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The Healthy Church Initiative

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



CARE TEAM
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2009 Annual Conference

June 11, 12, 13
(Thursday-Saturday)

University of Maryland-
Eastern Shore

Princess Anne, MD

Keeping a Holy Lent

The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday (February 25th). During the 40 days of Lent Christians around the globe fast and pray, reflecting upon their relationship with God and their need for the grace of God provided by the sacrifice of Christ.

John Wesley felt that fasting was an important spiritual discipline to be practiced by the people called Methodists. Pastors at ordination are asked "Will you recommend fasting or abstinence, both by precept and example?" In the third general rule one of ordinances of God to be attended to was "fasting or abstinence." The Wesley's followed the practice of fasting every Thursday evening, after the evening meal, until mid-afternoon on Friday. During this time he did not take solid food but fasted and focused much of his time in prayer.

There is not magic in fasting. Fasting does not force God to do anything. Fasting is a spiritual practice that helps a disciple do

a number of things. By fasting you choose to deny your physical hunger and choose your spiritual need for time with God as a higher priority. It is a way to seek first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness. This simple act can help strengthen your soul by deliberately placing its needs before the hungers of the body.

The practice of fasting also serves to strengthen the spirit of compassion in our lives. We may choose to go without a meal or two, but we have precious sisters and brothers who are truly hungry. Too often we do not remember, and show little compassion for the hungry and those in need. This act of fasting can open our hearts to those in need instead of being focused only on our own physical desires. The money you save by not eating can be donated to a feeding ministry.

The spiritual practice of fasting helps us make time in our busy schedules for that which is most important, yet too often neglected, a time to pray. Prayer

is ten percent sharing with God the desires of our hearts and ninety percent listening to God and being enveloped by God's holy presence. We need this time, so we give the Potter a chance to transform our lives. A time of fasting gives God our willing hearts.

Traditionally fasting has centered around food, but it is not about food at all. It is about denying ourselves and giving to God what he has always wanted, a chance to be with us "one on one." Instead of going without food, you may go "unplugged" for a time, no media: television, ipod, cell phone, radio. Turn off the world and tune into God, with a fast. I know a woman who "fasts" from shopping during Lent. How you fast, what you abstain from is not as important as that you make a change in your daily routine and turn your full attention on God.

Traditionally fasting is a time of revelation. It is very likely that God will reveal to you not just



Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

who God is, but who God wants you to become. God may show you a new direction for your life. God may show you some changes in behavior you need to make, or a new call to love the world around you in a way that reflects the life of Christ.

United Methodists are very spiritual people. Lent is a very spiritual time. I invite you all, to enter into this holy season with open hearts. Let God feed your soul even as you deny yourself. In this way may God prepare us for the lessons of Holy Week and the Good News of Great Joy on Easter.

Bishop's Lenten Day Apart - February 24

By Tamara Ward
Communications Coordinator

Each year at the beginning of our Lenten Season the Philadelphia Area Bishop invites clergy to attend a morning session where they can be uplifted and ministered 'to' if only for a few hours. During Lent/Easter and Advent/Christmas our pastors can be so busy in preparations that they do not take time for themselves. This one day is an opportunity for them to sit, relax, and enjoy the guest speaker, communion and fellowship with their colleagues from both conferences.

The Lenten Day Apart has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 24th at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Wilmington, Delaware. Please plan to

arrive by 8:30 a.m. for fellowship and a continental breakfast.

The guest speaker and preacher for this session will be the Rev. Dr. Gwen Purushotham. Rev. Purushotham is the author of *Watching Over One Another in Love: A Wesleyan Model of Ministry Assessment*.

Rev. Purushotham has served churches in East Hartford, CT, Sudbury, Worcester, and Wayland, all in Massachusetts. During her eight year tenure as a district superintendent in the New England Conference (which she completed in 2003) she obtained her Doctor of Ministry degree from Andover Theological School in supervision.

Rev. Purushotham joined the staff of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in Nashville in July of 2003 where she served as the Director of Clergy Supervision and



Rev. Dr. Gwen Purushotham

Accountability. Her responsibilities at GBHEM included developing resources and training for supervision of clergy within the structures of the United Methodist Church, providing

consultative services for district superintendents and cabinets regarding pastoral supervision, and developing resources for ministry assessment.

In July 2008 she was appointed

as the pastor of Main Street United Methodist Church in Nashua, New Hampshire.

Her husband, Sam, is retired from a career in auditing and finances. He enjoys gardening, cooking, eating and conversation with family and friends. He likes music, politics and provides a wide variety of services in the church. They have three adult children - Vikram, Nisha, and Matthew.

Time: 8:30 a.m.
Date: Tuesday, February 24th
Place: Aldersgate UMC,
Wilmington



BOYD'S BLESSINGS:

Certainly all of us have had vital Christian experiences in our childhood and youth. I can remember the names of all my Sunday school teachers, youth leaders, and pastors.

