



The Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference

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Potter and Smothers Scheduled for African American Summit

The 2005 African American Summit will be held June 8th and 9th at Metropolitan United Methodist Church and the University of Maryland – Eastern Shore just prior to the Annual Conference, also on the campus of UMES.

The worship services, plenaries, and other activities will center around the theme: New Image/Same Mission, New Vision/Same God, Same God . . . Doing a New Thing.

The Rev. Turhan Potter, pastor of New Revived UMC in Smithville on the Easton District, is scheduled to preach Friday evening, beginning at 7:00 p.m., at Metropolitan UMC. His early Christian experience began in the National Church of God, under the leadership of Rev. Howard Spencer and then at Mt. Zion UMC where he began attending with his mother, Demetria Potter. Having mentors such as Revs. Frank Robinson, Jefferson Labala,

and Elaine Ayres, he felt the call and entered into the candidacy process for ordained ministry. Potter is currently in his third year at Wesley Theological Seminary and is a certified candidate for ordained ministry. He is one of the youngest pastors in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference at the age of 26.

Pastor Potter is currently appointed to a growing congregation, New Revived United Methodist Church, on Taylor's Island. He has a passion for ministry through preaching teaching and evangelism. Though he may be young, he truly believes in his heart that God has called him into the ordained ministry of the United Methodist Church. He believes that God has anointed him for such a time as this. The scripture that he considers dear to his heart is 1 Corinthians 2:9 "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that



Rev. Turhan Potter

love him."

Dr. Rodney Thomas Smothers, senior pastor of First United Methodist Church in Hyattsville, Maryland (Baltimore-Washington Conference) is the scheduled preacher for Saturday evening. Dr. Smothers is recognized as a leader in congregational development, church revitalization, Christian education and leadership development. He has served as a pastor for two new church starts and has successfully led congregations in build-



Dr. Rodney Thomas Smothers

ing and stewardship programs. He has also served as an adjunct professor of Church Administration, Worship and Preaching at the Interdenominational Theological Seminary.

Dr. Smothers received his Master of Divinity degree from the Gammon Theological Seminary and his Doctor of Ministry degree from The Interdenominational Theological Center, both located in Atlanta, Georgia. He is also a 2001 graduate of the Beeson Institute for

Advanced Church Leadership from Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky.

The multicultural congregation that Dr. Smothers pastors has 37 different cultural groups among its membership and holds worship services in both English and Spanish. In addition to its numerous ministries of nurture and mission outreach, the Church hosts a daily feeding program for the homeless, a child development and enrichment center for preschool children, a daily after-school academy and provides a Meals on Wheels program for homebound citizens.

Registration for the Summit is \$50 per person. For those that require overnight accommodations for Wednesday, there is a \$25 additional charge above the registration and Annual Conference costs. For more information, please contact Connie Robbins at 1.877.736.3351, ext. 10.

Wesley College . . . A Remarkable Journey

By Scott D. Miller

Wesley College marked the 132nd anniversary of its founding as the first private college in the First State on March 23, and to paraphrase a recent advertising campaign, "We've come a long way, Delaware." And yet, I think perhaps a more appropriate metaphor might be that of the incomparable New England poet, the late Robert Frost, who wrote about having "miles to go . . . before we sleep."

First, the distance Wesley has traveled is long when we consider the evolution that the College has experienced in a relatively short period of time. Thanks to the unwavering support of our friends on the Peninsula and the Peninsula-Delaware Conference of The United Methodist Church, we have

overcome a ravaging fire that temporarily closed the College, the Depression and two world wars to flourish. Beginning as The Wilmington Conference Academy, the College was later known as The Wesley Collegiate Institute, then as Wesley Junior College until 1978, when it granted its first baccalaureate degrees. This remarkably resilient institution had completed its metamorphosis into a comprehensive college—Wesley College—in the 1980s.

