



Communicator

an edition of

The United Methodist Reporter

The Healthy Church Initiative

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



CARE TEAM
Article
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2009 Annual Conference

June 11, 12, 13
(Thursday-Saturday)

University of Maryland-Eastern Shore

Princess Anne, MD

Spring Comes Early in New Orleans

Recently I spent a few days with a hurricane relief work team of the Black United Methodist Pastors of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference to New Orleans. I was impressed that spring had already arrived in Louisiana. That is because this state is further south and the springtime warmth has come upon them sooner. Some of our spring flowers that are not up yet have already bloomed in Louisiana and the grass is a rich color of green. But there was more than just spring foliage to be seen there. There was a sense of resurrection in the lives of people ... people in ministry and mission who came to give and to receive the work teams. According to the United Methodist work team coordinator there are more than 400 volunteers every week in New Orleans repairing homes that were damaged during Hurricane Katrina. The work team coor-

ordinator told us that people there were very appreciative of the volunteer help because it helps remind those who have suffered so much that God is still with them. He said that home owners come into this office every week, sometimes in tears because they fear that they will be deserted and no one will ever come to help them. Many service organizations have already left and the US Government plans to stop funding many of the relief efforts at the end of June. Hopefully the United Methodist teams will keep coming to bring spring and hope and resurrection.

Indeed the hardest thing in life is being deserted. Jesus hung on the cross and cried "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" In this world there are many people who feel that way. They are left alone after disasters, illness, divorce, permanent disability, and the death of loved ones.

One of the greatest gifts you can give is yourself. Be present with people in times of suffering and loneliness. You don't even have to say much. You don't have to answer the theological questions around human suffering and a loving God. Being there is a sign of the presence of Christ and it goes a long way to helping bring "spring" into the lives of lonely people. At the service the work team attended on Sunday morning the pastor at First Grace UMC said that one of the beautiful things that the Wesley brothers did as part of their Holy Club was to be with prisoners on death row as they made their way to the gallows to be hung. They were present so the inmates would not be alone. What a wonderful legacy they have left us.

Who can you be with who needs your presence and your springtime encouragement? Can you join a work team and add



Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

to the many volunteers that are traveling to help in the hurricane recovery? Can you be present with people in nursing homes, prisons, and places of loneliness? Is there a widow or widower who is still grieving that you can bring home for dinner some evening? Jesus said "Lo, I am with you always!" Be that presence of Jesus for others as you live as Easter people in this world.

Greater New Jersey Episcopal Leader to Be Guest Speaker at the 2009 'Reach In' Annual Conference

By Tamara Ward

The 2009 "Reach In" Sessions of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference will take place June 11-13th on the campus of the University of Maryland - Eastern Shore.

This year's conference will feature Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar, the Episcopal leader for the Greater New Jersey Conference.

Bishop Devadhar, who is a native of Mulki, India, comes from a family of clergypersons and has been a follower of Christ all of his life both figuratively and literally. You see, his surname, Devadhar, means 'follower of God.'

Bishop Devadhar began his pastorate as a deacon at the Church of South India in Mercara Coorg, India. He holds a B.Com. degree from Vijaya College, University of Mysore, Milki, India, a B.D. degree from United Theological College in Bangalore, India, a M.Th. degree

from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University and a M.Phil. and a Ph.D. from Drew University.

He was elected to the episcopacy at the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference in July 2004 and began serving in the Greater New Jersey Conference on September 1, 2004. Prior to his election Bishop Devadhar served for eight years as the district superintendent for the Ontario District of the North Central New York Annual Conference.

His quote "I envision a Church of the Pentecost in which the Holy Spirit is igniting, gifting, and empowering God's children of all ages, backgrounds, colors and personalities to glorify their Creator as passionate witnesses for Jesus Christ. Such a church does not merely serve the poor, the left out, the different, but welcomes them warmly into its hearts, homes and worship," has

been seen in his biography, on the conference website, and many other public places.

The bishop enjoys spending time with his wife, Prema and his adult daughter, Trina. He also enjoys reading and listening to devotional music. His key philosophies in life are to love everyone, every human being who is a child of God, enjoy God's creation, and make use of it responsibly.

Bishop Devadhar will be with us on Friday and Saturday of the Annual Conference and will be preaching at the Memorial Service, scheduled for Friday afternoon and the Ordination Service, scheduled for Saturday evening.

Bishop Peggy Johnson will be preaching at the 'Evening Service of Praise' Thursday evening.

Please note the change in this year's schedule. The first day of conference is Thursday, June 11th where we will begin with the Clergy and Laity Sessions in the



Bishop Sudarshana (Suda) Devadhar

morning and conference sessions will begin after lunch. We will conclude our time together on Saturday evening, June 13th when we fellowship with the new ordinands and commissioned members of our conference at the Ordination Service.

BOYD'S BLESSINGS:

By the time you read this, you will have passed through the Holy Week services of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and perhaps an extra sunrise worship experience on Easter Sunday. Whether you are an altar guild member, church secretary, or pastor, you may feel like the pastor who caught my call on a cell phone recently. Breathlessly she advised, "I am jogging!" I was grateful that this spiritual caregiver was engaging in both physical and spiritual self-care. In no other season is this as crucial as in the latter days of Lent. March Madness, for those committed to the church, is not a matter of whiling away the hours waiting for the sixty-four to become the final four in college basketball. No, it is rather the mad dash from soup suppers to a vigil on the Saturday night before Easter Day.

It is vital that we strive for healthy excellence in being the best we can be for Christ as his church. But excellence can be achieved only through practices that support spirituality and wholeness in each and every season. These practices help us inhale inspiration and divine grace that will sustain us through the stress and strain of the daily demands of ministry.

Conley's UM Church Welcomes Missionaries

On the weekend of March 7th and 8th, Conley's Church was visited by John Harvey and Emanuel Perez of ASELSI Ministries of Chichicastenango, Guatemala.

The name ASELSI is an acronym taken from the Spanish for "Equipping the Saints, International." The organization was founded by John



and Sharon Harvey, and Conley's has helped to support their effort for fifteen years.

The mission, located in the mountains of Central America, has two main ministries. First, they train and equip local pastors. The mission is located in an area that has no resources for

We are called not only to exercise our spiritual gifts as pastors and leaders among the laity, but to be faithful parents, sons and daughters, siblings, and citizens in the community as well. On a Friday afternoon, the phone rang. A ministry couple was inviting us to dinner. It was my Sabbath day, after all; so I put on the back burner an optional meeting I had squeezed into a tight schedule. It was then I was reminded that Jesus shared his most intimate moments at a table set for the Passover. It was there that he prepared his disciples for what was to come, strengthening them with bread for the journey.