Each one cared for me. Many lived to celebrate my call to ordained ministry! Above all, they nurtured me in my faith journey by providing safe and secure sacred sanctuaries and classrooms.

The Rev. Joy Thornburg Melton shared the subject of Safe Sanctuaries with a capacity crowd at Whatcoat UMC in Dover. She authored the updated and revised manual, *Safe Sanctuaries: Reducing the Risk of Abuse in the Church for Children and Youth*, Discipleship Resources, 2008. While wrestling with the serious side of the subject, she also offers a positive approach.

Melton appeals to our Christian traditions of evangelism and hospitality. Hospitality at its heart is Hebrew in origin, but Jesus himself sheds a new light: "Whoever welcomes a child...welcomes me" (Matthew 18:5). But Jesus also warns—"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones...it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:6).

Now we can be offended at the thought of submitting to background screening in order

to teach children and youth. But we fail to realize that this is for the mutual protection of ourselves as well as the children and youth themselves.

One local church described in the manual embraced this as an evangelistic opportunity. A member of the church had survived sexual abuse as a child. This victim learned that the pastor who perpetrated her abuse had moved into her community. But rather than simply becoming cynical about church, she was called to invite the community's children to a safe sanctuary. With permission from her present pastor, she had bookmarks made and laminated. These were placed in hymnals and pew Bibles, with the congregation's Safe Sanctuaries policy printed on them. Then she took the leftovers to area stores. Boxes of bookmarks were placed at checkout counters. She and the pastor saw the bookmarks as a means of outreach. Even those previously resistant to the Safe Sanctuaries policy were pleasantly surprised when visitors regularly appeared in their congregation!

By the time you read this, another 300 plus persons will have been trained in District events. It's all a part of the Healthy Church Initiative of this Peninsula-Delaware Conference. For after all, don't health and safety go hand in hand?



Rev. Boyd Etter

By Rev. Jeanel D. Starling

Networking and connecting are ways small churches can help each other to grow and expand. Because we are a connectional people of God, we need to use such strategies more. For instance if your church is engaged in something and it works or is connected with an organization that provides free items, why not share with other churches. That's what we do at St. Paul. Because others have helped us, we desire to help others. We need each other. We witnessed this as ongoing phenomena at St. Paul. I try to keep the congregation informed on ways to be creative in ministry.

Over the past 10 years we have connected with larger churches and organizations to help provide clothing, blankets, toys, and food to those in need in our community. Recently, we received a special gift as part of our networking and outreach. As we embarked on being in compliance with the safe sanctuaries policy, members

A Special Gift From God

of St. Paul took a leap of faith and moved closer to compliance. Although we have had a policy since 2006, establishing a safe sanctuaries ministry team was paramount. I sought volunteers after putting information in the bulletin.

In a few weeks, a team of 6 volunteered. A workshop was held for the team, where their responsibilities were discussed. Officers



Charles Hammond, Angela Stevens, Bob Stewart (Ass't. Instructor), Sharon Hamblin (Manager/ Primary Instructor), Denise Russ, Brenda Harden, Sandra Watson, and Woodrow Brown

volunteered (chair, co-chair and secretary). Prior to our church conference in November, 2008,

one of our senior members with heart problems inquired about a defibrillator. We knew we needed one, but could not afford one at this time. I spoke with one of my members who is now chief of the fire company about CPR training. I simply let him know about the CPR training required and the fact that we could not afford a defibrillator. After a few weeks, he called and informed me that his fire company would provide training free for 6 persons and he was working on a defibrillator.

I turned the information over to the new chair and the rest is history. We now have 6 trained persons in CPR and a brand new defibrillator...all provided free. It was provided through the fire company and a special outreach program. God is so good. Networking works, reaching out works, believing works, connecting works. Be creative in funding ministries. All things are possible through God. Know that God has gifts waiting for us.

Conley's UM Church Presents Living Easter

Conley's United Methodist Church in Angola, Delaware, will present its second annual Living Easter. The event will take place off Camp Arrowhead Road in Angola and will run for two nights, Friday April 3rd and Saturday April 4th from 7:00 to 9:00 PM (if the Friday or Saturday presentation is rained out, there will be a rain date of Sunday April 5th from 7-9 PM). Admission is free, and there will be ample free parking. Golf carts to help the handicapped will be available each night. All donations of cash and canned goods go to local charities.

