



Communicator

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The United Methodist Reporter

The people of The United Methodist Church

Two Sections — Section A

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The Healthy Church Initiative

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



Message From Our Conference Lay Leader

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Summer Camp Registrations Coming In
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2009 Annual Conference

June 11, 12, 13
(Thursday-Saturday)

University of Maryland-
Eastern Shore

Princess Anne, MD

Calling All Christian Educators/ Sunday School Teachers/Clergy & laity

The Peninsula-Delaware Conference Spiritual Formation and Discipleship Team and Interfaith Resource Center, in cooperation with the Christian Education Committee of the Wesley United Methodist Church of Dover, is sponsoring “Essentials for Effective Teaching” on Saturday morning the 25th of April. This workshop, led by Dr Donald Griggs, respected author and educator will focus exclusively on faith formation with an eye to the practical application of creative teaching for all ages. Books by the author include *Teaching Today's Teachers to Teach* and *The Bible from Scratch: The New*

Testament for Beginners; The Old Testament for Beginners etc. This program is an ideal offering for anyone who is charged with the responsibility of helping others deepen their faith through education. I strongly recommend that each United Methodist Church in the area take advantage of this “training” by sponsoring the event. Sponsorship will cost your church only \$100.00 but the benefits will outweigh the investment by providing unlimited admission to your pastor & teachers for this Saturday morning event. Others can also attend at \$10.00 per person. Make your reservations early & reserve your space(s).

This workshop is part of the series “Increasing Biblical Literacy in the Digital Age” which will offer Dr. Griggs leading several programs in Wilmington & Dover on Feb 24 & 25. Consult the Interfaith Resource Center website at www.interfaithresourcecenter.com for a complete list of the entire lecture series. CEU's will be available.

Please contact Paula Hartzell, Director, Interfaith Resource Center (800.336.6152) for more details and your sponsorship. Admission for individual non-sponsors is \$25 for clergy, \$10 for laity. Proceeds benefit the Interfaith Resource Center.



Rev. Dr. Sandra Steiner Ball

[Rev. Karen Covey Moore, Chair Spiritual Formation and Discipleship Team
Dave Verma, Board of Directors, Interfaith Resource Center
Rev. Dr. Sandra L. Steiner Ball, Director of Connectional Ministries]

RETHINK CHURCH

As many of you know through recent issues of this publication and the website, The United Methodist Church is launching the next phase of Igniting Ministry called RETHINK CHURCH.

This ministry continues on with our “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors” and invites people to think

and how they could help their churches become more welcoming and hospitable. We hope that if your church had people attend the training held at Kent Island UMC that they have come back enthused about the possibilities of inviting and welcoming your friends and neighbors to visit your church.

of ‘open’ as a verb. Last weekend over 100 members of our conference and surrounding conferences attended an event that introduced them to this new direction



Rev. Sumner Jones and others attend Saturday's RETHINK CHURCH training

This is the direction that our church will be taking and will wrap it around the four Focus Areas that were introduced

15 Local Conference Members Trained and Ready to Help the Peninsula-Delaware Conference Churches With Welcoming And Hospitality Skills.

at General Conference: Leadership, Church Growth and Development, Poverty and Global Health.

In addition, there was a separate training session held on Friday where 15 members of



Revs. Marjorie Burns and Bill Ross participate in role-play during a training session while national trainer, Barbara Nissen, looks on

the Peninsula-Delaware Conference were trained to help local churches understand where their strengths and weaknesses are when it comes to welcoming persons that come to church for the first time, perhaps to their first church ever.

We are pleased to offer these

persons as resources who are willing to come to your church and conduct all-day, half-day, or even a few hours of instruction. They are equipped with tools and other

resources to share with you. Those that attended Friday's session included Mrs. Betty Gooch, Rev. Richard Evans, Mrs. Bernadette Wright, Rev. Bill Ross, Rev. Marjorie Burns, Rev. Kevin Gillespie, Mrs. Sandra Neal, Rev. Anne Pruett-Barnett, Rev. Karin

Continued on page 8

Evangelism, It's "OUR" Responsibility!!!

