



# Communicator

an edition of

# The United Methodist Reporter

Two Sections, Section A

VOLUME 152 NUMBER 25

043000

DECEMBER 9, 2005



In the Spirit  
of Giving

Page 5



Confrence Elder  
to Perform

Page 8

Conference Resource  
Center Dedication  
of the new Resource  
Center Sign  
Saturday, December 10  
1:30-3:30 p.m.  
Reception/Open House  
to follow in the  
Bishop Felton E. May  
Resource Center  
139 North State Street  
Dover, Delaware

## Vision Statement

The Peninsula-Delaware  
Conference,  
as the body of Christ,  
will live out the ministry  
and teaching of Jesus Christ –  
boldly, cooperatively,  
and inclusively –  
through life-changing  
communities of compassion.

"This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent." (John 6:29)



## Believe!

Dear Family and Friends,

Barbara and I greet you  
this season with such  
grateful hearts! We thank you for your prayers,  
support, encouragement and friendship. You have  
embraced us with your warmth, love and belief in  
Jesus Christ.

The outpouring of love and support for our broth-  
ers and sisters in need throughout the Philadelphia  
Area and beyond is evidence that Christ is Alive!  
You have practiced your belief without hesitation  
and shared with those who have needed it most.  
For this we are thankful.

We now pray that the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love represented by the birth of the  
Christ child in Bethlehem will continue to fill your lives and overflow in all you say and do!

## A Christmas Creed

**Believe!** in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.

**Believe!** in the One whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings music to persons all  
over the world, in towns both large and small.

**Believe!** in the One for whom the crowded inn could find no room.

**Believe!** in the One who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life  
was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

**Believe!** in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible.

**Believe!** in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its  
only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw  
in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to  
meet the strength of God.

**Believe!** in Jesus, the Christ-child, born in Bethlehem, for you and for me.

Author Unknown



# MLK Celebration Scheduled

**T**he date, place and time have been set for the 2006 Martin Luther King Celebration. With this year's theme, "The Vision of a Beloved Community," organizers under the Advocacy Resource Team are busy making arrangements for the January 14th celebration. Beginning at 3:30 p.m. this year's event will be held at Long Neck United Methodist Church located on Long Neck Road in Millsboro, Delaware.

This year's Symposium will highlight our Native American brothers and sisters. The guest speaker will be Suanne Ware-Dia from the General Commission on Religion and Race.

In preparation for the MLK Symposium, once again the committee will be accepting nominations for the following awards until Friday, December 30th. Please contact any of the following members for more information:

Zaida Dore (302.836.8441)  
Moonyene Jackson (410.822.9118)  
Darlene Webb (302.656.3013)  
Doris Blake (302.697.1359)  
Odette Wright (302.945.2930)

## Guidelines for Submittals:

Nominations of individuals or organizations made in consultation with an official body of a local United Methodist Church must be signed by the pastor or chairperson of the nominating body.

Nominations made by ethnic caucuses or Conference Resource Teams must be signed by chairpersons of the nominating body.

Individuals may submit nominations of their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Self-nominations are not permitted.

All letters must be signed. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

All nominations must be complete with detailed supporting documentation.

## Alberta Browne Award:

Given to the nominee that most exemplifies inclusiveness as it relates to the work in The Peninsula-Delaware Conference.

## S. Lowan Pitts Award:

Given to the nominee who has made the most striking contributions as it relates to the church, community, and social action.

## William Richard Wynder Award:

Given to the nominee who has made the most outstanding contribution in race relations and inclusiveness as it relates to church and education.

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Award:

Given to the nominee who has made outstanding contributions related to the basic human and civil rights for all peoples.

## Additional Awards to be presented include:

### Black Elk of the Ogala Sioux Award:

Black Elk . . . he began his vision quest while a teenager. This award is for an individual, 20 years or younger, who has demonstrated spiritual, vision development and leadership.

### Yolanda Pupo-Ortiz Award:

Awarded to an individual or organization exemplifying the ministry of hospitality and sharing (e.g. sharing of physical space for worship or cultural exchange).

Please send all nominations (no later than Friday, December 30, 2005) to the Bishop Felton Edwin May Resource Center, Advocacy Resource Team, 139 North State Street, Dover, DE, 19901, Attn: Moonyene Jackson-Amis and Darlene Webb.

## Conference Youth Activities

### NEW STUFF AT YOUTH RALLY 2006

**A**pproximately 4000 youth and adult leaders are registered for Youth Rally 2006 as of this writing. We have been praying for 5000 people to attend but more importantly it's the desire of the design team to live their faith according to the theme, "All or Nothing" when they return home impacting their churches and communities.