The Living Easter is a way for people to experience the events recounted in the Bible, and understand their meaning for Christians in the Easter season. Thirteen scenes reenact the events surrounding the death and resurrection of Jesus. The pageant

will include visits to four different places; the Garden of Eden, Nazareth, Jericho and Jerusalem, and will include some 40 actors portraying Adam and Eve, Jesus' parents, little Zacchaeus who climbed a tree to watch Jesus walk past, and Jesus' disciples in the upper room for the Passover meal. In front of the Temple in Jerusalem visitors will meet the High Priest, also the apostle Peter who denied knowing Jesus, and Barabbas who was freed from prison when Jesus was condemned.

The Living Easter uses much of the same scenery as the church's Living Nativity, which just finished its eighth year. Last December more than 1500 people attended in three nights. Donations collected were given to area charities, such as the Crisis House and local families with financial problems. Hundreds of donated

canned goods were given to Home of the Brave in Milford, the Henlopen Food Pantry in Lewes and other local shelters.

The scenery, costumes, and children's gifts are created and donated completely by members of the church, and the church makes no money on the event.

The living Easter is located at 33104 Jolyns Way off Camp Arrowhead Road. This is a half-mile from Peddler's Village shopping center on Route 24. Conley's Church is located at 22150 Robinsonville Road, one-half mile from the Angola traffic light on Route 24. The Angola traffic light is five miles west of Route 1 and three and a half miles east of Long Neck Road. From either direction, turn on to Robinsonville Road. For additional information or for worship times, please call the church is (302.945.1881).

F.O.G. (Friends of God)

F.O.G. is a new group to Christ United Methodist Church in Laurel DE, formed in November, 2008. It is a group of teenagers who have begun a Bible Study group and are currently studying "He Chose the Nail".

Their initial meeting was in November to determine if there were any who would be interested in a group of this kind. The meeting was a huge success. They meet once a month for study and a

fun activity after. They have been bowling, played miniature golf, and will be going roller skating this month. They have been helping serve at God's Table at Centenary UMC, and cleaning the kitchen at our church. If there is any way they can be of help to our church they are there. Advisors for F.O.G. are Cheri and Jimmy Watts, Laurie and J.P. Dickerson, and Lynne and Jim Bradley.

Next Generation

Woodside UMC has begun a new ministry with young adults from post high school called "Next Generation". That name is borrowed from Avenue UMC in Milford.

We meet on Sundays at 1 pm

and spend some time in scripture, and use a Nooma video to reflect and talk. Our numbers are still very small, and sometimes only one of our young adults is attending. We encourage other churches to inform and encourage their

young adults to attend these get-togethers. We'd be glad to work cooperatively on this ministry for a generation that goes largely neglected in our churches. These fledgling beginnings can be the seeds of great discipleship, mission trips and spiritual renewal.

If you are interested in building something together, give Rev. Beth Mallozzi a call at 302.745.9904.

Salem UMC, Selbyville Helps Deployed Military

Submitted by Pastor Bruce Cooke

Salem Church in Selbyville again designated its Christmas offering to helping Delaware's military personnel who are deployed. More than \$6,000 was sent to the Delaware National Guard for their family assistance program and to purchase calling cards to

help cover the cost of keeping in touch with those at home. The 2008 offering for this purpose exceeded a similar offering in 2007 by almost \$1,000. Prayers are offered for these persons weekly during Salem's worship services, and these gifts are meant to share God's love with them "Til They All Come Home."

From the D.S.

Dear Friends,

In the midst of these turbulent times of uncertainty, God is still at work - giving people visions of ministry and changing lives for Jesus Christ. There seems to be an increased hunger for learning and also for training for leadership. There is a clear desire to "do church right." There is a desire to bring people to faith in Jesus Christ. I am frequently asked, "How can I...?" and "How can we...?" and "Is it possible...?" and "Can we...?" The question is always about ministry; starting new ministry, reinvigorating current ministry, or strengthening leadership. Throughout the district and the Conference, there seems to be a new spirit and passion for being credible witnesses to Jesus Christ.

As our year came to a close, many of our churches were experiencing the impact of the economy on their ministries and offerings. Some churches easily paid their apportionments in full. Others stepped up to the plate, with a lot of effort and sacrifice, and were able to pay all or a portion. I am proud of the churches and pastors on the district. I deeply appreciate their commitment to excellence, and viewing the apportionments as "ministry beyond the local church." One of the positive results of the economic downturn is that churches,

as well as our conference are reexamining how to do ministry, and what ministry needs to be done.

In January, we held our District Training during which we offered training for Finance Committees, Trustees, Lay Leader, SPRC and we introduced our district evangelism team who offered training in local church evangelism. The team is available to any church as a resource. They also serve as a part of the Conference Evangelism Team. During Church Conferences, I issued the "Superintendent's Challenge". I challenged each church to double the number of members received by Profession of Faith for 2009 that they received in 2008. If they received no members, then I challenge them to receive at least 2 members by profession of faith.

