

A 'New' New Years Resolution

Submitted by Ray Book, *Mission Chair of Wesley UMC in Dover*

When I was reading the January issue of the *Interpreter*, I came across a very interesting but simple concept regarding a New Years Resolution. This is one that will help the Missions Program of your church and does not require any money or volunteer hours. A part of missions programs should be prayer support. This is one which we can all participate. We all can witness to the ways God answers prayer.

The Bible instructs us to pray in many scripture passages: I Thessalonians 5:17, Pray continually; Jeremiah 29:12, You will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you; Ephesians 6:18, Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests; Colossians 4:2, Devote yourself to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

For 2005 and in the years to come, make a *'spiritual'* resolution at the top of your New Years Resolution list. This is how it can work:

- As you watch the news or read the newspaper, during the commercial breaks or when you are finished, pray for local and worldly concerns or events.
- Pray for the families when you see a funeral procession pass.
- Pray for those involved when you see an ambulance or fire truck responding.
- Pray for the sick when driving by a hospital.
- Pray for those in prison when passing a correctional institution.

I think you can see the pattern. If you accept this mission project you will be helping many of the programs your church supports. Wouldn't it be interesting to see how many different situations in which we can pray for individuals we don't know and will probably never know?

- And last, let us regularly set aside a day for counting our blessings and fast from complaining.

Peace to all of you in 2005 from Wesley UMC, Dover.

Hungry for Worship? Youth Join Us February 25th!

Submitted by Steve LaMotte

Fusion Student Ministries will be sponsoring a praise concert in conjunction with *World Vision's 30 Hour Famine* on Friday, **February 25** at 7:00 p.m. at Avenue United Methodist Church, 20 North Church Street in Milford. The concert will feature worship leader Chris Stein, who has led worship at the 2004 Dover District Fall Retreat and several Conference Youth Rallies.

This night of worship will be a

great way to bring youth groups together who are participating in the Famine or who love to worship. As we experience a little of the hunger that the rest of the world feels, we will hunger to enter the presence of God through worship. There will be a love offering received during the concert that will go to World Vision to help children around the world.

This event is open to all churches. For more information, please call Steve LaMotte at 302.422.8111. Hope to see you there! Come hungry!

July Mission Opportunity to Dominican Republic

Submitted by Curt Dotson

A mission opportunity is being made available to youth groups; primarily high school youth. The trip to the Dominican Republic will be from **July 23 to July 30** and is being organized by Rev. Curt Dotson of Wyoming UMC and is run by World Servants Organization. The cost is approximately \$1,250 per person including airfare. There will be a few meetings prior to the trip including an overnight at Camp Pecometh where we will do cross cultural training. During the trip the youth and adults will be working at an orphanage as well as direct evangelism including a kids club. The church that normally participates in these trips with Wyoming youth is unable to do so this year so there are a few slots available. Please call Pastor Curt at 697.6651 for more information.

Epiphany Dinner

On January 6, forty seven active, retired clergy and their spouses joined Sandra Steiner Ball, District Superintendent, at the District Annual Epiphany Dinner. Each year it is hosted by a church in the district. This year the dinner was hosted by the Asbury UMC in Smyrna where David Humphrey and Carol Terry are pastors. David welcomed the gathering to join in a great dinner provided by the laity of the church. All then enjoyed the music of Scot McClymont and Bob & Kathy Castro, members of Asbury. Thanks to all who helped to make the evening a success. We're waiting to see who invites us for the next Epiphany.

Faith, Hope, Love Quilters



Submitted by Priscilla Dankhoff

This truly amazing group of Christian women, which includes some members of UMW at St. Matthews-by-the-Sea, united by their love of quilting and their desire to use their talents to bring joy and comfort to the lives of those who suffer, recently completed their **500th** quilt!!!

When they began in March 2001, Beebe Cancer Unit was the main recipient of the quilts. They have since expanded and their quilts bring love and comfort to children with cancer who are in local schools, crisis centers, homeless shelters and wherever they find a need; they mail quilts when needed. Last winter fifty quilted sleeping bags were made and delivered to the homeless.

Representing many different religions, the ladies meet at St. Matthews by-the-Sea on the third Monday



of every month from 10:00 to 3:00. If there happens to be a fifth Monday in the month, they meet twice that month. They break at noon to share a covered dish lunch.

