



### The Healthy Church Initiative

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



Bishop's Letter of Hope PAGE 8



### District Pages

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### 2009 Annual Conference

June 11, 12, 13 (Thursday-Saturday)

University of Maryland-Eastern Shore

Princess Anne, MD

## Reach In to Worship at Annual Conference!

The Worship Team for Annual Conference is working to "Reach In" with the creativity and talent of the Peninsula-Delaware laity and clergy as they plan the four worship services for this year's gathering. What most of us see at Annual Conference is the end product of a long process—and hopefully that end product is not only theologically sound, but also spiritually moving.

The planning process for worship starts each fall as the team begins to explore the Annual Conference theme and the scriptures which can lift it up. And true to our Wesleyan roots, that is where the Worship Team always begins—with the scriptures. We look at several translations and paraphrases of a variety of scriptures as we seek to support the theme from a biblical perspective. We call upon our Wesleyan heritage, further using the Wesley Quadrilateral to explore "Reach In." We use reason to discuss, brainstorm and wrestle with how our selected scripture might then best intersect in worship to express the theme. Our Christian experience and the traditions of

the Church are also then incorporated into the planning process to provide a breadth and depth of multi-sensory worship with a broad appeal. Admittedly, this is no easy process as we take into account the variety of worship styles which speak to our diverse annual conference congregation. And because worship also teaches what is possible in the local church, we strive for excellence at all levels in all the services.

Then comes the hard part---writing the "scripts" for the worship folders for the four services: Evening Service of Praise, Service of Remembrance, Celebration of Ministry and Ordination. Each service is distinct in many ways, with some "boilerplate" liturgy such as in Ordination, along with newly-written liturgy to encompass the theme and yet each service must connect with the others to create a "whole" of worship experience throughout the week-end. Determining the appropriate mix of music, selection of hymns, soloists, choirs and instrumentalists is often daunting because there is so much to choose from. Over the years we have gone through a variety of ways to craft

these services and have evolved a process by which a separate team is responsible for each service, which can incorporate more people into the planning process. Admittedly, our process is not perfect and we know that like Wesley, we must continue to move towards perfection.

Oddly, visuals come at the very end of the planning process. While we think that visuals would naturally come first, we cannot "vision" the worship setting until we know how the flow of each service is going to work, how many people are involved [i.e. a choir or a soloist, an ensemble drama or a worship leader, etc.] and what the logistics are. Then we begin to piece together how to best create the worship space—taking into account limited budgets, time and availability of volunteer crew.

We especially need your help this year because we want to be good stewards of our resources.

For instance, we are going to "re-purpose" as many backdrops and other staging as possible, which means we need your left-over latex paint. If you have paint you could donate for backdrops,

you may leave it at the shed of the Conference Office.

Also, this year we will feature a 70-member clergy choir, a "cloud of witnesses" so-to-speak, at the Ordination Service. We invite any clergy who would like to sing to contact Kevin Chamberlain at KBCMUSIC@aol.com or at 302.422.8111 by May 15.

This year's team members serve in a variety of capacities—from proofing and stagecrew, scripting and visuals, and include both laity and clergy. Some of the members are Heidi Allen, Barbara Auer, Demetrio Beach, Christina Blake, Shirlyn Brown, Jonathan Emmons, Nancy Greenwell, Dianne Henry, Alan Jones, Kyung Mo Koo, Scot McClymont, John Mitchell, Tracey Mooney, Tom Pasmore, Barb Rottina and Rich Walton and are co-led by Kevin Chamberlain and Karin Tunnell. We covet your insights, help and prayers for our team as we seek to offer worship in which you will encounter the Holy, be inspired to discipleship and Reach In to strengthen the disciplines of holy living which enable all of us to serve our God faithfully.

## 17th Annual African-American Clergy/Laity Summit

By Mrs. Darlene Webb

In just a few short weeks we will gather for the 17th Annual African-American Summit in Princess Anne, Maryland.

This is a special time to reflect upon our Christian journey, the state of the Black Church and the state of The United Methodist Church.

Over the years the "Summit" has become a fixed pre-conference celebration and has become known to welcome those who are not African-American which provides an opportunity to celebrate our rich diversity and common heritage in Christ.

The "Summit" as it is affectionately called by participants will be held on Tuesday, June 9th, begin-

ning with Bible Study at 3:00 pm at St. James UMC in Westover, MD and Wednesday, June 10th, starting with 8:00 am breakfast and an Opening Plenary at 9:00 am at the University of Maryland,



Workshop Leader Sherry Daniel to speak at Annual Summit

Eastern Shore.

This year's "Summit" revolves around the theme "Congregational Development – A New Church for a New Day" and aimed at: Enlarging the perspective of individuals by helping them to move beyond where they are now, and to see other possibilities as "real possibilities" - Teaching people new insights and new strategies for congregational development – Providing new ways to reach out to youth and young adults. We will also showcase good music and stirring sermons by guest preachers.

Workshops Topics: (a) Creating a Healthy Congregation/Leadership; (Continued on page 4)

### Armed Forces Day Saturday, May 16th



Armed Services Week is May 9-17, 2009. Show your continued support of our brothers and sisters in uniform during this week.

Prayers and other resources can be obtained from the General Board of Discipleship website at www.gbod.org.

**BOYD'S BLESSINGS:**

On Passion/Palm Sunday weekend, Linda's extended family experienced its annual reunion in Virginia Beach.

On Sunday we attended worship in a local United Methodist Church. The pastor noted that the congregation was grieving the loss of a ten-year-old girl to meningitis.

That same week, our Annual Conference was mourning the passing of two men who left their mark on our connectional church. Unlike the ten-year-old girl, these men had both been strengthened to live a typical lifespan. But their earthly departure and transfer to the Church Triumphant was nonetheless deeply felt by their immediate families, the local faith communities in which they had served, and by the Peninsula-Delaware Conference.

Howard Mason was a longtime acquaintance through three pastoral appointments in congregations neighboring his beloved Mt. Olivet. We recall his quick wit, his passion for serving beyond the local church, and his interest in taking Scriptural stands on social issues. Speaking of scripture, Howard helped distribute Bibles in public places as a Gideon. He was ready at a moments notice to step into a pulpit as a Certified Lay Speaker.

Roy Moore was the supportive spouse of one of our ordained elders, the Rev. Mae Etta Moore.

They have been inseparable partners in ministry. Roy's warm smile and pleasant conversation

at Drayton were always highlights before and after meetings of the Board of Ordained Ministry. I did not realize until attending his funeral services that he was also an accomplished musician and artist.