Healthy churches require healthy servants of Christ. We must renew ourselves daily through the regular rhythms of rest, devotions, public and private worship, study and meditation upon God's Word, and Christian conversation in small groups. A steady diet of these spiritual disciplines will cause us not to exclaim, "Oh, God, another day!" Rather we will give praise, as we proclaim, "Thank God, another day!" (Psalm 107:1).

continued pastoral and theological education. The average pastor has a third grade education. The native people in the mountains of Guatemala desperately need medical care, child nutrition and ongoing education. These needs are met in part by the mission's second ministry, the Father's Heart

Clinic

Emanuel Perez made a presentation to Conley's United Methodist Men on Saturday morning. Emanuel heads the physical therapy group which has helped young children to walk and have an active future that would not be possible without intervention



Rev. Boyd Etter

On Saturday evening February 28th the Dover District Celebration was held at Grace UMC in Georgetown where Bishop Peggy Johnson was the guest speaker. Entertainment was provided by the Puppet Ministry from Hickory Hill UMC and Gospel music by the O'Day Family. A great dinner was provided by Marilyn's Catering and the desserts were wonderful and varied.

Eleven churches received special recognition for the outstanding ministries they provided during the past year. These included St. Paul's in Milford for their community outreach with the Camp Pecometh Project, Epworth in Rehoboth for their "Christmas Joy" program which raised \$45,000 and served 423

Dover District Celebration

individuals, Indian Mission in Millsboro for their hard work in preserving their Cultural Heritage, Mariner's Bethel in Ocean View for their Prayer Ministry, Friendship in Millsboro for the Excellence in Christian Service Banquet, St. Paul's in Laurel for their Gospel Music program and church growth, Centennial in Smyrna for their Elderly Transportation program and Felton in Felton for their outstanding Missions program in which they support not only local missions, but mission projects across the U.S. and missionaries outside this country. Bethel in Gumboro, Carey's in Millsboro and Union Wesley in Clarksville were recognized for the many faithful years of holding Camp Meetings.

Another special feature of the

Celebration was the awarding of the "Mighty Men of God" and the "Women of Faith" to three deserving Brothers and Sisters in the District. This year's Mighty Men were Pastor Ed Kuhling (Millsboro: Grace), Pastor Jim Dorton (Wyoming), and Pastor George W. Fisher Sr. (Millsboro: Friendship).

The Women of Faith awards went to Joanne Burbage (Milford: Avenue), Betty Gooch (Lewes Charge) and Sandra Steiner Ball (Director of Connectional Ministries).

The evening concluded with Pastor Jerry Howard and Luray McClung anointing Bishop Johnson and praying for her, her family and her leadership.

Baby Pantry Opportunity – Greenwood UMC and Others

Submitted by
Pastor Kevin Gillespie

Greenwood UMC, along with Todd's Chapel, Elendale Charge and other churches in the area, has opened a Baby Pantry to help feed the infant children of families struggling financially. With the economic downturn, we know that many people are struggling. We also know that formula, baby food, and diapers are very expensive. We have learned that those receiving WIC subsidies are finding that they don't last an entire month. We prayerfully decided that we wanted to help. Additionally, we have many women volunteering to make baby bibs to offer people, as well. Most of them have God centered messages on them. We will be praying over the bibs prior to them being handed out.

Every Wednesday from 9am to

12pm we are open and handing out needed items to struggling families. We are also open every third Saturday of the month from 9am to 12pm. We just don't want children to go hungry.

Every ministry that is started has its share of surprises. One such surprise we have encountered is that some of the people we have helped are starting to bring back items that they are not going to use. So, we are receiving unopened formula when the child goes off formula or unused stage 1 baby food when the child has begun using stage 2 foods. Those recipients we are helping are using the opportunity to help others like them. We didn't expect this and our hearts are warmed by these actions.

We are helping 5 to 10 families a week and continue to look for additional church partners that can help us collect these products.

Every state agency, and other food pantries that I have spoken with, think that the need is going to increase significantly before it decreases. One state agency that hands out food told me that they are giving out twice the amount of food that they normally would. We are asking churches to have baby showers to collect the items or to consider making the first Sunday of the month a formula Sunday and the second Sunday a baby food Sunday and the third the diaper Sunday. Another way of helping is for churches to give a financial gift in the form of a gift card. These are proving to be extremely helpful. With the gift card we can purchase the exact items that we might be low on. Please pray for this ministry and we appreciate the help that we have already received. Together we can keep children from going hungry.

from the mission's staff. John Harvey and Emanuel Perez addressed Conley's Saturday night service, and both Sunday morning services. Their presentation included a video about ASELSI, one of several that are available on their web site at www.ASELSI.org/.

HOPE OF A CALLING MINISTRIES IN NICARAGUA

The picture shows some of the children registered at the school and a SMALL CHURCH service at our church there at "sobre la roca" school and church. We are in the process of gathering churches for a joint mission with our missionary Laurel Meres who now lives there in Nicaragua teaching the children about the lord.

Dios bendiga su vida.
Pastor Luis Almandoz

**Community Food Pantry – Salem UMC, Selbyville**

Churches in southern Sussex County continue to provide outstanding support for the Community Food Pantry located at Salem Church in Selbyville. On the third Saturday of each month from September through May

50 volunteers gather to distribute bags of non-perishable foods to needy families. Whenever possible, this is supplemented with meat products such as venison provided by area hunters. Since September, over 100 families have

been served each month. Volunteers of all ages come from many churches, and food drives are conducted by a number of church and community groups. This is truly a cooperative effort to meet a real and increasing need.

From the D.S.

Dear Friends,

One of the most valuable lessons I learned in seminary was this: "You always have to have a death before you can have resurrection to new life." In my first appointment as a student pastor, the youth group in one of my churches had dwindled down to about 2 youth. I decided to end it. I was shocked at the outcry from the congregation. They had had a youth group for years and the pastor always led it. What was I doing to the youth? The trouble was I only had 2, and they weren't too thrilled about being there every Sunday. Hanging on to this principle, I held my position and stopped the UMYF. It was a risk. It was painful. It was a loss. It was fearful. After all, if we lose the youth, what will happen to us? The furor died down, but the waters were troubled for several months. A year later, our youth group was meeting weekly with 10-15 kids, and involved parents. What happened? We allowed (although reluctantly) something that was no longer effective to end, or die, believing that God would do something new. And God did.

