

New Opportunities

Thomas O. Chisholm wrote these words, "Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see." Spring is approaching, and with spring comes new life – new birds, new leaves, new flowers, new grass, even new insects (ugh! my granddaughter would say). But, nature does re-create herself through the power of her Creator. As we anticipate the coming of spring, could it be that God, our Creator, anticipates us doing likewise? Could it be that our spirits are to seek new life, new opportunities to be transformed and re-created through the power of our Creator?

Think about it. Every spring brings about new life for flowers, fowl, and many aspects of nature as part of the created order of God. Each spring brings into being a revival of creation. The trees that once looked dead and barren find new opportunities for growth in the promise of God's sunshine. What new opportunities await you and I this spring? After spending a season of lent in introspection and repentance, don't you believe God wants you to experience the grace of new mercies in your life?

Here is a challenge for you, and me, too. Although we may already be practicing this in some way, let us, you and I, start tomorrow. When we awaken, when our eyes open, let us think about the possibilities of new opportunities that God in his faithfulness may be asking us to seek. Next, throughout the day, each time a new mercy we see, let us incorporate into our day intentional "praise pauses." You see, each new opportunity is a new mercy, a new grace, of being re-created and transformed. At the end of our day, we shall reflect upon, and thank God for his transforming grace and pray for his power to make us a new creation in Jesus Christ based upon what we have witnessed.

*"Summer and winter and
springtime and harvest,
sun moon, and stars in their
courses above
join with all nature in manifold
witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy,
and love."*

*In Remembrance,
Your D.S.*



Weeping and Wailing Women Conference

By Rev. Genevieve Brown

Shiloh United Methodist Women's Convocation hosted the Weeping and Wailing Women's Conference in Crisfield on March 20th. The women came into the presence of the Lord with praise and worship followed by the workshop sessions. Women from various church denominations throughout the community, surrounding areas, and as far as Cambridge were blessed by four dynamic speakers: Rev. Linda Wheatley, pastor of God's Family Life Worship Center in Selbyville, DE spoke on "How to Forgive Yourself;" Rev. Eartha P. Harris, co-founder and Executive Director of Crossroads Ministries, Inc. in Salisbury spoke on "When Life Deals You an Uneven Hand;" Rev. Tracy

C. Simons, elder and assistant pastor at Truth and Love Lighthouse International Church in Baltimore, spoke on "The Wounds & Scars of Rejection;" and Rev. Pearl Johnson, pastor of the Ebenezer Charge in Snow Hill, spoke on "Lethal Injections from the Rapes of Life."

The workshop sessions were culminated with a healing and deliverance service under the auspices of Rev. Dr. Roberta L. Bright. Dr. Bright said, "When you try to please men, they will control you and we need to be delivered from people." The Holy Spirit overshadowed the women with an anointing of freedom. They cried out as they were delivered and set free from the walls of bondage. The conference ended under the anointment of the Holy Spirit.

Community Emergency Shelter Project

Dr. W. Daniel Rich,
Associate Pastor
Bethesda UMC

As a result of a Statement of Agreement between Salisbury University's Council on Family and Community Life and the Wicomico Co. Ministerial Alliance, the Community Emergency Shelter Project provided much needed shelter for up to 40 homeless men nightly from the middle of January through Good Friday, March 25, 2005.

Participating churches included Bethesda UMC, Asbury UMC, Allen Memorial Baptist, St. Frances DeSales Roman Catholic, St. Peter's Episcopal, and the Family Worship Center, all of which hosted the Shelter on a rotating basis.

Each evening the Shelter would open at 4:30 p.m.. After registering and being assigned a bed, guests had a light snack and watched TV or read newspapers or magazines while awaiting dinner. At 6:00 p.m. a hot, nutritious meal was served by our faithful volunteers. After dinner various health needs were addressed as the men engaged in conversation with each other as well as with the volunteers. Lights out was 10:00 p.m.. The second shift of volunteers, who came on duty at 11:30 p.m., had the responsibility of making wake-up calls for those men who had to go to work at various hours.

