

## From the D.S.

**S**ince this issue of our newspaper is to be dated December 23, you may or may not actually read this before Sunday, Christmas Day 2005. Whether a few days before or a few days after Christmas, I would invite you to reflect with me upon this question: Why would 21st century American men and women, children and youth take the time to remember the birth of a baby born in the Middle East over 2,000 years ago? We find one answer to this question in the traditional Christmas hymn, "Silent Night, Holy Night." This beloved hymn (The United Methodist Hymnal, 239) declares in stanza three: "Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth."

Christians throughout the centuries have witnessed to the belief that Jesus of Nazareth is, at birth, Lord. This title, Lord, was used by slaves for their Master, by subjects for their King, and by courteous men and women, children and youths as a title of respect. One of the earliest declarations of

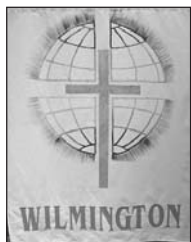
faith within our Christian tradition was "Jesus is Lord."

Christmas is the time to celebrate the birth of the one who is to be our Master, our King, "our boss," our Lord: the one we listen to, obey, follow, respect, to whom we are committed. Who really is our Master, the ultimate authority for us as we order our priorities, set our values?

To the degree that we allow Jesus of Nazareth to lead us, guide us, direct us in our lives, to the degree that Jesus of Nazareth is our Lord, we have a reason to celebrate his birth. I challenge you in the days between Christmas and Epiphany to Reflect upon and Pray about your personal relationship to Jesus of Nazareth. May Jesus be your Lord this Christmas and into this coming year. May you be able this Christmas season to sing with real meaning: "Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth."

Your Partner in Ministry,

Bill



## The Bells Are Ringing

**E**very Christmas the Salvation Army puts out their kettles to remind us that many unseen are in need. The people of our District will give over \$300,000 in 2005 to those in need we saw on our TVs; first for the tsunami victims, then for the Gulf Coast storm victims. When deciding how to allocate your Christmas offering, like the Salvation Army, forget not those in the shadows. Consider giving to the students at Africa University (03-01-88), the world's hungry (Heifer Project 982531) or one of the UM local projects (MAP, Neighborhood House, or Ray of Hope Mission). Let's ring our church bells for those in the society's shadows too.

## Carols program on Sunday, December 18th, at 6:30 p.m.

**T**his is a community event hosted by the Parish in Zion UM Church's Community Hall. It is totally free... free hot chocolate, cookies and an hour or so of singing Christmas carols in the comfort of the church hall. People sit around tables to enjoy the treats as we sing from words projected by an overhead projector. Kids are provided with coloring pages and crayons. We have gone to this as it can be done in any kind of weather and it allows the elderly and those with physical limitations to fully participate in an activity that is usually only for the physically fit. It is fun for the whole family!

## Community Sing-In of Handel's Messiah

**Y**ou are the chorus! On December 26 (Boxing Day) at 3:00 p.m. Aldersgate Church in Wilmington will host a Sing-In of Messiah for all members of the community.

With accompaniment by a professional orchestra including strings, winds, trumpets, and tympani, this is an opportunity for both experienced singers and those who are new to Messiah to join together as a community. Professional soloists will treat you to your favorite arias, and conducting will be Mackenzie Albert, a professional conductor from the New York City area who has recently moved to Wilmington. Although she has conducted many performances of Messiah in both New York and Connecticut, Maes-

tro Albert encourages everyone who likes music to join in the fun. "You don't have to be good, just enthusiastic" she says, smiling broadly.

What makes this Sing-In unique? It takes place after the rush and stress of Christmas preparations are over, when we can relax and enjoy the best gifts of the holiday season with friends and family. Beginning with Part 1 of Messiah and the final chorus, "Worthy is the Lamb," the afternoon will conclude with everyone – soloists and chorus together – joining with the orchestra in the "Hallelujah Chorus." It's a little over an hour of music, so you'll be home in plenty of time for the big game!

