



Communicator

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*“Jesus is never anything but ‘yes.’
No matter how many promises
God has made,
they are ‘yes’ in Christ.”
II Corinthians 1:19b-20a IB*



Dear Members of the Philadelphia Area:

Michael and I wish for all of you the blessings of God’s “Yes” during this holy season of Christmas. God’s message to the world is: “Yes, I love you!” “Yes, there is hope for your life!” “Yes, all things will work for good for those who love Me and are called according to My purpose!” “Yes, life is very good!”

It is our hope that each of us might respond to God’s “yes” in Jesus Christ with our own “yes” to all that God brings into our lives. Michael expressed the “yes” of Christmas with these words:

Yes! Yes! The Virgin said to God
As she accepted pregnancy.
Now all the world would wink and nod
Bearing her shame for all to see.

Yes! Joseph agreed with his God.
Pregnant Mary would be his bride.
Now all the world judged him a clod
with shame standing by Mary’s side.

Yes! Jesus agreed to be born
As Mary and Joseph’s small boy.
Now the world would treat him with scorn
As he shared their shame and their joy.

Yes! Is all Christ wants us to say
Our call today is just the same.
Now our world may reject his way
It is our joy to share Christ’s shame.

Join with us, in celebrating the “Yes” of Christmas, Jesus Christ our Lord. Sometimes the way of the Lord is a struggle but God goes with us. May the Lord bless us all in the coming year as we say “Yes” to God by opening our hearts to the blessing God wishes us to share with each other and the world.



Yes! Have a Merry Christmas
And a Blessed New Year!

Knowing your Neighborhood and Connecting with your Neighbors: Two Pathways of the Healthy Church Initiative

*“Stay on good terms with each other, held together by love. Be ready with a meal or a bed when it's needed. Why, some have extended hospitality to angels without ever knowing it.”
-Hebrews: 13:1-2, The Message*

for the work of invitation and hospitality?

These are critical questions as we endeavor to become healthier churches.



Rev. Dr. Sandra Steiner Ball

At December’s Vision Team Meeting, the Conference Evangelism and Outreach Team unveiled a plan for conference-wide radio advertising during December and again during the Lenten Season in an effort to invite persons into a relationship with Jesus Christ through our United Methodist Churches in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference. What a great idea! Intentionally, invite people to our churches, to our congregations. Invite people to Christ and into ministry and into the life of joy that God intends for each of God’s children! But, are we ready? That is the question that was asked. Are our churches really ready and willing to receive those persons who might respond to the invitation to come?

Make it your congregation’s goal to become a welcoming congregation or a more welcoming congregation. Want to know how to do this? Well, mark your calendars for Saturday, February 21 at Kent Island UMC. We will have three national trainers in our Conference to help churches become more welcoming and to better connect with our Neighbors and the Neighborhoods in which our congregations are housed. More information will be coming out soon - but save the date and intentionally plan to learn and implement a strategy for inviting, welcoming, and building radical hospitality.

If we are inviting people to come, we need to be ready and willing and prepared to receive them. We have to know why we are inviting people; and what we are serving to those being invited to come. What is your congregation doing to offer radical hospitality to those who are seeking a sanctuary in the midst of life’s challenges, or to those seeking to fill that empty space in their lives, or to those who are seeking meaning or purpose, or to those who are seeking healing for body, mind, or spirit, or to those seeking a community of Christ where they can live life in meaningful ways and be a part of transforming the world and building God’s Kingdom? How is your congregation prepared

In addition, if you have not picked up *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* by Robert Schnase, I would encourage you to do so. His first chapter deals with the practice of radical Hospitality and includes great conversation questions and a group activity that can help your congregation get on board and gear up to welcome those persons that will hear the invitation to come by radio, by TV, by personal invitation, or by movement of the Holy Spirit. Take the initiative and make the commitment to become a healthier and more welcoming congregation so that the joy of God’s Kingdom can be experienced as the real thing by more and more people this Christmas and in the New Year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the
Bishop Felton Edwin May Resource Center Staff

BOYD'S BLESSINGS:

These thoughts should arrive in your mailbox sometime shortly before the Sunday preceding Christmas (the Fourth Sunday in Advent). However, what with publication deadlines, I am composing this shortly before my family arrives for the feast we have come to call Thanksgiving.

I am beginning to devour a new series of commentaries on the Common Lectionary. It is entitled *Feasting on the Word*. In reflecting on Luke 1:26-38, the authors note that in the latter days of Advent "people are in the mood for miracles. The annunciation contains all of the ingredients needed to satisfy this yearning. An angel appears out of nowhere, and a virgin learns that she will defy nature and bear a child. To add to the abundance of wonder, the angel alludes to another noteworthy occurrence: a woman well beyond childbearing years is in the sixth month of a pregnancy. Beyond their exquisite mystery, these marvelous prospective births offer multiple layers of meaning for holiday churchgoers seeking encouragement and affirmation amid life's quandaries and questions."

When this article is published, our oldest daughter, Shelley, will have just celebrated a significant birthday. For me, this brings back a whole flood of memories. Back in March, Linda and I were preparing to meet with our pastor and members of Janes United Methodist Church in Rising Sun, Maryland at a called Charge Conference on Sunday following worship. We were about to declare our candidacy for the ordained ministry and were seeking the approval of the church's membership. But on Saturday morning, Linda shared some startling news: We were about to become parents! With a bit of nervous anxiety, I called my pastor, pleading to take a few minutes of his time on that Saturday. He immediately became

available to counsel and to pray with us. This was his counsel: Celebrate the impending birth, and continue in candidacy for the ordained ministry. I already held a secure position in corporate accounting. Should it be God's will that I continue there for at least another year, with health insurance provided, so be it. But should God provide a student appointment, it would include health insurance as well, including at that time full coverage for maternity!

Two months later, the Rev. Bill Hemphill, the Wilmington District Superintendent, called, offering a student appointment to two congregations eight miles from our home. We were preparing to celebrate our first Christmas with these churches. Early on a Saturday evening, Linda turned to me and announced, "It's time to go to the hospital." We drove there, and at 11:07 pm on that Saturday evening, Shelley Beth was born into the wonderful world God has created and declared good. I announced the joyous news in services hours later. By the way, those churches are named Shelemiah and Bethel. Thus, the origin of the name of our firstborn—Shelley Beth!

Today she serves the Lord in her calling as a social worker in a kidney dialysis center, and she plays the keyboard in a praise team in a new church start in Virginia. Her husband Paul is completing a twenty-year career in the U. S. Navy.