While we have retained The United Methodist Church mission and values of our founders, the College today is an inclusive, pluralistic campus of 2,300 students from 30 states and 18 foreign nations. In addition to offering four master's degree programs in education, nursing, business administration



Dr. Scott D. Miller

and environmental science, the main Dover campus has been extended to include two off-campus adult studies sites at Dover Air Force Base and the New Castle Corporate Commons.

When we look at the recent momentum in enrollment, in fund

raising, in academics and in athletics, Wesley has indeed "come a long way" in the last decade alone. The last seven years have seen transformational progress in all areas in support of the College's \$84 million strategic Master Plan, with \$62 million already procured for operations, endowment and capital improvements. Full-time enrollment has more than tripled to 1,860, academic standards for incoming students has been raised three times in four years and new academic initiatives that include partnerships with other higher educational institutions, the church, arts, and community service organizations have been initiated.

External validation of our progress and service recently came from *U.S. News and World Report* when it awarded Wesley its first

"Top Tier" ranking in its "Best Comprehensive Colleges-Bachelor's" category for the North Region.

Statistics alone do not tell the whole Wesley story, however; people do. The caliber of student that Wesley College can produce is exemplified by a recent alumnus. This year, Wolverines scholar-athlete Rocky Myers '05, a former standout at Caesar Rodney High School, won the prestigious Gagliardi Trophy for the top NCAA Division III football player in the nation. A 4.0 scholar who graduated in January of this year with a biology major and chemistry minor, Rocky plans a career in medicine. Then there's alumnus Chris Noll of Dover, who won the NCAA Divi-

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## Welcome to Our Sacred Space

A few weeks ago, my colleagues and I had the privilege to participate in a Good Friday Service called "The Seven Last Words." We were reminded by one of the participants that through the sixth word, it is finished, that salvation was a gift (grace) given by God through our Lord Jesus Christ. I Peter 1:3-5 states "Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven— and the future starts now" (THE MESSAGE). Indeed now, today we are a forgiven people, and nothing can separate us from God's love.

In seeing all the unbelievable things happening in our communities, violence in our cities, child abuse, broken homes, unexpected sicknesses, and gross mistrust in relationships, etc. we need to cling to these words. We need to hold fast to the gospel, it's good news, and as one contemporary hymn states, "God Has Not Forgotten."

Let us remember that in the midst of life and death, and all the ups and downs, twists and turns on this journey, God remains steadfast and unmovable, we have this assurance, because Jesus who was crucified on Calvary's cross rose from the grave conquering sin and death. Wow, we have a hope. God is continually working things out for our good. I'm reminded of the words of



Rev. Elaine B. Ayres

Alfred H. Ackley's hymn, "He Lives."

**I serve a risen Savior. He's in the world today.**

**I know that he is living whatever men may say,**

**I see his hand of mercy. I hear His voice of cheer,**

**And just the time I need Him, He's always near.**

This Easter Season remember to tell someone, people or situations may not be like we want them to be, or like they should be, but never give up. God has not forgot them. He may not come when we think He should but God will show up "on time." Hallelujah.

Shalom,  
Elaine

## From Your Wesley College Chaplain

On Saturday, March 5th, your intrepid Wesley College Chaplain left with 16 Wesley College students to go on a service project trip to Birmingham, Alabama. We careened through a snowstorm (snowstorm – I never figured on a snowstorm!) in the Shenandoah Valley. We had wonderful hospitality from Church St. United Methodist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee. They put us up/put up with us for the night going and coming from Birmingham. In Birmingham we scraped, primed and painted people's homes. It sounds like a "nice" thing to do. However, one of our students, Amber, pointed out that what we did helps to keep people's property in good repair so that they can keep their homeowner's insurance.



We could have done work on houses in a thousand places – so why Birmingham? The Urban Ministry in Birmingham offered us the chance to learn about the origins of the Civil Rights movement (one of the movement's centers was Birmingham) and about the church's role in the movement if we chose to come there. We saw the Civil Rights Institute, which was overwhelming. It is situated next to the park made infamous for the fire hoses and dogs let loose on marchers; and on the other side is Sixteenth Street Baptist Church which was bombed, killing 4 little girls.