The Rev. Dr. Sandra Steiner Ball has been reminding us recently of John Wesley's conviction: The Gospel is first personal, and always social. Roy ministered in ways that remind us of the necessity of personal conversion to Christ. Howard had that same emphasis on evangelism, and always applied the Gospel to the social concerns of the world God so loved that Christ came to live and die for us.

Death comes unexpectedly at whatever age. But the reality of the resurrection and eternal life rings true for those who entrust themselves to the Savior who sacrificed Himself at the tender young age of 33. It is His greatest gift that keeps on giving joy and peace in this Easter season. Our response, like that of those who have preceded us in death, is to so live that we will give glory and praise and serve our risen Savior, who is in the world today!



Rev. Boyd Etter

By Pastor Mike McGee

For the 4th year Grace UMC has partnered with Pastor Dale Dunning of "Just Soup Ministries" to provide free lunches to the needy. When this program started there were 20 people who attended the Monday kitchen. Just recently we served over 300 lunches! Free food is donated by local food stores, and people can receive free vegetables, breads, fruits and assortments of toiletries. This is a wonderful supplement to the soup, sandwiches and dessert items that visitors receive from the soup kitchen.

Pastor Dale Dunning has received numerous awards for her great compassion and her feeding program. She has received the

## Feeding Ministry Grace UMC, Georgetown

prestigious Jefferson Award and was invited to attend a banquet at the White House in 2008. She does this outreach in other churches and at times she has operated 12 kitchens in lower Delaware.

Church members of Grace supplement the staff to make this so successful. During the three hours of operation on each Monday from 11-2 there has been an opportunity to minister to the so-called "least of these." By networking with pastors and Social Services many people have found shelter, medicine, extra groceries and most of all they have found the love of Jesus. Free clothing is given away weekly also.

To help the needy a brown bag luncheon program on Thursdays was started at Grace also. Usually 100 lunches are picked up weekly by walk-ins and some brown bags are delivered to shut-ins. The cost of \$1/bag has been underwritten by church members and we received a \$2,000 check the first day by someone whose heart was touched. This program is intended for the cold time of year when the need is most acute.

People have given their lives to Christ through these efforts, and some guest workers who came to help for a day have said "yes" to Jesus because of this program. Jesus continues to feed the body and soul.

## Asbury UMC in Smyrna Local UMME Chapter Featured

By Jennings P. Hastings

The Delaware Chapter of the UMME (United Methodist Motorcycle Enthusiasts) got its start in the summer of 2004 after Asbury's youth director gave an article from the "Cross and Flame" to Dave Dowty about the UMME. The club was formed with four founding members, with Dave as President. The membership soon grew to seven members, remaining at that level until 2006.

Near the end of 2006, Dave suggested that we plan a bike blessing for 2007. We all jumped in, working with the local newspapers to generate publicity, and it was held in October of 2007, with 45 bikes attending. More importantly than the events of that day, there were a number of riders who were not regularly worshipping and have since become active in the church. We

Virginia Crest Village in Seaford.

These workshops are free and open to the community.

**May 13, 2009**

10:00am-noon  
"Interviews"

**May 20, 2009**

10:00am-noon  
"Entering the World of 50+"

**May 27, 2009**

10:00am-noon  
"How to Choose a New Career"

**June 3, 2009**

10:00am-noon  
"How to Start  
Your Own Business"

For Pre Registration and Directions to Virginia Crest Village contact Susan Kent 302.745.1935 or email her at susanrkent@yahoo.com.

heard many comments that day, like "I didn't know I could ride my motorcycle to church" and "I didn't know the church wanted people like me." We found that, in keeping with the UMME motto of sharing Christian fellowship through a common interest, it brought people to the Lord in a way that made them feel comfortable and welcome. After that successful kickoff, we've made it an annual event, with the blessing and support of Asbury's pastors and congregation.

Some of our other activities include visitation rides to other churches in our area. We do those on the second Sunday of each month from May to September. In 2008, we took a 4-day trip to the Blue Ridge Mountains and a number of day trips as well. Just wearing our colors generates a lot of interest. It has been

amazing to see how many times someone walks up to a member and asks for an explanation of our colors.

Today our UMME chapter is approaching 20 members. Dave served as President through 2008, and through his vision and leadership our chapter has grown and flourished. At the end of 2007, he suggested that we elect officers on an annual basis, realizing that while we needed consistency in our formative years, it was time to pass the gavel. We now have a slate of officers and a progressive plan for our leadership.

From my perspective, it is a pleasure to ride with a group of people that you trust and respect and who share the same core values.

(This article first appeared in the national February newsletter of the UMME)

## Conley's UMC Completes Another Living Easter

Conley's Living Easter drew over 900 people April 3rd and 4th. The outdoor event has two primary purposes. The first is evangelism. Visitors were treated to scenes portraying Bible stories from Genesis through the Gospels. The pageant started with Adam and Eve, and ended at the empty tomb of Jesus on Easter morning. A palm frond was given to each visitor, plus a card with the inscription: "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed." (1 Peter 2:24). The card held a small old-

fashioned cut nail to symbolize the nails used to hold Jesus on the cross.

The second purpose of the event is charity. Over \$1,100 and many canned goods were collected and donated to local charities including shelters and food banks. The church underwrites the entire cost of the event and 100% of the proceeds are donated. Dozens of volunteers donate many hours of their time to help with organization, promotion, logistics, guides and actors. A second year event, it complements Conley's Living Nativity, presented for the last eight years.

## INTERSECTION OF 12-STEP SPIRITUALITY AND CHRISTIAN FAITH

**FIRST SUNDAY** is a monthly worship service at Epworth United Methodist Church and serves as an outreach ministry to those persons interested in the 12-Step "recovery" movement that originated with Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and now spans a variety of programs for addictive and relationship disorders.

**FIRST SUNDAY** was designed several years ago at Epworth as a hybrid of the 12-Step Program and Christian traditions. It is not affiliated with any 12-step organization and welcomes all people, including those who have little or no familiarity with any 12-step program.

It serves as a model for Christian spiritual growth with the purpose to encourage – not replacing – Sunday worship or participation in a 12-Step Program.

Each **FIRST SUNDAY** Service focuses on one of the 12 Steps and includes prayer, singing, sharing, sacred and secular readings and Holy Communion with the elements of wheat bread and unfermented grape juice. The service is held the first Sunday of each month at 6:30 pm at Epworth's new sanctuary at 19285 Holland Glade Road, off Route 1, just north of Rehoboth Beach. For more information, call 227-7743 or email emkiesel@aol.com.