The United Methodist Women of St. Matthews supply the funds to purchase batting and backing. Most of the fabric is donated. Other donations needed are floss, embroidery yarn, thread, and sewing supplies. There is always something for everyone to do: sew, tie knots, press seams, cut and sort fabric. The only thing you have to bring is a covered dish to share and the desire to share a good time while helping others.

Rev. Bruce Miller delivers the quilts for the group to Beebe and to others as the need arises. They are approximately 14 to 25 working on any Monday and they are always looking for those interested in helping. Call the church office for more information – 302.537.1402.

Christian Coffee House

Submitted by Sharon Graves & Connie Hastings

'Somewhere Else,' a Christian Coffee House for youth, opened on New Year's Eve in Seaford. 'Somewhere Else' is sponsored by Evergreen United Methodist Church in cooperation with several United Methodist churches and other churches in the area. On New Year's Eve, over 100 youth and adults enjoyed bringing in the New Year with recording artist Brett Rush, female vocalist Bri-

anna Whitlock, and DJ Randy Potter from DaFlock.

'Somewhere Else' will operate one Saturday night a month with February's coffee house being **February 19 at Trinity UMC, 17249 Phillips Hill Road, Laurel** from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. featuring DaFlock and DJ Randy Potter.

For further information regarding 'Somewhere Else' contact Rev. Sharon Graves at 302.629.5223. Thanks for all of your support!

Leading, Caring, Communicating – the scope of Lay Speaking Ministries

Submitted by Donna J. Clark, director
DJCE14A @msn.com
302.684.8970

The Dover District Lay Speaking Ministries uses this for the title of all of our events. This is who you are and where you serve as laity if you are a lay speaker. Did you know that there are over 600 registered in the Dover District Lay Speaking Ministries? Wow!

Our Winter Event had about 75 laity participating; thirty-nine will be new Local Lay Speakers. It was held at Lincoln U.M. Church where we experienced an opening worship contemporary style. 'Living the Promise,' an Igniting Ministry class was led by Rev Rick Vance and Denise Knetter. There were three Basic Lay speaking

classes led by Woody Wilson, Chuck Smith and Dan Tabler. Our lunch was Chili and Cornbread from Betel Church in Georgetown, a wonderful ministry available to all churches to help support Betel's church. Contact Kathy Dreasen for more information. Our second week was canceled due to SNOW! We are rescheduling for later February – Date to be announced. The troops will be fed by the ladies of Lincoln U.M. Church at the make-up session.

For our Spring Leading, Caring, Communicating Event we will be in Georgetown on Saturdays, April 2 & 9 at Grace and Wesley U.M. Churches.

A little taste of the class line up... **Don't shoot the horse ('til you know how to drive the tractor)** – Focusing on stewardship

lifestyle, **The Case for Faith** – if you enjoyed Contagious Christian this class is for you and **Caregiving** – with a special focus on ministry with the terminally ill and grieving. We are lining up a few more. The brochure for the spring academy will be mailed to all 600+ lay speakers and pastors the end of February.

All of the events are prayed for and organized by a dedicated wonderful team – The Dover District Lay Speaking Ministries Committee Team. They work behind the scenes, on the scene, and after the scene. We would be very blessed to have you join us. We need gifts and talents to help plan the academies and to do the many tasks needed for an excellent quality event.

For more information on joining our team, please contact me.



Preceding Events

Making A Difference In The Lives Of Others

Sudlersville U.M. Charge

Roberta Jean Wongus, Editor

The Sunday school students of St. Paul's United Methodist Church (The Rev. David P. Doraisingh), sponsored a Fund Drive, giving local cancer patients \$10.00 gift certificates.

The Sunday school students,

with the help of congregational and community generous donations, raised enough money to give each cancer patient in the Chester River Hospital Center-Oncology Department and the patients in Dr. David Smith's Chestertown Office a \$10.00 gift certificate to help defray the high cost of gas.

St. Paul's U. M. Church Sunday School Students

For each \$5.00 donated, a pink ribbon was placed on their special Christmas Tree. A gas can (donated by Jay's Auto of Sudlersville) was placed by the tree as a reminder of the high cost of gas. "The church members were excited to see the ribbons placed each week by the students." "There were many contributions given in memory of family

members or friends", stated Angela Lancaster, Sudlersville Charge secretary.