At 6:00 a.m. the remaining



guests were awakened and served a hearty breakfast.

All men were required to leave the Shelter by 7 a.m. As they exited each guest was given a bag lunch with adrink to be enjoyed during lunch time.

During the two weeks that Bethesda served as the Host, 125 volunteers participated in one way or another (prepared or served food, took shifts as volunteers, helped move the Shelter from one church to another, R.N.'s who addressed health needs, etc.) Also during that period some 575 din-

ners were served, 560 breakfasts were served, and 560 lunches provided. A total of 1,100 volunteer hours were given by children, youth, and adults. Some of our Cub Scouts helped pack lunches and some of our UM Youth helped serve dinner. It truly was a project which challenged our total congregational resources!

We are just grateful that we were able to play a small part in fulfilling Jesus' mandate: "Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you did it unto me."

A Band of Sisters

On any given Monday at a small country church the sound of ladies can be heard. These ladies require nothing from each other except their companionship. They are so comfortable with each other that at times there is comfort in the communal silence. The time passes quickly and everyone soon packs up to meet school buses or start a dinner preparation. The ladies leave with a quiet sense that the time was well spent. They will meet again next week and the same ritual will begin again. Those who miss these Monday afternoons have missed an important part of their life and they make every effort to be in attendance each Monday, for what they receive is far greater than what they give. The conversations are not earth shaking or involve immense decision making skills, but they serve the needs of the ladies that are there. Discussions of family, planned trips, deaths, births and marriages are often the subject of the day. So, what is this group that continues week after week to meet, to laugh together, to cry together and love each other for who they

are? They are simply Quilters. Simply the quilters of Rockwalkin UMC of Hebron.

This lovely group of ladies started meeting nearly ten years ago to learn the much cherished art of quilting. While lovely things were being created, friendships were being forged. They started as novices of the craft and have grown incredibly over the years. Yes, there is a basic faith that has drawn them together, but it has gone beyond that. The group has grown to include ladies from several communities and varied professional backgrounds.

Yes, there are projects, programs and field trips. These have served to strengthen the bond that each started. Newbies are welcomed into the group and are tenderly nurtured until they have their own quilting wings to fly. Sometimes, one of us will stumble or fall, but there is always lots of hands reaching out to help get us moving again,

One of the special things that we did was to spend several weekends a year at Drayton Manor. What an idyllic spot for refreshing one's spirit and honing one's quilt-

ing skills over a three day stay. Good food, exercise and friends are never in short supply. A short respite in time from the stress of raising a young family, caring for an aging parent or the responsibility of a job. It always seemed to do the trick. We packed our bags on our last day with some reluctance, our freedom from the demands of a hectic life is came to an end, but we went forward knowing that we will do this again. Our time at Drayton has been framed by the joyous laughter while sewing, late night chats around the coffee pot, the lovely atmosphere of the manor, the accommodating staff, and such wonderful food served to us.

We will miss our time there, but we know that with a goodbye that there is always a hello. The memories are fond and nothing can take that away. We will still meet every Monday. We will still encourage each other. We will still skillfully weave ourselves into each other's lives. Then someone will say, "Do you remember when we were at Drayton and..." There will be other times, but the times at Drayton Manor were special!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

The Salisbury District celebrates the ministry of Rev. Dr. Patricia Bryant Harris, whose tenure as District Superintendent concludes on June 30, 2005. The celebration will be hosted by the Salisbury District Clergy and Laity and will be held on Saturday, May 14, 2005, at Asbury United Methodist Church located at 1401 Camden Avenue, Salisbury.

There will be a buffet at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Asbury UMC followed by a Service of Praise and Worship, which will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

We invite the Peninsula-Delaware Conference to join us for this celebration evening. More information will follow in upcoming issues of the *Communicator*.