No where in the bible have I seen where it is the job of any one person or a single group of persons to bring the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ to the unchurched. Matthew 28:19 (The Great Commission) commands "us" to go out and make disciples of all nations. To help the saints in fulfilling this commandment, the Evangelism and Outreach teams throughout the conference have been putting on training events on how to more effectively share our faith. There are evangelism and outreach teams in all four districts of the Conference and they can still use your help. We need people who have a heart for evangelism and who can preach or have expertise in putting on community events. (Street fairs, Block parties or other outreach events) Please contact your district Leader if you want to get involved.

Dover:
Jim Dorton 302.697.3278
jim.dorton@gmail.com

Easton:
Lisa Usilton 410.348.5434
lagu68@hotmail.com

Salisbury:
Paul Sherwood 410.742.9803
preacher10@hotmail.com

Wilmington:
Team Leader Needed

One program that is up and running is the Backpack program in Rock Hall, Maryland. It is supported by the Rock Hall UMC. The volunteers that help with the program are made up of church members and non church members from the community. This is an excellent way to evangelize to our communities in a non-church setting. On Thursday evenings the backpacks are filled with food (2 of each, cereal or cereal bar, fruit cup or fruit snacks, ravioli or franks and beans, pudding, granola bar, raisins or nuts, crackers, juice box) and sent home with children in need on Friday afternoon. The local schools identify children in need.

The empty backpacks are brought back Monday morning. This project will be starting up with two schools and three churches in Delaware during February. If you would like more info on starting a Backpack program in your area, call Levin VanSant 302.670.5227.

I want you to know that the evangelism teams would like to see several churches in each district put on a local church revival during 2009. (we can help with the planning) We will also have more evangelism and outreach training events scheduled throughout the year (Please try to attend).

In conclusion, we will be doing a lot of advertising in 2009 and it is our hope that many of the churches in the conference will experience a large number of visitors. ARE YOU READY!!!!!!

Your Brother in Christ,

Levin VanSant
Chairman of Evangelism and Outreach
302.670.5227

From Your Wesley College Chaplain

The Prayer/Meditation Room has been something God placed in my mind and on my heart for a long time here as the Chaplain. A Scripture verse that is appropriate to the whole story is one from II Peter, Chapter 3: "But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like one day." It took a LONG time for this particular vision to come to fruition but finally the money and people came together. The Rev. Karin Tunnell, whose visuals have contributed so much to conference worship, was excited about the project when I shared the idea with her. She also knows that I am color-blind and



Rev. Mark Pruett-Barnett

room furnished. What a difference! Instead of drab white walls there are colors representing the four classic elements of Creation: Earth, Air, Fire and Water. This was a theme to which everyone can resonate in their hearts. It is a warm place, a quiet place, a soulful place.

The Prayer/Meditation Room is a space available to everyone on campus, including our visitors. There are all sorts of people on this campus and in this world and they all can have a hospitable place in the house of the gracious Lord of Creation. The psalmist said it best of the Temple: "Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of Hosts, My King and My God." (Psalm 84:3)!

Your brother in Christ,
Mark

Rev. Mark Pruett-Barnett
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not known for my abilities as an artist or interior designer so she had pity on me! Money for this project was freed up at the end of the spring semester last year and Karin and I gathered materials but it was not until January that schedules permitted us to finally get going. (I think Dr. Johnston was very kind when he came to visit me in my office and did not say anything about a rug propped up in the corner, paint cans in one spot and furnishings for the room in another.) We got to work and Wesley students came to help (see the pictures). Karin and I thought we could do this on one Saturday. HA! It took us three but it is now done. Karin was a great guide and teacher for our students as they learned how to paint a wall in a very unique fashion. Wesley students did a great job painting and getting the



News From The United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference is pleased to announce that they were able to meet (and even exceed) their pledge of \$89,000 to the Women's Division, for the year of 2008. In fact, the total giving was \$105,000. This amount is sent to the Women's Division and is used throughout the world to serve women, children and youth. A special thanks to all the local units in the Dover, Easton, Salisbury and Wilmington Districts for their faithful giving that made this possible.