The Sunday school students do thank everyone for their support. They felt good about the success of the Fund Drive. Knowing that they made a difference in the lives of someone and brightened their holiday was a good experience for them, stated Ms. Lancaster.

Non-Denominational Cultural Experience

Roberta Jean Wongus, Editor

On Sunday, January 26, 2005, two religious denominations came together to share the rich cultural experience of a Kwanzaa Celebration. On the first day of Kwanzaa, with the first principle being Umoja – meaning Unity, members of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church (Rev. Leon B. Hall, Sr., pastor) came to join with members of Asbury United Methodist Church (Rev. E. Victor Acquah-Harrison, pastor), both located in Easton.

Moonyene Jackson-Amis and Rev. E. Victor Acquah-Harrison Cultural Traveling Youth Drumming Group

Moonyene Jackson-Amis, who is a member of Asbury U.M. Church and the Director of the Kwanzaa Foundation, played a key role in joining the two congregations on the first day of Kwanzaa.

When passing the Unity Cup during the celebration, each person committed to the goals agreed upon. They have agreed to work together to achieve the following goals: to clean up the neighborhood streets; to get drugs out of the community; and encourage each other and people through the community to take up singing or playing musical instruments.

Bethel A. M. E. Church Choir Pastor Hall, Bethel A. M. E. Church

Rev. Leon B. Hall, Sr. stated, "We took advantage of the opportunity to experience unity on the day of the first principle. We celebrated African Sunday during our morning service and continued our day of celebration with Asbury."

Umoja is Swahili for Unity meaning to strive for and maintain unity within the family, the community, the nation and the race. The other principles are: Kujichagulia – Self-determination: to define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves; Ujima, collective work and responsibility: to build and maintain our communities together and make our brothers and sisters problems our problems and solve them together; Ujamaa –cooperative economics: build and maintain our own stores, shops and other business and to profit from them together; Nia, purpose: to make our collective vocation the building and betterment of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness; Kuumba, creativity: to do always as much as we can, in the way we can in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than it was when we inherited it; Imani, faith: to believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teacher, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Historic Choir Raises Funds For Tsunami Victims

Roberta Jean Wongus, Editor

On Sunday January 2, 2005 the Christmas Cantata was revisited for tsunami victims at Tilghman U.M. Church (Rev. Fredrick B. Bahr, pastor). Congregation members and members of the well known singing sensations, 'The Fathers and Sons and New Creations,' collaborated to raise \$1,050.00 for relief to victims of the tsunami.

Succeeding Events

Lent Season At Grace

Roberta Jean Wongus, Editor

During my studies on the Lent Season I'm reminded that traditionally, Lent begins the day before Ash Wednesday. This year Lent begins on Wednesday, February 9th. I'm also reminded that this is a time set for self-denial, soul-searching, and spiritual preparation. Daily devotional reading and reflection is a means of observance during Lent.

"*The Measure of All Things*" is a Lenten Devotional book written by Rev. Douglas M. Ridley, pastor at Grace United Methodist Church in Cambridge, Maryland. Though Lent begins on February 9, which is Ash Wednesday, "*The Measure of All Things*" devotions begin on the Sunday before, February 6, with a brief devotion for each day through Easter Sunday. Each day's devotion consists of reading from the Bible, an original poem, a thought provoker, and a prayer. Copies of the book are available at the church office.

Lenten Lunchtime Devotions – Grace U.M.C. will again host the Dorchester County Ministerial Association's Lenten Lunchtime Devotions this year. They will be held on five Tuesdays from February 15 through March 15 (February 15 and 22, and March 1, 8, and 15), from 12:00-1:00p.m. The hour will consist of a devotion followed by a soup and sandwich lunch, with various churches in the community providing the devotional leadership and lunch.

Lenten Soup and Sandwich Suppers and Study

– An eight-year tradition still going strong. Rev. Ridley began his ministry at Grace in 1997, that year also marks the anniversary of the first Lenten Soup and Sandwich Suppers and Study. The theme then was "Celebrating Christ's Life Through the Christian Year." This same theme will be revisited this year. The Soup and Sandwich Study will be held on six Thursdays, from February 10 through March 17 at 5:30 p.m. each week. Each evening will begin with a light dinner, move into the study, and conclude about 6:30p.m.