What a wonderful year that was, as we began pastoral ministry and enlarged our family with a special arrival, just in time for Christmas! May God grant you joy in this special season in your life, even "amid life's quandaries and questions."



Rev. Boyd Etter

Conley's United Methodist Church in Angola, Delaware, presented its Living Nativity on the weekend of December 12th, 13th and 14th. This is the eighth year for the event which has become a local Christmas tradition. They held it off Camp Arrowhead Road in Angola. The Sunday evening presentation was presented in both Spanish and English. Admission was free, ample free parking and golf carts to help the handicapped were made available each night. All donations of cash and canned goods will go to local charities.

Conley's UM Church Presents Living Nativity

The Living Nativity is a way for people to remember the birth of Jesus by walking through a recreation of the village of Bethlehem. The pageant included seventy-five actors portraying angels, the innkeeper, the wise men, shepherds, townspeople and even Roman soldiers complete with chariot.

Last year over two thousand people visited the Living Nativity. The money and food donated helped area charities and needy families. These organizations included the Crisis House, the Home of the Brave, the Henlopen Food Pantry and local shelters. The church makes no money on

this event. The scenery, costumes and children's gifts are created or donated entirely by members of Conley's UMC.

In addition to the Living Nativity, Conley's Church will have four candlelight worship services on Christmas Eve, Wednesday December 24th at 5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 8:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Conley's UMC regular worship times are 6:30 p.m. on Saturday nights and 8:45 and 10:30 on Sunday mornings. There are also active prayer and Bible study groups, as well as women's, men's and youth groups.

A Tug Of War On The Seaford Charge

Members and laity of the Seaford Charge are in a "tug of war" to save the children and youth of Mt. Hope and John Wesley United Methodist Church. Mike Hall, "The Worlds Strongest Man without Steroids," and other laity share Scripture from the lectionary every Sunday during worship service with the children. Scripture is interrupted so that the children can make the Word of God applicable in daily living. Application of life skills, self-esteem and safety precautions are also expounded upon during



"Children Time."

On the Seaford Charge the members and laity use every opportunity to prepare the children for discipleship and leadership in the church and community. A joint confirmation class was recently held on the Seaford Charge as both churches were able to confirm fourteen youth using the resource book "Claim The Name." Classes were rotated weekly between Mt. Hope and John Wesley using teachers and volunteers from both churches.

Church School is also a ministry held at John Wesley every Monday evening from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. to the children of the Seaford community.

The "Tug of War" continues on the Seaford Charge as children and youth are being prepared for ministry. The children are very



instrumental in worship service on every fourth Sunday. In addition, the children actively participate in the choir and as acolytes and ushers. The pastor and laity look forward to upcoming events such as life skills enrichment class that help our children with problem solving and daily living skills. A charge wide effort will be made to teach our children the importance of healthy eating habits and exercise. On the Seaford charge we try to promote a healthy lifestyle as well as a "Team Player For Christ" for our congregation.

Epworth Welcomes Boys & Girls Club

As we continue to live out our vision "to grow as a Christian community in service to the Rehoboth area," we are pleased to announce that Epworth UMC and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware have reached a partnership agreement to provide a safe, supervised and structured program for the children in the Cape Henlopen School District beginning January 5, 2009.

Results from a survey taken earlier this year in the Lewes-Rehoboth area identified a need for an alternate before and after-school child care program. The

Rehoboth Beach Boys and Girls Club will be prepared to meet this need for up to 60 children, ages 5 to 14, who will find assistance with their homework, fitness & recreation, arts & crafts, health & life skill development and character and leadership development.

Numerous hours of strategic planning and analysis of space requirements on the part of both partners have led us to this point of welcoming and opening our doors to this program. Many members of our congregation have boasted of being "a product of a Boys and Girls Club" and

Living Nativity in Hartly

is located at the crossroads of Routes 11 & 44 in Hartly. Twenty minutes before and after the Christmas Eve service youth, adults and live animals will por-

tray the Bethlehem scene of our Savior's birth. All are welcome to visit the Nativity scene. Worship is open to everybody.

District Pages: The Dover District Page is printed within the Peninsula-Delaware Conference Pages in the first issue of each month during the spring. The next several deadlines for the District Page will be December 19th (for the January 16th issue), January 23rd (for the February 13th issue), February 20th (for the March 13th issue), March 20th (for the April 10th issue), April 17th (for the May 8th issue), and May 15th for the June 5th issue. Please send your articles and photos (electronically whenever possible) to the District Editor, Marilyn Cleeton, at mcleeton@pen-del.org or regular mail at 139 N. State Street, Dover, DE, 19901.

live Nativity scene will be featured at Hartly UMC on Christmas Eve at the 8:00 p.m. Candlelight and Communion service. The church

From the D.S.

I write this the day after Thanksgiving, two days before the first Sunday of Advent. As an internet news junkie, I regularly check news on the internet. Thanksgiving Day was no different. Throughout the day, the tenor of the news didn't change: a hostage crisis in Mumbai, India, arrests being made in several murders and acts of violence, breath holding by retailers over what Black Friday may or may not do for their profits, threats of terrorism in our nation and around the world; pirates seizing ships; and then there is the economy. All of this is the perfect setting for the beginning of Advent and beyond. As the Body of Christ, we have an opportune time to both remind and declare anew the Good News of God's love that was shown in Jesus Christ. Mark's Gospel reading for the Sunday begins, "But in those days, following that distress..." (13:24-NIV). In earlier verses, Jesus describes distresses beyond comprehension. Today's headlines are certainly full of distresses to say the least. After some elaboration, and promising the return of the Son of Man, Jesus goes on to say, "You don't want him showing up unannounced, with you asleep on the job. I say it to you, and I'm saying it to all: Stay at your post. Keep watch." (13:37-The Message).

Businesses are trying to figure how to cut back in order to cut costs. In times such as these, it is natural and tempting to withdraw, cut back, back off, slow down, and even stop our ministry. The reflex is to take our eyes off of what we are all about, and focus on the nuts and bolts of our church operations. Instead of promoting Jesus Christ through our ministries, we begin to protect our assets, our budgets, our money makers, our buildings. We fall back to the familiar. We begin to live by fear and not by faith. We live by immediacy

and not by urgency. We live in a time that can easily produce complacency. There is no room for complacency in the church.

Jesus has not told the church to begin cutting back. The amount of ministry needed is always determined by the amount of need for ministry. While businesses need customers, the church needs to remember that God will always provide the resources needed for ministry. Check out II Corinthians 8 & 9.