The Sing-In will take place in

Aldersgate's beautifully decorated sanctuary, and a reception will follow in the church auditorium. There is no admission charge and Messiah scores will be provided, but please bring yours if you have one. Child care will also be provided for the afternoon. This is a great opportunity to invite those who are not part of the church community to join in an informal reading of Handel's masterpiece. Aldersgate has conceived this Sing-In as an outreach to the surrounding neighborhoods, so we hope that every church in the area will be represented.

For more information, including solo and orchestra opportunities, please call 302.478.2575 or contact the Music Director at malbert@aldersgate.org.

## An Unique Outreach to Students Needs Your Help

**O**ne of the members of the Holly Oak/Calvary Charge in Wilmington stood up and made a simple request that resulted in the start of a new outreach. The man said that his nephew came home from school very excited and told his mom that he wants to start learning to play the trumpet in school. Since the boy has a learning disability, school is a struggle and he is rarely excited about learning anything. The uncle went on to explain to the congregation that the family cannot afford a trumpet and it really hurt the boy's mother to say no. He then asked if anyone in the congregation had a

trumpet stored away in a closet or attic not being used that could be made available to the student. One of the members of Holly Oak Church did indeed have a trumpet and gave it to the boy.

The members of Calvary Church saw in this an opportunity to reach out in a new way. Certainly there are many students in the same situation. They would like to play a musical instrument in the school band, but can't afford it. And surely there are hundreds of instruments stored away in people's homes not being used.

So the members of Calvary contacted the heads of the music

programs in the local school districts to see if there is a need. There is. Now they are appealing to you for help. Do you have a band instrument that is not being used? Would you be willing to donate that instrument to a student to put to use? Calvary is accepting all band instruments: trumpets, flutes, clarinets, drums, violins, oboes, French horns, etc., etc.

If you have an instrument that you are willing to donate, please call Calvary Church at 302.764.5518 or call Shane Moran at 302.222.6655. Put an instrument that is corroding away in a closet to good use.

## Chesapeake City Feeding Ministries

**T**he Chesapeake City Charge of Town Point and Trinity Churches continues to see increased need for food assistance. MOM's Kanal Kitchen is a fellowship meal offered once per month on the last Saturday of each month. Established in April 2004 an average of 70-80 folks share in this meal each month.

Invitations to the meal are extended many ways, including through the food pantry housed at

Trinity. This is a ministry of the Chesapeake City Ecumenical Association. We have seen nearly double the number of families requesting food over last year, with 202 boxes distributed to date. In addition to the area churches, support for the Food Pantry is provided throughout the year by Trinity Preschool, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Chesapeake City Elementary, Curves, and other organizations. In November, God blessed us with a partnership with Dollar General

for food donations.

Finally, the Hope Food Program of the Food Bank of Delaware is active in Chesapeake City. Forty people are a part of three food clubs. They receive low cost access to food on an ongoing basis.

This really only scratches the surface of the need for food assistance. We are praying about how God is leading us to do more to respond to His call to feed the hungry.

## Leeds UMC Celebrates "The Gift"

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift."  
2 Corinthians 9:15 (NRSV)

**T**his Advent season the congregation of Leeds UMC is celebrating "The Gift" using materials from the Igniting Ministry campaign by the same name. The Advent Bible Study, gathering over soup and sandwiches, is exploring the gift that God sent us that first Christmas Eve, discovering that they all have received gifts from God, are called to share those gifts with others, and are challenged to

honor God's gifts and use them wisely. The worship graphics and sermon messages have been filled with the imagery of "The Gift" and the congregation has been taking home tangible reminders each week – a loaf of bread, a small wrapped gift, etc. In a society that demands that we find and give the 'perfect gift' at Christmas, the message that God has already given us the "Perfect Gift" in Jesus Christ is comforting and the privilege of sharing Him and our faith in Him with others in a variety of ways is exciting.

Time for "hanging of the greens"  
and airing out the Advent paraments.  
Don't forget *The Gift*.

www.igniting.org  
The people of The United Methodist Church

## Advent Greetings from Sandra

Friends of the Dover District,

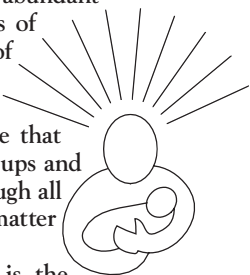
Happy Advent! In this time of preparation, please make space to just to be present with God and rejoice.