Easton District Spring Lay Academy

Roberta Jean Wongus, Editor

Febbruary 14th will be the start of this year's Spring Lay Academy. Schools will be held in three locations. The Centerville school will be held at Centerville UMC and the Chestertown school will be held at First UMC, February 14, 21, 28 and March 7. The Cambridge school will be held at Grace UMC, February 16th, 23rd, March 2nd and 9th. A closing out service will be held on March 14th at St. Marks UMC in Easton.

Courses include: A) Basic Lay Speaker's Course; B) Revolutionizing Stewardship for the 21st Century; C) Lay Speakers Lead Prayer; D) The Purpose Driven Church; and E) Developing the Leader Within Us.

... On Journeying

Lent is a forty-day period before Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday. We skip Sundays when we count the forty days, because Sundays commemorate the Resurrection. Lent is actually 46 days rather than 40 days. Why? According to James Akins, "Sunday is the day on which Christ arose, making it an inappropriate day to fast and mourn our sins. On Sunday we must celebrate Christ's resurrection for our salvation. It is Friday on which we commemorate his death for our sins. The Sundays of the year are days of celebration and the Fridays of the year are days of penance."

So each Sunday we suspend our Lenten disciplines and celebrate. Lent is 40 "fasting" days spread out over a total of 46 day before Easter, excluding Sundays, (the Sundays are considered to be Sundays IN Lent, not Sundays OF Lent), which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday (the day before Easter Sunday). This year Lent begins on 9 February 2005 and ends on 26 March 2005.

Aforementioned, during my studies on Lent, I was reminded that this is a time set for self-denial, soul-searching, and spiritual preparation. According to Ken Collins, "Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith

and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, according to David Bratcher, "we, the individual Christian imitate Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days".

The number 40 is connected with many biblical events; it is a traditional number of discipline, devotion, and preparation in the Bible. "Thus Moses stayed on the Mountain of God forty days (Exodus 24:18 and 34:28), the spies were in the land for forty days (Numbers 13:25), Elijah traveled forty days before he reached the cave where he had his vision (1 Kings 19:8), Nineveh was given forty days to repent (Jonah 3:4), and most importantly, Jesus spent forty days in wilderness praying and fasting (Matthew 4:2), preparing for His ministry by facing the temptations that could lead him to abandon his mission and calling", states James Akins.

In many languages, the word "Lent" actually means "fast." This is where the custom of giving up something for Lent originated.

My search took me to the Wilstar –Family Values Web Site which shared the traditional focus of Lent – it was always threefold:

1. It was a time to prepare new converts for baptism through intensive classes and instruction.
2. It was a time for long-standing Christians to review their lives and renew their commitment to Jesus Christ.
3. It was a time for backsliders to be restored to the faith.

In every case, it is a time for seri-

ous, disciplined self-examination, a time spent in intensive prayer and repentance before the cross of Calvary. To represent the dark and serious business of Lent, one custom has been to strip the sanctuary of all flowers, candles, and colors during Lent. This custom helps us to turn inward and examine ourselves, even as it reminds us of the dark and colorless Sabbath day when Jesus lay dead in the tomb. Put simply, Lent is a time to examine ourselves carefully. Here are some questions from the Wilstar web site upon which you might pray and meditate during Lent or create your own:

- Am I sharing gladly what I have with others, especially the stranger and the poor?
- Do I have a gracious and patient attitude with others, especially those who irritate me?
- Do I feel the power of connection to God and the church in corporate worship?
- How is my devotional and prayer life progressing? Am I listening to God more and complaining less? Is it time for a change or a growth in my Bible study and prayer life?
- What are the lurking sin problems which still plague me?
- Am I as thoughtful and forgiving of family as others, or do I take my frustrations out on them?
- Do I speak up for the maligned and oppressed, or do I remain silent in order to remain popular?

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 eastondistrict@dmv.com or rwongusdc@comcast.net or seekrjwongus@yahoo.com. The next District Page Deadline is February 18, 2005.

There has to be a whole host of information that is going on with in the Easton District, Please Let Us Know For Coverage or Submit Your Articles to Be Published!