Jesus' warning is to live with a sense of urgency. Urgency that we have a life changing message to proclaim. Urgency that the message we proclaim has eternal consequences. Urgency that proclaims hope in Christ, and the return of Christ. Urgency that moves us to action-now! Urgency that breaks our hearts when we see the massiveness of the "distresses" of our day. Jesus tells us to stand our watch; to faithfully work as hard as we can to spread the Good News. Don't stop, let up, give up, or quit. Whether it's through worship, inviting someone to accept Christ or come to church, a food pantry, shoe boxes, opening our facilities to the homeless for shelter, heating a room for a support group, an after-school program, sending support cards to shut ins, ministry within the local church, in the community or beyond the local church through mission giving such as apportionments, do it with a sense of urgency and eternity. Keep watch for every opportunity to proclaim Christ, to address a human need in the name of Christ, to offer an act or word of love and hope for Christ, to be the presence of Christ. Invite people to meet the newborn King. Blessings. Bill



Rev. Bill Sterling

Samaritan's Purse/Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. Since 1993, more than 61 million shoe boxes have been packed, shipped, and delivered



Rev. John Moore (Boz-
man-Riverview Charge)
and Alice Maye Montone

across the globe. People of all ages can be involved in this simple, hands-on missions project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas—Jesus Christ. For more information go to www.samaritanpurse.org.

The Easton District participated in this Mission Project, generating over 2,000 boxes! Some of the District churches that participated are: Bozman Charge – 74 boxes, First UMC/Chestertown – 75 boxes, Trappe-Bruceville – 68 boxes, St. Mark's/Easton – 127 boxes, KIUMC – 150 boxes, Rock Hall – 559 boxes, Olivet/Galena – 65 boxes, Harmony-Ames – 20/26 boxes, New Revived/Smithville – 5 boxes, Calvary-Asbury/Sudlers-



Rev. MaryAnne Farnell
(Dorchester Charge)

ville – 7 boxes, Goldsboro – 137 boxes, Federalsburg-Bloomery – 55 boxes, Vienna-Elliotts – 55 boxes, Dorchester Charge – 33 boxes, Zion/Cambridge – 22 boxes, Queenstown-Wye Charge – 41 boxes, Hurlock-Wesley Charge – 77 boxes, Bethesda/Preston – 64 boxes.

Community Thanksgiving Service Held in Sudlersville

The Sunday after Thanksgiving was a special day for the Sudlersville United Methodist Charge in Sudlersville, Maryland. This 3 point charge cancelled regular services in their three churches and moved to the local fire house to hold a Community Thanksgiving Service. The members of the local congregation joined forces with the members of Sudlersville Fire Company to hold this service and luncheon.

Regina Crossley and Wayne Larrimore opened the service with thanks to the local rescue workers for the call they have from God to provide an important service to our community. There are few that have not been touched in some way by their



lifesaving gifts. Pastor David Doraisingh made the analogy of the lives that we want to see saved through God's grace and the lives the fire fighters save through emergency rescue services. We are in the same business; saving lives!

Our service also was to show our thanks for the community's support in donations for the local food pantry. Our pantry gave out



complete Thanksgiving dinners to 66 families this year and the pantry is stocked for the winter. Five local schools along with several businesses donated to the food drive. Also, we gave thanks to the Calvary Asbury Youth Group who sponsored a "Minutes for Mally" program which provided over 20,000 minutes in phone cards to send to Mally Faust and his unit serving in Iraq. Mally's daughters are members of the Sunday School and Youth Group at Calvary Asbury.

Music during the service was



provided by the Tribbett Family, Tapestry, and the Calvary Asbury Choir. Pastor David used John 3:16 as the basis for his sermon which he called the numbers of hope. "When we believe John 3:16; when we love Jesus every day; when we decide to live and do whatever Jesus wants us to do, God gives us a new heart: HIS OWN HEART." (reprinted from sermon notes).

We had a wonderful luncheon after the service where our community reached out to each other in friendship and support. We really do have so much to be thankful for; we just aren't always aware of it.



Holiday Happenings

Christ UMC, Federalsburg, choir will be performing their Christmas Cantata/drama at the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, December 21st. (Rev. Karen Bongard, Pastor)

Christ UMC, Chestertown

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, 11:00 p.m.

(Rev. Willard Crossan, Pastor)

Christ UMC, Federalsburg

We will be holding a unique Candlelight service on Christmas Eve, at 7:00 p.m.

(Rev. Karen Bongard, Pastor)

District Page: The Easton District Page is printed within the Peninsula-Delaware Conference Pages in the first issue of each month. The next District Page will be printed in the January 16th issue. Please submit all photos and articles to the District Editor, Tonya Pinkett, (lamoree6075@aol.com) or the District Office by Friday, December 19th.

Young People's Ministry

What's new and different at this year's youth rally?

Thousands of junior and senior high school students and their leaders will descend upon the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City, Maryland January 9-11 for "The Missing Peace" youth rally. This is the 22nd annual youth rally for the Peninsula-Delaware Conference but there will be some things at this year's youth rally that will be new and different.

What's new this year: Online Registration

One of the biggest changes this year is something that most of the students who attend "The Missing Peace" won't even notice, but many pastors and group leaders already have. All of the registration for this year's event has taken place online. Though there have been a few hiccups, as there would be with the integration of any new system, the online registration process has made things easier for conference staff and group leaders alike. The new system helps leaders avoid mistakes (math and otherwise) that were common with the former paper registration system and allows notoriously last-minute youth-workers to register students up to the last second before a deadline, evidenced by the fact that nearly 2,000 people were registered for the event on October 15 alone, the last day of the early-bird registration period.

T-Shirts

Everyone who registered for the event by November 15 will receive a free t-shirt, just as they have in previous years. The difference is that this year, group leaders don't have to find out what size everyone wears and they don't even have to order

shirts ahead of time. Replacing the old system is a new t-shirt voucher that will allow each participant to choose the color and size of their shirt once they arrive at the event. Group leaders will be given a t-shirt voucher for each person in their group who was registered by November 15. The vouchers can be redeemed at the t-shirt stand in the exhibit hall and main hallway. T-shirts will be available for purchase after 1:00 p.m. on Saturday as extras or for those that missed the deadline.

Africa University Choir Tour gives everyone a chance to participate in a youth rally event

The worship leader for "The Missing Peace" is the Africa University Choir. This will be the first-ever winter tour in the United States for the choir, comprised of students from all over the continent. Wanting to share their gifts of music and ministry with as many people as possible, we have scheduled a choir concert for 4 p.m. on Saturday afternoon. This concert will be free and open to the public. Concert goers will also have the opportunity to check out "The Missing Peace" exhibit hall, where they will have the ability to shop and learn more about a variety of ministries. This is the only part of the youth rally that will be free and open to the public. You will need to register for the entire youth rally to participate in any other general sessions or seminars.