We ran into more snow (a little) in the Shenandoah Valley again. It was a long run! We were tired when we got back on the 12th, but also very glad that we went. We got to know the Urban Ministry folks, the group from Francis Marion University (another group similar to ours that was there at the same time) in South Carolina and each other!



Mark Pruett-Barnett

Here are some of the comments about the trip from some of the students themselves. I asked them: "What meant the most to you on this trip?" This is what they wrote.

**Durell:** Helping out people for God and meeting people.

**Amy:** Getting to know others, learning about the poverty levels and the Civil Rights Institute.

**Natalie:** The work we did to help others with the church; and doing something constructive with my spring break.

**Lauren S.:** Being able to help people who needed it the most.

**Lauren T.:** Meeting new people and climbing a higher ladder – literally! I was the only girl to climb the ladder to the top!

**Jamie:** That religion was involved with our work.

**Christina:** The feeling of making someone happy and working as a team.

**Amber:** Knowing that we were helping people who are in need. Also, there was the communion service at the end.

Everyone wants to go back. It was a blessing and a joy for us all. God is good!

Your Brother in Christ  
Mark Pruett-Barnett  
Chaplain of Wesley College  
302.736.2485  
barnetma@wesley.edu  
revmarkpb@aol.com

## THE GALA EVENT

Remembering the old Delaware Conference... 40 Years!!

**Rev. Dr. Patricia Bryant Harris**  
The Delaware Conference – a source of pride, an era of shame. Before we were United Methodists, before we were one, there was the Delaware Conference of the Methodist Church consisting of all the African American churches in New York City, New Jersey, Philadelphia and Chester, Delaware, the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and the Eastern Shore of Virginia, AND there were the Anglo Conferences: New York, Northern New Jersey, Southern New Jersey, Philadelphia, Peninsula, and Virginia.

For African Americans, the Delaware Conference was, and in our memories continues to be, a source of pride. The old Delaware Conference, as it is affectionately referred to, organized in 1864 with 34 churches. During its 101 years of existence, the spiritual life of the pastors and the people was primary. Time was devoted to examining the character of the clergy, to building clergy and spousal support systems through "Preachers' Meetings" and "Ministers' Wives" organizations.

The old Delaware Conference placed emphasis on intentional planning and focused on the theological education of the clergy and the religious education of its con-

gregations, including its youth. Congregations were taught about the General Church and its mission and they were taught stewardship which led them to support missions, their local missions and the missions of the General Church.

The pastors and congregations of the old Delaware Conference had a sensitivity and concern for the human condition, a unique understanding of the social gospel – as though Jesus had taught them in person, as though the scriptures themselves came alive through the enactment of their faith. The old Delaware Conference was a living witness of the love of Jesus Christ, as each clergy and lay person took the responsibility to look out for the other, to care for one another, to live with dignity and integrity in the midst of the Anglo Methodist Conferences' committed sins of poverty, segregation, racism, oppression, discrimination, and hatred. All of this while the Anglo Conferences chose to live with their sins of omission and chose not to live according to God's law of justice.

The sins of accommodating racism and prejudice made the one hundred and one years Delaware Conference history an era of shame for this Methodist denomination. However, the Delaware Conference

was birthed in dignity by its African American founders even though it was born out of the sins of its white brothers and sisters, the Anglo Methodist churches. For 101 years, African American churches and Anglo churches were both called Methodists, both belonged to the same denomination, both governed by the same Book of Discipline of the Methodist Church, both preached from the same Bible, both proclaimed salvation through Jesus Christ, but the Anglo Methodist church practiced that which grieved the heart of God.