The good news is that each and every year we try to add something new with the goal of improving the annual youth rally. Here are the new features for Youth Rally 2006 on Friday, January 6-Sunday, January 8 at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City, MD.



David Burke

### Hip Hop/Salsa/Rock

These 3 words and more describe the music and ministry at a new Saturday afternoon feature gathering...Bring the whole youth group to these power-packed music ministries...

**King Cys:** That's pronounced King Size as this rap and ministry artist from Wilmington, DE will kick off the new Saturday afternoon gathering.

**Jme Medina:** Yes, her name is spelled Jme and she hails from Las Vegas, Nevada. Jme will share some of her songs in Spanish and some in English. She will also have some dancers with her on stage.

Jme will also be sharing on Sunday morning.

**Falling Up:** These guys from Oregon will rock your socks off, it will be loud, fun and with a purpose. Falling Up shared on the Fringe Stage at the Creation festival last summer.

**There will be large inflatable games in the back of the room while the music will be on the downstairs stage.**

### Youth Worker Training on Saturday Morning

There will be 4 adult youth worker training seminars on Saturday morning so divide your team up and attend each session.

Here are the seminars . . .

Eric Keller (Washington Crossing, PA) "Authentic Ministry to and with Youth in a Counterfeit Culture"

Allan Brooks (Neptune, NJ) "Eating Your Own Dog Food"

Dale Tadlock (Memphis, TN) "Where Do I Go From Here" How to Develop a Plan for Your Youth Ministry"

Jill Laufenberg (Philadelphia, PA) "How To Reach & Keep Un-churched Youth"

ALSO, Marc Hannah, an assistant pastor from St. Paul's UMC in Hebron, MD will teach an adult seminar on living a victorious Christian life...

The Breakout sessions for Youth on Saturday morning will be according to school grades: Middle School (6th-8th grade) High School (9th-11th grade) and Seniors (12th graders).

The good news is that there is still time to register for new youth groups as well as add ons for existing registered youth groups.

### For Women Only

**Carol Kent**, speaker and author from Port Huron, Michigan, will be sharing an **afternoon breakout session** from 3:00-4:30pm for **women only on Saturday**. Carol will be sharing her testimony on the main stage at the Saturday morning session for everyone at Youth Rally 2006. Carol is a "Women of Faith" speaker and we are thrilled to have this power-packed person share Jesus at our event. The Saturday afternoon content is **different** than the morning message and it is **for women only**.

### Youth Worker Training on Saturday Afternoon

**Dale Tadlock**, an experienced Youth Pastor from Memphis, TN, will be leading a Youth Worker training seminar at 3:00-4:30pm entitled, "Where Do I Go From Here? How to Develop a PLAN for Your Youth Ministry." Dale will also be presenting this same seminar in the morning.

**(PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS EVENT IS NOT FOR COLLEGE AGED YOUNG ADULTS. THEY SHOULD NOT ATTEND AND THEY SHOULD NOT BE COMING AS ADULT LEADERS. THE EVENT IS FOR 6TH-12TH GRADERS ONLY. PLEASE COOPERATE WITH THIS POLICY. THANKS).**

For more information, please go to [www.pen-del.org](http://www.pen-del.org) on the web.

# Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium The Vision of a Beloved Community

## Communicator

United Methodist Reporter  
Peninsula-Delaware Conference,  
139 N. State Street,  
Dover, DE 19901

e-mail: [tward@pen-del.org](mailto:tward@pen-del.org)

Website: [www.pen-del.org](http://www.pen-del.org)

Phone: 302.674.2626

Or toll-free: 1.877.736.3351

Fax: 302.674.1573

Marcus Matthews, Bishop

James T. Seymour, Director of Connectional Ministries

Tamara Ward, Editor

Communications Coordinator

Linda Stimel, Layout & Design

Linette Warren, Subscriptions

Individual subscriptions,

\$9.50 per year

All information marked UM Reporter within the Peninsula-Delaware Conference newspaper is the sole responsibility of the UM Reporter and is not necessarily the views of the annual conference.

## Retirement in 2006

In accordance with Paragraph 356 of the 2000 Discipline, those desiring retirement at the 2006 session of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference are asked to submit their written request for retirement by January 15, 2006 to:

Ms. Judith A. Morton  
Associate Registrar for  
Conference Relations  
Board of Ordained Ministry  
2300 Riddle Avenue,  
Unit 201  
Wilmington, DE 19806



By Stacy Martin\*

Most of us are already aware of our call to fulfill the financial needs of our local church and to support its giving to the apportionment funds and other conference level benevolent giving. This giving is referred to as "first mile" giving.