What's Happening in Your Church?

St. Peter's United Methodist Church & Somerset United Methodist Church Oriole

As the snow and icy winds blow across our little communities we are all looking forward to spring and warmer weather. The Special Events Committee is once again eager to start planning for upcoming events this year as an outreach to the community as well as a time of fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

On March 26th we will be hosting our second annual community Easter Egg Hunt at St. Peter's United Methodist Church in Oriole at 2:00 pm. This is a joint effort with Somerset United Methodist Church in Dames Quarters. Last year we had over 100 participants. In April we are planning for the second Relay for Life Hymn Sing, date to be determined; more will follow in our next communication.

In May we will be hosting a Progressive Dinner with several of our

church families. This promises to be a time of fun and sharing. In July we will be having an Honor Service during the morning worship with a dinner to follow at the Church Hall in Oriole.

Several suggestions are being considered for a couple of trips for this year, perhaps one in the summer and one around Christmas time. More information will follow as soon as we select the trips and times. All are welcome to participate in these trips. We had a wonderful time on December 17 when we took a bus trip to Sight And Sound to see the "Miracle Of Christmas."

As always stay warm and content in God's Love.

In Peace,
Mary Lou King, Chair,
Special Events Committee
of St. Peter's United
Methodist Church

Summer Session of Lay Academy

Now is the time to get your suggestions heard for the next Lay Academy, scheduled for this summer. Some of the requests that have already surfaced include: Bible in History, Book of Discipline, Young Youth in Ministry (HS & College Students), and Understanding Apportionments. If you are interested in something that you would like to see featured,

please send the course title, preferred day (Monday or Saturday) and a suggested instructor (optional) to the following address. The directors that will be reviewing the information will be Rev. Carol Carlson (410.623.4005) and Sis. Phyllis Hardy (410.742.1575).

Salisbury Lay Ministries Academy
P.O. Box 3084
Salisbury, Maryland 21802

There's Still Time . . .

Pocomoke City Charge Mt. Zion/St..James City
Celebrating Black History

DINNER THEATRE — Wait til' Morning
@Salem UMC Fellowship Hall

February 19, 2005

Featuring Rev. Shirlyn Henry Brown and Tira Johnson

ADULTS \$15.00 children \$7.50

For tickets please call 410-957-0889



Mt. Zion United Methodist Women of Pocomoke City met on December 11, 2004 to begin their celebration of Christmas and to reflect on missions and their concerns for a better world. They were joined in their celebration with special guests from the Salisbury District UMW (President Rosemary Hudson, Vice President Anita McCullough, Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach Agnes Horsey, Communication Coordinator Joyce Burrell, and Committee on Nominations Elenore Gallaway.

UMCOR is delivering "love in action" on behalf of Christ Church in Salisbury

The Mission Committee at Christ Church is working through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to provide food, clean water, and shelter for survivors of the tsunami in Southeast Asia.

Christ UM Church in Salisbury took a special offer-

ing for Tsunami Relief. Over \$3,300 was raised to help those in need. Thanks to everyone who made a donation.

If you would like to make a donation, send it to Christ Church, 211 Phillip Morris Drive, Salisbury, MD 21804.

Antioch United Methodist Church



Antioch in Princess Anne hosted the Community Thanksgiving service for the Somerset County Ministry Association. This ecumenical event gathered not only the community to give thanks; it is used to gather food and an offering for the needy. Over 200 food items and four hundred dollars was raised for the community. The Offering was presented to the Seton Center and the Somerset County Homeless Shelter.

In attendance were pastors and members of Metropolitan UMC, Manokin Presbyterian, St. Andrews Episcopal, Mt. Hope AME Zion, Oriole Charge, Holly Grove Mennonite, and Upper Hill St. Andrews UMC.

The children of Antioch in Princess Anne shared in the season of giving by making cookies for our adopted-families outreach and for our shut-ins. The cookie baking and ornaments making is a planned outreach by our Caring and Sharing committee. The message is "Sharing and caring for others."

The message was enjoyed by our children and adults in making and packing the cookies and ornaments.

The children and the Caring and Sharing Committee of Antioch wishes everyone a blessed New Year.