I remember the joy: I remember the pain. I was a child of the old Delaware Conference of the Methodist Church. My parents, the Rev. Commander R. Bryant and Mrs. Rose Bud Bryant along with my two sisters, Rita and Mildred, lived with pride in an era of shame for the United Methodist Church. As an African American minister's daughter, from childhood through young adulthood, I lived through the years of non-equitable compensation for African American clergy, the late development of a self-contributing pension plan (with a pastor's yearly salary of \$1800-\$2400 as late as 1963), no medical insurance or poor and inadequate medical insurance. I lived

through outhouses and manual water pumps. I lived through my father growing vegetables, raising livestock, hunting game and fishing, and my mother canning, preserving and curing foods so that our family would have food to eat, especially during the winter months when on any given Sunday, it was possible the churches would not have money to pay the pastor's salary. I also lived and learned that for all that we may have been lacking, there were families of the congregations who had even less. Meanwhile, Anglo pastors and their families in the Anglo Methodist conferences lived in a different world: a world with better salaries, better housing and better benefits. I know it was the spirit of the Delaware Conference that sustained the African American Methodist churches.

The spirit of joy that is within my heart for the old Delaware Conference is always bubbling inside me. This was the foundation of my spirituality. This was where I met God at a very young age. This was where my father founded St. Matthews church in Newark, New Jersey and I learned that if you plant a seed with prayer and work, God will water and grow the garden. This is where I learned the true meaning of sisterhood, broth-

erhood, and fellowship. This is where I learned about the meaning and holiness of worship – the worship of God in truth and in spirit. It was through the teachings of the Delaware Conference, and that of our parents, that my sisters and I learned about our obligation to the social gospel of justice and love, caring and sharing, the giving of our tithes and our offerings unto a gracious God, our Jehovah-Jireh.

To commemorate, to pay tribute, to honor the old Delaware Conference and those great leaders, visionaries, pastors and laity who lived through one hundred and one years and left us its rich heritage, an event appropriate to the occasion entitled **THE GALA will be held on Saturday, October 29, 2005 at the Wyndham Hotel, 8th & King Streets, Wilmington, DE.** African American churches and pastors from the conferences of the old Delaware Conference geographic area (from New York City to Cape Charles, VA) along with Anglo pastors and churches are coming together in this *black tie* celebration to enjoy fellowship, to be blessed with the gospel in song, and to sit under anointed preaching.

*As we celebrate the old*

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## Interfaith Resource Center

### Returns Are Good!

There is no sadder fate for an educational resource than to continuously reside on a shelf in the IRC, never enriching the faith of church members. We strive to promote new materials as they arrive and to recommend older resources that still remain current. It is one of the most satisfying aspects of our job at the Center to see these resources being used well and frequently.

But if those materials lie forgotten on a shelf at your church, they are not being used wisely either. Due dates on the invoice you receive help you to return items in a timely fashion, so that others will be able to borrow them when they need them. We are happy to extend the due date if you need it longer. All you need is to phone or email us. But we encourage you to return materials as soon as you have finished with them. There are no penalty fees for late materials! When you open that closet and find a book or video with the IRC label on it or get a reminder notice in the mail, return the resources as soon as possible. Others may be looking for them. Returns are good!

### New Resources:

**Next Door Savior** is an 8-session program in video or DVD by Max Lucado which examines a personal relationship with the Risen Christ who cares about our lives. The pro-



Paula Hartzell

gram includes leader's & participant's books; the book, *Next Door Savior*; the pocket book, *Give It All to Him*; and a collection of hymns on CD titled *Next Door Savior*.

**The Widow's Mite** is a 30-minute video that explores what it means to give. The central theme focuses on the concept that generosity has nothing to do with how much we have and everything to do with the willingness of our hearts. Sarah is a middle class churchgoer, whose life is focused on work and possessions. Jenny is a housekeeper who works in the same building, but gives joyfully. A church meeting brings them together.