The United Methodist Women of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference will sponsor their Spring Event on Saturday, March 28, from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm at Asbury United Methodist Church,

1401 Camden Dr. in Salisbury, Maryland. Bishop Peggy Johnson will be our special guest. The theme will be "Who Am I at the Table?"

A continental breakfast and light lunch will be included. Everyone is invited.

Ramona Anderson, President



Prayer Focus for the Congo Partnership

Dear Friends, The PDW Congo Partnership Team would like the Peninsula-Delaware Conference to be in prayer for an end to the violence that is running rampant in the Congo. As we struggle to work with our brothers and sisters, it remains difficult to get needed supplies to them and to put programs in place that will lift them in their time of need. Please join us in prayer for peace.

Thank you,
PDW Congo Partnership Team

Communicator

Peninsula-Delaware Conference

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Individual Subscriptions, \$12.00 per year

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2009 Extension Ministries Dinner
Peninsula-Delaware Conference
June 11, 2009
5:00 PM to 6:15 PM
Oasis Room (2nd Floor) UMES Student Services Center
Guest Speaker: Chaplain, Major Sherrol L. James
Senior Protestant Chaplain
Davis-Monthan Air Force Base
Tucson, Arizona

Interfaith Resource Center

Become a Sponsor for the Donald Griggs Seminar Series

The Interfaith Resource Center is bringing Donald Griggs, author of *Teaching Today's Teachers to Teach*, to Delaware for a series of programs on April 24th and 25th. Dr. Griggs is a leading expert on Biblical literacy. You won't want to miss our series of four lectures in three locations.

The Benefits of Being a Sponsor:

- The sponsorship of this event will help people know the Bible, help them to be better teachers and support the Interfaith Resource Center as it provides services for many faith communities who could not otherwise afford educational resources for all ages.
- As a sponsor, you will receive tickets to all the seminars for yourself and another person (a \$120 value)
- Tickets will be given for all of the teachers in the sponsor's church to attend the Saturday morning event, "Essentials for Effective Teaching." This event is by a gifted educator who literally wrote the book on teaching. The value depends on how many teachers plan to go, normally \$10



Paula Hartzell

per person.

- A free copy of Don Griggs' *The Bible from Scratch: The New Testament for Beginners*, one of the current bestselling books by Westminster/John Knox Press (value \$15)... a great resource for new members, adult ed classes and confirmation classes.

How to be a Sponsor:

A donation of \$100 to the Interfaith Resource Center is your sponsorship commitment. Pastors are encouraged to use their continuing education funds to be a sponsor or a participant in these events. Checks should be made out to Interfaith Resource Center. Act quickly! Space is limited for the Dover events!

For more information on specific events in the series, consult the Interfaith Resource Center website at www.interfaithresourcecenter.com.

faithresourcecenter.com.

New Resources Solomon's Temple is a 30-minute digitally-animated tour of one of the most influential buildings of all time. This program gives a basic introduction to the colossal achievement of Solomon's Temple and details its design, construction, meaning for Israel, and what went on there and why. Solomon's Temple was destroyed in 586 BC, but through the use of modern computer graphics, the Temple is reconstructed visually to provide a contemporary experience of its ritual beauty and grandeur.

The Tabernacle is a 28-minute walk through the Tabernacle in three-dimensional computer-generated detail! You'll marvel at the bronze-covered Altar, and the exquisite gold Lampstand. See the Table of Showbread, the Altar of Incense, even the Ark of the Covenant with the Atonement Cover (Mercy Seat) will no longer be just mental images. To arrange to borrow these or any other resources, contact the Interfaith Resource Center at resource.ctr@dol.net or phone 1.800.336.6152 or locally 302.477.0910.