"The Lord has done great things for us." (Ps. 126:3) In the midst of our joy, even in the midst of our struggles, sadness, and challenges, we should rejoice for the Lord has done great things. Take time to rejoice in and give thanks for the abundant gifts of home and nourishment, the times of play, rest and relaxation, the blessing of friends and family. Give thanks for the gift of life and the God who continues to breathe into us that breath of life. Rejoice that Emmanuel, God with us, is present in the ups and downs of our lives, and walks with us through all the ages and stages of life, loving us no matter what.

Emmanuel, God with us! Emmanuel is the greatest and best gift of the season. This gift comes to us because we are children of God. We do not have to earn the right to have God with us. God wants us to be with, walk, with each one of us. Give thanks for a love so great that it will not leave us alone. God is with us, Rejoice! Rejoice! for the Lord has done great things!

In this Holiday season, I give thanks for each one of you. I give thanks for your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service. I give thanks for your support, your words of encouragement, and your challenges. I give thanks for how you each reflect Christ's light into the world. I give thanks for my family – for Barry, who continues to support me through every expected and unexpected turn of life, for Sarah – my now 16 year old sports enthusiast and new driver, (word of warning – she will be driving on her own come February), for Becky my 12 year old dancer, for Oscar, my little dog, who forces me to play and walk even if I don't feel like it, and for Parents, you all know them as Marge and Ed Steiner, who shuttle kids and attend games and do any number of things that keep the glitches in life down to a minimum. I also give thanks for a tremendous Administrative Assistant, Marilyn Cleeton, who continues to be my right arm and helps to give my life some peace and sanity.

My prayer for all of you is that you might take time to rejoice in God's presence with you and give thanks for the wonderful things and people that God has given you.



## Blessed by an Angel

Several years ago, Christine Fitzhugh (wife of Dr. Bill Fitzhugh) asked me if I would consider becoming the coordinator for the Angel Tree Program at Wesley Church in Dover and I accepted. Angel Tree is a worldwide program of Prison Fellowship and has been a Missions Project of Wesley United Methodist Church for approximately 10 years. Angel Tree is an opportunity for incarcerated parents to give their child a gift at Christmas time. We started out with 10-15 Angels and for the past 5 years we have been making sure that 60 Angel Tree Children in our area receive gifts from their incarcerated parent.

It takes several months and hundreds of volunteer hours to complete this project. We receive the names of the child's caregivers in October. Phone calls are made to find ideas for gifts from the caregiver. Church members choose and shop for the Angel. Gifts are returned to the church and a wrapping party is held. A week later all the gifts are dis-

tributed to the family.

This year we even needed to ask for more Angels because some church members did not receive an Angel and wanted to participate in the program. I had thought we had received all the children and distributed them and then received 5 Angels late. I sent an e-mail to church members asking for help with the 5 additional Angels and they were all taken in 30 minutes. I even had a call from Doris Torbert in Florida who got the e-mail and wanted to help! Amazing!

When Christine first asked me to take this project I never would have thought it would be such a blessing in my life.

*"Two are better than one . . . if one falls down, his friend can help him up."*

*Ecclesiastes 4: 9-10*

Thank you Wesley Church.

Peace  
Kim Book

## Fourth of July and Baptisms

Bethany Church at Lowe's Crossroads puts a lot of emphasis on fellowship among its congregation. The church believes this fellowship leads to a love relationship with each other and with God. One of the most valuable experiences for the congregation has been their home groups which meet twice a month. For the past year, Lori and Billy Bean and Beverly and Lenny Graves have opened their homes to these groups for fellowship, singing, Bible study and fun.

Bethany's annual 4th of July picnic was again held at the home of Pastor Lem and Miss Jessie

Hudson. Their apple orchard provides a cool, shady place for good eating and fellowship. After-dinner entertainment consisted of young Kaycee teaching the hula. Then the competitive spirit of the congregation was exposed in games such as dodge ball, three-legged race and horseshoes.