A Common Heritage, A Shared Story

For Christ has made peace between us Jews and you Gentiles by making us all one people. He has broken down the wall of hostility that used to separate us." Ephesians 2:14 NLT "The goal is for all of them to become one heart and mind, just as you, Father, are in me and I in you, so they might be one heart and mind with us. Then the world might believe that you, in fact, sent me." John 17:21 The Message

This oneness in Christ of Jewish and Gentile believers was experienced at Cokesbury UMC in Port Deposit, MD on Saturday March 18 when the congregations of Cokesbury and Tome United Methodist Churches and their pastors came together to hear and celebrate their common heritage in a Seder experience led by Rev. Rick Vance of Leeds UMC. They gathered for a covered dish meal as Rev. Vance, a Jewish Christian and UMC pastor, tied together the story of the Exodus with the redemptive work of Christ in His passion, death and resurrection through the celebration of the Passover Seder. Using the elements of the Seder, he showed how Jesus, being a Jew, took the shared story of the release from captivity of the Hebrew slaves celebrated at the Last Supper and used it to reveal the new covenant He was making through His blood to release all men from the captivity of sin and death. Rev. Vance provided all with a new insight into our communion liturgy through the traditional elements of the Seder, including the significance of Jesus' sharing of Elijah's cup and the pierced and broken matzoh. Pastor Purvey Powell of Cokesbury UMC and Pastor Asher Tunik of Tome UMC served

communion using these traditional elements to those gathered during the Seder ritual.

It was especially poignant to note that Cokesbury UMC's church building had been built by slaves and former slaves and the Passover festival recalls the freeing of the Hebrew slaves from Egyptian bondage. However, Jesus' sacrifice of broken body and shed blood has brought freedom from the greatest bondage – that of sin, and brought us out of darkness and into His kingdom of light.

The congregation of Leeds UMC also celebrated the Jewish roots of Christianity in a Seder meal during their Maundy Thursday service on March 24 at Leeds church. The congregations of Baldwin and Cherry Hill UMC's and their pastor Rev. Bert Jicha were invited to share this celebration with them. This was the third Seder service that Rev. Vance and the Leeds congregation had observed. They used a Messianic Haggadah or Seder liturgy which helped make the connections between the old covenant and the new, the prophecies and their fulfillment in the Messiah Y'shua. They were reminded that as those grafted into the olive tree of God's chosen people, the Jews we share a spiritual heritage as well as receive the blessings from His people. After sharing the meal and the Lord's Supper, all gathered in the sanctuary to continue their worship.

"There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female. For you are all Christians – you are one in Christ Jesus. And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true heirs of Abraham. You are his heirs, and now all of the promises God gave to him belong to you." Gal 3:28 NLT

New District Superintendent Announced

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,
As Chairperson of the Wilmington District Committee on Superintendency, I am delighted to inform you that Bishop Marcus Matthews has appointed the Reverend Dr. William M. Fitzhugh, Jr. (Bill), senior pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church in Dover, as the new superintendent of the Wilmington District effective July 1, 2005.

A native of Alton, Illinois, Bill is married to Christine, and they have two sons, James and Christopher and a grandson, Thomas.

Bill received a Master of Divinity Degree from Wesley Seminary in Washington, D.C. D.Min Degree from The Theological School, Drew University and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Illinois.

He has served as pastor in various charges across the Peninsula-Delaware Conference. Zion United Methodist Church, Cambridge, MD; Royal Oak United Methodist Church, Royal Oak, MD; Grace

United Methodist; Georgetown, DE; McColley's Chapel UMC, Redden, DE; New Castle UMC, New Castle, DE; Peninsula-McCabe UMC, Wilmington, DE; and currently serving Wesley UMC, Dover, DE.

Having participated in and given leadership to numerous committees and boards, Bill has excelled in ministries of our conference, church and community. He has served on the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference Council on Finance and Administration; Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, Commission on Equitable Salaries; Conference Council on Ministries; Wesley College, Board of Trustees; and Conference Commission on Archives and History. Bill has served on district committees and community committees and projects as the Dover Winter Emergency Shelter Ministry; Interfaith Council of Central Delaware; New Castle Housing Advocates, Inc; and the Georgetown Aid, Inc.