God is always working to bring new life in the face of changes and endings. The question is: "Can we let go of those things that are ending, that are no longer effective, and that no longer do the job as they once did?" By letting go, I mean releasing our attachment to programs, ministries and ways of doing church that are not as effective as they once were. As a superintendent, I see many churches, full

of untapped potential for effective ministry, not being able to unleash that potential because they are clinging to things that are no longer effective and struggling to live. I see churches that let go, unleash their potential and move in new directions. Recently in a meeting, someone shared these two questions that every church needs to be wrestling with. First, "Do we want to live?" Second, "Are we willing to make the radical changes needed in order to live?"

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven." It goes on to speak specifically of times to: tear down and build, plant and uproot, and a time to keep and throw away. We are in a season of massive change, facing endings and beginnings of many things significant to us, and to our churches. Without fear, and with full confidence in God, we can face the endings, believing that endings are opportunities for God to do something new. With full confidence in God, we can seize the new opportunities that God has in store for us. Believe that God continually has great things in store for you and our churches. Pursue those things with passion. You will see resurrection in the face of death; you will see new beginnings in the face of endings.

God bless. Bill



Rev. Bill Sterling

A Special Valentine's Day

On Valentine's Day, Wye Mills United Methodist Church in Wye

Mills, Maryland opened their Fellowship Hall to the public and showed the movie, "Fire-

proof." Approximately 30 people attended. At the intermission, everyone enjoyed cookies, chocolate covered strawberries, and other desserts with coffee or iced tea.



At the end of the movie, 9 couples came into the sanctuary and re-

newed their wedding vows with Pastor David Kelley officiating.

In order to remember this momentous occasion each couple was given a set of glued together salt and pepper shakers, as featured in the movie.

Queen Anne-Wye Mills Charge reaches out to local Nursing Home

By Karaleen Councill

The Hillsboro/Queen Anne/Wye Mills Charge has three weekly Bible Studies taught by Pastor David Kelley. The Friday morning group, which happens to be the weekly Prayer Group, was meeting at the church hall in Hillsboro. One of the ladies was sent to Caroline Nursing Home in Denton recently. Pastor Kelley suggested that



the group move their location to the facility at the Nursing Home

so the group could continue to meet together. She is so happy to be included in this group. The group meets in a small library in the area where she is staying. The picture includes the happy resident Ms. Enza Pepper, seated on the left. Others in the Prayer Group/Bible Study are: standing - Pastor David Kelley, Karaleen Councill, Pete Councill; seated Enza Pepper, Marjorie Reidhead and Marie Dulin.

Good Friday Interactive Prayer Room

On Friday, April 10th an Interactive Prayer Room embracing the Passion of Christ will be set up at Ames United Methodist Church in Denton. This is an opportunity to come and walk through the self-paced prayer activities to embrace the significance of



the final hours of the Cross in a different way. Each station offers scripture, a hands-on activity, and a thought to help you pray about things in your life; taking a few moments or many moments for time between you and God. It is appropriate for all ages; parents are encouraged to walk through with their children to help them understand the true significance of the coming celebration of Easter.

Pastor Becky Kelly will be available during this time should you wish to speak with someone.

Station 2: Spike of Sin - the Roman soldiers hammered spikes into Jesus' hands and feet. At this station, hammer one of the spikes into the wood. As you do, ask for forgiveness for a specific sin in your life.



"And they crucified Jesus."
John 19:28

On the First Sunday of Lent the Grasonville / Carmichael Charge Welcomed Bishop Peggy Johnson

Bryan's and John Wesley United Methodist Churches that make



Bishop Johnson serves communion

up the Grasonville/Carmichael Charge held a joint communion service recently. The message, entitled "Temptation," was delivered by Bishop Peggy A. Johnson. Sis. Phyllis Brown presented Bishop Johnson with a special gift to express their love and appreciation. A reception was held at the Grasonville Community Center following the worship service.

The pastor of the Charge is

Rev. Marie E. Robinson



Sis. Phyllis Brown presents Bishop Johnson with a gift

New Members Join Concord UMC

By Cheryl Michael

Concord UMC Church in Caroline County welcomed eight new members to their congregation on Sunday, March 1st in their 9:00 a.m. service. District Superintendent, Rev. Bill Sterling, and the pastor, James H. Michael, conducted the service, which also included baptisms of two of the new members and Holy Communion.

Certificates and Bibles were presented to the new members: Chris & Molly Robinson, Gary & Kelly Sheets, Anna Forbes, Jen-

nifer Engle, Lisa Busick, and Lori Stafford. A reception was held in the hall following the service.



(left to right: Lisa Busick, Gary Sheets, Kelly Sheets, Anna Forbes, Lori Stafford, Jennifer Engle, Molly Robinson, & Chris Robinson.)

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 next District Page will be printed in the May 8th issue. Please submit all photos and articles to the District Editor, Tonya Pinkett, or the District Office by Friday, April 17th. Please be aware that we have only two issues left before our summer break. Consider sharing your ministry with other Easton District churches and the conference.

CARE TEAM CONCERNS: Privacy or Secrecy?

By Rev. Sally Dolch

Did you know that Privacy defines our character and protects our inner life? We choose to keep certain information private. But not all information we withhold from others is private. Some information we have felt pressured by others to keep to ourselves... That information becomes a secret when it is withheld from others who need to know it.

Would you like to learn more about communication dilemmas in the life of the church? If so, then *Healthy Disclosure, Solving Communication Quandaries in Congregations* (The Alban Institute, 2007 ISBN 978-1-56699-346-3) is a must read! Co-authors Kibbie Simmons Ruth and Karen A. McClintock (an ordained United Methodist Elder) teach us when certain information should not be kept secret but needs to be shared.

So, what kind of secrets do congregations keep? Shame or embarrassment often point to secrets in congregations. Struggling with power issues? Is there tension between the in-group and the out-group? An unwillingness to trust leaders? These are often dilemmas in congregations that are keeping secrets about things like money, donors, personnel, or

former clergy or members.

One always hopes that churches will lead the way in truth-telling about unethical practices of laity or clergy. However, Ruth and McClintock point out that whether secrets are about financial mismanagement or sexual misconduct, most congregations tend to quietly ask for a resignation rather than ask for accountability and appropriate



consequences. Resignations may seem to resolve an immediate problem, but the person/problem can then move more easily to other congregations.