August 14 was a BIG day for Bethany Church when one baby was dedicated and 10 members of the congregation received the holy baptism through emersion. Mackenzie Whaley was dedicated to the Lord in the presence of her parents, Carrie and Eric, her grandparents, and loving church family.

Then 10 adults from the congregation took the plunge of faith.

A new fellowship time has been started by Billy Bean who invites anyone to the church community hall every Tuesday evening to learn how to do leather braiding. Attendance has been good and everything made there will be sold to support local missions.

Bible study is conducted twice a week at Bethany. On Wednesday evenings, Mark Allen leads a study of various books of the Bible and on Sunday evenings, Pastor Lem and Miss Jessie lead the congregation in a study of "Experiencing God" walk.

## Free Trade Coffee

A mission program that encourages the use of Free Trade Coffee has been recently undertaken by Millville UMC. The coffee is used for fellowship gatherings and is made available at cost to church members and friends for home use. Purchases of Free Trade Coffee are helping small farmers earn a fair price for their products, receive affordable credit, and participate in democratic cooperatives that invest in training, health care, and agricultural improvements in their communities.

## Prayer by E-Mail

Submitted by Gary Farmer

One of the incredible things at Hope UMC (Dover) is the way we communicate with each other via email. We have a prayer chain that is warm, wonderful and very caring. The first thing I do every morning is check my email to see if there are any prayer requests. We at Hope have rapidly become a family of believers. The emails that go out are sad, joyous, full of life and filled with the love of God. We share praises, we share sorrows. We ask for support, we give thanks. An outsider might laugh at some of the prayer requests that go out. Some may

seem small, but are serious to us all. Whether we are asking for prayers for a sick pet or a dear friend or family member suffering from a serious illness, the requests go out and the prayers are faithfully offered. Many times, we share praises for answered prayers. We also are learning that all prayers are answered perhaps not the way we thought wanted, but answered indeed. I can't speak for anyone other than myself, but seeing my prayer requests go out to all gives me chills and a great feeling of warmth and love. God is great and answers email. Here at Hope, we share as a family through our emails.

## Tearing Down The Walls

By Rev. Scot McClymont

For over a year now I have been praying to God to show a way to join more youth together in the Smyrna area. God laid a vision on my heart. I really started to listen to what mattered most to the youth and it wasn't what I expected. Youth do not care about these man-made structures we call church buildings. Youth do not care about crossing denominational lines. Youth don't care what you dress like or how many piercings that you may have in your face. Youth want to feel welcome and meet others who struggle just as much as they do.

We have taken three Methodist churches in the area and combined the youth groups. Kenton, Ewell-St. Paul, and Asbury have combined their mid-week and Sunday night meetings to have youth meet other youth who go to the same schools but may not go to the same church. It has been a great success. The support group for each other has

grown and friendships were formed and relationships with Christ have grown even more. You get to offer more programs that the youth want to do and split up the groups not only by age but by spiritual maturity.

The other piece of the puzzle was to figure out how to crossover the denominational lines because, like I stated before, it doesn't matter where you go to church just as long as you have a heart for Christ. Pastor Joe Barth contacted Providence Creek Academy in Clayton and they let us use their gymnasium the last Sunday of every month for a larger group to meet. This has also been a great success. The youth that attend are from Asbury UMC, Ewell St. Paul UMC, Kenton UMC, Daybreak UMC, 1st Presbyterian

Church, St. Polycarp Parish, Freewill Baptist, and many more to follow in the future.

The youth are not the church of tomorrow, they are the church of today and they need to be treated as such. We need to help shape and point these fine young people in the right direction and when they stumble or fall we need to be there to pick them up and tell them that everything will be alright and love them unconditionally. Offer the things to the youth that they want and you don't have to compromise the Word in doing it. Just listen to the voice of a generation crying out. They want Jesus and they are not afraid to follow.

Christ for the world for the world needs Christ!





## From the District Superintendent

### Prepare The Way

**F**or some reason or other the word, "prepare" keeps coming to mind this Advent Season. It seems that so much of life finds us preparing for this or for that. Yet, the this or that for which we prepare seems to pass very quickly ...or does it?