The Children of Antioch in Princess Anne shared the message that Jesus is the reason for the season on Saturday, December 4th in the town's Christmas parade sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. From angels, shepherds, magi and Mary, Joseph and Jesus were portrayed by fourteen of our youth. The float's theme and children won the President's trophy.

The children's message was, "Jesus is still the rea-



son for the Season" wishing everyone a Merry Christmas. From the Antioch family to everyone, a blessed Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

The Martha Circle of Atlantic UM Church Awards Nursing Scholarship.

The Martha Circle, one of the women's ministries of Atlantic United Methodist Church in Ocean City awarded a scholarship to Kimberly Jackson, of Haleyville. Kimberly is a pre-nursing student at Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury. She is a 2004 graduate of Stephen Decatur Senior High in Berlin. The scholarship was awarded to Kimberly at the monthly luncheon of the Martha Circle. The Martha Circle is involved in numerous mission projects. In awarding this scholarship, the Scholarship Committee worked through the local guidance coun-



Betsy Shockley and Beth Gladstone, co-chairs, Kimberly Jackson, Doris Jarvis, chair of the Scholarship Committee and Charlotte Meyers, treasurer.

selor, and selected 3 candidates to interview. Kimberly was selected. Her ambition is to become a nurse-midwife.

U. of D. curators to exhibit personal artwork

In February 2005, Dr. Amalia Amaki, curator of the Paul R. Jones Collection at the University of Delaware, and Aimee Miller, assistant curator, will exhibit their personal paintings and mixed media artwork at the Gallery at Grace on Washington Street in downtown Wilmington. The exhibit is part of a month-long celebration of Racial/Ethnic Awareness month at Grace Church.

Amaki has a degree in photography from the University of Mexico and holds a Ph.D. in Twentieth-

Century American Art and Culture from Emory University. Miller is a recent M.F.A. graduate from the University of Delaware.

Gallery hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, through February.

The Gallery at Grace is located at Grace Church on Washington Street between Ninth and Tenth streets in downtown Wilmington. Free and lighted parking is available on site for the opening. Parking is limited weekdays. For more information, call Nancy Reinhart or Marvin Reinhart at 302.655.8847.

Igniting Ministry Training Event Held

Heart's & St. John's United Methodist Churches in Cecil County recently held an Igniting Ministry Training event for their members. The training, "Living the Promise," led by Ms. Denise Knetler and Rev. Rick Vance, a regional trainer for the Igniting Ministry program, gave the participants a better understanding of this welcoming ministry, as well as an overview of how a church can become better at welcoming all of God's people into the church. "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors" is the major theme of this training. If your church is interested in training in the areas of outreach, welcoming and living the promise, you may contact Rev. Vance at 410.398.1897.



Medical Laboratory Work in the Congo

The Congo – Mysterious jungle, cannibals, voodoo, intensive heat, predatory animals and Stanley and Livingston. Well – at sometime and in some places all of this is or was true, but the reality of Kinshasa, Congo – 2004 is very different. It is modern in its small central core with large government building, hotels and a soccer stadium. The rich live in lovely homes surrounded by high walls. Muhammad Ali fought the 'Rumble in the Jungle' in Kinshasa.

But more than that, it is a teaming city of five million, many of whom are refugees from the war who are scratching out an existence just to stay alive. Some live in small cement block houses on crowded unpaved narrow streets, if they are lucky. If they are not, they live in a lean-to that is made of anything they can put together just to keep the weather off their heads. Two thousand of them are orphaned children just in Kinshasa alone.

The people fill the streets 24/7. They fill the roads with old VW buses and trucks stuffed with people who just need to get somewhere and have no transportation. They fill the air with smoke from burning trash heaps, cooking fires, and car and truck exhaust, and the fill their hearts with Jesus. Eighty percent of

the people are Christian. They fill your ears with beautiful singing about the Lord that fills your whole being with their love of Christ. They fill your eyes with their physical beauty and the intense vibrant colors and patterns of their clothes. They fill your heart with their hospitality and friendship. And they fill your mind with their intelligence and their intense desire to help their people and their country move away from war and into peace and prosperity.