New partnership with Asbury College provides unique seminars and scholarship opportunity:

Asbury College, a Christian liberal arts college in Wilmore, Kentucky is partnering with us to sponsor two seminars on the teachings of C.S. Lewis. Dr.



Shane Hinderliter

Devin Brown and Professor Greg Bandy, faculty members of the C.S. Lewis Study Center at Asbury, will offer the two elective seminars on Saturday afternoon.

The college has also signed on as a co-sponsor of the "Spittin Da Word" student preaching competition. "Spittin Da Word" has been a part of three previous youth rallies. Participating churches are invited to enter one student in the competition. Students who compete prepare a five-minute message based on one of several pre-selected topics. The students compete before a panel of three judges and the winning student gets to share his or her message from the main stage on Sunday morning. The winning student receives a \$500 grant for his or her youth ministry, sponsored by Mission of the Master Ministries. In addition to the grant, which has been provided in year's past, this year's winner will also receive a \$1,000 scholarship should they choose to attend Asbury College after their graduation from high school.

If you have any questions regarding the youth rally, please contact Shane Hinderliter (shinderliter@pen-del.org) or Penny Carney (pcarney@pen-del.org). Either can be reached by phone at 302.674.2626.



Jack Brooks

Planting the seeds of stewardship in our Church brings many of the same challenges as gardening.

If you have a bad environment in which to grow stewardship, or an economic drought, you may not get the harvest that you anticipate

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From Your Wesley College Chaplain

We are in a time of anticipation. It is Advent where we look forward to celebrating the birth of the Lord Jesus and to his coming again. Barack Obama is putting together his team and everyone is eagerly anticipating what he will do to solve ALL of the world's ills. Finally, your College is working on its strategic plan. Wesley is on a firmer financial footing than it has been in its past and its facilities are a quantum leap above what they have been. Now it is time to define the direction that will best minister to the needs and aspirations of our core constituency – our students. A number of themes are beginning to emerge out of the College's initial work on its plan:

- 1. Develop a compelling story** – Wesley College will be sharing in fresh ways what we are doing for our students.
- 2. Develop the student's learning experience** – Your College will be working towards the goal of a community that includes the classroom, what is traditionally known as student life and all other dimensions of student experience. Learning comes in many ways.
- 3. Determine how we will grow** – We will be working on growing our student body that increases not only the number of students but to make sure that the quality



Rev. Mark Pruett-Barnett

of their experience grows as well. **4. Align resources, partnerships, and support** in a way that we can do all that we can do effectively for our students.

The challenge remains for the Conference to help the College do this from a Christian perspective that embraces a diverse student body in a rapidly shifting culture and society. That is no easy task! But it is something that the Conference can do in order to fulfill its hospitable outreach through education to our region, our nation and our world.

Your brother in Christ,
Mark

Rev. Mark Pruett-Barnett
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CARE Team Concerns –

Do You Know Who Your CARE Team Is?

by Rev. Sally Dolch

The United Methodist Church has firm rules against clergy sexual misconduct and church leaders are trained to respond swiftly to complaints. In the Pen-Del Conference, the CARE Team is the sexual ethics Response Team. When boundaries and relationships, sacred to the clergy office and authority, are violated through sexual behavior, truth-telling in the form of allegations are brought forth. Contacting the CARE Team is one of two possible ways to initiate the process of making an allegation. The other way is to contact your District Superintendent.

Once an allegation is made, the Bishop and District Superintendent commence a formal intervention which generally includes CARE Team support for the alleged victim, the congregation, and the alleged offender. To learn more about this process, log on to www.pen-del.org, scroll over MINISTRIES and click on CARE Team. There you will

find full copies of the Pen-Del Sexual Ethics Policy, the CARE Team brochure, the Pen-Del Safe Sanctuaries Policy, and the Safe Sanctuaries Checklist required of every church.

Under the leadership of Team Convener, Rev. Cindy Koski, the Pen-Del CARE Team recently welcomed new members and set a day apart for trust building and training in state of the art response team practices. If you have questions or need more information, call a member of the CARE Team. Their contact information is found on the CARE Team brochure.



(Pictured from left to right: Gil Hoffman, Rev. Patty Frick, Rev. Tim Duffield, Rev. Alice Ervin, Rev. Jack Shitama, Rev. Cindy Koski, Rev. Rudy White, Rev. Cheryl Jensen, Rev. Sally Dolch, Jeff Kelchner)



Give Thanks This Season for Stewardship

Over the past few summers I have tried my best to become a better gardener. I feel drawn to this pastime because my Grandfather was a wonderful gardener well into his 80's. I remember as a child looking through his seed catalog, the one with the funny name "Burpee." It would arrive late in the winter and rest beside his easy chair along with notes and drawings as he planned for the summer to come.

Each spring he would excitedly sow some special seeds, just with his grandchildren in mind, and in the fall we would be treated to an amazing harvest of some wonderful surprise. I remember over the years we had pumpkins, peanuts, popcorn, and some vegetables in strange colors. How special we all felt because he grew them just for us! Not every summer of his long life was good for growing, and the harvest was not always as planned. But for my Pop-Pop it was about the joy he felt as we shared in his harvest and expressed our thanks to him with hugs.

Interfaith Resource Center

January Means Vacation Bible School Workshops

The days are getting longer, though not by much yet, but now is the time to attend a VBS workshop and get with the music! Cokesbury's Madeline Beall and I will team up again for a look at the themes coming your way in 2009. If you haven't been to an IRC sponsored VBS workshop before, here is what you are missing. We will present an overview of all the major publishers' offerings, listen to the music, and compare the scripture references and prices. This is a great time to ask questions and compare notes with others who will be leading VBS at other churches. Madeline will provide a display and easy order forms to purchase what you need at amazing Value Days discount prices! Our first workshop will be held at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, home of the Interfaith Resource Center, on Saturday, January 17 from 9:30 a.m. to noon. On Saturday, January 31, 9:30 a.m. to noon, we will be in Dover at Wesley UMC and on Sunday, February 1, we will be at St. Mark's UMC in Easton from



Paula Hartzell

2-4:30 pm. The cost is \$5 per person; \$10 for 3 or more persons. Register by phoning toll-free at 800.336.6152 or in New Castle County at 302.477.0910 or e-mail us at resource.ctr@dol.net.

