communities, neighborhoods, cities, and the world. The primary principles of this are: 1. The task of organizing is to build power; 2. People power is built on relationships; 3. All organizing is, in effect, re-organizing, and 4. The objective is an exchange of power, 5. The action is in the reaction, 6. The primary tactic of community organizing is negotiation, 7. The pedagogy of action and reflection, 8. The primary task is building leaders, 9. The primary objective is building community. Finally, If we embrace the new United Methodist mission of making disciples for the transformation of the world, we can do no less than to agree with the principles of Dr. Linthicum's vision. (PIUT has agreed to offer anyone who wishes to purchase the book, "Building a People of Power" by Robert Linthicum a 20% discount. Just let them know that you read this article).

MORE THAN FIFTY WAYS TO MAKE YOUR PARISH ACCESSIBLE WITH LITTLE OR NO COST Revised edition March 2009 (37 - 45 Ways)

By the Rev. Barbara Ramnaraine, Deacon, Episcopal Disability Network and Charlotte Hawkins Shepard, Ph.D. UMC Consultant, Disability Concerns

With this issue we continue with the fifty ways (see April 10th issue for the first five ways and the website - www.pen-del.org - for the entire list)

37. Set aside a separate bulletin board to display material concerning your own accessibility projects. Be sure the height of the bulletin board is friendly to persons who use wheelchairs. Also ensure that the background is not too distracting for those with low vision.
38. Explore ways of including people with disabilities in the education and ministry as well as the worship of your congregation.
39. Explore ways of working with other congregations and faith communities on projects related to disability access and ministry.
40. Suggest that your parishioners volunteer their time at a day care center, rehabilitation facility or hospital as a way of coming to know persons with disabilities better.
41. If you have persons in your congregation who are blind or have low vision, install signage in Braille or raised letters. Familiarize yourself with the ADA requirements of size and placement.
42. If you have persons in your congregation who are deaf or have profound hearing loss, install a fire alarm which is light cued. Before installing this kind of alarm, however, make sure that there are no persons with epilepsy in the congregation since this light alarm may trigger seizures for them.
43. In an educational program or in a sermon, explore the differences between "healing" (wholeness) and "cure". All people can receive God's healing grace. Not all of us will be cured.
44. Because two-thirds of working-age people with disabilities are unemployed (even though they are able to work and want to do so), and because many members of your congregation are employers, make sure they are knowledgeable about the issues around employment of people with disabilities both from the point of view of the employer and the point of view of those who have disabilities.
45. Convene a team of parishioners who are willing to call your legislators on behalf of legislation about transportation and housing. Join with other churches in your community on this project.

Conference

Calendar of Events

June 2009

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 5 | Howard Bailey Life Enrichment Program Meeting, Big Woods, MD.: New Christian Chapel Of Love, 6:00 p.m. |
| 8 | Credit Union Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 1:30 p.m. |
| 9-10 | African-American Summit, Princess Anne, MD.: UMES |
| 11-13 | 224th. Annual Conference Session, Princess Anne, MD.: UMES |
| 11 | Extension Ministries Dinner, Princess Anne, MD: University of Maryland-Eastern Shore, 5:00-6:15 p.m. |
| 15 | BFEM Resource Center CLOSED |
| 16 | Conference United Methodist Men Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 7:15 p.m. |
| 17 | Equitable Compensation Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 3:00 p.m. |
| 22 | Hispanic/Latino Task Force Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 7:00 p.m. |
| 23 | Vision Team Meeting, Wesley College-Room # 206, 7:00 p.m. |
| 27 | Black Methodists For Church Renewal Meeting, Dover: Whatcoat UMC, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. |
| 30 | Christian Service Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 5:00-6:30 p.m.
Volunteers In Mission Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 6:30 p.m. |

July 2009

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| 3 | Summer Schedule BFEM Resource Center CLOSED
Howard Bailey Life Enrichment Program Meeting, Big Woods, MD.: New Christian Chapel Of Love, 6:00 p.m. |
| 6 | BFEM Resource Center CLOSED ---Happy 4th. of July |
| 9 | Commission on Archives and History Meeting, Frederica: Barratt's Chapel, 10:00 a.m.
Peter D. Weaver Partnership Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 6:30 p.m. |
| 9-12 | School Of Christian Mission, Dover: Wesley College |
| 10 | Summer Schedule BFEM Resource Center CLOSED |
| 16 | Health Ministry Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m. |