## Workshops In Support Of The Unemployed And Underemployed

The Job Loss Response Team of the Dover District will be offering the following workshops in sup-

port of the unemployed and underemployed. All workshops will be in the Community Room of

## From the D.S.

Dear Friends,

**A**Tough Faith Produces Tough People for Tough Times. This thought is an expansion of the title of Rev. Robert Schuller's book, "Tough Times Never Last, But Tough People Do." As I move around the Easton District, speaking with pastors and laity, my heart is deeply warmed by the tough faith I see. I recently went to a church for a meeting. I arrived early. I was offered a bowl of soup (which was delicious). In conversation, I discovered that at lunch time that day, they offered free soup (several kinds) to anyone in the community who wanted soup for lunch. Lots of people came. Whoever was hungry was served, even seconds. It struck me that with all of the limiting conversation about the economy and how we can't do this and that, someone had to buy the ingredients, purchase the paper ware, use gas and electric to prepare it, and then volunteer time to make it happen. That act of selfless ministry was an act of defiance fueled by a tough faith. Tough faith causes us to do acts of ministry in spite of circumstances.

Another act of defiance to the fears and anxieties of these times is the large numbers of food banks that are currently being operated by churches or are being started by churches. Donations of food are pouring in to be given away. People are sharing from their pantries. Stores are donating food. People are being fed. Somewhere, someone has to buy the food. It costs. In these challenging times, people with tough faith are stepping up to the plate, being willing to pay the price (literally) and sharing.

The Conference Director of Connectional Ministries, Rev. Dr. Sandra Steiner Ball, has been holding meetings on each District, reminding congregations of resources available to them from the Annual Conference, and challenging churches to continue to pursue vital ministry. As there has been dialogue at these meetings, there is story after

story of how churches are responding to needs in their communities. People are excited about ministry for Christ.

The good news today is that we are living in an unparalleled time of opportunity to show and tell people that Jesus Christ is real, Jesus Christ loves them, Jesus Christ died and rose for them, Jesus Christ forgives them and can change their lives. We have the opportunity to be the embodiment of Christ. As expressed in a sermon I heard on Pentecost Sunday several years ago, "Through the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we become the real presence of Christ in the world." As someone has said, we are the hands and feet of Jesus. These days are specially made for God's glory, love and power to be seen clearly through the lives of Christians, and through our churches.

The really neat thing is that the tough faith that produces tough people for tough times does not cost one cent, does not need an elaborate building, doesn't demand eloquence, doesn't require a certain level of Bible knowledge, is not limited by age or ability, and can happen with any number of people from one or two or a crowd. In our conference and on our districts, the Healthy Church Initiative is a great resource for you and your church, helping you toughen your faith for the tough times we are in.

Traveling around the district, I see tough faith in action. I see the WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?) being expanded to WJID (What Jesus Is Doing-through us). I am grateful for the pastors and laity of the Easton District who are consistently toughening their faith and overcoming the tough times. We do live in exciting times.

Blessings. Bill



Rev. Bill Sterling

## Centreville UMC Welcomes New Members

By Rev. Mark Farnell

**O**n Palm Sunday, April 5, 2009, Centreville United Methodist Church not only celebrated the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem but they also celebrated by welcoming 26 new members into their church. It was a glorious day! The new members were received between their two worship services. Later in the day the new members were invited to a lunch where they could meet their new mentors. In addition, on Pentecost Sunday, Centreville United Methodist will be welcoming 11 young people from their Confirmation class.

God is moving in mighty ways! As we strive to be a healthy church we are happy to announce the family of God is growing.

## Flood Bucket Assistance Needed

**R**ev. Helen Lockwood, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Secretary, is asking for help with their Flood Bucket project. First UMC has 20 buckets that are about 1/3 full and they need help in completing this project.

Is your Youth Group, Sunday School, Adult Ministries group or other church group looking for a short-term service project? Could you help? Please contact Rev. Lockwood 410.943.3439/ church, 410.943.8945/home) for more information or with the number of buckets you are willing and able to help complete.

## CLERGY CONTINUING ED SESSION

A Conflict Resolution Workshop will be held on Wednesday, May 20th from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church in Salisbury. The cost is \$35 (includes light breakfast, lunch & materials) and CEU credit is being requested.

This workshop will cover a review of basic skills and progress into instruction in advanced conflict resolution skills. The trainer for this event is from Salisbury University's Center for Conflict Resolution.

For additional information and registration, please contact Trinity UMC (410.749.5562).

## Local Youth Raise Money for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

By Nancy Dunn

We didn't have a St. Patrick's Day parade but the Leprechauns came out anyway. All week long the little people came and went from the church.

They were shopping, chopping, and decorating for a dinner. On Tuesday, March 17th at 5:00 p.m. all the 'Irish at heart' in Trappe showed up for a traditional St. Patrick's Day dinner. We served 83 persons and raised over \$600.00 for UMCOR. Thank you to all those that came out and supported this effort.

UMCOR answers the call



for crisis around the world. (100% of the money goes to work in the field.) It was a community effort that everyone

enjoyed! The youth and their leaders are to be commended for reminding us of our opportunity to support UMCOR.

Pictured: (L-R) Mrs. Alma Hackett, wife of Rev. David Hackett of Scott's UMC in Trappe, MD and Rev. Maleia Rust, Pastor of Faith Chapel/ Trappe United Methodist Church.

**The Ridgely United Methodist Church Liturgical Dance Group performed April 5, during the Palm Sunday service. They danced to "I Call You Now to Praise." The group's director is Tom Polhman. For more information about the group call the church office at 410.634.2527.**



Pictured from left to right are Jenna Guthrie, Mary Lynn Jordan, Margaret Foster, and Lynn Whitby.

## Upcoming Events

### 10th Anniversary Celebration

The Church Hill-Burrisville Charge, Spiritual Praise, will be celebrating their 10th anniversary on May, 16, 2009 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at St. Daniels United Methodist Church in Barclay. All choirs, soloists, praise dancers, and musicians are welcome and please be prepared to render two selections. Rev. Genevieve Brown is the pastor of the Charge.

### Annual Women's Day Scheduled

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church is hosting their Annual Women's Day at Mt. Pleasant UMC (117 Park Ave.) in Greensboro on Sunday, May 17, beginning at 4:00 pm. Guests include Rev. Lisa M. Graine, and the choir and congregation of the Ebenezer-Snow Hill Charge. All are cordially invited to attend. Dinner will be served prior to the Service. Rev. Hilbert Watson is the pastor at Mt. Zion.