"Second mile" giving is those gifts above and beyond what we originally planned. They include our response to 911, the Tsunami, and Katrina and Rita, as well as ongoing ministries in more than 100 countries around the world.

"Advance Specials" are ministries approved by the United Methodist Church and the Peninsula-Delaware Conference to receive "second mile" giving funds. All Advance ministries are related to the United Methodist annual conferences and Central Conferences, partner churches outside the United States or interfaith organizations. They are screened and administered by the General Board of

## In the spirit of giving

Global Ministries.

Important features of this giving include:

- 1) *your gift will reach its destination, as the General Conference on Finance and Administration assures the accounting and transmission of every Advance gift*
- 2) *your gift will be used for whatever ministry you choose to support*
- 3) *100% of your gift goes to the ministry you choose, as all Advance administrative and promotional costs are covered by other fund sources!*

For information on Advance ministries, go to: [www.pen-del.org](http://www.pen-del.org) for local Advance Specials or <http://gbgm-umc.org/advance> for national Advance Specials, or call 1.212.870.3790.

There are three ways that you can give through the Advance:

- 1) *make your check payable to your local church and write the name of the project and the Advance code number on the check. Give this to your church Treasurer so that your local church and annual conference will get Advance credit.*



Stacy Martin

- 2) *Make your check payable to "Advance GCFA" with the name of the project and the Advance code number on the check. Send the check to: Advance GCFA, P.O. Box 9068 GPO, New York, NY 10087-9068.*
- 3) *Call 1.888.252.6174 to give by credit card.*

*Remember: however you choose to give, 100% of your gift will go to the ministry you choose!*

*Merry Christmas to you and yours!*

\* Stacy Martin is executive director of the Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula United Methodist Foundation; [stacy.martin@epaumc.org](mailto:stacy.martin@epaumc.org)

## Cokesbury Connection

"Like a roaring lion your adversary, the devil prowls around looking for someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:8)

This was the scripture that kept coming to mind when I discovered my computer had an e-mail virus (worm). Each day it would eat more files, thwarting my work, causing inconvenience to those I am accountable to for deadlines. Finally the IT tech person in Nashville said, "DO NOT USE THIS SYSTEM" until we send you a disc to repair your operating system.

Like computer viruses, the incidious nature of sin and evil are real . . . forces against which scripture reminds us to "Discipline yourselves, keep alert..." because Satan is always busy trying to destroy the work of God.

Cokesbury friends, during Advent we have the joy of looking forward to the one who has the ability to repair our operating systems – to be our firewall, stop-



Madelline Beall

ping the piercing arrows of sin. Think of Cokesbury as your "Faith-Techie." Let us help you strengthen your faith through ideas for study, prayer, service, praise and worship.

May God's grace and peace be with you in new and powerful ways.

Your Cokesbury Representative,  
Madelline Beall  
1.877.792.5410  
e-mail: [mbeall@cokesbury.com](mailto:mbeall@cokesbury.com)

## Conference Calendar of Events

December 2005	
9	<b>BFEM Resource Center – Closed – Staff Christmas Celebration</b>
10	<b>Dedication of New Resource Center Sign Honoring Bishop Felton Edwin May, Dover, DE., 1:30 p.m.–Reception/Open House following dedication</b>
11	<b>Advent Carol Service, Frederica: Barratt's Chapel, 4:00 p.m.</b>
12	<b>Annual Conference Sessions Meeting, Princess Anne, MD.: UMES, 3:00 p.m.</b>
	<b>Congregational Development Corporation Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.</b>
13	<b>Advocacy Resource Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 3:00 p.m.</b>
15	<b>Committee On Native American Ministries Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.</b>
	<b>Spiritual Formation Task Force Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 11:00 a.m.</b>
	<b>Board of Ordained Ministry Luncheon, Salisbury: Trinity UMC, 12:00 p.m.</b>
23	<b>BFEM Resource Center-Closed – Merry Christmas</b>
26-27	<b>BFEM Resource Center-Closed – Merry Christmas</b>
30	<b>BFEM Resource Center-Closed</b>
January 2006	
2	<b>CLOSED – Happy New Year</b>
3	<b>Equitable Compensation Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 1:00 p.m.</b>
5	<b>Spiritual Formation Task Force Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 7:00 p.m.</b>
6-8	<b>Youth Rally, Ocean City, MD.: Roland E. Powell Convention Center</b>
9	<b>Board of Ordained Ministry Meeting, Centreville, MD: Centreville UMC, 9:00 a.m.</b>
12	<b>Commission on Archives &amp; History Meeting, Frederica: Barratt's Chapel, 10:00 a.m.</b>
	<b>Communications Commission Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 10:30 a.m.</b>
14	<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium, Millsboro: Long Neck UMC, 3:30-6:00 p.m.</b>
16	<b>CLOSED-Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observed</b>
17-19	<b>Bishop's Mid-Winter Retreat, Rehoboth, DE.: Atlantic Sands</b>