Secrets are contagious...

When secret keeping becomes habitual, it can become like a virus that infects multiple areas of congregational life... A culture of secret keeping invites rumors and gossip about staff, clergy, other congregants or other matters. The authors explain that written comments about someone that aren't

true are libelous; spoken untruths are slanderous. And, even if the information disclosed is true, if it can be proved that it was written or spoken with the intent to harm the other person, it may still be deemed libel or slander.

Protecting a secret requires immense emotional energy that could better be focused on mission and growth in the congregation. Beneath many a declining congregation lies one or more secrets that have harmed the community to the point of destruction. That is why the Peninsula-Delaware CARE Team members are strong advocates of truth-telling when clergy misconduct is alleged. The CARE Team is a group of clergy and laity in our Conference entrusted with roles of Care, Advocacy, Response, and Education for persons and congregations involved in cases of alleged sexual misconduct. If you have any questions, please contact one of the team members listed here. 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.

MORE THAN FIFTY WAYS TO MAKE YOUR PARISH ACCESSIBLE WITH LITTLE OR NO COST Revised edition March 2009 (1st 5 Ways)

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

1. Use your copier to produce large-print copies of the prayer book or other materials used in worship. (Large print is 18 point and should be produced on paper

which is white or off-white and produces good contrast with the type.) Use Arial, Tahoma, or other sans serif.

2. Consider replacing fixed pews with moveable pews or chairs so that people with disabilities may be seated with the community and participate fully.

3. Create "pew cuts" by cut-

ting the ends of several pews so that users of wheelchairs can sit within the main body of the congregation, not in a designated section, and not in the aisles. Pew cuts also are helpful for people who are deaf-blind because they need to touch their sign language interpreter's hands. Pew cuts enable persons who are deaf-blind to sit in chairs facing the rear of the church, while the tactile interpreter sits in the pew facing the worship leader.

4. If there are steps into your chancel or sanctuary, consider having a communion station on the floor of the nave. This will permit young children, those who are frail or elderly, and person with disabilities to receive the Sacrament in the same way the rest of the congregation receives.

5. Involve people with disabilities in the planning of all architectural modifications.

(check future issues for more)

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Young People's Ministry

Mission Possible, Round 2

What happens when a group of junior high and high school students and their leaders gather for a week of hard work, passionate worship, and lots of fun? Last year two homes were repaired, bridges were built (on the walking paths at Pecometh), lots of buildings were painted, and dozens of children learned about God through camp Bible studies. All of these feats were accomplished by the eight work teams that were sent out during Mission Possible 2008.

Mission Possible 2009 is planned for July 19-25 and will be based at Red Lion Christian Academy in Bear, Delaware. Churches are invited to bring groups of students (finishing grades 7-12 in 2009) and their leaders to the event. The cost for the event is only \$175 per student and one adult is free with every 5 paid student registrations. Participants will be divided into work groups and sent out into homes, churches, and other settings in the Bear area to tackle projects such as repairs on homes or church buildings, leading day camps for children, and working at homeless shelters. Evening activities and worship will be led by a summer ministry team comprised of six college students



Shane Hinderliter

from Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky.

Churches that are located within 35 minutes of Bear have been mailed information regarding worksite sponsorship opportunities. This is a great way for your church to partner with Mission Possible to be the hands and feet of Jesus in your community. Postcards have been mailed to every church in the conference with more information about Mission Possible. Registration forms can be found online at umyoungpeople.org.

If you are looking for a summer mission opportunity for your students or if you would like to discuss worksite sponsorship opportunities, please contact me as soon as possible.

Thanks and God bless,

Shane
shinderliter@pen-del.org
302.674.2626 x15



ERT

Peninsula Delaware Conference

Early Response Team Training

United Methodist Committee on Relief

and

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission

Providing a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of disaster



The mission of an early response team is to provide a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of disaster.

The team is neither a first response group of emergency workers nor a recovery, rebuild or repair team. Rather, it fills a specific need in the early days after a disaster to establish the presence of the church.

It is important to understand that ERTs are trained primarily to respond within their own community. To travel to another district, conference or jurisdiction requires an invitation from that area's ERT coordinator.

All ERTs are trained by authorized UMCOR trainers and given badges by their own conferences.

WHEN: Saturday, May 2, 2009, 9am-5pm

WHERE: Magnolia United Methodist Church
39 N Main St, Magnolia, DE

WHO: Anyone interested in providing a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of disaster (must be over 18).
The class is limited to 35 participants.

COST: \$15 (lunch and material included)

TRAINING BY: Eastern PA UMCOR ERT Trainers

RSVP: By April 20th

Any questions? Please call Sheryl Allston at 302.993.0555

Directions-From the north: Rt. 1S (past Dover) to continue on Bay Rd/DE-1/US-113 S (4.2 miles). Turn right on Trap Shooters Rd (.1 mi.). Turn left on Barker's Landing Road (1.1 mi.). Continue on E. Walnut St (.2 mi.). Turn right on north Main St. (Rt. 113) (.2mi.) Magnolia United Methodist Church is on the left.
From the south (Salisbury): Rt. 13N (for approx. 22 mi.), turn right on DE-32 Irish Hill Rd (4.9 mi.). Continue on W. Walnut St. (.2 mi.), turn left at N. Main St. US 113 (.2 mi.) Magnolia United Methodist Church is on left.



As the Executive Director of your Foundation I often find myself discussing ways older people can make a large gift or plan a gift to the Church in their will. This month I thought I would share a recent question that came from a younger member of our Church. "My husband and I are both in our 30's and recently joined the Church. We have good jobs but always find it difficult to save money. As new members of the church we want to be in a position to be more generous with our giving, yet have our family financially secure. Do you have any suggestions on how we can accomplish our goals? M.B."

Dear M.B.,
These economically difficult times can often make us wonder if we will ever feel financially secure again. A recent USA Today article gives some of the financial realities of 30 year olds.

- 9 out of 10 consumers in their 30's are in debt.
- 45% feel they have too much debt to think about saving
- 20% are still paying college loans.

You have already taken the first steps to realizing your goals by recognizing your need to make a plan, asking for help, and setting goals for your family. The Foundation has many Christian resources available and some of

Should Socially Responsible Investing Include Business Ethics?

our churches now offer budgeting courses and workshops from the Christian spiritual perspective.