Message From Your Conference Lay Leader



Betty M. Gooch

Greetings! I had the opportunity to attend the Quadrennial Training in Jacksonville Florida, "Living the United Methodist Way: Turning Worlds Upside Down." When I think about turning the world upside down that is what the laity of the Peninsula-Delaware can do. Our dedication to be a servant reminds us to go and make disciples. There are people in our communities that are looking for answers to many problems. With the training that we are receiving, our faith and the love of God we should be helping them to find the answer. That answer is Christ's unchanging love for his people.

During this time of Lent let us spend more time with Christ and discern His will for our lives. Remember that we are the hands and feet of Christ. There are always opportunities to share with others the love that Christ has for us. Let's use these 40 days to increase our prayer lives, set aside more time to read God's word and share our faith stories with others.

Let us get out of our comfort zones and spend these 40 days listening to what God would have us to do. In our communities

there are brothers and sisters that are having difficult times. What are you willing to do to ease those difficulties? We can be there to listen to problems, make ourselves available to take someone to the store, doctor appointments, volunteer at a food bank, visit the sick, mentor a child, and spend more quiet time with God.

My prayer for these 40 days of Lent is that we remember the least, the lost and the last. Bible study and prayer will enable us to see as Christ sees so that we can love others as Christ loves us.

Grace and Peace!

Betty M. Gooch
Conference Lay Leader

P.S. Please remember to pray for our clergy and their families daily.

Clergy Respond to Economic Downturn Submitted by Pastor Connie Hastings

She arrived an hour too early, huddled against cold, strain and stress clearly showing on her face. She was at a point in her life she had never been before. Her parents have passed away, her only son lives too far away, she has been out of work for a month, she is sick, and she doesn't know what to do.

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord.

Who would have thought a year ago that this would happen? Banks are in trouble, businesses are closing, people are losing jobs, homes, their retirement. No one guessed the recession would hit this hard and the economic forecast would be so dismal. Beyond the financial ramifications, the emotional and spiritual fallout is significant. Depression is widespread, support systems have trouble coping, and persons ask themselves where is God in all of this.

"They are plans for good and not for disaster..."

It began when the Invista plant in Seaford announced that it would be laying off employ-

ees, originally planned for late spring in 2009. Concerned clergy from the Seaford and Bridgeville area met to formulate a pastoral response. They thought first the outreach would be for those employed at the former Dupont plant. But God's plans were bigger.

Weekly thousands more are added to the national unemployment rates, and at the Georgetown unemployment office people are lined up and down the sidewalk to wait for hours to file. As the group of concerned pastors and laypersons met, they discerned that the outreach must be area-wide, not limited to one group.

On January 11 at Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church in

Seaford, a prayer service was held lifting praise for God's provision and petitions for prosperity. As the Holy Spirit moved through the powerful preaching of Bishop Carlton Cannon of the Clarence Street Church of God, Rev. Luis Almandoz of Cannon UMC and

Siempre Verde, and Rev. Diane Melson of Concord UMC, faith was

strengthened that God is bigger than any problem. The 175 people in the congregation stood in assurance that God's plans were best.

"...to give you a future and a hope."

Susan Kent, who serves as lay visitation pastor at Mt. Olivet



UMC, spearheaded the coordination of job recruiters, local, county and state agencies, and faith based support programs for a multi-resource community event on January 25 at the Western Sussex Boys and Girls Club. Prayer warriors moved among the crowd, and churches provided an overabundance of food for the 250 registered persons in attendance. Though the group was diverse in background and need, they had a common look of desperation on their faces. As one person commented, "They want to work," but their fear was felt throughout the room.

She sat along the wall waiting for the room to be set up. A pastor introduced himself and asked her need. A counselor talked with her about treatment and therapy for her depression. One woman prayed quietly with her. Three others invited her to their church. She left with a bag full of information and possibilities, grateful she had come.

The Job Loss and Spiritual Relief Team seeks to meet people where they are to offer them the hope found in God who knows,

in Christ who cares, and in the Holy Spirit who empowers. Follow-up and plans for assistance will continue. The promise of Jeremiah 29:11 will be fulfilled.