I believe that 2009 is going to be an exciting year during which God is going to continue to do awesome and wondrous things in our lives, our churches, our district and our conference.

Blessings,

Bill



Rev. Bill Sterling

District Leadership Training

On Saturday, January 17th over 300 members of the Easton District gathered at St. Mark's UMC in Easton to attend a leadership training event. The day focused on four opportunities for development and were taught by conference and district leaders. The first was a focus on Finance/Trustees and was led by Mr. William Westbrook, Conference Administrator/Treasurer. The second focus was on Staff Pastor/Parish Relations Committee and was led by Rev. Dr. Sandra Steiner Ball, the Director



for Connectional Ministries/Conference Resource Director for the Peninsula-Delaware Conference and Rev. Bill Sterling, our District Superintendent. The third focus was on Evangelism and was led by Ms. Lisa Usilton and the Easton District Evangelism Team and the fourth focus was on the Role of The Lay Leader and was led by Mr. Bill Ball, our District Lay Leader and the Easton District Board of Laity.

The training introduced new material from the 2008 General Conference, utilizing the new Guideline books which can be ordered from Cokesbury.

Easton District Office Christmas Open House



Revs. Linda Mariner and Bonnie Shively enjoy refreshments

The Easton District Office celebrated their 2nd Annual Christmas Open House on Wednesday and Thursday, December 17th and 18th, 2008. Approximately 25 people stopped by the District Office over the two days, bringing ornaments for the District Christmas Tree. Local church members and pastors came to have fun and fellowship time at the Office, some traveling from Baltimore to



Beth Stevens, Administrative Assistant with Mr. Charles Murray, Ridgely-Marydel Charge

share the spirit of the Christmas season. On Thursday afternoon, visitors were greeted by Conference Receptionist Ms. Brenda O. Gaines, who offered a seasonal welcome from the Bishop Felton Edwin May Resource Center, Dover, Delaware. (photos courtesy of Ms. Brenda O. Gaines)

Bishop Johnson Visits Bozman

On Sunday, December 28, 2008, Bishop Peggy Johnson preached at a joint service at the Bozman UMC. All three churches from the charge, Bozman, Neavitt, and Wittman, were present and took part in the service. Rev. John



Rev. John Moore lighting advent candle while Bishop Johnson looks on

Star Quilt (Wicahpi Owinza), done in the Star of Bethlehem style. Communion was served by Bishop Johnson and Rev. Moore, followed by a Christ candle being presented to the three churches, lit by Bishop Johnson, and carried



Bishop Peggy A. Johnson during service at Bozman

Moore, pastor of the Bozman-Riverview Charge, introduced Bishop Johnson and spoke of her many accomplishments and how honored they were to have her on the charge. Bishop Johnson brought the Message to the congregation, "Senior Citizen Christmas." "We are never too old to make a difference." Bishop Johnson spoke on Patience: God's time is the right time; Trust; and Leading by the Spirit. The children of the charge gave the Children's Anthem, the charge Choir sang musical invitations, and Rev. Moore presented Bishop Johnson with a handmade Lakota



Bishop Johnson and Rev. Moore

by three representatives from the three churches. Rev. Moore charged each one in attendance "To be lights into the world." The service was followed by a luncheon prepared by the three churches.

Preston-Hurlock Charge Celebrates Martin Luther King

The Preston-Hurlock Charge celebrated its second Annual Community Martin Luther King Celebration on January 19, 2009.

The event featured a cross section of talents from both Caroline and Dorchester Counties with the theme "United in a common purpose, we march on together" Dr. Willie Woods, Dean of the Division of Arts and Sciences at Chesapeake Community College in Wye Mills, Maryland, was the featured speaker. A mass choir under the direction of Rev. Helen Lockwood, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Secretary, was also featured in the program.

One of the highlights of the celebration was the announcement of the winners of an essay contest where all elementary, middle and high school students from both Caroline and



Mr. Evans, North Dorchester High School Principal chats with Rev. Arthur George

Dorchester counties were eligible to participate in. Cash prizes were awarded to the top three finishers in each school level (nine from each county). Mr. Bill Brown, a Lay speaker at Unity Washington United Methodist Church in Hurlock, Rev. Jonathan Whitney, pastor of the East New Market / Linkwood United Methodist Charge, and Rev. Bonnie Lee Shively pastor of the Hurlock/

Wesley United Methodist Charge also were a part of this wonderful celebration.

A repast was served following the celebration where everyone gathered for fellowship and refreshments.

The celebration took place at Hurlock United Methodist Church where Rev. Arthur L. de'Souza George is the pastor.



Participants and guests gather after the celebration service for fellowship and refreshments

District Page: The Easton District Page is printed within the Peninsula-Delaware Conference Pages in the first issue of each month during the spring. The next District Page will be printed in the March 13th issue. Please submit all photos and articles to the District Editor, Tonya Pinkett, or the District Office by Friday, February 20th.