### Bible Study Offered

Unity-Washington UMC in Hurlock will be offering a Bible study by Ron Hutchcraft entitled, "A Life That Matters" on Tuesday, May 21, 7pm. The study guides and books are available together for \$13.00. This study is for the spiritual growth of the church and how to give us the desire to rescue the lost. This will be a 13 week study. All are welcome. Please call the church office at 410.943.3222 if you would like to join us. Rev. Bonnie Shively is the pastor at Unity-Washington.

### 2009 School of Christian Missions

The 2009 School of Christian Missions will be held July 9 - 12 at Wesley College in Dover, Delaware. All are invited to attend - women, children, teens, men and clergy. Contact Patricia Whitney at 410.943.4383 with any questions and for a registration form. The School is sponsored by the Peninsula-Delaware Conference United Methodist Women.

**District Page: The Easton District Page is printed within the Peninsula-Delaware Conference Pages in the first issue of each month during the spring. The last issue before the two month break will be printed in the June 5th issue. Please submit all photos and articles to the District Editor, Tonya Pinkett, or the District Office by Friday, May 15th. (lamoree6075@aol.com) (eastondistrictoffice@goeaston.net)**

## CARE TEAM CONCERNS: Cultivating Wholeness

By Rev. Sally Dolch

Authentic Christian community can be the antidote for the loneliness, isolation, emptiness and meaninglessness that we find in the world today. Christian communities exist because God first loved us! That could mean, and does mean in many congregations, that there is love spilling over to be shared with those who enter in!

Yet, it seems that all congregations are not healing places. This may have come about for a variety of reasons, but it is often the result of an experience of clergy sexual misconduct that has never healed. Nancy Myer Hopkins (*Restoring the Soul of a Church*, 1995), a well respected expert on healing congregations wounded by clergy sexual misconduct, has adapted the work of William White on open and closed organizations to help us distinguish between open characteristics that invite vitality and closed characteristics that derive from and feed dysfunction and a destructive toxicity.

Open communities are theologically tolerant and willing to engage in discussion over difficult theological issues. Socially they are heterogeneous, with some activities among members. They tend to be outreaching, cooperative with other congregations and conference. Power is spread through the lay leadership. They develop plans for evangelism by

laity. There are healthy boundaries and no secrets. They talk through problems and work on conflict. Members are held accountable and are available to each other in crises. Clergy lead and are uplifted by the "ministry of all believers."

**Congregational health or vitality is based upon four characteristics: theological clarity, honest communication, conflict resolution, and loving others**



**through the proactive care for all who participate in the life of the church.**

Anthony Robinson, a pastor in Texas, says theological clarity requires that God's revelation in Scripture is always central to our faith and to our life in Christian community. These questions: **What has God done in the past? What is God doing now? And, what can we expect God to do in the future?** should inform and guide our life in Christian community.

Margaret Kornfeld (*Cultivating Wholeness*, 1998) maintains that communities are either "pseudo or real." Pseudo communities are unsafe and members may

be shunned for being different or asking questions or making suggestions. Real communities "function - ...hold and support - ...[are] places where members are able to: **Communicate with each other honestly and without fear ("I can be myself here!") Resolve conflicts with each other individually and within the group ("We can differ without being at odds with each other.") Learn to love themselves so they can love each other and reach out to strangers ("God loves us unconditionally and we are to love others as God has us.")**

"True communities are the gift of grace... True communities are works in progress reflecting the New Testament understanding of perfection. Perfection (teleiosis) means being on the right road and progressing nicely. Communities are always changing; they never fully "arrive." True communities are always "becoming."

Rev. Sally Dolch can be reached at [sdolch@comcast.net](mailto: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.

Technology in Worship during the General Session.

Summit participation is open to everyone! Registration begins at 3:00 pm on June 9th at St. James UMC. The \$50 cost includes materials, and breakfast, lunch and dinner on June 10th. Clergy and Lay members of Annual Conference planning

to stay on campus June 9th will need to send an additional \$30 which must be received by May 18th. Registration fee should be made payable to the Peninsula-Delaware Conference (in memo line use AA Clergy/Laity Summit 2009) and mailed to the attention of Brenda O. Gaines, 139 N. State Street, Dover, Delaware 19901.

"Come and Join us" on June 9-10 at UMES -

Come to Bless and To Be Blessed!

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## Young People's Ministry

### Time to Update Your Calendars

Sometimes it's hard to keep track of things and even harder to plan in advance. Here are some dates to put on your calendars and share with your students and your volunteers. I don't want you to miss out on any of these great opportunities!

**July 10-12 - Elevate** Elevate is a young adult ministry training event sponsored by the Northeast Jurisdiction. The event will feature a number of speakers who are involved in young adult ministry in various contexts. **The cost of the event is only \$129.00 per person if you register by May 15 and \$149.00 per person if you register by June 15.** Young People's Ministries is providing free round trip transportation to the first 20 people from the conference to register. Visit [umyongpeople.org](http://umyongpeople.org) to learn more or [wpaumcyouth.com](http://wpaumcyouth.com) to register.

**July 19-25 - Mission Possible** This is the second year for this summer work camp experience for students finishing 7th through 12th grade. Participants will stay at Red Lion Christian Academy in Bear, DE and work at projects in Bear and the surrounding areas. At only \$175.00 per student, Mission Possible is a close to home, low-cost mission trip option. One adult is free with every 5 paid student registrations. **Register by July 1.** Visit [umyongpeople.org](http://umyongpeople.org) to learn more or to download a registration form.

**October 10 - Leadership Training Event** in 2008 Young People's Ministries brought you TiLT: The (incredible) Leadership Thing. This year we are teaming with six other boards and agencies throughout the conference to offer one event with tracks in youth ministry, Volunteers in Mission Training, Spiritual Formation, innovative worship, and more. The event will be held at Eagle's Nest Fellowship Church in Milton, DE and the cost is only \$10 per person. More information to follow.

**November 13-15 - Exploration 2009** Exploration is a gathering for young people (high-



Shane Hinderliter

school seniors through age 24) considering ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church. The event will be held in Dallas, Texas. The Board of Ordained Ministry and Young People's Ministries are working together to take a group of students from the conference to this event, which is only held once every two to three years. Please share this opportunity with young people who might be interested exploring a call to ordained ministry. Learn more at [gbhem.org/exploration](http://gbhem.org/exploration).