We spend what seems to be hours in the kitchen preparing for the family Christmas meal. Total consumption time . . . usually less than an hour.

Pastors spend countless number of hours preparing for Sunday's sermon . . . Delivery time, 20-30 minutes.

Expectant parents spend months preparing the nursery, taking care of their health, practicing for the delivery . . . Delivery time, without labor . . . a few minutes.

Probationary members preparing for interviews with the board of Ordained Ministry spend a great deal of time preparing papers for their final interview. Total combined time of the interview...about three hours.

Football teams spend countless hours on the practice field preparing for Sunday's competition. Actual playing time, without TV commercials . . . 60 minutes.

The list could continue and does and for good reason.

Preparation for the this or that really extends itself sometimes for a lifetime or even an eternity.

We have heard the words, "Prepare the way of the Lord." Those preparations in moments and minutes of prayer, worship, reading, meditation, retreats, conversation, communion, fasting and more prepare us for the day to day life experiences and for the eternity that awaits us.

Sometimes we struggle with the preparations, wondering if they are really worth the time and effort. We know the answer, for we have experienced the results of preparedness. So let each of us, not only through these days of Advent and Christmas, continue to personally prepare the way for the Lord in our lives. Let us continue the preparations so that we may live before others and among others the Good New of Jesus and in some way encourage others to say "Yes" to the King of Kings.

Your Partner in Ministry

Rev. Thomas Donnachie

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

**O**n December 24th, we will have two Christmas Eve services, at 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. here at Grace Church.

Christmas Eve worship is always extra special: singing the carols, hearing again the beloved story of the birth of Jesus, and silently reflecting by candlelight on all the blessings of his coming to us and the whole world. The service invites us to travel back in time and across the miles to Bethlehem, in heart and spirit, to the joy of that wonderful birth.

The two services will be similar, but also different from each

Grace UMC  
Cambridge, Maryland  
Rev. Doug Ridley, Pastor

other. At each, we will light the Advent Wreath, hear the Christmas story, sing the carols of the season, and proclaim Jesus as the light of the world, and of our lives.

The Junior and Youth Choirs will sing at the early service, and the Senior Choir will sing at the late service. Be sure to invite family and friends to share in one of these joyous worship services with you.

I am the light of the world – John 8: 12

*It's hard to imagine the mystery and beauty  
Of that blazing star which caused  
Scholars to leave their homes and follow it.  
How amazed they must have been when it paled  
In comparison to God's Son-  
The Light of the World.*

*May He light your way at Christmas and always.*

Tonya L. Wongus – Editor

## Christmas Messages from District Pastors About Stealing and Giving

**I**t seems to start out pretty early in life. It is something that we need to learn to control and deal with if we expect to have any friends in life. What am I talking about? I am talking about the tendency we all have to put ourselves first at the expense of others.

The Bible tells us to do the opposite, that is, to serve others and put them first, even if you are part of the "Me" generation. Romans 12:14-18 says, "Ask God to bless everyone who mistreats you. Ask Him to bless them and not to curse them. When others are happy, be happy with them, and when they are sad, be sad. Be friendly with everyone. Don't be proud and feel that you are smarter than others. Make friends with ordinary people. Don't mistreat someone who has mistreated you. But try to earn the respect of others, and do your best to be at peace with everyone."

These rules for living are not so easy to live by, although they are easy to read, and make sense for the Christian life.

St. Luke's Church  
St. Michaels, Maryland  
Rev. Sam Hale, Pastor

This reminds me of a story that I heard about a man that had stolen a horse. If you remember from your early TV history, horse stealing was a very serious offense, and was most often punishable by death. The man whose horse was stolen was a man who had "used" everyone in the town and taken advantage of them for his own gain. Because of this, he didn't have a friend in the town even though he was very rich. The evidence against the accused man was overwhelming, and after the case was heard, the jury retired to the next room to deliberate the fate of the thief. After what seemed like a very long time, the jury returned to the courtroom. The judge asked if they had reached a decision. The jury foreman replied, "We have, your honor. We find the defendant not guilty if he will return the horse."