**Daughters of Imani: Celebration of Women** is a program for African American young women from Abingdon Press. It is designed by Tamara Lewis and Richelle B. White as a Christian rites of passage program intended to enhance their heritage and cel-

brate their emergence as Christian women of faith.

**The Song of Solomon** with Tommy Nelson is an examination of the biblical text as a template for responsible Christian behavior in human intimacy. Intended for youth, the 6-session video program looks at all aspects of courting, dating, and marriage from a scriptural perspective. This kit includes a facilitator's guide and a copy of the hardcover book *The Book of Romance*.

**The Congregation** is the compelling 120-minute video of two ministers at First United Methodist Church of Germantown. When the film begins, the Reverend Fred Day has recently assumed the pulpit, replacing a much-loved pastor with a track record of social activism. Pastor Day's style is more traditional, causing him to meet with conflict in the congregation. During this time, the Reverend Beth Stroud announces that she is a practicing lesbian... an announcement that leads to her clergy trial and eventually the loss of her credentials. Experience this venerable church as the congregation struggles to find vision for itself. Leader's materials are on order.

You can contact the Interfaith Resource Center by phone (1.800.336.6152), e-mail them at resource.ctr@dol.net or visit their website at [www.interfaithresourcecenter.com](http://www.interfaithresourcecenter.com).

## Health Ministries

Joan Nelson RN MSN,  
parish nurse

Noted physician and author Andrew Weil recently outlined a new approach, called "eight weeks to maximum obesity," during a national obesity summit in Williamsburg, VA. Here are some high points.

- Week 1: "Consult a doctor, who may have learned nothing about nutrition in medical school and will say to eat a balanced diet!!"
- Week 2: "Spend more time snacking in front of the TV and computer. Practice eating unconsciously."
- Week 3: "Stock the pantry with prepared, processed, refined, packaged food and then start using it. You'll take in the kinds and amounts of carbohydrates and fats that tend to put on weight quickly."
- Week 4: "Eat out more at restaurants with oversize portions."
- Week 5: "Let the kids plan the menu for a week. Cartoon figures in ads and on packages will guide them."
- Week 6: "Eat in your car. Get drive-through service to avoid walking."
- Week 7: "Fly on airplanes and get plenty of takeout at airport food courts."
- Week 8: "Go on a diet. You'll likely gain back any weight and then some when you go off it." From *Dr. Weil's Self Healing*, April 2005. [www.drweilselfhealing.com/](http://www.drweilselfhealing.com/)

RX: Humor One Chuckle,  
Three Times Daily

**HUMOR MAY BE A LAUGHING MATTER, BUT IT ALSO HAS A SERIOUS SIDE.**

## GALA EVENT

*Delaware Conference, we shall also give thanks to God that today we are one body in Christ because 40 years ago we merged to become*

IN FACT, THE OLD ADAGE, "LAUGHTER IS GOOD MEDICINE," IS SOUND MEDICAL ADVICE.

We often tend to dismiss humor as frivolous and playful, yet the medical benefits it offers are too good to ignore. A belly laugh works wonders for your health, by releasing endorphins, naturally occurring neurohormones. Even something minor can change your body chemistry and your inner thoughts; one example is simply changing your facial expression from a frown to a smile.

**Humor offers an impressive array of therapeutic benefits, including:** \*Reducing unhealthy stress \*Increasing immunity \*Reducing pain \*Decreasing anxiety \*Encouraging a "relaxation response" \*Stabilizing mood \*Resting the brain \*Improving communication \*Increasing creativity \*Maintaining hope \*Bolstering morale \*Changing perspective. **Excerpts from Patient Press: Living Better Newsletter.**

### SAVE THE DATES!

**May 7th Parish Nurse/ Health Ministry Network Gathering-Cornerstone UMC, Summit Bridge Rd. Bear, DE. 9AM-Noon. Guest Speaker, Sylvia Gilmore RN BSN-"Reminiscing Your Call!" RSVP Joan Nelson 302.239.2392**

**OCTOBER 28TH Conference/Retreat with Dr. Pat Fosarelli MD PhD in Dover, DE More information forthcoming!**

**LOOK FOR THE HEALTH MINISTRY TABLE AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE!**

Faith Communities interested in health ministry/parish nursing contact Joan Nelson-302.239.2392 or Anne Murray 302.478.8644.