**September 25-28 (Los Angeles), October 30 - November 2 (Cincinnati), and November 20-23 (Atlanta). National Youthworkers Conventions.**

Sponsored by Youth Specialties, the National Youthworkers Convention is held in three different cities every year and attracts thousands of youthworkers, professional and volunteer, from all over the world. This event combines excellent opportunities for training, worship, networking, and lots of youth ministry resources into one great event. YS even offers a special discount code for youthworkers from the Peninsula-Delaware Conference. Contact Shane for more information or visit [nywc.com](http://nywc.com) to learn more about the event.

**January 8-10, 2009. Pyromaniac Youth Rally.** Put the date on your calendar if it's not there already. More information will follow.

To learn more about any of these events or to discuss anything else related to youth and young adult ministry, please contact me at [shinderliter@pen-del.org](mailto:shinderliter@pen-del.org) or 877.736.3351 x15.

### Continued from page 1

(b) Ministry for a New Generation; (c) Strengthen the Black Church Through Worship. Dr. Sherry L. Daniel, former Associate Council Director in the Texas Annual Conference, Houston, Texas and currently Pastor of Norfolk UMC in Norfolk, Virginia will direct the discussion on

### Communicator

#### Peninsula-Delaware Conference

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## Mother's Day Sunday, May 10, 2009

On this special day, and everyday, let us  
give thanks for our mothers -





## “Reach In” at the Annual Conference by Reaching Out to Your Foundation

This year at the “Reach In” sessions of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference a Resolution will be entered: A Resolution Encouraging the Use of the Services Of the Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula United Methodist Foundation, Inc.

In considering the Resolution it will be helpful to understand the history of the Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula United Methodist Foundation and the services the EPP Foundation makes available to all our churches, agencies, and members of the Annual Conference.

The Foundation’s Articles of Incorporation clearly state the purpose of the Foundation:

“The Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula United Methodist Foundation was established by consolidation of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Foundation and Peninsula United Methodist Foundation in 1992 to and incorporated under the Nonprofit Corporation Law exclusively for charitable purposes and is intended to be a public charity under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. Without limiting the generality of the forgoing, the purpose or purposes of the corporation is to foster and support benevolent ministries in the name of Jesus Christ, and to serve as an extension of the religious, charitable and educational endeavors of the Peninsula Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and the Eastern Pennsylvania

Conference of the United Methodist Church. In furtherance thereof, it is authorized to solicit, receive, administer and manage all funds, investments, and property of every kind and nature placed in its care, including as an executor and trustee, for the fulfillment of the purpose set forth or for such purpose specifically designated by the Donor. The Corporation carries out programs of stewardship, and offers advice and counsel to members, families, local churches, and agencies on how to give effectively to the future of The United Methodist Church. The corporation does not contemplate self economic gain or profit and invests all proceeds for the betterment of The United Methodist Church.”

OK, so what does that mean in simple terms?

The Foundation was formed as a Non-profit Investment Corporation for sustaining growth in Christian Stewardship and investing assets gifted by individuals for the benefit of a United Methodist Church. All profits made from the Foundation’s investment management fee are reinvested in the Foundation’s mission and ministry programs in stewardship.

Why a Resolution encouraging the use of the Foundation?

The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2008 “encourages local churches to invest funds in a socially responsible manner toward the realization of the goals outlined in the Social Principles of The United Meth-

odist Church, and encourages local churches and agencies of the Church to utilize the investment services of their area United Methodist foundation.”

The Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula UM Foundation invests 100% of the funds according to the Social Principles outlined, achieves above average investment performance, and teaches the importance of stewardship to fund all types of life changing ministries. When additional churches and agencies commit to investing with the Foundation, additional resources become available to expand stewardship education programs and expand financial services provided by the Foundation. With the economic challenges we face, these services are needed more than ever.

In summary, an investment with the Foundation can be looked at as more than just a financial investment. It is an investment in our churches, missions, ministries, and the future.

For more information on the Foundation, please contact Jack Brooks, Executive Director, at 1.800.828.9093.



Jack Brooks

## Barratt’s Hosts Easter Vigil Service

By Penny Carney

Barratt’s Chapel, the Independence Hall of American Methodism, was the gathering place for approximately 300 persons on the evening before Easter. Host John W. Thompson along with a number of his artist friends presented a diverse

worship service in celebration of Jesus’ resurrection. Mr. Thompson and his wife Celeste currently attend Mariner’s Bethel UMC in Ocean View.

Gathering music was presented by Marva Thomas of Smyrna. After an opening prayer by Rev. Dr. Sandra Steiner Ball, “Give Me

Jesus” was sung by Ruth Naomi Floyd of Philadelphia.

Mr. Thompson, Grammy and Dove award winning composer, led the congregation in one of his compositions, “Sanctuary.” Deah Harriott of Brooklyn, NY shared

her talents by singing and playing the piano for a few selections including “We Shall Behold Him,” “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” and “LaVia, La Verita, La Vita.”

Kevin Short of Georgetown and Ed Shockley of Lewes shared a selection titled “I’m Just An Old Chunk of Coal (But I’ll Be A Diamond Some Day)” which was enthusiastically received by the congregation.

Centennial UMC Choir gave a joyous rendition of “Total Praise” accompanied by Marva Thomas. Soloist Kevin Short stated that “Saturday must have been the longest day” before giving a powerful rendition of “The Night Before Easter.”

John 18:10-24, relating Jesus’ betrayal and arrest was read by

## Cokesbury Connection

**A**N ALTAR IN THE WORLD: A GEOGRAPHY OF FAITH

(9780061370465) is a new book by gifted author and preacher Barbara Brown Taylor. Having recently left full time ministry in the local church to become a professor, she shares how she learned to encounter God beyond the walls of any church...learning that no physical act is too earthbound or too humble to become a path to the divine.

**Enjoy the April/May Cokesbury SPECIAL OCCASIONS catalog!** It is full of gifts and sales for Mother’s Day, Graduation, Bibles, Father’s Day, weddings, worship and more. It also has a \$15 OFF coupon on any purchase of \$35 or more for you to use at Annual Conference. Not able to get to AC! Us promo code AS09 online or by phone.

**30% OFF** your subscription to THE NEW INTERPRETER’S DICTIONARY OF THE BIBLE now through July 31st! Bonus!! Order the full set (five volumes) and get a FREE CD-ROM of the entire set. The most complete coverage of theological topics, this dictionary will become your most trusted companion as a starting point for research on any topic, place or person in the Bible. Unparalleled quality of information! It is written by 900 scholars,



Madeline Beall

all experts in their fields, from 40 nations and from a variety of perspectives and diverse theological commitments. There are 7100 fresh, original articles and 1300 cross-reference entries. Balanced and relevant...for preacher, teacher or student.