Bill is an able preacher, an excellent administrator, and a good listener. He will be a dedicated ser-



Rev. William M. Fitzhugh, Jr.

vant striving with us on the Wilmington District in keeping faith with our covenant to God, our church, and ourselves. His spiritual journey gives depth to his witness to peace and justice as well as to the grace of Christ and gifts of the Spirit. We look forward in partnering with Bill as he comes on the Wilmington District and we pray God's blessing on him and his family.

Sincerely in Christ,
Ray F. Graham, Chair
Committee of Superintendency

Come and Explore the Intersection of God's love and your life

The Reverend Dr. C. Karen Covey Moore will be leading a women's retreat at the Jesus, House, 2501 Milltown Road, Wilmington, DE on May 6th and 7th.

This is an opportunity to examine the places and ways that God's love has become real to you and to explore ways to be more aware of that love. Topics to be covered include:

- Who Am I?
- Who is God?
- What is Prayer?
- How does Scripture help?
- How can I nurture my spiritual life?
- Where is God in suffering, pain, and grief?

The cost is \$130 and includes one night's lodging and three meals.

Contact Karen at coveymoore@aol.com or by calling her at 302.377.6123 for more information or to register. Registration deadline is April 29.

Karen Moore grew up in Easton, Maryland. She is the mother of three children and the proud grandmother of five. Before experiencing her call to ordained ministry, she worked as an R.N. in Baltimore and Maine. She has served as the pastor of churches in the Dover, Salisbury, and Wilmington Districts of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference since her ordination in 1985. She received her M.Div. and her D. Min. from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., and a Master's Degree in Spiritual Direction from Neumann College in Aston, PA. She is currently appointed to Chabereh Ministries, Inc. Chabereh – pronounced khabereth (a Hebrew word meaning companion) – is an independent, not-for-profit ministry which offers individual Spiritual Direction and retreats.



C. Karen
Covey Moore

United Methodist Men's News

To all brothers regardless if you are in Christ or not, God loves you and is calling you today.

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity. It is like the precious oil poured on the head. It is as the dew of Hermon, which falls on Mount Zion; for the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forever more.

Time is of the essence because time waits for no person. So I am asking brothers from all walks of life to share the experience by joining other men from across the nation for a week-end of inspiration, information and instruction at Purdue University, West LaFayette, Indiana, on July 15-17, 2005.

Prepare now to go forth with men of your district and your conference, which is Peninsula-Delaware Conference.

There will be leadership training for local, district, and conference presidents, a host of featured speakers with music and drama and workshops, and many more activities such as the John Wesley Fellow Dinner.

Our theme for the 9th National Gathering of United Methodist Men is "Hearts Afire For God," sponsored by GCUMM, UMME, NACP, and NAUMS.

You can register online at www.gcumm.com or call

888.245.0176. Oh, and if all else fails, register through the postal service and mail to: OCEC Business Services, Purdue University, 128 Memorial Mall West, LaFayette, IN 47907-2034.

Registration forms can be obtained from the website or by calling 888.245.0176.

Each District President is responsible for informing local Presidents to get men involved and to keep them informed of news as it arrives.

We are anticipating 100 plus men, conference-wide, to make this journey in 2005. We hope you are one of them.

To get there and back we are making arrangements through Delaware Express Bus Company. The cost of the bus trip is separate from registration which is \$250.00, unless you are a member of EMS. The cost of the bus will be a maximum of \$125.00 (if we can fill the buses, the cost per person will be lower). Total cost will be a maximum of \$375.00 plus any spending money you wish to take, e.g. meals on the road.

Registration money is to be sent in with your application directly to Purdue University.

To reserve a spot on one of our buses, please send us a non-

refundable \$25.00 deposit as soon as possible. The remainder of the \$125.00 is due no later than June 1, 2005. Please make checks payable to Peninsula-Delaware Conference and mail to: Calvin Blake, 815 Springfield Circle, Salisbury, Maryland 21804.