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**a new creation.** Mark your calendars and make preparation for this significant event in the life of our church. You will not want to miss it!

## Important Notice

### for Presidents of United Methodist Women

Conference UMW Spring Event correction

Women United in Prayer — May 7, 2005

Registration: 8:30 a.m.

Program: 9:00 a.m.

Christ United Methodist Church, 6 Clifton Avenue, Wilmington

The directions to Christ Church in the Enabler were published for the wrong Street address. Please note the correct directions below.

#### Directions from Easton District Area

US-301 (Blue Star Memorial Hwy.) US-

301/Wilmington Entering Delaware

Bear RIGHT (North) onto SR-896 2.7 mi

Take Ramp (RIGHT) onto I-95 [Delaware Tpke

8.4 mi I-95/Delaware Memorial

Bridge/Wilmington

Turn RIGHT onto Ramp 0.2 mi I-295/New Jersey

Turnpike/Del Mem Br/NJ-NY

RIGHT to stay on Ramp 0.4 mi SR-141/Newport

At exit 5B, take Ramp (RIGHT) onto US-202 [SR-

141] 0.5 mi SR-141 / Newport

At exit 3A, road name changes to SR-141 2.5 mi

At exit 6, turn RIGHT onto Ramp 0.1 mi SR-

2/Kirkwood Hwy./SR-

41/Elsemere/Newark/Lancaster

Take Ramp (RIGHT) onto SR-2 (Robert W

Kirkwood Hwy.) 0.6 mi SR-2/Elsemere

Turn LEFT (North) onto Local road(s) 10 yds

Road name changes to N Clifton Ave 142 yds

**Arrive 6 N Clifton Ave, Wilmington, DE 19805**

#### Directions from the South

US-13 NORTH TO DOVER

Just Above the Webbs Lane Stop Light is the next turn.

Keep RIGHT onto Ramp 1.3 mi SR-1 / I-

95/Wilmington/Del. Mem. Br.

At exit 2A, keep LEFT to stay on Ramp 0.3 mi

At exit 2B, keep LEFT to stay on Ramp 0.8 mi

\*Toll road\* Merge onto SR-1 14.8 mi

Stay on SR-1 (North-West) 10.1 mi

\*Toll road\* Stay on SR-1 (North-East) 5.5 mi

Stay on SR-1 (North) 4.2 mi

Road name changes to US-13 [SR-1] 7.6 mi

Keep RIGHT onto N DuPont Pky 164 yds

Bear RIGHT (East) onto Ramp 0.1 mi SR-141/

New Castle

At exit 1A, turn LEFT (North) onto SR-141 [W

Basin Rd] 0.2 mi

At exit 1B, road name changes to US-202 [SR-141]

1.5 mi

At exit 3A, road name changes to SR-141 2.5 mi

At exit 6, turn RIGHT onto Ramp 0.1 mi SR-

2/Kirkwood Hwy./SR-

41/Elsemere/Newark/Lancaster

Take Ramp (RIGHT) onto SR-2 [Robert W

Kirkwood Hwy.] 0.6 mi SR-2 / Elsemere

Turn LEFT (North) onto Local road(s) 10 yds

Road name changes to N Clifton Ave 142 yds

**Arrive 6 N Clifton Ave, Wilmington, DE 19805**

## 2005 Mission Appointments

As we have sought to be faithful to God's call to mission in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference, I have made the following appointments effective July 1, 2005 (unless otherwise indicated).