When I was an Investment Advisor working with clients I often recommended a short book by George Samuel Clason titled, "*The Richest Man in Babylon*." The book gives financial advice through a series of parables set in ancient Babylon. Written in 1926, the lessons are interesting and entertaining to read and full of information that is as easy to understand and timely given our current economic environment. The general theme of the book is that budgeting and financial accumulation can be achieved by anyone. The basic lesson in the book is you "pay yourself first." Paying into savings becomes part of your monthly budget. As Christians we also understand the importance of sharing God's blessings in stewardship with our Church. We must budget for that important spiritual goal.

Let me also recommend Adam Hamilton's new book "*Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*" (Abingdon, 2009)

In this book Adam speaks right to the current economic times and the intersection of our faith and our money. I especially like his term "credititis."

His six principles are helpful to all of us and reflect our Christian

views:

1. Pay your tithe and offering first
2. Create a budget and track your expenses
3. Simplify your lifestyle
4. Establish an emergency fund
5. Pay off your credit cards, use cash/debit/cards for purchases, and use credit wisely
6. Practice long-term savings and investing habits

Today we find ourselves searching for answers as we face accountability for past financial decisions. The economy and world have changed and we must adapt to the new economic reality. This will take time, planning, and prayer but the contentment that will come from feeling financially secure and the joy you will feel by sharing God's blessings with your Church is the reward at the end of the journey. By keeping God with you in your plans, your personal financial journey will also be a Spiritual one.

For questions about the Foundation, please feel free to contact me at jack.brooks@epaumc.org or by calling 1.800.828.9093.



Jack Brooks

Cokesbury Connection

SPRING IS A NEW BEGINNING! For that we are eternally grateful! EASTER is also our assurance that new beginnings are possible. For that our eternal souls are grateful!!!

Cokesbury is here to help you with these new beginnings. Here are just a few examples of new resources to get you on your way. ROCK-A-BYE... Teaching Faith in the Nursery. This is a new series coming in June 2009! Help the youngest in your congregation (Birth to 36 months) through Rock-a-Bye Babies and Woddlers begin their first steps on a journey of faith. A safe, happy and structured nursery environment is a wonderful way to reach out to young families. Through Bible stories, songs, age appropriate activities and finger-plays the Rock-a-Bye series can help you do just that.

JESUS' PARABLES ABOUT DISCIPLESHIP by James W. Moore (9780687646951)
"Parables slip up on us. They flip our values. They turn our world upside down. They surprise us." Each chapter in this new book/study by popular author and preacher features a key passage of scripture and is centered on a theme from one of Jesus' parables...including unconditional love, humility, service, vision, listening and action. A great post-Easter small group study!

PASTORPRENEUR: Outreach Beyond Business as Usual by John Jackson (9780687658428). Pastors and church leaders! Need some help strategizing, visioning and being entrepreneurial? Pastor John Jackson can help you with these skills for a big impact on your church and community. John Jackson is the Senior Pastor of Carson Valley Christian Center and serves as Executive Director of Thriving Church Ministries.

THROUGH AFRICAN EYES: Biblical Parallel to African Religion and Culture and Its Implications for a New Theological Paradigm by Jeff Labala. Yes,

2009

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

-Rev. Elizabeth Mallozzi currently serving the Woodside Charge is appointed to Seaford-Reliance: Gethsemane. Rev. Mallozzi follows Rev. Drew Christian.

-Rev. Linda Mariner, currently serving the Rock Hall Charge and retiring July 1, 2009, is appointed to Berlin: Friendship, effective July 1, 2009. Rev. Mariner is following Rev. Jack Savage who is presently the pastor at Berlin: Friendship and is retiring effective July 1, 2009.



Madeline Beall

our very own Rev. Dr. Jefferson Labala has written a book! We are not surprised...just delighted. Rev. Labala is a retired member of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference, having most recently served in the position of Director of Strengthening the Black Church. This spiritual man and mighty scholar always has something about God to say to us. His book suggests a new approach to theological reflection and Christian mission. The book will be of particular interest to pastors, the Black Church, Christians committed to the Great Commission and mission-minded Christians. Some of the provocative questions he asks are: 1) In what sense are some scriptures, wishing vengeance upon one's enemies, the Word of God? 2) How are the Ten Commandments relevant for Christians in an age of grace? Curious? Check it out at www.Seaburn.com.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE!!!

Yes, right around the corner. Please visit the Cokesbury Bookstore Display at Annual Conference June 11-13 at UMES. We will be in the Ballroom of the Student Services Center...and very much looking forward to seeing you.

"And Are We Yet Alive!" asks Charles Wesley in his famous hymn. How say you? And by what evidence do we see this new life?

Grace and Peace,
Madeline Beall
Cokesbury Consultant
1.877.792.5410
Email: mbeall@cokesbury.com



Missional Appointments

World Malaria Day is April 25: Skip a lunch.

Send a net. Save a life

When you go to sleep at night, mosquitoes are the least of your worries. But life is different in Africa, where mosquitoes spread malaria, the continent's number one killer of children under age 5. The disease claims a child every 30 seconds – that's nearly 3,000

children every day.

The good news is that you can save one of those lives by providing a bed net through the Nothing But Nets campaign. And all it takes is \$10 – the price of a lunch out. Between now and April 25, World Malaria Day, are you willing to skip a lunch to send a \$10 bed net to a family in Africa? The \$10 you'll save is all it takes to shield them from mosquitoes during the night, when bites are most likely to occur.

Join the people of The United Methodist Church, founding partners of Nothing But Nets, to save a life by choosing "to lunch or not to lunch," on or before World Malaria Day. Nothing But Nets is one of the three Appeals at this summer's Annual Conference session. Give your gift to your

church to bring to this meeting.

You can learn more by visiting www.umcnothingbutnets.org. The Web site also features information on malaria and World Malaria Day, as well as downloadable church resources, including a bulletin cover, door hanger, web banner, poster, and postcard.

Skip a lunch. Send a net. Save a life. That's all it takes.



Happy Easter
April 12, 2009

TOUCHED by the HEART of
SALISBURY

“The Great Banquet” by Rev. Robbie B. Townsend

On February 21st I had the opportunity to be involved with a presentation of Salisbury Urban Ministries. It was entitled, “The Churches Response to Hunger and Homelessness: An Interactive Experience at the Great Banquet” The day was based on Jesus’ parable about the Kingdom of Heaven as recorded in Matthew 22:1-14. The parable equates the Kingdom of Heaven to a great wedding feast given by a king for his son. Many diligent preparations are made and when all was ready and the invitations sent out, no one came to the banquet. The King then sent his servants into the streets to bring people into the banquet. The parable ends with Jesus saying in verse 14, “many are invited, but few are chosen.”