**Looking forward to seeing you at Annual Conference** on the UMES campus June 11,12, and 13! The Cokesbury Bookstore will be located in the Ballroom of the Student Services Center. As always we will have books and vestments...and Krispy Crème Donuts!

Praying that you may discover altars everywhere you go!

Madeline Beall  
Cokesbury Consultant  
877.792.5410  
mbeall@cokesbury.com



Celeste Thompson which led to the arrival of Malchus as portrayed by Bill Lloyd of Ocean View. Malchus then told the story of that night in the garden from his perspective as the High Priest’s servant whose ear was severed by Peter during Jesus’ arrest.

While John Thompson sang and played the guitar for his composition of “Scars,” William Suggs, Jr., a Deaf-Blind member of Christ UMC in Baltimore, gave a very inspirational interpretation of it. The congregation let him know of their approval by stomping their feet. Mr. Suggs has signed at other local churches as well as during the 2008 General Conference.

Communion was celebrated by Bishop Peggy A. Johnson with liturgy written by her husband, Rev. Michael Johnson. During that time, Centennial UMC Choir performed a song medley again accompanied by Marva Thomas.

After a closing prayer led by



Dover District Superintendent, Rev. Boyd Etter, Ed Shockley led the congregation in “Somebody Say Amen.” The vigil service ended with voices lifted for our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Copies of the Easter Vigil Service are available and can be obtained by sending your information along with payment to John W. Thompson, P O Box 171, Bethany Beach, DE 19930. The cost of the DVD is \$22.00. Checks should be made payable to Great Cloud Music.

(Photos courtesy of Rev. Phil Lawton)



TOUCHED by the HEART of  
SALISBURY

An "Opened Letter" to the people of the United Methodist Church in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference

Dear Co-Workers in Christ,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

I am sending this letter to the clergy and laity of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference because I know you have seen firsthand the impact the recession is having on members of our congregations and families. At Salisbury Urban Ministries we have seen a significant increase in the number of families requesting help with rent, security deposits, utility bills, food and eviction notices.

Salisbury Urban Ministries (SUM) has been granted permission to appeal to the churches of our Conference for support during the month of June. Our ability to help families is directly impacted by donations we receive from those who financially support SUM. As we approach our month to appeal to the churches of the Annual Confer-

ence, I offer this promise from scripture found in Malachi 3:10:

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the LORD Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

God asks us to bring to the storehouse a full tenth; a full tithe to the temple treasury so there will be ample food in His house. He invites us to test him and see if he will not open up the windows of heaven for us and pour out blessings on us beyond our wildest dreams.

Salisbury Urban Ministries invite you and your congrega-

tion to join us in this faith step by covenanting to tithe one Sunday's offering during the month of June to SUM. In return Salisbury Urban Ministries will make a tithe of your tithe in early August that will go towards the 2009 Peace with Justice Sunday Offering. Your tithe of one of your Sunday's morning offering will bless SUM in a great way, but it will also bless others within and beyond the Peninsula-Delaware Conference.

Your donation may be sent to the Conference Business Office using your benevolence remittance form or you may send it directly to Salisbury Urban Ministries at P.O. Box 1792, Salisbury, MD 21802. Please include on the memo line on your check the SUM Conference Advance Special Number CAS-3 SUM when sending your donation.

Grace and Peace,

*Ronald Bell, Sr.*

Ronald Bell, Sr.  
Executive Director



## Praise In The Sunshine

Easter Sunday morning.....is there any more special time in the life of the church? Especially on this day we awake to the knowledge that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, has arisen and that He is yet alive! As we go forth this day, and every day, to serve our Lord, the blessings we bring to others are returned to us, even though we do not serve God to receive

those blessings. We receive them because we first bless others.

The Sunrise Service at Rockawalkin United Methodist Church in the Hebron area was an extra special service this year because many members and neighborhood guests gathered on the vacant parcel of land across from the church and parsonage that we have acquired only through God's hand and where we one day look forward to building a new and larger church building to welcome all who come to hear God's Word preached and then leave to take that Word out into the surrounding community and into the world. Acquiring this particular piece of land has long been a



dream of RUMC and the route traveled to obtain it has been filled with seemingly impossible obstacles, but God has shown us that God's plan is perfect and that God's blessings often come at times when we least expect them. As we continue to pray, seeking God's guidance in the life and growth of our church called Rockawalkin, we will also continue to praise God and rejoice.



## District Lay Academy Graduation Celebration

Monday, March 30 saw Fellowship Hall at Salisbury United Methodist Church in Salisbury filled with laity and clergy and great excitement and pride as the Salisbury District Lay Speaking Ministries honored those laity who had attended the past 6 weeks of Lay



Academy. 145 students received certificates either as Certified Lay Speakers, Local Lay Speakers, or attendance certificates for those who took a course for their own use. Of this number, 40 were brand new Local Lay Speakers. God is calling the laity of the Salisbury District to ministry through Lay Speaking!

## Foundation Forms

### Contemporary Choir

Wesley Foundation of Salisbury University has formed a contemporary choir and they call themselves "FWD" which means Focus, Willing, and Driven for Christ. The congregation at Samuel Wesley UMC under the leadership of Rev. Bernadette Beckett were happy to receive them on March 29, 2009 as they sang for morning worship. The students sang songs such as: "We Thirst For You" (CeCe Winan); "How Great Is Our God" (Israel Houghton); "Lord You Are Good" (Israel Houghton); and "Lord of the Harvest"



(Fred Hammond). The choir is under the direction of Joshua Brown, a freshman at Salisbury University. The choir brings inspiration and life to their renditions and the congregation was overjoyed. They have been singing at various churches in and out of the state of Maryland and would be happy to accept other engagements if they are available. The choir will be singing for morning worship at Samuel

Wesley on the 2nd Sunday of each month beginning September, 2009. God continues to bless Wesley Foundation at Salisbury University.

## Good News Corner

Higher Hope New Church Start held its New Birth Service on Saturday April 25, 2009 at 6 p.m. The church is located on Hammond St.

Sunday services are at 11:30 a.m. Choirs, liturgical dancing, original poetry reading, preaching and homemade desserts were a part of a joyful evening in Christ. The worship experience was supported by several district pastors and laity. It is good to



Rev. C. Nichols, Rev. J. Humphrey and Rev. S. Brown

know Christ and work in the connection.