As you can see, all of us men must work hard, but at the same time work smart in order to reach our goal of 100 plus men. It is important to start early on this.

I encourage all of you to be accountable and responsible to your God and the cause of the United Methodist Men's Organization. If you have any questions, please call one of the following:

Charles Brummel, Jr.	Easton District	410.754.9634
Allan Loomis	Wilmington District	410.398.3531
Guy Winebrener	Dover District	302.398.8563
Calvin Blake	Salisbury District	410.749.4140

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals because you were slain and with your blood you purchased men for God."

Revelation 5:9
Respectfully Submitted,
Charles E. Brummel, Jr.
President of the United Methodist Men

Snippets from Sandra

Hello Dover District! I hope that you all experienced the joy of resurrection as you celebrated Easter this year.

Annual Conference is fast approaching. Please keep those who are preparing for Commissioning and Ordination in your prayers. This is a significant time in the lives of those who come before us to make a public profession and commitment to following God's call upon their lives. Ordination is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual Grace. The following persons will be commissioned from the Dover District this June: **Rev. Thomas Johnson, Rev. Peggy Briggs, Rev. Claudia Waters, and Rev. Ed Kuhling.** We also have one person on the District that will be commissioned as pursuing the order of Ordained Deacon: **Connie Hastings.** As a District, I hope that you will come to the Ordination service and celebrate with these persons as well as to listen more carefully to the ministry that God may have in store for you. All pastors, whether they are students, part-time local pastors, full time local pastors, commissioned pastors, or ordained elders are expected to attend the ordination/commissioning service, but all laity are invited to participate and celebrate as well. It is at the ordination service that many persons hear that call from God that sometimes takes them in new directions for their lives.

So put it on your calendar now

and attend! The Ordination/Commissioning service and celebration will be Saturday evening, June 11, at 7 p.m. at the Ella Fitzgerald Center

for the Performing Arts on the Campus of University of Maryland, Eastern Shore in Princess Anne, Maryland. Hope to see you there!

Mark this date on your calendar too!! Saturday, October 29, 2005. Beginning at 4 p.m. on this evening at the Wyndham Hotel on 8th and King Streets in Wilmington there will be a Gala Event to celebrate the Delaware Conference. The Delaware Conference was the African American Conference of the United Methodist Church before the merger in 1965. The Delaware Conference covered a geographical area that stretched from South East New York down the coast of New Jersey, Delaware, the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and the Virginia part of the Peninsula. The Gala celebrates the 40 years since the merger. Plan to be a part of this celebration now! The Delaware Conference is a rich and important part of our heritage! More information on both the Gala and the History of the Delaware Conference will be shared in various ways throughout the Conference as we build up to this celebration.



Grace Church Buys a Water Buffalo!!!

Grace United Methodist Church in Millsboro has purchased a water buffalo and a whole flock of chickens. That's right! Things have gone South around the church grounds and many have seen the beast grazing on the parsonage lawn. After much debate and prayerful discernment, the Vision Team and Trustees have authorized Treasurer Bill Pusey to issue the proper checks for purchase and upkeep of the animals. John Thoroughgood, Trustee Chair, has gone on the official record as saying, "It is the best thing for the church. We have got to clean the grassy area off to make way for Thoroughgood's Concrete to come in here and pour us some more parking places!"

Many parishioners thought it was a hoax until the congregation's Lay Leader and Delaware's Secretary of State, Harriet Smith Windsor, added clout to the purchase. Dr. Windsor told sources imbedded deep in the State government structure in Dover who wish to remain anonymous that "the chickens running around the church grounds were an obvious nod to our Sussex County agrarian roots. We want to be a church that can speak the language of the people."