Check out our website

If you haven't visited our website at www.interfaithresource-center.com recently, you may have missed something that we think is exciting. For a long time we have worked to provide a full online record of every item in our collection. But now we are set to make your request even easier. Browse our online catalog and when you have found something that interests you, click on the shopping cart. It will begin your list for check out. Browse to your heart's content, adding other

items to your cart. Then when you are ready, click on the check out button. You will be prompted to a page to fill in your contact information. All done? Submit request. We will contact you within 24 hours to let you know if the items are available and when to expect them. And, of course, we mail the items to you free of charge. Can't get any better than that!

New Resources

Midlife Manual for Men: Finding Significance in the Second Half is a small-group study by Stephen Arterburn and John Shore with Eric Stanford. The 7-session DVD-study with accompanying book and workbook is all your men's group needs to confront the stereotypes and taboos of the middle years. The study examines honestly the issues childhood and early adulthood that may have shaped each man's character and spirituality and provides the exact raw material necessary for shaping their future. Good men's resources are hard to find. I recommend that you consider this resource just right!

NOTICE TO TREASURERS - FINANCIAL SECRETARIES - YEAR END DEADLINE FOR REMITTANCES & CLERGY BENEFIT PAYMENTS:

Financial year 2008 ends December 31, 2008. Final 2008 Remittances & Clergy Benefit (Pension & Insurance) payments must be received by the Business Office no later than Monday, January 5, 2009, in order to receive credit in 2008. To insure proper credit, please DO NOT use the postal service for 2008 remittances after December 27, 2008. The Bishop Felton Edwin May Resource Center will be closed from December 31, 2008 until January 2, 2009; however, there is a mail drop in the front door of the building if you wish to hand deliver your final remittance. If you have any questions, please call the Business Office at (302) 674-2626. Thank you for your cooperation.

Also note that the IRS has announced the mileage rate for 2009 to be 55 cents per mile.

SUBSTANTIATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS:

Remember to provide statements for donor substantiation for 2008. The rules effect single contributions totaling \$250 or more. A written acknowledgement of the contribution must be provided by the church. The donors canceled check will no longer be sufficient to substantiate a contribution of this size.

The acknowledgement must include:

1. The donor's name.
2. A listing of each individual contribution of \$250 or more.
3. A description of any non-cash

property contributed.

4. A statement that no goods or services were provided to the donor in exchange for the contribution. It is suggested that all church statements reflecting money contributions, such as quarterly giving reports, contain the following disclaimer:

"Pursuant to Internal Revenue Code requirements for substantiation of charitable contributions, United Methodist Church provided no goods or services in return for these contributions."

The written acknowledgement must be provided to the donor prior to the date on which the donor's tax return is filed or prior to the due date for filing, whichever is earlier.

Find Yourself a Tailor

By Fa Fields

(Spiritual Formation Team)

In a recent sermon, Pastor Beverly Lewis at Aldersgate talked about how we need to put on our good clothes, that is, our Christ clothes first before we dress for the day. Before you

consider what your tasks are for the day, or whom you'll be meeting and trying to influence, you should first consider whether you have put on the image of Christ. Then she said, if we don't have any of those clothes that fit, then we need to get to a tailor!

While the ultimate tailor would be Christ, another place to help you get alterations done is in your group of intimate friends. You know who they are; the ones who call you when you're down. The ones who are Christian friends who pray hard for you when you're in need. They are also the friends who question you

Cokesbury Connection

"So, what do you want for Christmas?" What child doesn't love to hear those words? They bring a smile and a giggle to every face without exception...and usually a list! When they get a little older they will know that the gifts we give at Christmas are to remind us of the gift of Jesus that God gave to us.

To help you with your Christmas shopping, please visit www.cokesbury.com to see all the beautiful and meaningful gifts for all the children, youth and adults on your list.

Select children's seasonal books are 30-50% OFF, gift Bibles for Mother, Caregiver, Birthday, Marriage and Caregiver are 20-35% OFF, Nativity Cross Ornaments and special figurines are also on sale. Pew Cushions and church furniture are 15% OFF



Madeline Beall

until Jan. 31, 2009.

Not too soon to think ahead to Vacation Bible School...purchase your Cokesbury's Camp EDGE VBS Starter Kit by Dec. 31st and get a FREE leader's ball cap.

Cokesbury...here to help you and your church worship and celebrate the Season!

Madeline Beall
Cokesbury Consultant
1.877.792.5410
mbeall@cokesbury.com

Message From Your Conference Lay Leader

Oh, give thanks unto the Lord for He is worthy to be praised.

A special thank you to the following churches for allowing me the opportunity to stand in their pulpit. Rev. Bruce Miller - St. Matthew's by the Sea while he was away, Rev. George Fisher - Friendship:Millsboro on Laity Sunday, St. Luke's in Hebron an invitation from past Conference Lay Leader Gene Cray to be a part of their mission Sunday, and Brother Al Govatos from the Harrington Prayer Breakfast. What a wonderful experience to be able to share God's word with my brothers and sisters.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Baby Jesus let us not forget the real reason for the season. We will find ourselves busy with purchasing and wrapping gifts, baking cookies, and mailing Christmas cards but let's not forget to thank God for his continuous blessings. Let's share the best gift of all, the love of Jesus Christ with the last, the least, and the lost.

2009 is a year for all of us to

when they see you doing things that seem "less than Christian," or at least not "what Jesus would do."

Many of us have friends within our church community, yet we don't allow them the intimacy of the Christian circle. We sit on committees and task forces together, sing in the band or serve as communion stewards for our

make changes. The United Methodist church can lead the way by sharing our faith stories with others. I am asking you to include in your daily prayers our Pastors and their families. We are reminded in Galatians 5:22-23 to cultivate the fruits of the Spirit. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." As we boldly proclaim the message of God's love, let the body of Christ strive to build up not tear down, to show the love rather than hate and a to daily pray for each other.

From the Gooch Family we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Peace, Grace & Love,
Betty M. Gooch
Conference Lay Leader



Betty M. Gooch

community. But I suggest that it's when you are able to get past the nice conversation into the "how is it with your soul" conversation, that you pass through a thin veil of intimacy where we meet Christ. I think of this as meeting Christ, one person at a time.

Deitrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran

Continued on Page 8

TOUCHED by the HEART of
SALISBURY

It had been a full morning. The children from Kid's Café (One of SUM children's programs) and I had gone to the nursing home to escort patients down to the indoor yard sale. The morning had passed quickly and now I was on my way to spend the afternoon with my family. But I made one last stop before going home. I checked in to see how things had gone at God's Kitchen (SUM Saturday feeding program).