The symposium contained an afternoon and a morning session. The afternoon session was filled with a panel discussion and opportunity for questions and answers. The panel and speakers consisted of the Salisbury Mayor, Assistant City Administrator, the Director of Wicomico County Mental Health Agency, the Secretary for Maryland Housing and Community Development and several organizers of feeding and sheltering programs in Wicomico County. With many politicians and government agency spokespersons contributing throughout the day, I was most impressed by a woman who is currently “homeless” and living in a Salisbury shelter.



She shared her story and gave us first hand insight into the issues facing men and women on our streets. I believe in social justice ministries and will forever be an advocate of showing God’s love and grace to those less fortunate in our society. I would have signed up for a seminar like this on any given day, but what transformed my thinking was what happened in the morning session.

We were asked to stand outside in the cold with the folks waiting to be served at God’s Kitchen. The idea was for us to experience the cold weather and then come in to eat lunch with those who came for the meal. I had experienced quite a bit of interaction with our hungry and homeless population in the last month. I pulled some late night and early morning shifts at the rotating homeless shelter when it was housed at Bethesda last month. I served lunch at Joseph House last Thursday and served with our congregation at God’s Kitchen just last Saturday. So I thought I knew all about homelessness and the value of our church’s ministry with the population. In the group of “real” homeless folks, I spied a familiar face I had seen at our homeless shelter, at Joseph House and God’s

Kitchen the week before.

I sat down next to him and learned his name was Kevin. Kevin is just three years younger than I am with two teenage daughters. He was a star basketball player in high school and through a couple of wrong choices found himself on the streets of Salisbury. Kevin has a quiet and gentle spirit. He tries to stay away from all the louder and rougher men in his situation. Sitting and eating with Kevin was somehow a real gift to him. Just talking with him and genuinely listening to his story was what he needed. He told me he remembered me serving him last week, but it was completely different breaking bread with him. He said so many folks are really nice with their charity, but somehow my talking to him showed him that someone thought he was a real person with value.

Why did it take me so long to “get it?” We do good deeds of charity in the church and help out with so many that are hurting and broken. Yet somehow as hungry as folks are for physical food, what they really need is the spiritual food of God’s listening and accepting grace. When we were finished our meal, I asked Kevin if I could pray with him and he agreed. I honestly think Jesus was seated right there next to us. I mess up and fail often in my life, as I am sure you do too. I can honestly say that last Saturday, I was glad I accepted the invitation to come and dine at the King’s banquet table.

Safe Sanctuaries Training Well Received

By Barbara Kelly &
Rev. Patricia Frick

The sanctuary at Asbury United Methodist Church in Salisbury was more than half filled on Saturday, February 28th when approximately 300 persons from the Salisbury and surrounding districts attended the Safe Sanctuaries training led by Revs. Patty Frick and Sally Dolch.

Those attending received valuable information that will help them implement the policies and procedures

in their local churches. Having the Safe Sanctuaries policy and procedures in place will help all of our churches to protect one of our most precious gifts from God – our children and young people. While many positive comments



were heard afterward, there were just as many folks who expressed concern and amazement as they heard stories of what has led us to implement our Safe Sanctuaries program.

Without policies and procedures in place, children and youth are especially vulnerable. The Care Team has done an excellent job in helping us make our churches safe sanctuaries; an important consideration when new people are visiting and worshipping in our local churches.

“BLEST BE THE TIES THAT BIND”

2006 was a year of great privilege for several members of the Salisbury District when Bishop Matthews invited us to be delegates to the World Methodist Conference in Seoul, South Korea. We attended the Conference with great expectation and excitement, knowing that God was going to do special things in our lives!

For 6 months prior to leaving for Seoul, Rev. Sueng Lin Baik of the Salisbury Korean United Methodist Church graciously and patiently worked with us, attempting to teach us some of the Korean language and telling us much about his home country. Out of that time together came an invitation for Rev. Nichols, Darlene Webster, and myself to be the guests of his parents for a day while we were in Seoul before the Conference began. They speak very little English and we could speak even less Korean (even though we tried hard to learn), but we gladly accepted their invitation, looking forward to and not really knowing what

we were to experience. We had an awesome time together; one of the highlights of our day being the experience of Rev. Baik offering prayer in Korean for peace and unity between North and South Korea as we held hands at the North Korean border.

That time in Korea did not end



From Left to Right: Rev. Sueng Lin Baik, Barbara Kelly, Darlene Webster, Rev. Charlotte Nichols, Rev. Koo Young & Mrs. He Ja Cho Baik

our experience. In February of this year, the retired Rev. and Mrs. Baik visited their son and his family here in Salisbury and we were able to renew the friendship during a celebration dinner with all of our families

together. The Baik's were able to meet spouses, children, and even a grandchild; all now becoming an extended family in Jesus Christ. We have more memories to cherish from that seemingly simple invitation issued in 2006 and hope that we will, some day, have the privilege of visiting together again, be it in Korea or here in Salisbury. Blest be the ties that bind! We DO speak the same language, the language of Jesus Christ.



NEW BIRTH SERVICE

CELEBRATING THE
BIRTHING OF A NEW
CHURCH

OF
HIGHER HOPE IN
CHRIST



WE INVITE YOU TO WORSHIP WITH US.
WE INVITE CHOIRS AND PRAISE TEAMS TO
COME

AND WORSHIP THE LORD IN PRAISE
ON

APRIL 25TH AT 6:00 p.m.

LOCATED ON 513 HAMMOND ST. SALISBURY MD.
Janice Humphrey, Pastor

District Page: The next Salisbury District Page will be printed in the May 8th issue. Please submit all photos and articles to the District Editor, Rev. Shirlyn Brown (shirlynbrown@aol.com) by Friday, April 17th. There are only two issues left before our break so be sure to submit your stories and photos soon.

From the D.S.

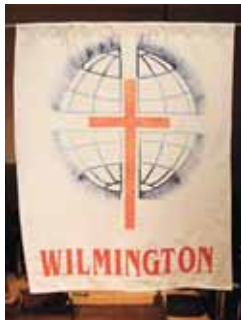
I am writing this article on the eve of the first day of spring, anticipating Holy Week and Easter and in the midst of "The Annual Conference's Appointment Season." As I reflected upon what I would write this month, I was led to share with you some words from the Upper Room Disciplines. The devotional for February 9, 2009 was particularly meaningful for me. What I am about to share with you is based upon the thoughts of The Rev. Johnny R. Sears, who was the writer of that week's daily devotions.