Youth Service Funds Grant Recipients

The 2009 Youth Service Fund (YSF) grants totaling \$4,581.37 were recently awarded to the following churches/ministries by the Conference Council on Youth Ministries:

Pecometh - Centreville, MD Signs and Wonders Camp

This is a new camp that will be offered for the first time in the summer of 2009. It is designed for students who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Hockessin UMC - Hockessin, DE Summer Mission Trip

This youth ministry will participate in an Appalachia Service Project trip to Buchanan County, Virginia in June.

Centenary UMC-Laurel, DE Summer Mission Trip

This youth ministry will partner with Youthworks for a mission trip to Maine this summer.



Whatcoat UMC-Dover, DE Generation to Generation Ministry

Generation to Generation is a student-led ministry to the sick and elderly. They plan special events and worship activities for nursing home residents.

Connection Community UMC- Middletown, DE Student Leadership Program

The Student Leadership Program helps students grow as leaders using tools such as a spiritual gifts assessment, testimony sharing, and a study of spiritual

disciplines.

Conference Council on Youth Ministries-Mission Possible Tool Trailer

This grant will help the CCYM purchase tools to be used during Mission Possible and possibly other student mission trips.

Suncreek UMC-Dallas, TX New Hope Fund

A small grant was made in memory of Kathleen Baskin-Ball, who touched the lives of many in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference as one of the speakers at the 2008 Whatever Youth Rally. Kathleen had a special place in her heart for young people and less fortunate people. The fund will ensure a United Methodist pastoral presence in an impoverished neighborhood in Dallas.

Young People's Ministry

2009 Youth Service Fund (YSF) Grants Announced

What do you do when you receive over a dozen applications seeking approximately \$30,000 in funding from the Youth Service Fund? You call in the Missions Committee of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) and give them the task of sorting through the applications and deciding which ministries' proposals best align with the goals of YSF. That's just what we've done the past two years.

The Youth Service Fund is designed to be administered by students. They read through each of the proposals which contain information such as the project's budget and goals and how students are involved in the leadership of the project. The committee first decides which proposals best meet the goals of the Youth Service Fund and then they have to determine the level of funding YSF can provide for each project. Sometimes they are able to award the project the amount requested in the grant, sometimes they have to choose a different amount. By the time this process was completed this year the committee recommended splitting \$4,581.37 among seven highly qualified applicants. At this point the committee was nearly finished with their work. The final step was gaining approval from the entire CCYM. The CCYM reviewed the applications and the proposal of the Mission Committee and voted to support the recommendation! The committee's task was complete and now checks have been sent to each of the recipi-



Shane Hinderliter

ents.

The money that was awarded to these ministries was collected at the annual youth rally in January, during the confirmation celebration in March, and sent in by various churches throughout the annual conference. This year we will add "Tray Day" during the annual conference session in June as a new way to raise funds for and increase awareness of the Youth Service Fund. Churches are also encouraged to support YSF through their benevolence giving. Perhaps your church is looking for new ways to support missions and youth ministry. YSF is the perfect opportunity to combine the two. 30% of each YSF dollar is sent to the Division on Ministries with Young People which administers a worldwide grant program. 70% of each dollar is given away by the CCYM through its grant program.

You can learn more about the Youth Service Fund by visiting gbod.org/youngpeople or by visiting umyoungpeople.org/missions.html (scroll to the bottom of the page). Applications for 2010 YSF grants will be available soon and must be received by November 10, 2009.

CARE TEAM CONCERNS:

Prevention of Misconduct – What's a Congregation to Do?

"Clergy misconduct may be one of the major factors – if not the major factor – in the decline of religious institutions today because of the far-reaching effects on the families of faith touched in this way." Candace Benyei (When a Congregation is Betrayed. Alban Institute, 2006.)

So what is a congregation to do to support their pastor and minimize the possibility of clergy misconduct? While it is true that most pastors never come close to misconduct, it is also true that ministry is a very demanding, often stressful career. That's why it is important to ask such a question.

Your pastor is appointed to your church or charge to provide pastoral and administrative leadership. However, it is also understood that the work of the church is a joint effort between clergy and laity. There is much that local church leaders can do to support the ministry of their pastor, encourage the best self-care and professional practices, and ensure church polices that protect against fuzzy boundaries and risky situations. With officers and committee members starting new terms, this is a good time of year for review with your congregation and your pastor.

Support for a pastor's ministry may begin with conversation about expectations of the congregation and obligations of your

pastor beyond the local church. Unspoken expectations often lead to frustration unless someone is a mind reader. Most pastors serve on a Conference or District committee, or both. Some are in school or have special family circumstances. All pastors are expected to attend continuing education events. Awareness minimizes misunderstandings about expectations or availability.