One person who is not happy about the church's new acquisition is long time custodian and groundskeeper, Ronnie Wooten. This reporter stopped Mr. Wooten while he was cutting the lawn and inadvertently chasing the chicks around the church. Shaking his head in disbelief he said in his Dagsboro drawl, "I don't know what this new preacher is up to. Every time I turn around he is doin' somethin' new. Always changing things on me. They didn't ask me, but since you did, I'll tell ya, and I'll tell ya the truth. If they think this is going to clean off the grass, they shouldn't have bought this huge bovine and all these chickens. What are these animals going to do when they are done eating? Why everybody knows they create a natural fertilizer. That is just gona make the grass grow faster!"

Seriously, Grace Church has purchased a water buffalo and several flocks of chickens through a donation to Heifer International. Last year the adult and children's Sunday Schools as well as Vacation Bible school raised \$385.25 to be given to the organization that seeks to "help millions of impoverished families worldwide become more

self-reliant through the gift of livestock and training in their care."

The water buffalo will "lighten the load of a struggling family in countries like Nepal, Cambodia or the Philippines. These powerful creatures can plow through mud that would stall a tractor in minutes. They take narrow terraces on steep mountains in stride. They feed on crop residue and yield milk and manure. They pull cartloads of crops to market with ease."

As far as the chickens, well what else would a church in Sussex County Delaware give? "Chickens are a real value. Starting at six months, they can lay up to 200 eggs a year - a reliable source of protein for children who otherwise subsist mostly on starches. Extra eggs can be sold to pay for school, clothes and medicine. And in the vegetable garden, chickens peck at bugs and weeds, scratch up the soil and enrich it with droppings. Chicks are an elegant solution to improving a family's crops and their diet..." Grace Church purchased six separate flocks of chickens that each includes ten hens and one rooster. I am sure the children and families that will be helped by these children's generous donations are thankful.

Congrats to Nate Christian!

For the third year in a row, nine-year old Nate Christian, son of Drew and Debbie Christian of Seaford, organized another event in order to raise money for others. Nate attends West Seaford Elementary and for his SPARK project this year he decided to put on a spaghetti dinner and concert in order to raise money for Evergreen United Methodist Church, a new church start in Seaford, and the Christian Youth CoffeeHouse Ministry, "Somewhere Else."

On Saturday, February 19, 2005 the spaghetti dinner and concert were held at Gethsemane United Methodist Church, where Nate's father is pastor. Nate sought donations from individuals and

businesses for a silent auction that would run concurrent with the dinner. Ledo's Pizza donated all the sauce for the spaghetti. For the concert, The Peveys, from Alabama, flew in to perform. The Peveys, Ric and Carolyn and their two children, Cole, 11, and Mabrey-Layne, 8, performed contemporary Christian and gospel music.

The dinner and concert raised \$1058.00 for Evergreen and the Youth CoffeeHouse "Somewhere Else." Nate's past projects have included a Softball Game Day, in 2003, which raised over \$800 for the Seaford Mission and a Bowling Tournament, in 2004, which raised \$1311, also for the Seaford Mission.

Will an 8:00 a.m. Contemporary Praise Service really work?

Submitted by Rev. Joe Barth

Isn't that too early? Apparently not! In September of 2004, Ewell's St. Paul UMC in Clayton started the aforementioned service. There were people in the church who wanted a different style of worship and they would support it. And they have!

The church was in need of financial support to help get this service off the ground. We required about \$7,000.00 in sound and musical equipment. Even though some people had doubts about raising this money for a new and different service, God provided the money from inside and outside the church. Since then even more financial support has come in to help buy electronic drums, computer software, more microphones and stands and better audio playback equipment.

The 8:00 a.m. service has an average attendance of sixty-three. It has increased the average attendance of the church up 20%. The average giving to the general fund of the church is up 27% and overall giving is up 33%. These are won-

derful statistics but the more important work is what has been witnessed in the hearts of those who attend both services and who sing and play in the praise team.

We are seeing families come back to church who have not been here in five to six years. They are becoming active once again in Christian education and mid-week discipleship. In one extended family, the grown children are returning to church. One family comes to the praise service and one family to the traditional service and the parents are thrilled they are back in church at all! It doesn't matter which service they attend.