## Attention All Clergy: Save This Date April 28, 2006

On this day there will be a Convocation of all clergy (elders, deacons, and local pastors) at Whatcoat United Methodist Church in Dover to spend a day (8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) with Robert Kohler from the Board of Higher Education and Ministry in Nashville.

In order to prepare for the day, take the Ministry Study Survey (mandated by General Conference 2004) at [www.gbhem.org](http://www.gbhem.org). The results will be shared and discussed at the April meeting. In addition, Rev. Kohler will share ideas on:

- a) how we can work more closely as clergy from different orders (and fellowship) to accomplish the mission of the United Methodist Church: **To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world** and
- b) how we can work within each order (and fellowship) to strengthen the unique gifts each has to offer.

So come and listen but also come and ask any questions you have about the orders (and fellowship) as well as disciplinary paragraphs related to them and recent actions of the General Conference that have made significant changes regarding them. Bob Kohler is a great resource to have with us. He's been with GBHEM for 26 years and has a wealth of knowledge about the history and practice of ministry in all its manifestations.

MARK THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR. More information will follow.

Rev. Martha Callaway, Chair,  
Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Ministers  
Rev. Sharon Graves, Chair, Order of Deacon  
Rev. H. Sterling Green, Chair, Order of Elder.

## "Save the Date for Stewardship"

The Peninsula-Delaware Conference, at the 2004 Annual Conference, covenanted together for the next quadrennium to enhance the understanding and communication of "Lifestyle Stewardship" as integral to Christian life.

In answer to this call, the Stewardship Task Force is implementing a comprehensive program, approved by the Annual Conference, to instill the importance of lifestyle stewardship in the hearts, minds and spirits of the mem-

bers of our local congregations.

The Task Force has scheduled a full day workshop for all clergy. The speaker is David S. Bell, Director of the Center for Christian Stewardship of The United Methodist Church. David's biography can be found on the General Board of Discipleship's website at <http://www.gbod.org/stewardship/> and click on David's name in the "Other Featured Items" section.

Please be sure to save the date as attendance is manda-

tory. We look forward to this rewarding and uplifting presentation.

DATE: Saturday, March 25, 2006  
TIME: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
LOCATION: Sheraton Hotel Dover,  
1570 North DuPont Hwy (RT 13),  
Dover, DE

REGISTRATION information will be distributed soon.

# Native American caucus explores bringing 'culture' into church

(Local Indian Mission in Millsboro to be a resource for the program)

By Linda Green\*

**S**hould Native Americans deny their cultural practices in order to be Christian and to make their churches effective and vital?

For a group of Native American leaders in the United Methodist Church, this question provided a starting point for discussing how native culture can be brought into the church. The resulting dialogue on "contextualization" or "contextual ministry" took up a good portion of the Native American International

Caucus directors' Nov. 10-12 meeting.

Contextual ministry gives Native American communities the freedom to use cultural items and worship practices in the church, said the Rev. Alvin Deer, caucus director. If the caucus is to continue its mission of advocacy for the 19,000 Native American United Methodists, then it should understand contextualization in ministry and in theology and the role the caucus must play, he told directors.

"How does the gospel itself relate to each native communi-

ty?" he asked. "We believe the intent of Jesus Christ in the first place was to meet people where they are."

Conservative Native American Christians, he said, are adamant that culture should not be brought into the church, while more liberal-thinking Christians "feel it is imperative that we look at Christianity from a native perspective if we are going to impact those Native Americans who feel marginalized by traditional Christianity."

Some Native American congregations incorporate activities

from traditional powwows into their worship services, Deer noted. "They say we are relating to God in our native way, yet many of our people did not come out of a powwow culture." Though not all native tribes have held powwows historically, more and more tribes are beginning to accept them, creating a "pan-Indianism culture and not a tribal-specific culture that is coming into the church," he said.

Deer would like a church agency or the caucus to conduct consultations churchwide to increase understanding about contextual ministry and contextual theology. Caucus directors suggested that the issue is to understand the best way to present the entire worship experience through native eyes.

"I believe that native ministries are at a crossroads," Deer said. "We are in danger of becoming insignificant to the church and the church insignificant to Native American communities."