Does your pastor have a designated day off? Is he or she honoring that time to rest and refresh? How about annual leave? Is your pastor planning time away? Are there lay speakers or funds in the budget for substitutes?

The pastor is an ex officio member (§245 BOD 2008) of all church committees. Is scheduling done to avoid meetings for the pastor every night of the week? Some congregations do a great job of encouraging effective self care. What about your pastor's physical health? A gym membership could be part of their compensation. How about mental health? It is a good sign if your pastor participates in a covenant accountability group with other clergy.

Does your pastor work alone? Does he or she meet with parishoners of the opposite sex at their homes or at the church when other members are not around. None of these is a good or safe professional practice. It may take more effort to arrange for a third party to be present or to meet at McDonald's, but those are much safer practices. To ensure church polices that protect against fuzzy boundaries and risky situations make sure your congregation becomes a Safe Sanctuaries church. See conference policies at www.pen-del.org under CARE Team.

How are your committees functioning? Is your Church Council chairperson preparing the Council agenda and reviewing it with the pastor?(§251) Are your Trustees (§2527), Finance (§258), and Staff Parish Relations Committee (§258) chairpersons leading their committees so as to carry out their tasks per the Book of Discipline? Your pastors job will be a lot less stressful if the answer is "yes."

Want to know more about prevention of clergy misconduct? Attend the CARE Team's annual training at Cornerstone UMC in Bear, DE on Monday February 16, 2009. To register or for more information contact Marilyn Cleeton (1.877.736.3351).

(By Rev. Sally Dolch sdolch@comcast.net)

Happy Valentine's Day



Communicator

Peninsula-Delaware Conference

139 N. State Street, Dover, Delaware 19901

E-mail: tward@pen-del.org Website: www.pen-del.org

Phone: 302.674.2626 Toll Free: 1.877.736.3351 Fax: 302.674.1573

Peggy A. Johnson, Bishop

Sandra Steiner Ball, Director of Connectional Ministries

Tamara Ward, Editor, Layout & Design, Commun. Coordinator

Linette Warren, Subscriptions

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Charities Should Match Investments to Missions Says 83% of Public

Eighty-three percent of the general public would give less money to a charity if they knew the charity was not investing it ethically, says a newly released survey by the EIRIS Foundation. More than nine out of ten people surveyed agreed with the statement "charities should be investing their money in an ethically or socially responsible way."

Of those surveyed, 81% said that if they discovered a charity was not investing in this way, it would negatively affect their view of the charity and 83% indicated that it would make them less likely or unwilling to give to the charity.

The survey illustrates the growing public interest in the finances of Churches and charities, and the risks to both reputation and income that Churches face by not investing in line with their mission. As the credit crunch bites, many Churches are worried about the potential drop in donation income. It is therefore crucial that Churches maintain the trust of the public and don't alienate donors through their investment policies.

The survey also reveals that the public wish to know what charities do with their money. When asked how important it is to know where and how a charity invests its money, 41% of adults rated this as very important on a scale of 1 to 10 (where 10 equals very important). Just 11% rated this as 4 or below.

The Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula United Methodist

Foundation's mission has been to manage Church investments in harmony with the "Book of Discipline". 100% of our investments are managed according to the Social Principals outlined in the United Methodist "Book of Discipline". Our investment policies and procedures are transparent and made available to anyone interested.

Through our Stewardship efforts at the Foundation, we look to bring new and better ways to build endowments and stewardship among our Churches. We work hard to financially strengthen every Church so they may continue to reach out in Ministry and Mission for generations to come. Because we are owned by the Church, many feel we are the best choice to manage Methodist assets.

Recently a news story broke in the Philadelphia area. The story is of a Ponzi scheme that affected a United Methodist Church, area charities, and wealthy individuals. Unfortunately it came at a heavy cost to the Church's endowment fund and operations. The man that ran the scheme is quoted as saying he "has no money to pay anyone." His investment operation had built the trust of many in the area and offered high investment returns. Regrettably his firm was both unregulated and uninsured.

I find this story disturbing for many reasons, yet full of valuable lessons for everyone. First let me state fraud is just that, fraud. The Church had limited ways of knowing the deception by this

trusted individual and the high investment returns promised were false. Truly the Church is a victim in this case.

We do know they had investment choices. They chose not to diversify and do some business with our EPP Foundation. They chose the perception of high return over investment risk control. They chose not to have an audit, conduct ongoing due diligence, or have the Foundation review investments. They opted away from Socially Responsible investing. One of the investigators in the Philadelphia case states "Unfortunately, you need a Madoff situation to create a sniff test" in reference to the multi-billion Ponzi in New York.