Upon arrival the pastor who hosted the meal for that day told me a gentleman was looking for me. "He wants to wash a load of clothes," he said. I told the pastor the Center was closed today because we took the kids to the nursing home. As I was leaving a man standing on the sidewalk outside said, "I'm looking for Rev. Bell." I said, "What do you need?" He said, "I need to wash some clothes. I'm going into the hospital tomorrow morning and I have no clean clothes." I said, "The Center is closed today" and then I walked away.

As I crossed the street to go to my car the man said, in a voice that seemed to come from deep down on the inside of his belly, "I'M LOOKING FOR REV. BELL." I turned and looked at him and said, "I'm Rev. Bell." He said, "I know!"

Well to make a long story short he told me his name was Richard and that he was going into the hospital tomorrow morning at 6:00 a.m. I asked for proof and he didn't have any proof. He had left everything back at his tent in the woods he told me.

Something inside of me convinced me that he was telling the truth so, reluctantly, I took him inside the Center and started the machine to wash his clothes. I said little because deep down inside I was angry and maybe it wasn't as deep down as I thought. I sat on a table next to the office door thinking to myself of all the things I wanted to do this afternoon. I could hear his voice in the background but I wasn't listening to him. As I sat on the table something said to me, "What if this man is Jesus." I laughed out loud. Then I looked at Richard and said to myself, "What if this is Jesus." It so funny, just as I was thinking this Richard said, "I've been to Korea." My thought in that moment was, "What country hasn't Jesus been to?" So, I said, "I know you have" and then I said, "How did you find the people in Korea (whispering silently to myself, "Jesus"). I spent the rest of the afternoon with Richard reminding myself that this could be Jesus. Mother Teresa and

St. Peter de Betancurt (a 17th century missionary), spent their lives looking into the eyes of ordinary human beings and seeing the face of Jesus.

As we approach the Christmas holidays it is so easy for us to see Christ in the manger. It is so easy for us to see him and hear him as church bells ring and choirs sing the familiar carols and hymns of the holiday season. Yet, it is a little more difficult to see him in the interruptions that change our plans. Interruptions like the homeless man or woman, the family evicted from their home standing at our door, or the mother sleeping with her small children in the rear of her car. Yet, they all reflect the image of Christ.

His image is stamped upon each face. His breath is in each soul. His voice cries out to you and me asking daily if there is room in our hearts for him who is dressed in torn and tattered clothing; room in our hearts for those who are broken by misfortunes; room in our hearts for those who are poor, hungry and homeless. May we recognize the Christ as he reveals himself to us this holiday season.

Merry Christmas to all and a New Year filled with blessings!

Bishop Johnson's 'Day on the District' Biggest Turn-Out To Date

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson spent Wednesday, November 12th on the Salisbury District visiting with clergy and laity.

In the morning Bishop Johnson and Salisbury District Superintendent, Rev. Charlotte Nichols, met with the district clergy at the Korean Mission church where she shared her faith journey. At the end of their time together they



shared a traditional Korean meal.

That evening St. John's UMC in Fruitland where Rev. Paul Sherwood pastors, hosted the evening with the laity. The church members of St. John's went above and beyond with a very nice variety of food and desserts for those that came to meet our new bishop.

Bishop Johnson began the evening by playing the piano for the first hymn. She then shared with the largest group to gather since she started having these district days about her first few minutes after learning she was going to be serving the Philadelphia Area (includes the Peninsula-Delaware and the Eastern Pennsylvania



Conferences). Born and raised in the Baltimore, Maryland area, she was delighted to learn that she wasn't moving too far from her home and that she would still be able to work in the state of Maryland.

After addressing the group the bishop answered a few questions and thanked the district for the opportunity to serve with them in Christian Ministry.

St. Stephen's United Methodist Church Delmar, DE Walking Across America!

By: Jamee Elliott

At St. Stephens, Peggy Moore, head of our Healthy U and Weekly Walking Group, is tracking our Walk across America. In our congregation, we have families and individuals tracking the steps they take in our walk across America. Each day they track their steps with their trusty pedometers and the numbers are recorded each week by Peggy. She has poster boards in our church hall of our journey and we can visually see the steps we are taking toward bettering our health and wellness.

In total, we have over 34 participants, and to date, we have walked a combined total of 134,500 miles. Wow!

24 Walkers are currently walking toward the Pacific Ocean. They are in: Maryland, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, Kansas, Utah, Nevada, and California. 10 Walkers are on their way back home (to Delaware and Maryland); they are in: California, Nevada, Colorado, and Kansas. We are very proud of our healthy walking activities and cannot wait until everyone has made it across America. Get yourself and your loved one a pedometer for Christmas and track your healthy steps together!

Job Well Done

On Saturday, October 11, 2008, 14 students from the Wesley Foundation at Salisbury University provided community service work at Samuel Wesley United Methodist Church in Manokin, Maryland where Rev. Bernadette Beckett is the pastor.

The students volunteered to provide this service as a way of showing the church their appreciation for embracing them in Sunday morning worship and at other services and events. The students cleaned the inside of the church and pruned and cut bushes in the cemetery. Mr. Herbert Cottman, Chairperson of Trustees, worked with them and



supervised them as they were working. Prayer was held before and after completion of the work.

Mr. Cottman was extremely pleased with the students' performance and stated that it was a job well done.



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From the D.S.

On Saturday, November 8, 2008, the pastors and lay members from our Wilmington District gathered for the annual Wilmington District Conference Session.

The session began with prayer, scripture, reflection and Holy Communion. This time of worship was followed by the business portion of our time together.

We heard reports from the Wilmington District Committee on Urban Center Ministries (WDCUCM), the Wilmington District Board of Laity, the Wilmington District Council, the Wilmington District Nominating Committee and A Challenge to support the "Nothing But Nets" Ministry.

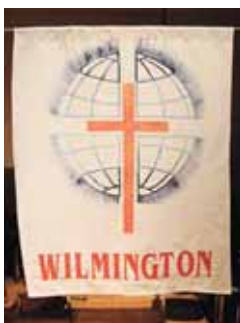
In response to the report from the Wilmington District Committee on Urban Center Ministries, it was moved, seconded and passed (54-2) that the Wilmington District Committee on Urban Center Ministries distribute in 2009 a minimum of \$20,000 drawn from principal, if needed, or 80% of 2008 net investment income whichever is greater and that any monies drawn from the principal in 2009 be granted to United Methodist organizations only. It was the consensus of the body that the calendar year for the WDCUCM's distributions be reviewed and adjusted.