The courtroom burst into laugh-

ter. It took the judge several minutes to calm the crowd. The judge then spoke to the jury and said, "I cannot accept this verdict. You must retire and deliberate again."

The jury again retired to the next room and returned in about 20 minutes. The judge once more asked the jury if they had reached a verdict. The foreman spoke in the affirmative. The people in the courtroom waited in hushed silence as the foreman stood to read the verdict. The foreman said, "We find the defendant not guilty, and he can keep the horse!"

The moral of the story is pretty obvious. It really does pay to put the interests of others ahead of your own. God is the supreme example of how that is to be done. We read over and over in the Bible that "God gave..." The supreme example of His giving is, of course, the Christmas story. We can't outgive God, but we can certainly follow His example, even when it is difficult.

May that be your focus this year.

Sam

## Friends

First UMC  
Chestertown, Maryland  
Rev. Bob Riddleberger,  
Pastor

uncertain times, experiencing the rising and falling of political systems, the tremors of empire with shifting cultural and moral values in the balance, with nations and peoples struggling for identity and sovereignty, and yes, even endangered by terrorists, in which similar state we find ourselves at home and abroad, as we travel toward this Christmas.

Many were (and are) preoccupied with the question, "My world is changing, but is it for better or worse?"

The economical "catch-as-catch-can" in which they lived was sparse and as uncertain, as the oppressive political system they endured; would there be enough of the necessities of life to go around-come tomorrow, or even for the day at hand?

These and many other uncertainties journeyed with them and to some degree with us traveling toward Christmas. Yet God who

would still our fears and supply our needs moves us inexorably toward His manifested grace and truth and toward our opportunity to rejoice in it. We may well note that the One who has come to dwell in our midst was found by those first Christmas Pilgrims in less than hospitable accommodations-in the crude and raw environment of a stable.

They found God in a way, place, and person totally beyond their expectation, or should I say, below their expectation-a stable? A baby? The majesty and wonder of Heaven? There? Yes!!! And they weren't disappointed, because God's sublime love and wisdom shining from the face of the Child filled that humble place and the seekers' heart "with joy unspeakable and full of glory," in the very midst of their world full of toil, tears, and uncertainty.

For those with "ears to hear" and "hearts to understand," darkness was changed into light and joy and song. May that same new and wonderful experience be yours this Christmas-in faith beholding the Savior.

Merry Christmas!

Bob

The deadline for the January 20th issue is December 30th and the February 17th issue deadline is January 27th. To submit articles and photos please contact the editor, Tonya Wongus, at [tonyawongus2005@aol.com](mailto:tonyawongus2005@aol.com) or call 410.221.0158.

## A View from the District Window

By Barbara Kelly,  
Administrative Assistant

I am having some trouble getting my work done this morning (but don't tell my District Superintendent!). I keep looking out my windows here in the office. We've had our first snow of the season and it is beautiful. Out the front window it is a little messy in the parking lot but out the back window it is still pristine, except for a few paw prints. Rabbits, squirrels, maybe my fox? I don't know but I like to sit and look at it. I am a snow person.

The freshly fallen snow covers up a lot of "sins." We can't see the brown grass, the dead flowers and bushes, piles of leaves yet to be raked up, and other "stuff." Soon, however, this snow will melt and it will not be so pretty anymore.

I compare this fresh covering of white snow to the fresh blood Jesus shed for our sins. Because of that shed blood, we are covered in white, white robes of righteousness. Because of that covering of white over us, our sins are forever "hidden." There will be no melting away of our white robes.

In this season of Advent when we await and celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, may we wear our white robes to honor the Christ who was born, walked this earth, and died for us and our sins. May our white robes never be put aside. Let us raise our hands in homage as we sing of the birth of Jesus Christ. And when we see snow on the ground, may we be reminded of the robes of white we wear to cover our sins.

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come!"