My friends, now is the time for our Conferences and Churches to do the sniff test with all our endowments and investments. As we move into 2009 we must realize that in the past year Banks are no longer the same Banks, Brokerage Firms have merged or disappeared, Ponzie schemes are unraveling, and a trusted investment advisor has perhaps lost his/her job. However, the Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula UM Foundation is still your

Continued on page 8



Jack Brooks

Cokesbury Connection

In this economy everyone is looking for a sale and genuine value. In the church we call it STEWARDSHIP. At Cokesbury we say, "WE DELIVER... JUST WHEN YOU NEED IT THE MOST." If you and/or your church are contemplating any purchase to further your ministry...it is probably on sale. Here are just a few. Contact me if you have any questions at all.

Now thru February 28th

- Wesley Study Bible - Sale Price: \$24.99
- VBS Sale and Forecast Supplement- Promo Code FC09. 20% OFF all VBS items and 20% off all orders on undated material from Forecast Catalog.
- Claim the Name Gift Bibles - 50% OFF. Now \$8.00 (9780687643592)
- Lenten and Easter Congregation Resources; African American Heritage Month, Communion and Baptism Resources; 30 % Savings on select seasonal studies and services; Cokesbury Music Sale

Now thru March 31st

- Parament and Banner Sale 15% on Custom and 10% on Stock
- Choir Robe Sale - 15% on all Custom Robes and Accessories
- Gift Bibles - Birthday, Care-givers, Marriage, Mother, and Graduation
- Disciple Short-Term Bible Studies



Madeline Beall

SPECIAL AUTHOR... SPECIAL BOOKS

Rev. John I. Penn, a retired pastor from our conference has written several books...two on healing. *Getting Well* and the companion coloring & activities book *About Caring and Healing* help children learn about the healing powers of God through the power of the Holy Spirit. To purchase please contact Rev. Penn directly at parkerpenn7@windstream.net.

COKESBURY...there for you when you need us the most!

Please contact me with any questions or to place an order. May God richly bless you and all your ministries.

Madeline Beall
Toll Free: 1.877.792.5419
Email: mbeall@cokesbury.com



Apportionments

New Acknowledgement Procedures:

Effective January 1, 2009, a new procedure acknowledging remittance payment receipts was implemented. The Business Office will send a statement to the pastor indicating remittance payments received for the month. If Treasurer's would like a statement emailed to them or the church, please provide an email address to Donovan Watson at dwatson@pen-del.org and in the subject line of the email, indicate 'Benevolence Remittance Statement'. Also identify your pastor and church in the body of the email.

Pastors and Treasurers:

If you change your email address, please let us know so our records can be kept updated. If you get a statement that's not yours please let us know.

Reports:

At the end of each month we will post the Conference & District Apportionments received by churches within each district. These reports are cumulative and represent all receipts from January 1 through the end of a month. If a payment was sent at the very end of the month it may not have reach in time to be processed and reflected in the report. (these reports will also be available on our conference website.)



Confirmation Celebration 2009

Planned especially for Confirmation students and Leaders only, plan now to attend the 2009 Confirmation Celebration event to be held on Saturday, March 7th from 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at Cornerstone UMC in Bear, DE. The event is FREE but please call or e-mail Penny Carney to register. (pcarney@pen-del.org) (1.877.736.3351)

VIM/Wesley College Spring Break Trip to Marion, Iowa



Why? To help people in Marion, Iowa to recover from the floods earlier this year.
When - Feb. 28 - March 8th. We leave for Iowa on the 28th; stay overnight in the South Bend, Indiana area; leave Iowa on the 7th and with an overnight once again in The South Bend area; and arrive back in Delaware on March 8th. THIS IS A VAN TRIP AND THE OVERNIGHT WILL BE IN A CHURCH.
How much - \$450/person. IF YOU WANT TO SAY YES (OR NO) CONTACT ME!

Dr. Mark Pruett-Barnett, Chaplain of the College
E-mail: barnetma@wesley.edu
Phone: 302-736-2485
Fax: 302-736-2539

TOUCHED by the HEART of
SALISBURY**It's the Thought that Counts**

For the last two weeks the Sunday school class I attend has focused on commitment. We have talked about the commitment of two spies who went into Jericho and met a woman by the name of Rahab. She protected them and then bargained with the two spies to protect her family when the nation of Israel invaded their land. We also talked about the commitment of a woman who was told by an angel of God to be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, or to eat anything unclean, for she was to conceive and bear a son by the name of Samson. Finally, we talked about a young minister who followed in the footsteps of Moses. He was

told by God to lead the people of Israel across the Jordan into the Promised Land.

What I thought about as I read each of these lessons was God has called throughout time individuals, nations and people to carry out his divine plan. Our hearts must be open to the voice of God and willing to hear and follow God's call. Each of those mentioned above had to commit within themselves to obey God, no matter how difficult the task he assigned them. God made but one promise to them and that was that he would be with them wherever they went. We are called to commit ourselves to God in the ways that he shows us in our hearts. We are called to love God with all our hearts and to love one another as Christ has

loved us.