### Methodist Men on the Move for Christ.

The United Methodist Men of Mt. Zion Pocomoke have donated a sixteen passenger bus (handicap accessible) to the church. This donation is a light that shines for the ministry of Christ. Mt. Zion currently has five licensed CDL drivers, with additional persons



willing to go through training. The bus travels on Sunday mornings to bring persons to church in Pocomoke City. When we travel around the Salisbury District, persons will see the bus at worship services, the bowling alley - with a load of church children, and attending church trainings. Have bus....will serve! Methodist Men on the Move.

**District Page: The last Salisbury District Page before the summer break will be printed in the June 5th issue. Please submit all photos and articles to Tammy Ward, Communicator Editor, (tward@pen-del.org) by Friday, May 15th. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact her at 1.877.736.3351, ext. 24.**

## From the D.S.

A couple of month's ago at the end of a cabinet meeting our Bishop, Rev. Peggy A. Johnson, handed me a card and said "I want you to memorize this." I took the card, OF COURSE, and was curious as to what she wanted me to read and memorize. The card was actually the size of a calling card because it was folded in half. It was printed on both sides. At the top of the left corner of the card was the United Methodist "Cross and Flame," and on the right side of the card were the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4. Printed in between these images were these words: "We are the people of THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH."

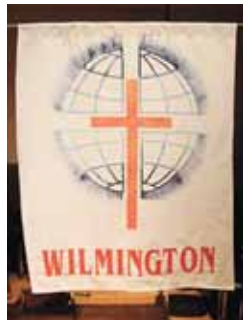
As I read the four panels of what had been given to me, I was most pleased. Someone had creatively summarized the core of what our current priorities are as United Methodist Christians. On this card was printed something we could "memorize" (or perhaps choose to paraphrase) that could help us "recall the uniqueness of our witness and the priorities of our faithfulness" as United Methodists. Who are we as United Methodist Christians? Who are we as the people called United Methodists?

I want to share with you what is specifically printed on "this special calling card:"

*We are the people of*

## THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1. We believe in – making disciples of Jesus Christ for the



transformation of the world.

2. We live by two kinds of holiness: Personal . . . Social.

3. We follow three simple rules: Do no harm . . . Do good . . . Stay in love with God.

4. We work in four areas of focus: Developing leaders . . . Creating places for new people . . . Eliminating poverty . . . Improving health globally.

*We are the people of* THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

It is my prayer for you, for me, and for your congregation that others may see these truths incarnated in our own lives and ministries. YES, it is "as simple" as 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Your Partner in Ministry,

William M. Fitzhugh

**Urgent Need - Neighborhood House!**

218 "B" Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

Items on their WISH LIST include:

- Non-perishables for Food Closets in Middletown & Wilmington
  - Toiletries
- Grocery Store Gift Cards
- Bus Tickets for Clients
  - Ten Passenger Van
- Pro-bono printing of Neighborhood House Brochures; Volunteers to Help with Mailings
- Volunteers to Assist with "Know Thy Neighbor" Events
- Table Captains for Helping Hands and Hearts Breakfast on August 13, 2009

For more information contact: Judy Morton 302.652.3928

**District Page:** The Wilmington District Page is printed within the Peninsula-Delaware Conference pages in the first issue of each month during the spring. The last District Page before the summer break will be printed in the June 5th issue. Please submit all photos and articles to the District Editor, Denise Scoles Knetter (alto-fire150@yahoo.com) no later than Friday, May 15th.

## 20th Annual SOWETO Festival Exhibit June 5-August 15

The Gallery at Grace United Methodist Church, 900 N. Washington St., Wilmington presents the 20th Annual SOWETO Festival Art Exhibit, June 5-August 15.

Opening Reception: Friday, June 5, 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. as part of the Art Loop. Various artists include John Pacer, Bertha Dixon, Mia Muratori, Debbie Hegedus, Rev. Milton Cole, Ruth Anne Crawford, Doris Hill, Jane Quartarone, and Olivia Thompson-McClain. African music, refreshments. Readings by performance and activist poet, Phil Bannowsky.



(Sponsored by Delaware Artists for Racial Unity, in cooperation with the Delaware Committee for Racial Justice and Harmony, a project of Pacem in Terris.) Works are for sale. A donation of 30% of the sale price will be contributed to humanitarian needs in South Africa and Pacem in Terris' efforts to end racism. Gallery hours: Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Fri., 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and after the 10:25 a.m. worship service on Sundays. (Editor's Note: The photo in this article is named "The Philosopher" by John Pace)

## Bay View Charge Scholarship Fundraiser

On Saturday, May 23, 2009 we will be holding a Scrapbooking Event to benefit the Bay View Charge Scholarship Fund. The event will take place at North East United Methodist Church from 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

The cost per person is \$30.00. All meals and snacks will be provided. Are you like many of

us that have pictures of Christenings, first day of school, graduation, birthday celebrations, vacation photos, and many other events that you have put in one box or in a drawer thinking, 'someday' I'll get these in a scrapbook? If this is you, then this event is your opportunity to make 'someday' happen.

Organizers are excited to offer

this chance to preserve those treasured photos and share in fellowship. There will also be scrapbooking classes and vendors available for all of your scrapbooking needs. For a registration form, please visit [www.freewebs.com/missy\\_the\\_scrapper](http://www.freewebs.com/missy_the_scrapper). If you have questions, please contact Marie Gray at Shelemiah U. M. C. 410.287.5720.

## Spring Fling / Yard Sale

St. Paul's United Methodist Church at 1314 Foulk Road in Wilmington will be having a Spring Fling / Yard Sale right out in front of the church on the lawn on Saturday, May 30th.

A DJ will provide our entertainment with music and Karaoke will be available for all of the songbirds that attend. There will be Pony Rides from 9:30 to 11:30. Silly Joe will be performing for the children and adults from 11:30 to 1:00. The grill

will be fired up with burgers and hot dogs and St. Paul's Youth will have face painting and games for the children.

While all this excitement is happening, 30 plus tables will be set up with church and community members selling their "treasures!"

Comments from last year included visitors that came by because the music could be heard at the gas station a mile down the road and someone from the local

community came over because they could smell the food!

This is sure to be a great day of fun and fellowship!! Please join us!! This is a mission sponsored event and all proceeds from space rental fees and refreshment sales are donated to a local mission project.

If you would like to rent a space and be a part of this fun-filled day, please contact Dawn McCreary at 302.478.0876 or email [dwndel@aol.com](mailto:dwndel@aol.com).