### Dover District

Rev. Don Godwin from Marshallton (Wilmington District) to Dover: Wesley

Rev. Peggy Briggs from Clarksville: Union Wesley (Dover District) to Seaford Circuit

Rev. Terrance Briggs from Centennial (Dover District) to the Bridgeville Charge

### Easton District

Rev. Jonathan Whitney from Associate Ezion: Mt. Carmel (Wilmington District) to East New Market: Linkwood

Rev. K.C. Lee from appointment to School to Royal Oak

Rev. Marie Robinson from the Bridgeville Charge (Dover District) to the Grasonville-Carmichael Charge

### Salisbury District

Charlotte Nichols from Princess Anne: Metropolitan (Salisbury District) to Salisbury District Superintendent

Rev. Candy Miles from Fruitland: Mt. Calvary Charge (Salisbury District) to Princess Anne Metropolitan

Rev. Anna Foster from Oxford: Waters (Easton District) to Fruitland: Mt. Calvary Charge

Rev. Patricia Frick from attending Seminary to Berlin: Bethany

Rev. Paul Sherwood from Royal Oak (Easton District) to Fruitland: St. John's

### Wilmington District

Rev. John Mitchell from Wilmington District Superintendent to Hockessin

Rev. Bill Fitzhugh from Dover: Wesley (Dover District) to Wilmington District Superintendent

Rev. Karin Tunnel from Associate Pastor Wilmington: Aldersgate (Wilmington District) to Odessa

Rev. Beverly Lewis from Charlestown Charge (Wilmington District) to Associate Pastor Wilmington: Aldersgate

Rev. David Palmer from Lewes: Bethel (Dover District) to Senior. Pastor Newark

### Conference Office

Rev. Elaine Ayres from East New Market: Linkwood (Easton District) to Director of Strengthening the Black Church effective March 1, 2005

*Marcus Matthews*

## Wesley College

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sion III men's national golf championship in 2002 as a sophomore at Wesley. Wesley teams in golf, basketball, football, and women's field hockey have enjoyed considerable success over the years, with the Wesley golf squad winning its sixth consecutive conference title this past season.

Wesley alumni continue to excel in their chosen careers and professions. Kathleen A. Thomas '79, was named the First State's "Teacher of the Year" in 2005 after being cited as outstanding teacher for the Caesar Rodney District in 2004. Kathi is known throughout the state for her leadership of Caesar Rodney High School's award-winning DECA (distributive education) program and her mentoring of new teachers.

The citizens of the Peninsula are especially benefiting from alliances in which the College is partnering with other colleges and organizations to improve the quality of life for all. In the historic section of downtown Dover, an example is the synergistic alliance between Wesley, Delaware State and the Schwartz Center for the Arts. Students from both colleges manage the 100-year old theatre. Also, Barratt's Chapel and Museum in Kent County, a treasure trove of the region's religious history, is now being restored with assistance from the Jessie Ball duPont Foundation and support from Wesley. Other strategic alliances include the Wesley Boys

& Girls Club, the Wesley YMCA Resource Center and the Campus Community Charter School, all on the Wesley campus.

When Wesley was founded in 1873, the nation was emerging from a period of devastation into a time of reconciliation following the Civil War. Young men were turning to the classroom from the fields, as an agricultural economy inexorably gave way to industrialization and the prosperous "Gilded Age." America was beginning its climb toward ascendancy as the world's foremost economic and political power. Today, 132 years later, with the Cold War over and the new information age having largely supplanted the old manufacturing-based economy, our colleges and universities face challenges different – and at the same time, hauntingly similar – to those that were confronted by The Wilmington Conference Academy. Like our predecessor, we are educating young students whose futures will be shaped by forces we cannot yet entirely envision, by challenges yet unseen. We do, truly, have "miles to go" before we can sleep, but with the strength of our community support and synergistic partnerships girding us today, the College looks confidently to the future.

Happy birthday, Wesley College!  
(Editor's Note: Dr. Scott D. Miller has served as the 15th president of Wesley College in Dover since 1997.)