The Wilmington District Council announced the availability of short-term grants for local congregations engaged in "joint and/or inter-congregational" ministries. Application forms were distributed and discussed.

Karen Bunnell (Elkton UMC Church) was elected to serve on the Nominating Committee in the class of 2011. Continuing to serve are Darlean Ashley (Simpson UMC Church), Sophia Evans (Brandywine Community UMC Church) and Jack Shitama (Director of Camping and Retreat Ministries) in the class of 2009, and Sharon Fowler (Cornerstone UMC Church), Albert Gaither (Buttonwood UMC Church) and Alan Jones (Connection UMC

Church) in the class of 2010.

Charles Galloway (Asbury UMC Church, New Castle) and Vaughan Hayden (Hopewell UMC Church) were elected to serve on the Wilmington District Council in the class of 2011. Continuing to serve are David Jones (Brandywine Community UMC Church) and Amy Yarnall (Chesapeake City UMC Church) in the class of



2009 and Betty Tull (Marshallton UMC Church) and Jeremias Rojas (Christiana UMC Church) in the class of 2010.

Allie Carr (Mt. Salem UMC Church at Rockford Park/previously a member of Silverbrook UMC Church), John Holden (Mt. Salem UMC Church at Rockford Park/previously a pastor of Silverbrook UMC Church) and Pearl Johnson (Coleman Memorial UMC Church) were elected to serve on the Wilmington District Committee on Urban Center Ministries in the class of 2011. Gary Meekins (Chester Bethel UMC Church) was elected to serve in the class of 2010 along with Patricia Bryant Harris (Marshallton UMC Church) and Darlene Webb (Ezion-Mt. Carmel UMC Church). Continuing to serve in the class of 2009 are Richard Kiger (Mt. Salem UMC Church at Rockford Park/previously a member of Silverbrook UMC Church), Provey Powell (Cokesbury UMC Church) and Yvonne Younger (Buttonwood UMC Church).

As we move into the New Year, please keep these persons, who are engaged in these District ministries, in your thoughts and prayers.

Your Partner in Ministry,
William M. Fitzhugh

Lay Academy Set For Spring 2009

The Wilmington District Lay Academy will begin the week of April 20, 2009 and conclude the week of May 18, 2009. Sessions will be held at

Christ UMC in Elsmere on Mondays, Elkton UMC on Thursdays, and Union UMC (Bear, DE) on Saturdays. Please consider attending the Spring Lay Academy.

Wilmington District Clergy Hold Banquet

By Carole Dobson

Despite a damp, dreary and somewhat foggy night Friday, November 14th, the Wilmington District Clergy Dinner event was a huge success. Cokesbury Village always treats us like royalty and the food and entertainment were excellent. Evelyn Swensson, former Chancel Choir Director at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, provided a delightful presentation - her famous portrayal of Maria Von Trapp from the Sound of Music. Piano accompani-



ment was provided by Ms. Ruth Stovecek. A good time was had by everyone who attended. A special 'Thank You' goes out to Chaplain Leslie Slak who was our gracious host!

(Editor's Note: Cokesbury Village, located in Hockessin, is one of four current residential facilities within Peninsula United Methodist Homes. The others are located in Wilmington, Seaford and Heron Point in Maryland)



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Methodist Country House Re-Establishes Choir

The Spiritual Life Committee at the Methodist Country House in Wilmington is very happy to announce that their choir has been started once again. They are holding regular rehearsals and singing in the Sunday morning worship service on a regular schedule.

As co-chairs of the Spiritual Life Committee, Clara Feucht and Rev. Kay Benson recall that there was a choir several years ago that was led by a resident however, due to health reasons, she was not able to carry on and the choir disbanded.

After much planning they were able to find a new director and are delighted, once again, to have an active choir.

All residents of the Methodist Country House are encouraged to be a member of the group. There

are no auditions - just come to have fun singing and praising God through music.



**Choir Members: Left to Right Back Row: Ken Wilson, Charles Parks, Ellis Stern, Tom Charles and James Corle
2nd Row: Catherine Ridgeway, Elyn Schmitz, Joanna Kelly, Inge Parks and Joann hench
Front Row: Bea Linton, Jane Greter, Lee Brownell, Anne Redd, Dottie Bergman and Olive Cook**

NEWARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH—
NEW BROWNIE TROOP GETS A GREAT START

By Lys Murray

Newark United Methodist Church has long sponsored scouting troops—but its newly-formed Brownie Troop 678 has gotten off to a particularly impressive start. In October, the troop was working on their "Wave the Flag" Try-It badges. Unfortunately, this new troop did not yet have a flag, so a volunteer would "be the flag" at each meeting—the girls recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag on her uniform.

Clearly, something needed to be done. So the troop wrote to Senator Joe Biden to ask for a flag, and an envelope full of lovely decorated cards was mailed

to him. Shortly afterward, Troop Leader Jen Laning received a phone call from the Senator's office. To her surprise, the Senator's aide explained that they were going to provide the troop with a flag that had been flown over the Capitol of the United States!

The flag arrived a week later, and it began its career with the Brownies in a special presentation at a combined meeting with their brother Cub Scouts, Pack 255. Also in attendance were NUMC's Rev. David Palmer and a representative of the Girl Scouts of Chesapeake Bay Council.

With this kind of energy and excitement, we know that



Brownie Troop 678

Brownie Troop 678 is here to stay. They have great plans for future meetings, and want to make an impact on our community by performing community service and finding ways to learn more about the world we live in.

Newark UMC is proud to have them!

Camping and Retreat Ministries

Easton & Salisbury District Banquets Re-Scheduled

The Pecometh Tradition & Transformation Capital Campaign has made a strategic decision to postpone the Easton District Banquet from March 28, 2009 to September 12, 2009, 6pm at the Crystal Q in Easton. Consequently, the Salisbury Banquet will now be held on Friday, November 13, 2009, 7pm at the Fountains and the Ocean City Banquet will be Sunday, November 15, 2009, 2pm at the Clarion Fontainebleau.