In the praise team, I asked some youth in the area to play in the services along with me (I play the guitar). Three youth who never attended church, started to come just to play their instruments. At least they are now in a worship service and exposed to the Word of God. We start every practice with devotions. We start with prayer and then someone reads a Bible passage as all others listen with their eyes closed. There have been moments

that God has spoken to our hearts in our discussion time. At this time each person has led in prayer and reading the Bible to the others. These youth have since become active in our growing youth group and are bringing even more of their friends to church and youth group.

Finally, the reason all this has happened is because of the power of prayer. In June of 2004, a men's prayer group started on Thursday morning at 6:00 a.m. Since then, twelve and eighteen men show up to drink coffee and pray using the ACTS prayer model. The women then started a prayer group on Friday morning at 6:00 a.m. and one on Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. God is moving as God's people pray!

In the near future we plan to renovate the entire sound system so that it will accommodate both services, add better video capability to our services, and to start a third service at 9:30 a.m. during the Sunday school hour. We believe this time frame will attract a much larger crowd from this exploding community around us.

Prayer Conference

The Friendship United Methodist Church in Millsboro invites all to participate in their first annual Prayer Conference on Saturday, April 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Grace UMC, Millsboro. The keynote speaker will be Bishop Violet Fisher and she will speak on "You Have Not Because You Ask Not." Tickets are \$10.00 which includes lunch. Contact 302.934.9606 for tickets or more information.

The Dover District Page runs in this publication once per month and is dedicated to the churches and other ministries in the Dover District. There will be two more issues before the summer break (May and June). Please be sure to submit your articles, photos, etc. to the District Office by the deadlines to ensure that your ministry is shared with the district and the rest of the conference.



Preceding Events

Successful Spring Lay Academy

Roberta Jean Wongus, Editor

Monday, March 14, 2005, was Graduation Night for the Easton District Spring Lay Academy. A combined graduation ceremony was held at St. Mark's (Rev. Gary Moore) in Easton. The three schools included: Centerville (Centerville UMC); Chestertown (First UMC); and

Cambridge (Grace UMC).

An invitation goes out to all graduates to become an active member of the Easton District Board of Laity. A charge goes out to each graduate to create opportunities to share of their gifts and talents (in the area of their calling into Laity), within their local church and their communities.

Honorary Banquet



Family, Friends, and Fellow Clergy Mrs. Rebecca Ayres and Lay Minister Nona Stanley



Rev. Josh Lebelo and Rev. & Mrs. William (Interim Pastor)

Roberta Jean Wongus, Editor

On March 4, 2005, relatives, friends, and fellow Clergy came together, to celebrate the past experiences of and to support and encourage what is to come in the life of Rev. Elaine E. Ayres.

Rev. Ayres is making the transition from the East New Market-Linkwood Charge to the position of Director for Strengthening the Black Church.

A Good time was had by all who attended.

Ladies of KIUMC From The Sudlersville Charge

A hearty thanks goes out to everyone who came to the Pancake Supper and helped make that evening a success. Also many thanks go out to the many ladies and men who did the setup, cooking, baking and cleanup.

The Ladies made a \$200.00 donation to the Anna Lozeva Fund. She is the Bulgarian student who was injured on Route 8 last

July. A \$200.00 donation was also made to Hospice of Queen Anne's Inc.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for Monday, May 2, for the Mother-Daughter Dinner. We are very excited that the Rev. Dr. Sandra Steiner Ball will be our speaker. She is currently serving as the Dover District Superintendent. Tickets are available: call 410.438.3816.

Succeeding Events

District Conference

Rev. Donnachie, Easton District Superintendent, has announced a **District Conference** to be held **Saturday, April 30** at the Centerville UMC in Centerville. The conference will begin at 8:30 a.m. with registration and refreshments. The conference will begin at 9 a.m. with worship service. The conference will conclude at 12 p.m. All pastors and lay mem-

bers to Annual Conference are highly encouraged to attend this meeting. They will have full voting privileges. Other persons from the churches throughout the district are also welcomed to attend the meeting.