## Red Bird Mission - Kentucky Sept 26-Oct 3, 2009

Various churches are returning to Red Bird this fall to do home repair work and they have a limited number of spaces available. Cost is \$255 plus travel expenses. If

your church supports a Red Bird missionary, this is a great opportunity to see where they work. We will be leaving from Red Lion UMC. Contact Eileen (eap314@aol.com) or Kevin (missionsc-

zar@aol.com) for more information. You can learn about Red Bird Mission by visiting [www.rbmission.org](http://www.rbmission.org).

## Pastor's Message Causes Kidney Stones

Just after leaving the Ash Wednesday service, a member of HUMC suffered the passage of a kidney stone. When interviewed, he said he was fine before the service began but started

having sharp back pains just after leaving the parking lot. He did not know what other conclusion there was except the message moved him in a special way and it was felt intensely.

## Dates To Remember

Friday, May 15th  
Clergy/Laity Banquet  
Dover, DE

June 9th & 10th  
African-American Summit  
Princess Anne, MD

## Bishop Johnson's Message of Hope



The United Methodist Church  
The Philadelphia Area Episcopal Office  
(Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula-Delaware Conferences)

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

P.O. Box 820  
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820

(610) 666-9090, ext. 233; (800) 828-9093, ext. 233  
FAX: (610) 666-9181



April 21, 2009

Greetings in the Name of the Risen Lord,

Grace and peace be with you during this Easter season where we remember once again that life is stronger than death and love will always overcome discouragement. Thank you, pastors and lay people of the Peninsula Delaware Conference for your faithful service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In the short time I have served here I have been overwhelmed with joy by the many missions and outreach ministries that you are doing to minister love and caring to people with financial difficulties. You are the presence of Christ for many and it is your faith in God that spurs you on to this sacrificial service in the face of the economic downturn.

The purpose of this letter is to let you know that the leadership of the annual conference is in partnership with you in ministry. As revenues have declined we have responded by rapidly cutting costs where possible and finding creative ways to fund essential ministries to those in need as we are called by God to do. For the longer term, we are exploring alternatives for significant expense reductions through restructuring. However, the work of the Lord is never downsized. As we adapt to new conditions and learn new ways to meet needs in mission, we know that God's grace is sufficient to meet all of our needs. We resurrection people make a way out of "no way" and continue working for the Lord with the same zeal and commitment. The world is full of negativity but we bring light and life. In Christ we can do all things.

We will continue our Healthy Church Initiative that resources churches for mission and ministry. Let us know how we can help you. We will continue to pray for you. The conference staff prays for 14 churches and pastors every week. We will continue to communicate with you and be responsive to your ideas and needs. The conference values our partnership with lay and clergy in all decision making in all levels of conference life.

This is a message of hope. In the midst of the economic crisis God is doing a new thing and is working for good. Jesus is in the midst of the storm with us and there is a bright future ahead. Bless you all for your leadership and faithfulness.

Sincerely,  
Peggy A. Johnson  
Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

"Our hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness."

## MORE THAN FIFTY WAYS TO MAKE YOUR PARISH ACCESSIBLE WITH LITTLE OR NO COST

### Revised edition March 2009 (6 - 14 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](http://www.pen-del.org) - for the entire list)

6. Think about converting two side by side bathrooms into one accessible unisex bathroom. Allow room enough for wheelchairs to turn around. Leave transfer space on both sides of the toilet. Make sure the toilet paper dispenser is close enough for easy reach by the person using the toilet. Make sure that sinks can be easily accessed by a wheelchair user, and do not forget to lower towel and soap dispensers so that they can be easily reached.
7. Provide a paper cup dispenser near your water fountain. This will transform an inaccessible fountain into one easily accessible to wheelchair users.
8. If any wheelchair users volunteer in your office, consider raising the height of desks and tables to 34 inches so that their wheelchair can fit under these surfaces.
9. Suggest that your parishioners who are hard of hearing sit toward the front of the nave so that they can easily see the preacher and lectors. Ask the preacher and lectors to speak clearly and slowly, looking frequently at the congregation. Make copies of the sermon available before the service as well as copies of the lessons to be read. People who are hard of hearing will find these materials especially helpful.
10. Install long-handled door hardware which is easier for everyone to use, especially those who have limited hand function.
11. Survey your sound system to ensure that it meets the needs of those who will depend on it. Let people who are hard of hearing test it for you and tell what adjustments are needed.
12. Apply brightly colored, textured strips at the top of all stairs. These strips alert people with limited vision that they are approaching stairs. People who are carrying things which block their vision will also appreciate this notice.
13. After every service, take the altar flowers and service leaflets to those who are shut-in or hospitalized.
14. Provide transportation to church for those who are elderly or without transportation.

## Conference Calendar of Events

May 2009		June 2009	
8-9	Conference Council on Youth Ministries Retreat, Denton, MD: Camp Mardela	19	Harrington: Prospect UMC, 8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
9	Board of Stewards Meeting, Centreville, MD: Camp Pecometh, 9:30 a.m.	20	Pre-Conference Orientation: Easton District, Federalsburg: Union UMC, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
11	Credit Union Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 1:30 p.m.	21	Equitable Compensation Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 3:00 p.m.
	Pre-Conference Orientation: Salisbury District, Berlin: St. Paul's UMC, 6:30-9:00 p.m.	21	Pre-Conference Orientation: Wilmington District, Marshallton UMC, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
12	Congregational Development Corporation Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 9:30 a.m.	21	Health Ministry Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.
	Black United Methodist Preachers Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 11:00 a.m.	23	Committee On Native American Ministries Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 9:00 a.m.
	Pre-Conference Orientation: Dover District, Dover: Whatcoat UMC, 6:30-9:00 p.m.	23	Black Methodists For Church Renewal Meeting, Dover: Whatcoat UMC, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
13	Board of Pensions Retirees Luncheon, Wild Quail Country Club, 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	25	Memorial Day Observance, BFEM Resource Center CLOSED
	Conference Board of Lay Ministries Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 7:00 p.m.	27	Volunteers In Mission Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 6:30 p.m.
14	Commission on Archives & History Meeting, Frederica: Barratt's Chapel, 10:00 a.m.		
	Advocacy Resource Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 2:00-4:00 p.m.	June 2009	
	Peter D. Weaver Partnership Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 6:30 p.m.	1	Committee on Clergy and Lay Leadership Meeting, Dover: Wesley UMC, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
15	Clergy-Laity Banquet, Dover: Whatcoat UMC, 6:00 p.m.	3	Spiritual Formation & Discipleship Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 1:00 p.m.
16	Conference United Methodist Men Annual Conference,	3	Spiritual Formation Task Force Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 3:30 p.m.
		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.
		16	Conference United Methodist Men Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 7:15 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	Volunteers In Mission Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 6:30 p.m.