Much of medical laboratory work in the U.S. involves large machines, which run many tests simultaneously and require a multitude of reagents and supplies. The machines need constant maintenance, calibration, and controls to prove that we are reporting precise and accurate results. I put ten tubes of blood from ten different patients in a holder and place it on the machine. Five minutes later I have nine different test results on each of the 10 patients.

In Kinshasa, the most important requirement is electricity. The second would be simple equipment and then supplies to be able to run just a few basic tests. At the clinic at the Mpsa Nutrition Center they had none of these things. But God has given them Claude Ralosa. He is a trained medical technologist

Rebuilding Roofs, Lives, and a Passion for Mission

Local UMC members spent a week up on the roof in Florida. Eleven people from Moore's Chapel UMC and one from Hopewell UMC traveled by "planes, trains, and automobiles" to the Avon Park area from December 6-10, 2004 to assist in the hurricane recovery efforts. After the past summer's barrage of disasters caused by the hurricane season, during a sermon, Rev. Jack D. Cohen felt that Moore's needed to be the hands and feet of Christ in reaching-out to those whose lives had been greatly changed by these horrible events.

After responding to the UMCOR need for recovery workers, they put them in contact with the Florida Annual Conference Storm Relief & Recovery group of the Florida Annual Conference. After several forms and phone calls, they were put in contact with the First UMC of Avon Park which has been coordinating several recovery teams by providing housing, food, work sites, and the UMW even takes care of laundry. The group of 12 made their way to Avon Park, Florida truly found more to this mission than just roofing, electrical work, and debris cleanup.

Participant and Moore's Chapel member, Susan McDade, said the best part for her was seeing the effect their work had on the home owners. "We really touched their lives. They were amazed that we came there to help and even asked us everyday why we were there." The consistent answer was rooted in the fact, "We did this for our love and care for others because of our love for Jesus!" In addition to the effects in the lives of the home owners it was great to cross paths with Christians and United Methodists from all over the United States.

The Rev. Robert Thorne of First UMC in Avon Park, estimated that it would take approximately three years before they could repair all of the roofs and meet the larger needs of the hurricane victims. Of course, this estimate is based on hope that other hurricane seasons do



not inflict other damage. Even though there were a lot of challenges to coordinating schedules and availability of individuals as well as the schedule of the church in Florida, it is a practice that this new group, "Moore's Missionaries," feels God has called them to make an annual commitment. Whether it be roofing in Florida, helping in Appalachia, or whatever it may be, as Rev. Cohen states, "When we come together to help others in the name of Jesus Christ, we can do all things through him!"

measure iron in the blood and he can run pregnancy tests. He can tell the doctor if a patient is anemic, has a bacterial infection, malaria, diabetes, a bladder infection, yeast infection, kidney disease, and the list goes on. He has new shelves in the lab filled with the equipment and supplies that we brought, most of which hadn't been used in years or was being thrown away.

We have loaded a 40' x 8' x 8' crate which was sent in December 8th and should have arrived 6-8 weeks later. It contains hospital beds, gurneys, wheelchairs, a suction machine, medical supplies, clothes, school supplies, and laboratory supplies to re-supply Claude's lab.

We are also supporting the operation of an infirmary at the orphanage that our conference supports. In the crate is a microscope, centrifuge and other equip-

ment and supplies to set up a lab in that infirmary. They plan eventually to offer medical help to not only the orphans but to the surrounding community.

With these labs now set up with the equipment they need and supplies that will last for several months, we can now set up a system that money will be sent for them to order supplies in the future. It is much cheaper for them to buy supplies than for us to buy them here and send them over. This also helps them in their effort to become independent.

We have so much. We throw away so much. Their need is so great and their situation so desperate that it is overwhelming. Their love of Jesus is also great and inspiring. With all that is wrong with their county, there is so much that is right in their hearts.

Judith Ingalls, MT(ASCP)

Music Fest to help a Friend

There will be a Musical Fest to raise funds to help a man who has been in the hospital and rehab for the last 8 months. Members of the Leeds Praise Team invite the community to come and enjoy a night of music and fellowship on Friday, Feb. 25th @ Kingswood United Methodist Church in Newark. This event, being co-sponsored by St Andrews Presbyterian Church, was a dream of Ted DeBoda, a member of the Leeds Praise Team. For additional information, please contact Leeds Church at 410.398.1897. A free-will offering will be received.