Persons planning to attend the conference may pre-register online by emailing their name and church to: eastondistrictoffice@verizon.net. No email? Then just send in a

postcard or just call.

Some items on the agenda will include a variety of worship, a presentation of our District Hispanic Plan, an examination of our district office expenses, a proposal for an increase in district apportionments, and much more. We are hoping to have Cokesbury Bookstore present with a variety of resources for the local church.

Heart to Heart 2005

'A Ministry by Women for Women' From The Sudlersville Charge

Art Lohman was our January speaker, and he shared much information concerning our safety wherever we go in this day of unrest in the world, and especially in our own community. He made us aware that we may think that crime is not happening on our little island, but it is, and he gave us hints to protect

our family and ourselves. Thanks so much to Art for taking time out of his busy schedule to be with us; and thanks for the great turnout to welcome Art.

Shirley Heintzelmasn spoke on March 22nd. She spoke about beauty inside and out. Shirley has been with Mary Kay for many years and she demonstrated how to use

make-up, and how Jesus can make us beautiful from the inside out. This meeting was a valuable one from teens and beyond.

April 26th, Frank and Helen Stamm will share and demonstrate defense methods to protect ourselves. This promises to be a fun meeting and we will learn also.

... More To Come ...

Board of Laity Sponsors Luncheon; Emphasis on Youth..

Roberta Jean Wongus, Editor

On Saturday, April 9th, youth, their advisors, clergy and laity from across the Easton District will fill the Fellowship Hall of St. Mark's UMC in Easton. The afternoon begins

with a catered lunch beginning at 12 noon. Following the luncheon there will be presentations, special music and a featured speaker. The theme for this year's event is "Today's Youth for Tomorrow's Leaders."

... On Journeying

Roberta Jean Wongus, Editor

Seven years ago, I was Spiritually lead to the Lay Academy held in Cambridge. During that same year I attended the school in Denton. The next two years I did the same, just for my own enlightenment. It was then I was prompted to grow deeper in God and receive what I was to do for the kingdom. I felt called to pursue Lay Leadership and submitted an application.

For the next two years, I continued the same, attending the academies until I became a Certified Church Lay Leader. It was at this time that I thought: I'm missing something here. About two years ago, while conversing with a friend, I mentioned that I felt there should be more contact with the Academy officials after the schools are over. I felt they should provide more support and guidance to us-the graduates. The response that I received was not satisfying. It

placed the responsibility of guidance upon the pastors.

At the graduation of the next academy that I attended, Rev. Joan Wolff (at that time Rev. Wolff was District Lay Leader), invited the graduates to become members of the Board of Laity. This I thought would be my chance to get the support and guidance that I thirst. Today, I hold the position of District Lay Leader (to God be the Glory), and the task to fulfill that spiritually lead quest I began two years ago.

Most recently (after Lay Academy Graduation), I have been intensely studying the Book of Discipline to insure that I am accountable for the responsibilities of the District Lay Leader. Some of the duties are: to provide for the training of local church Lay Leaders for their ministries in the local church; have responsibility for fostering awareness of the role of laity both within congregations and through

their ministries in the home, work place, community, and world in achieving the mission of the Church; and supporting and enabling lay participation in sessions and programs-in the planning and decision making processes of the district and local churches in cooperation with the District Superintendent and Pastors.

Now the work begins. With the assistance of an active Board of Laity, we will accomplish the above listed responsibilities and all others included in the 2004 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church. In doing this, I know that my thirst will be quenched, along with that of many others.

We need your support 2005 Lay Academy Graduates to make this happen. So come on Board for an **Exciting Journey** which can accompany being called to proclaim the Gospel through Laity!

What is happening at your church? Share your story in our Preceding Events, Succeeding Events or our ...More To Come... columns. E-mail your information to eastondistrictoffice@verizon.net, rwongusdc@comcast.net or seekrjwongus@yahoo.com. The next District Page Deadline is April 15, 2005. Roberta Jean Wongus, Editor