For more information about this effort, call Rev. Dale Brown, 302.337.7409, Rev. Constance Hastings, 302.629.9466, or Susan Kent, 302.745.1935.



Quadrennial Training Participants

The 2009 Quadrennial Training for conference leadership took place the last weekend in January in Jacksonville, Florida. 18+ Peninsula-Delaware Conference members took part in the training. We will have more about the training and those that attended in the March 13th issue of this publication.

Camping and Retreat Ministries

Camp Registrations in Full Swing

Even with the uncertain economy, summer camp registrations are ahead of last year's pace. So don't delay in getting your campers signed up. If your child has never attended, you can register, pay the \$50 deposit, then come to the Open House on April 25 or 26. Then if s/he decides it's not for them, we'll refund your deposit. And, new this year is EZPay. Register your camper by April 1 and you can divide the balance due into six manageable monthly payments. For more information, go to www.pecometh.org or contact Julie Lutz at 410.556.6900, x128 or julie@pecometh.org.

Sign Up Now for Volunteer Day

Now's the time for individuals, youth groups and adult groups to sign up to help get Pecometh ready for summer on Saturday, April 18. Help with cabin preparation, grounds clean-up, painting and other projects to keep Pecometh looking great. A picnic lunch is provided. For more information, contact Buddy Landing at (410) 556-6900, x107 or buddylanding@pecometh.org.

Donate a Quilt or Silent Auction Item for Pecometh Day

The 3rd Annual Pecometh Day on Saturday, April 25, 2009 is fast approaching. You can help us by donating a special item, gift certificate or service for the Silent Auction, donating a quilt to the Quilt Auction, encouraging others to attend, volunteering to help and attending the event. For more information, contact Jack Shitama at 410.556.6900, x101 or jack@pecometh.org.

Creation Care Corner

What is a "carbon footprint?" It's simply a measure of the impact of human activities on the environment in terms of the amount of greenhouse gases, measured in units of carbon dioxide. Our carbon footprint is made up of two distinct components:

- Primary Footprint - The direct CO₂ emissions from the burning of fossil fuels. Activities include home energy usage such as heat and electricity, as well as transportation such as driving or air travel
- Secondary Footprint - The indirect CO₂ emissions related to the entire life-cycle of a product,

including its manufacture, transportation and decomposition

According to calculations by BP (a fossil fuel energy company), as cited on FoxNews.com, the average U.S. household generates 19 metric tons or 41,895 pounds of CO₂ each year. Scientists differ on what the long-term effect of greenhouse gases will be, but



there is no disagreement that it is happening and does affect our environment. Here are two suggestions to reduce our carbon footprints, as suggested by a special Energy Report in the Wall Street

Journal (November 12, 2007):

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs - Replacing regular incandescent bulbs with CFLs provides the same light at only a quarter of the energy usage. For example, replacing a 100W bulb with a 25W CFL will save about 100 pounds of CO₂ emissions each year, as well as saving money on your electric bill. Although CFLs cost more, their price is coming down significantly and they last

much longer than regular bulbs. Two important notes:

1. When installing a CFL, turn it on and let it stay on for six to eight hours. This "burn in" will extend its life to the upper end of its five to six year life.
2. CFLs contain toxic gases, so it's important to dispose of them properly. Most county landfills now have collection centers for CFLs to avoid a harmful effect on the environment

Also, keep an eye out for LED bulbs, which are just starting to hit the market. These reduce energy use even further, without the toxic waste disposal issues.

Recycling - Recycling reduces our secondary footprint by reducing landfill gas generated by decaying matter, as well as the amount of energy to manufacture new products. For example, recycling an aluminum can cuts the energy needed to make a new can by 95%. A household of four that recycles all its newsprint, aluminum, steel, plastic and gas can reduce its solid waste footprint by 41% from 4,072 pounds to 2,384 pounds of CO₂ emissions per year.

(Look to future segments of Creation Care Corner to learn more about how we can be good stewards of God's Creation.)