Comparing the condition of Native American ministries to the imagery of children in Third World or starving countries, Deer said, "it may not be so physically, but it certainly is so spiritually."

"There is no place in America where Native American ministries are thriving," he said. "In some places, when they hold status quo, they claim victory. And yet, Native Americans continue to be the youngest and one of the fastest-growing races in America."

The United Methodist Church needs to be intentional in ministry to Native American communities, Deer said. "Because we are the least, we are the last."

To enable the caucus to understand contextual ministry, the Rev. Casey Church of Albuquerque, N.M., provided insight into "Soaring Eagle Ministry," a contextual ministry learning center that he designed to develop emerging leadership.

Church, a member of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi of southwest Lower Michigan, told

the gathering that he discovered a dichotomy in his life when he asked, "Why do I have to be different to be Christian?" He said God told him in 1992 that he did not have to take himself out of his culture to be in another.

"It is about Native Americans being able to express themselves in authentic Christian worship from their native context as opposed to expressing themselves in what we have done for centuries from the European understanding and expression of Christianity."

Contextual ministry is important, Church said, because with "more than 450 years of evangelism to Native Americans, less than 7 percent claim to be Christian. Not very good results," he said.

To reach post-modern, urban and reservation people, the gospel should be presented in a package unique to who they are rather than the way it has been presented and packaged for centuries. This package, he said, would include the total worship expression that is used today - rituals, music, ceremony, the building and its construction, the way people sit in the pews and with the pastor alone providing leadership.

Directors also learned the caucus is partnering with the National Indian Women's Health Resource Center and will receive \$35,000 for three years in a program called "Circle of Positive Churches."

Through the program, six Native American churches and communities will partner to provide training curriculum for youth development, helping young people gain skills and knowledge to improve their lives. The selected communities are in Grand Rapids, Mich.; Cherokee, N.C.; Lapwai, Idaho; Tempe, Ariz.; Tahlequah, Okla.; and Millsboro, Del.

(Editor's note: Green is a United Methodist News Service news writer based in Nashville, Tennessee)

## Conference Elder to Perform In Concert



**S**inger-songwriter Wes Davis will perform in concert at Aldersgate United Methodist Church on Friday, January 20 at 7:00 p.m. Davis' concert is being presented as part of the church's new Family Fun Night. Davis, Delmarva's own "piano man," will share his original songs of spiritual struggle and triumph, as well as renditions of hits by pop balladeers such as Billy Joel and Elton John. Davis, composer and performing artist, has traveled extensively in the region and around the world, performing music and sharing his witness. Also proficient on guitar, Davis presents an impressive instrumental, vocal and emotional range. More information on the artist and his current CD's can be found at [www.wesdavisonline.com](http://www.wesdavisonline.com).

There is no admission for the concert but a free will offering will be taken; you do not need to be a member of the church or have a child in rehearsal to attend.

The children of Aldersgate are preparing for an upcoming musical in February, and the concert is planned as entertainment for parents and other family members simultaneous with the rehearsals. The other rehearsal evenings will feature game nights and other fellowship opportunities for adults.

Aldersgate Church is located at 2313 Concord Pike, just north of Fairfax Shopping Center in Wilmington, Delaware. For more information on this and other church programs, call 302.478.2575 or visit [www.aldersgatede.org](http://www.aldersgatede.org).



## 2005 Conference Journal Order

**T**he Conference Journals have arrived and orders will be filled as they are received at the Bishop Felton Edwin May Resource Center. The price is \$16.00 per copy. This year we will again offer a limited supply of spiral bound copies at a price of \$18.00 per copy. To place your order, complete and return the order form below. **A check or money order must accompany all Journal orders.** The postage for mailing the Journals will be paid by the Peninsula-Delaware Conference. Please do not include your Journal payment with benevolences on the Conference Benevolence Remittance Form. Mail your journal order to: Journal Order, Peninsula-Delaware Conference, 139 N State St., Dover, DE 19901.

### 2005 CONFERENCE JOURNAL ORDER FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ No. of Journals Ordered @ \$16.00      \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Spiral Bound @ \$18.00

Total Payment Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Our Mission

The Peninsula-Delaware Conference of the United Methodist Church exists to:

Bring into being congregations which answer God's call to become disciple-making communities committed to:

Reaching out to people where they are and welcoming them in Christ's name.

Developing and deepening their relationship to God, Spiritually nourishing and equipping one another, and

Empowering each person to live out the love of Christ actively in their communities and beyond;

Discover, develop, supply and support leadership For mission and ministry in local areas and beyond.