The decision was based on a recommendation by Capital Campaign Consultant, Don Goehner, principal of The Goehner Group. While there has been a deep sense that this effort requires faith that God will provide, there was also a discernment that one thing God has provided Pecometh is a consultant who has

decades of experience working on capital campaigns. As Mr. Goehner said, "I've worked on over 50 campaigns and I've never had one that didn't have a mid-course adjustment." His advice led to the following conclusions:

- Given the uncertain state of the economy, waiting until Fall 2009 for the next banquet increases the likelihood of a successful campaign
- It has been 3 years since the project was originally priced, the postponement will allow time to re-price the project and, therefore, know what additional funding will be needed
- A challenge goal can then be set for the campaign, as well as a strategy to achieve that goal based on updated pricing
- Pecometh will seek annual conference approval in June 2009 for the updated pricing and campaign goal

•While this may delay the start of construction until Summer 2009, it would still enable Pecometh to begin adult retreat ministry in 2010

The Tradition & Transformation Campaign Team remains encouraged by the progress of this effort. To-date, nearly 500 donors have committed over \$1.2 million toward the \$2.2 million dollar goal. With three banquets remaining, the campaign is clearly on track for success.

Become a Pecometh Ambassador

Are you passionate about your Pecometh experiences? Would you like to help spread the word so that young people can have a Pecometh summer camp experience? If your answers are "YES!" then you're just the person we're looking for to become a Pecometh Ambassador. Ambassadors commit to

a half-day training on Saturday, January 17, 2009 where we will teach you everything you need to know about Camp Pecometh and give you a really cool Ambassador shirt. We'll also provide you with promotional materials and guidance to develop a promotion plan. You go back to your church/community and start promoting summer camp. We'll even send staff and/or volunteers to help you with any events that you decide to schedule. This year was our first year of the Pecometh Ambassador program and we believe it was one of the factors in our increased summer camp enrollment. Help us to make that possible for 2009, as well.

For more information, contact Jack Shitama at 410.556.6900, x101 or jack@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 that day. For more information, contact Jack Shitama at 410.556.6900, x101 or jack@pecometh.org.

Summer Staff Applications Available

We're looking for young adults who love Jesus to be a part of the 2009 Summer Staff. This is a fabulous opportunity to impact children for Jesus, hang out with 70+ other Christian adults AND get paid. Go to the staff section at www.pecometh.org for more information and to download an application or apply online. Contact Richelle Darrell at 410.556.6900, x103 or richelle@pecometh.org for more information.

Eastern Pennsylvania - Peninsula Foundation - Continued from Page 4

when you first plant the seeds. Does this mean we should never plant the seeds of stewardship? Should we give up the garden because we can't always be successful? If we did we would miss the generational joy of sharing our Church and its history with others.

Anyone who has served on a stewardship committee or heard a

sermon on stewardship understands why it is necessary for the Church to have financial security and an endowment for the future. It's like canning vegetables; you do it for when a fresh crop might not be available.

We should also recognize that stewardship is part of the Church's multi-generational life.

We must plant some financial seeds today for our growth into

the future. The church family that came before us planned, endowed, and financially secured the church for us. They made certain some seeds were available and planted them with us in mind. Today we are responsible for adding to our financial security and must pass this lesson on to others. It is our turn to feel the joy of sharing our harvest of abundance for the financial security of our Church.

As we pause to reflect on this unusual economic year that has passed, I suggest we take a moment to give thanks and prayers for those who cared enough to plant the seed of stewardship in our Church. Let's give thanks for the many generations before us that have gifted to endowments for the transformation of our Church. They planted seeds never knowing how the crops would come in. I am certain there

were times that it was economically difficult. But they planted because if they didn't, failure was a certainty.

May you be blessed with a harvest of abundance and joy that you will forever share with others.

Continued from Page 5 "Find Yourself A Tailor"

pastor in the Nazi era wrote these words: "Whoever cannot stand being in community should beware of being alone. You are called into the community of faith, the call was not meant for you alone. You carry your cross, you struggle, and you pray in the community of faith, the community of those who are called..." If you neglect the community of other Christians, you reject the call of Jesus Christ, and thus your being alone can only become harmful for you." (Life Together)

Do you know the story of the self confident Emperor who wears his new invisible clothes out in public? He decided to believe the ruse that his outer clothing was so special that people couldn't see through them. Perhaps we should find ourselves in the Christian community, who can help us put on clothes that are becoming of Christ's followers. Give yourself a gift by joining a new small group. And, find yourself a tailor.

REMINDER:
Bishop's Mid-Winter
Retreat is
January 13-15, 2009
Guest Speaker: Rev.
Taylor Burton-Edwards

Conference Calendar of Events

December 2008

24-26 & 31 Merry Christmas- BFEM Resource Center Closed

- January 2009
- 1 Happy New Year-BFEM Resource Center CLOSED
- 2 BFEM Resource Center CLOSED
- 5 Board of Ordained Ministry Executive Committee Meeting, Salisbury: Wesley Temple, 9:30 a.m.
- 6 Wesley Foundation-Delaware State University Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
- 8 Resource Development & Management Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 9:30 a.m.
Advocacy Resource Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- 10 Certified Lay Training, Wesley College, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- 9-11 22nd Annual Youth Rally, Ocean City, MD: Roland E. Powell Convention Center
- 13 Black United Methodist Preachers Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 11:00 a.m.
- 13-15 Bishop's Mid-Winter Clergy Retreat, Ocean City, MD: Clarion Hotel
- 17 Black Methodists For Church Renewal Meeting, Dover: Whatcoat UMC, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- 19 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance, BFEM Resource Center Closed
- 21 Christian Service Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center
Volunteers In Mission Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 6:30 p.m.

James M. Scott Becomes a John Wesley Fellow

On Sunday August 31, 2008, at the Replanted Zion (Ridgely) United Methodist Church, James M. Scott became a fellow in the Society of John Wesley. The Society of John Wesley is a fellowship of individuals committed to the support and expansion of the United Methodist Men's ministries. Fellows in the Society of John Wesley are known by their witness, vision and stewardship that enhance and strengthen the mission and ministry of the church.

We of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference are honored to welcome James M. Scott into the Society of John Wesley. In recognition of this honor James received a pin and a plaque. The presentation was made by Charles Brummell, Jr., President of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference United Methodist Men (UMM). Charles stated, "To know James M. Scott is inspirational. His smile is contagious, his integrity and honesty is unquestionable. The self given

of himself is remarkable. James



is a man of wisdom and a free spirit that has inspired us collectively. He has, from day one, encouraged me to try to excel as a leader and as your conference president. He is my friend, your friend and a Christian Brother in Christ Jesus. He is wise and we love him for himself."

James M. Scott has been involved with the UMM on the Ridgely-Marydel Charge for over 35 years and has served as the musician for the Peninsula-Delaware Conference UMM's annual retreat since 1978. It is at these retreats that men are brought closer to Christ. There are many factors which contribute to bringing one closer to Christ at Camp Pecometh. One of these is surely the music of James M. Scott.