RETHINK CHURCH Training Continued

Continued from page 1

Tunnell, Ms. Denise Scoles Knetler, Rev. Rick Vance, Ms. Sally Stewart, Rev. Sandra Steiner Ball, and Ms. Tammy Ward.

If you would like to know more about RETHINK CHURCH and how your congregation can become more welcoming and hospitable, please contact Rev. Dr. Sandra Steiner Ball, Director of Connectional Ministries, at the Bishop Felton Edwin May Resource Center (1.877.736.3351) or e-mail her at ssteinerball@pen-del.org.



Sally Stewart and Rev. Don Perry (Wyoming Conference) participate during the training as Sandra Neal, Rev. Kevin Gillespie and Betty Gooch are shown in the background

Calling All Ushers

Looking for a way to help during Annual Conference (June 11-13 2009)? How about volunteering as a member of the Usher Team? Call Rev. Fred Duncan 302-645.9426 for more information.

Conference Calendar of Events

February 2009

- 28 "Nuts & Bolts of Implementing Safe Sanctuaries (Salisbury District)," 15-17
Salisbury: Asbury UMC 18
Black Methodists For Church Renewal Meeting, Dover: Whatcoat 19
UMC, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 23
Dover District Board of Lay Ministries Banquet, Georgetown: Grace 25
UMC, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

March 2009

- 2 Leadership Development Resource Team Meeting, BFEM Resource 28
Center, 10:00 a.m. 30
Committee On Clergy and Lay Leadership Meeting, Dover: Wesley 3
UMC, 7:00-8:30 p.m. 4
2-4 Nurturing Wholeness In Community Seminars, Rehoboth: Atlantic 4
Sands 8
3 Wesley Foundation-Delaware State University Meeting, BFEM 10
Resource Center, 4:30-6:00 p.m. 14
7 Confirmation Celebration, Bear: Cornerstone UMC, 2:00-5:00 p.m. 16
8-10 Board of Ordained Ministry Candidate Interviews, Rehoboth Beach: 18
Atlantic Sands Hotel 20
10 Black United Methodist Preachers Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 11:00 a.m. 21
Vision Team Meeting, Wesley College-Room # 206, 7:00 p.m. 22
11 Council on Finance & Administration Meeting, BFEM Resource 23
Center, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 24
Personnel Committee Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 12:00-3:00 25
Equitable Compensation Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 3:00 p.m. 22
12 Advocacy Resource Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 2:00-4:00 25

Commission on Archives & History Meeting, Frederica: Barratt's Chapel, 10:00 a.m.

Board of Ordained Ministry Candidate Interviews, Rehoboth Beach: Atlantic Sands Hotel

Spiritual Formation Task Force Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 3:30 p.m.

Peter D. Weaver Partnership Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 6:30 p.m.

Credit Union Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 1:30 p.m.

Christian Service Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 5:00 p.m.

Volunteers In Mission Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 6:30 p.m.

Black Methodists For Church Renewal Meeting, Dover: Whatcoat UMC, 9:00 a.m.-1200 p.m.

Extension Ministers Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 6:00 p.m.

April 2009

Personnel Committee Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Personnel Committee Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Easton District United Methodist Women Spring Event, Cambridge: St. Luke UMC, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Annual Conference Sessions Team Meeting, Wesley College-Room # 206, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY - BFEM Resource Center CLOSED

Black United Methodist Preachers Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 11:00 a.m.

Conference Board of Lay Ministries Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Martin Luther King, JR. Symposium, Dover: Wesley College

Board of Ordained Ministry Full Board Meeting, Bear, DE: Cornerstone, 9:30 a.m.

C.A.R.E. Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Credit Union Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 1:30 p.m.

Christian Service Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 5:00 p.m.

Volunteers In Mission Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 6:30 p.m.

Conference United Methodist Men Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 7:15 p.m.

Equitable Compensation Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 3:00 p.m.

3rd. Annual Camp Pecometh Quilt & Auction Day, Centreville, MD: Camp Pecometh, 9-3 p.m.