## "Let Everything that has Breath Praise the Lord"

On Sunday, Dec. 18th at 3:00 p.m. Asbury UMC celebrated their coming of Christ Jesus with their **Annual Christmas Concert**. The ministry was a heavenly choir featuring Revelation Ringers; Sharon Birch, Directing Youth Praise Singers, Cherub Choir, Alleluia Chimes & Singers Holly Latham, directing Luba Paskova, Piano The Asbury Tenors The Asbury Orchestra; Virginia Russell, Directing Robert E. Young, Director, Music Ministries 410.749.2131

## Mark Your Calendar

Attention Pastors and Finance Chairs  
Apportionment Review Hearing For 2006 Apportionments  
January 21, 2006

Stockton: Shiloh United Methodist Church  
Please stop by the District Office to pick up the information sheet needed to prepare your packet of information for the committee. (For use in evaluation of need in your apportionment reduction request)

Directions to Shiloh UMC will also be provided.  
**ALL CHURCHES REQUESTING A REVIEW MUST BE SCHEDULED – NO WALK-INS ACCEPTED.**

## Good News Corner

Clergy and laity are invited on Saturday January 28, 2006 to "An Evening of Worship." St. Paul's UMC in Berlin will host Strengthening the Black Church, this experience will begin at 7pm and features preaching from The Reverend Dorothy Watson Tatem of the Eastern-Pennsylvania Conference; along with music provided by The Call of Friendship UMC, Millsboro, Delaware.

**Clergy Gathering** Wednesday, February 15 – 9:00 a.m., Christ UMC. Topic of discussion will be "Conflict Resolution."

## Salisbury Korean and St. Andrew's UMCs join in Bilingual Watch Night Service

A diverse and inspiring New Year's Eve experience is planned at 400 E. Vine Street in Salisbury. For three years Rev. Seung Lin Baik and Rev. Sally Dolch have worked together to prepare a worship service in Korean and English that begins at 11:00 p.m. on December 31st. Translation coordinated by the two pastors is phrase by phrase so the mes-

sage is received simultaneously in both languages. Music becomes a joyous cacophony as the two cultures are

united by the Holy Spirit. Worship is timed so that communion is served at the stroke of the New Year! Coffee and donuts are served during a fellowship time following worship!

## "Praise Time for Christ" Featuring Jack Foreaker

January 21, 2006, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Stephen Decatur High School on Rt. 50 in Berlin, Bethany UMC in Berlin is sponsoring a Christian-based variety show that includes the audience and participation and fun for all ages! Featured will be **Jack Foreaker, Entertainer and Puppeteer**. Jack has worked in motion pic-

tures, television, on stage, and in hospitals, both locally and nationally. He has also performed as a puppeteer in Miss Piggy's Wedding in "The Muppets Take Manhattan." The cost is \$5 for adults; \$3 for children to age 12, and free to children 2 and under. For more information call 410.641.2186.



Sister Malinda Tull and Pastor Tyrone Gordon.

## God Has Plans for Your Church

Mt. Zion and St. James UMC of Pocomoke, Maryland traveled to Strengthening the Black Church-Leadership Institute in Dallas, Texas. St. Luke Community UMC hosted the Institute, where the Senior Pastor is The Reverend Tyrone D. Gordon. "Building an Effective Church through Effective Leadership" was held at the Dallas Westin, with featured speakers and presenters such as; Bishop Rhymes H. Moncure, Jr., The Rev. Vance P. Ross, Dr. John Ed Mathison and many others. The

Mt. Zion-Pocomoke City Charge became a SBC21 Partner Congregation, and attended training in church growth, stewardship, worship, Christian education, evangelism and spiritual development. The leadership team consisted of Brenda Lawrence, Malinda Tull, Roberta Stokes, Tamara White, Eremine Beckwith and Pastor Shirlyn Henry Brown. The team is charged with sharing the wealth of knowledge and guiding our churches to another level of praise and worship.

## UMCOR Kits and Flood Buckets

Health and School kits, and flood buckets, are still being collected. This is an ongoing project! The central collection site for the Salisbury District is Rockawalkin UMC. Please call the church office at 410.742.6975 if you have kits ready and need a place to store them prior to their being picked up by the Disaster Relief Team.

The deadline for the January 20th issue is December 30th and the February 17th issue deadline is January 27th. To submit articles and photos please contact the editor, Rev. Shirlyn Brown, at [sistalady@hotmail.com](mailto:sistalady@hotmail.com) or call 410.957.0689.