## Camping And Retreat Ministry



### Boys' Hill Upgrades Continue with St. Mark's-Easton Replacement

The ongoing project to replace all cabins on Boys' Hill remained on track when work began to replace the St. Mark's-Easton cabin. Eleven students from Maryland's Kent County High School (KCHS), along with their Vocational Technology teacher, Mike Spray, spent two days in early April at Pecometh to construct the 400 square foot cabin. The students had pre-fabricated the walls of the cabin at the school in preparation for their time at Pecometh. The cost of construction was funded by a \$10,000 donation from St. Mark's-Easton.

This is the fourth cabin on Boys' Hill constructed by KCHS students under Mr. Spray's leadership and funded by sponsoring churches. The other three are Kent Island (Easton), Kingswood (Wilmington), and Felton (Dover). Just two more cabins remain to be replaced on Boys' Hill. Many thanks to our sponsoring churches, to the students at KCHS, and to Mr. Spray for a great partnership with Pecometh.

### Riverside Now Includes Splashdown!

Brochures are out and programs are filling up fast. We're looking forward to another great summer and we've made our core program, Riverside, even better than ever. Now Riverside campers will get to spend a session romping on the Splashdown! equipment. This makes Riverside the most versatile program at Pecometh, with experiencing just about everything the camp has to offer. And don't forget, now's the time to schedule a visit to your church by a Pecometh staff

member to whip those young people (and parents) into a frenzy of excitement. For more information about this or any other program, visit [www.pecometh.org](http://www.pecometh.org) or contact Richelle Darrell at 410.556.6900, x103 or [richelle@pecometh.org](mailto:richelle@pecometh.org).

### Solid MALE Christians Needed for Summer Challenge

Pecometh's summer program is **specifically** looking for **male** staff that are looking to make a difference in camper's lives. As a purpose-driven program that seeks to serve the Lord, the summer program needs older teens and young adults who are interested in strengthening their service to the Lord, building people up, introducing campers to how Christ has worked in their lives and who are interested in practicing and teaching essential life skills. The summer program specializes in Christian leadership and personal growth while providing meaningful experiences for youth.

Those who can answer "YES" to the following three questions should definitely seek to be a part of the summer staff:

Are you committed to living the high Christian standards as a follower of Christ?

Do you believe God has blessed you with spiritual gifts to teach campers as well as fellow staff?

Are you interested in helping us create a purpose-driven camp?

For information go to [www.pecometh.org](http://www.pecometh.org) or contact Dan Ashe at 410.556.6900, x102 or at [danashe@pecometh.org](mailto:danashe@pecometh.org).



## Conference Calendar of Events

### April 2005

- 25 African-American Clergy Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 26 Conference Board of Trustees Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- 28 Embracing The Black Church Task Force Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 1:30 p.m.  
Conference Nominating Task Force Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 7:00 p.m.

### May 2005

- 2 Credit Union Meeting, BFEM Conference Resource Center, 1:30 p.m.
- 3 Black United Methodist Pastors Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.
- 5 Resource Development & Management Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 9:30 a.m.  
Stewardship Task Force Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 11:00 a.m.
- 6 Conference Laity-Clergy Banquet, Modern Maturity Center, Dover, DE, 6:30 p.m.
- 9 Volunteers In Mission Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 3:00 p.m.  
Peter D. Weaver Mission Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 6:30 p.m.
- 10 Pre-Conference Orientation, Wilmington District: Ezion-Mt. Carmel UMC, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- 11 Board of Pensions Luncheon, Sheraton Hotel, Dover, DE, 11:00 a.m.
- 12 Pre-Conference Orientation, Easton District: Chestertown: Christ UMC, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- 14 Design Team Meeting-Youth Rally 2006, TBD
- 16 Congregational Development Corporation Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.

### Editor's Note:

We apologize for the incorrect spelling of Rev. Russell Lehman's name in the April 8th issue