The text for that day's reflection was 2 Kings 5:1-14. This scriptural passage contains the story of the healing of Naaman. Remember that Naaman both wanted and needed to be healed, but as the story unfolds it seems as if Naaman already had an idea as to how that healing could or could not take place. When he was told what he needed to do to be healed, he resisted. If he had continued to insist upon his own understanding as to how God would heal him, he would have missed out on his healing. He had his own vision of how God's will for healing was to take place and, at first, he was not open to God's vision.

As I reflected upon that insight and Rev. Sears' words of reflection upon it, I began to apply those insights to my personal faith journey, to my responsibilities as a district superintendent and to the work of the Bishop and the cabinet in this "Appointment Season." I began to focus upon the searching for God's will that is a part of the life of pastors and their families as well as staff-pastor parish relations committees and their congregations.

Rev. Sears begins his devotion with this quote from Thomas Merton: "What is the use of praying if at the very moment of

prayer, we have so little confidence in God that we are too busy planning our own kind of answer to prayer?" What is the content



of your prayers for yourself, your congregation, your ministry and for others? Where is faith, trust, and "letting go?"

Rev. Sears writes: "I respond to problems by analyzing the situation and trying to 'figure it out'. . . I can put myself under a lot of stress looking for the big solution to a problem . . . What I've learned—more accurately, what I'm learning—on my journey is that I usually just need TO LET GO OF MY NEED TO FIX IT myself and to face the particular burden with faith. Then, I simply take the next step, small step, and then the next one, and so forth until one day I realize that the issue I was struggling with has faded away."

In this Lenten Season, as we move from Holy Week to Easter, as we move into spring and "through this Appointment Season," I pray that we will not miss "the healing," "the blessing," "the vision of God" that we need individually, congregationally and denominationally. Let us be intentional about praying, "with confidence in God," for discernment as to what is that "next step, small step and then the next one" which will enable us to do God's will as we seek to be faithful and fruitful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Your Partner in Ministry,
William M. Fitzhugh

Gallery at Grace presents "A French Vision: Inside and Out" featuring on site watercolors by Mireille Caloghiris and small format acrylic still lifes by Caryl. Mireille Caloghiris is an award winning watercolorist, teacher of French literature, and author of "World Tour with Four Generations of Artists." Caryl's main source of inspiration is nature,

using acrylics on canvas in small formats. All proceeds from sales of Mireille's works will benefit the A. I. duPont Hospital for Children. Opening Reception: May 1, 2009, 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Gallery hours: Mon. through Thurs., 9 - 3 p.m., Fri., 9 - 1 p.m. Handicapped accessible. Refreshments: Music by harpist, Anese Harmon. Show runs through May 31, 2009.

Civil War Memorial Service and Celebration to be Held at Mount Salem Cemetery and Mount Salem Church in Rockford Park Sunday May 24, 2009

The day's program will begin with the **Sunday Morning Worship Service at Mount Salem Church at 10:31 a.m.** Participants in this service will include the Sgt. Jones Bradbury Camp #149, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Lady's Auxiliary, Gilbert Hahn and Marge McNinch, Hagley Historians Cub Scouts and invited dignitaries.

Following the morning service there will be **Procession from the church to Mount Salem Cemetery** scheduled to begin approximately **11:45 a.m.** The procession will be led by the Sgt. Jones Bradbury Camp #149 Color Guard and Camp members. The

procession will stop on its way to the cemetery to pay tribute to Admiral Samuel F. DuPont with a wreath laying ceremony and rifle salute in front of his statue at the end of Tower Road.

The **Ceremony to honor the 36 Civil War Soldiers and other veterans buried at Mount Salem Cemetery** is scheduled to begin at **12:00 p.m.** The ceremony will be performed by Sgt. Jones Bradbury Camp #149 and Lady's Auxiliary. A flag will be placed by the Cub Scouts at the grave of each Civil War Veteran as well as veterans of later wars buried there. During the ceremony, a visiting dignitary will be asked to speak, words will be spoken to

honor the dead and there will be a rifle salute and a wreath laying.

The day's program will continue with a **Celebration Encampment Picnic in Rockford Park** at the rear of **Mount Salem Church** following the ceremony at cemetery with hot dogs, hamburgers, etc. and home made desserts. No formal program is planned for the picnic, but Andy Lefko of Bradbury Camp will sing some songs of that period, there will be re-enactors in period dress, and a tent set up with equipment from the Civil War.

If you have questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact Rev. John Holden, 302.658.1807 or Claude Green, Committee Chair 302.475.2527.

Nothing But Nets

By Rev. Jim Van Der Wall

St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Wilmington has a long tradition of involvement in missions. This year the Missions Team and the Sunday school children combined their efforts to raise funds for "Nothing But Nets" -- a drive to provide treated nets that fit over the beds of adults and children in Africa, in order to prevent malaria-carrying mosquitoes from biting them while they sleep.

March 14th was the date that was set aside as the night for a fund raising event. The evening began with a time for basketball (basketball nets...get it?) The Sunday school children played



several scrimmage games in the church gymnasium. The referees were members of the United Methodist Men. After the scrim-



mage games concluded, there was a foul shooting contest and then came the time for making money. Each Sunday school child received, in advance, a sponsor sheet. They were asked to secure pledges for the number of foul shots they could attempt in one minute. Each child was individually timed...and the winner accomplished eighteen foul shots in the one minute that was allotted.

After the basketball activities, a spaghetti dinner was provided by the Missions Team. The tables were beautifully decorated with linen tablecloths and candlelight centerpieces. A flute quartet provided background music during the meal. The waiters and waitresses were members of SPY (St. Paul's Youth). The meal

consisted of a salad, spaghetti and meatballs, and dessert...all for \$10. The walls of the church hall and the tables were filled with posters and information about Nothing But Nets in order to provide informational materials for those that participated.

In addition to the other fundraising activities, a silent auction was conducted by the United Methodist Women during the meal. Numerous silent auction items were secured and over \$800 was raised by that effort alone.

Several hundred people participated in the evening's activities and over \$3,000 was raised for Nothing But Nets. Senior Pastor Jim Van Der Wall summed it up by saying, "It was a great way to create awareness of the malaria problem in Africa while having an enjoyable evening of church fellowship."



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 next District Page will be printed in the May 8th issue. Please submit all photos and articles to the District Editor, Denise Scoles Knettler (altofire150@yahoo.com) no later than Friday, April 17th. There are only two issues left before the break so please highlight your ministries and share them with the Wilmington District and the conference by submitting stories and photos for the district page.

Bishop Johnson Takes Faith Messages To YouTube

By Suzy Keenan*

Bishop Peggy Johnson has a heart for persons with disabilities, especially hearing and sight disabilities. So, when she decided to speak to her nearly 1,000 churches in The Philadelphia Area of the United Methodist Church, she created video messages.

"The United Methodist Church is highly inclusive and diverse," said Bishop Johnson. "But we need to include the gifts and diversity of people with disabilities. Some people need to see the Word of the Lord as well as hear it. Opening up our communications visually is a way of being inclusive in proclaiming and witnessing the Gospel."

She has created four videos to date: three Lenten messages for Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday. The latest video is The Lord's Prayer. Each of the videos includes spoken English and sign language. "American Sign Language reaches a community our denomination is largely ignoring," she said.

Bishop Johnson was born with one eye and wears a prosthesis; this disability was part of what led her on the path to ministry with persons with disabilities. Prior to her election as bishop in July of 2008, she was pastor of Christ United Methodist Church of the

Deaf in Baltimore, MD. Now, as bishop of The Philadelphia Area, she sees that part of her shepherding includes encouraging churches to reach out and broaden their outreach to persons with visual and hearing disabilities. "These are gifted members of the Body of Christ that bring a needed voice in the diversity spectrum."

In the United States, there are nearly 2 million people who are culturally deaf and use American Sign Language. Less than 1% of culturally deaf persons worship in churches.

There are also 28 to 30 million people who are hard of hearing and late deafened, who do not use sign language. Most of these persons use lip reading, printed and written materials, and other forms of communication. Out of the severely hard of hearing and late deafened persons, only 7% worship in churches. "The average age for United Methodists is 57, and many of our members are heading into the post-55 age group. The majority of persons over 65 have some hearing loss as a property of aging. A lot of the seniors in our pews are not getting what we're saying," Bishop Johnson exclaimed. "This is a very neglected group. Our main method of communicating in church is auditory: 'Hear the

Word of the Lord!' For hard of hearing adults, church becomes depressing and frustrating, as they can't fully hear the music, the announcements, the Gospel readings, and the sermon." Bishop Johnson recommends increased use of assisted listening devices and printed materials: anything that can be spoken, including scripture and sermon can be printed ahead to hand out. Churches could provide real time captioning or computer notetakers to project a text version of the spoken word.

Bishop Johnson's four video messages are posted on YouTube, with a main goal of making the Gospel accessible. "The deaf community - young and old - has really jumped into YouTube. It is reaching deaf people where they are in terms of visual communications." For hard of hearing persons who do not use sign language and for people who have visual challenges, the text for the messages is available online in large font type.

In terms of her video messages, Bishop Johnson said that they are not a true rendering of American Sign Language, as persons do not usually sign and speak at the same time. In the future, she plans to make videos in American Sign Language with voice-over, with text for "the sign

language-impaired."

Churches are invited to use Bishop Johnson's videos within the life of their congregations.

All are available online: bish-
oppeggyjohnson.blogspot.com
or www.youtube.com/Philadel-
phiaAreaUMC.

(*Suzy Keenan is director of
communications for The Eastern
Pennsylvania Conference of The
United Methodist Church)



The Peter D. Weaver (PDW) Congo Partnership Team is asking for prayer for Bishop Yemba as he works to bring the light of Christ into his Episcopal areas in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Pray for peace and reconciliation among the people and in the church. As we enter a time of discernment for missions and ministry to our brothers and sisters, lift the Partnership Team in prayer.

Health Ministries Team Seeking Annual Conference Volunteers

During the sessions of Annual Conference between Thursday afternoon and Saturday evening there will be a special set-up inside or near the Registration Area with a person that will be available to answer questions and/or a point person if you need help.

As we work to provide better customer service, we would like to offer the opportunity for those in most areas of health care to volunteer sometime during the three days to be 'on-call' should medical assistance be necessary.

We would like to identify those persons that have an interest in serving in this capacity. What we would like the volunteers to do is sit at the information table or be in the Ella Fitzgerald Center during their designated time.

As Annual Conference draws near, the Health Ministry team will set up a schedule, with your input of availability, and let you know when you are scheduled to volunteer.

If you are interested, please contact Ken Harris at 410.749.0096.

Conference Calendar of Events

April 2009	23	Leadership Event Planning Committee Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 7:00 p.m.
10	25	3rd. Annual Camp Pecometh Quilt & Auction Day, Centreville, MD.: Camp Pecometh, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
11		Black Methodists For Church Renewal Meeting, Dover: Whatcoat UMC, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
16		Dover District UMW Spring Event, Dover: Whatcoat UMC, 9:00 a.m.
		Essentials for Effective Teaching Seminar, Dover: Wesley UMC, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
18		Increasing Biblical Literacy In A Digital Age Seminar, Dover: Wesley UMC, 1:30-4:00 p.m.
		Psalms: The First Prayer Book Seminar, Wilmington: Aldersgate UMC, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
	27	Monastic Day Apart, Centreville, MD.: Camp Pecometh, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
		Hispanic/Latino Task Force Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 7:00 p.m.
20	28	Board of Trustees Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 5:00 p.m.
		Christian Service Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 5:00 p.m.
		Volunteers In Mission Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 6:30 p.m.
	29	Dunkle-Mackey Board of Directors Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
21	30	Advocacy Resource Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
	May 2009	
	1	Howard Bailey Life Enrichment Program Meeting, Big Woods, MD.: New Christian Chapel Of Love, 6:00 p.m.
	2	Early Response Team Training, Magnolia, DE.: Magnolia UMC, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
		Committee on Clergy and Lay Leadership Meeting, Wyoming UMC, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
	5	Wesley Foundation-Delaware State University, BFEM Resource Center, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
		Vision Team Meeting, Wesley College-Room # 206, 7:00 p.m.
	7	Resource Development and Management Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 9:30 a.m.
	8-9	Conference Council on Youth Ministries Retreat, Denton, MD: Camp Mardela
	9	Board of Stewards Meeting, Centreville, MD.: Camp Pecometh, 9:30 a.m.
22	11	Credit Union Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 1:30 p.m.