As we approach Valentine's Day we seek to spice up our relationships with those closest to us. We consider our commitment to our spouse, our children, our significant other; but what about our commitment to God. What about our commitment to God? What about our commitment to one another? As you look upon the beautifully decorated hearts as you buy candy and sweets for your loved ones, remember the promise that has come from the heart of God to all that commit themselves to obey and serve him; that he will be with us wheresoever we go. Have the happiest Valentine's Day ever as you allow your heart to be renewed by the touch of God.

(By Rev. Ron Bell)

Local Churches Participate

Pastor Joe Wingo and his wife founded Angel Food Ministries in 1994 in a rural town in Georgia. They both remain dedicated to this ministry and the following excerpt is from a message recently sent to Angel Food Volunteers from Pastor Joe:

"Being good is commendable, but only when it is combined with doing good is it useful."

I like this quote by an Unknown Author. When I read it, I thought about all the pastors, host site directors, and volunteers who work with us, because that is what you do. Each of you should be commended for being good, doing good, and doing something useful and meaningful to others, while offering encouragement to those who are struggling.

Your efforts made a huge difference in the lives of 98,000 families during the holidays!

The total number of boxes for Thanksgiving was 51,654 and Christmas 45,173. We received thousands of "thank you" e-mails and notes from families who were blessed by your efforts....

Together, all of us are pressing 'toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus' (Philippians 3:14).

As we each help meet the needs of folks throughout our nation, we are making a difference. Our mission is to lovingly let others know about the One who is the ultimate Need-fulfiller and Life-Giver, Jesus

Christ."

Some Thoughts About Our Angel Food**Program****At Community Church**

We began this program with the hope of reaching out to our own congregation and to members of the community. We are reaching that goal as each month our numbers grow and word of this food ministry reaches new people.

As Host Site Directors we have received many, many unexpected blessings in return. Our first surprise was the number of volunteers who work with our program. Over 80 people first signed up to help, 76 people showed up at a training session, and each month about 40 people help with the distribution of our Angel Food boxes. There are even some hearty souls who leave Community Church at 5:00 AM on Distribution Day to drive to Georgetown, DE to pick up the food! Additionally we have met many wonderful people as we take orders and again as we deliver the food. We have many customers from Berlin and Ocean City, of course, but we also have people from Newark, Snow Hill, Salisbury, Hebron, and Cambridge, and this month some of our boxes will be taken by families to relatives in Crisfield.

Another blessing has been that when families see the value

of the food and the dollars they are saving, they elect to purchase additional items to donate. Each month purchases have been made for Sarah's Pantry and Diakonia.

Angel Food Ministries at Community Church has become like a ripple on a pond. As we grow together as servants of Jesus, the ripple spreads and reaches further and further around us. We pray each of you will feel that ripple as the love of God enfolds you!

God Bless You All,

Louise & Phil Lassiter
Host Site Directors
The Angel Food phone # is
410.629.9669

**Angel Food Ministry
At Saint John's (Fruitland)**

Saint John's in Fruitland is partnering with Angel Food Ministry to provide healthy nutritional meals for a reasonable cost. The program began in October with 47 orders and has now expanded to around 200. In addition, other churches in our community have joined with us to secure orders and to assist in distribution. The uniting of the Body of Christ is a beautiful sight to behold.

Orders are received monthly. Customers can choose from a variety on the menu. To obtain a menu or other information you can contact the church or visit our website, freewebs.com/stjohnsumchurch.

**Observance of Human Relations Day
Sunday, January 18, 2009**

Union United Methodist Church, Delmar, MD held a "Human Relations Service" in observance of the commemoration holiday of "Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." and the anticipated inauguration of "President-Elect Barack Obama". The spirit of unity and goodwill flowed through the congregation as words of reflection were given by 1st African-American County Councilwoman, Mrs. Sheree Sample-Hughes and City Councilwoman, Mrs. Shanie Shields, both members at Wesley Temple United Methodist Church, Salisbury, MD. But great inspiration and encouragement was the message brought by Chief Judge of Orphans' Court, Mrs. Norma Lee Barkley, 1st African-American to hold this position in Wicomico County. Mrs. Barkley spoke to the congregation very candidly about her experiences as a black woman during the time of segregation and yet she still

holds on to her faith and hopes for a brighter tomorrow. She reminded us that as President-Elect Obama takes office on Tuesday, January 20, 2009, we all do! Mrs. Barkley, a true humanitarian works diligently within her community and church, St. Paul AME, Salisbury, MD, along with her husband, Marion "Bud" Barkley. For the past 24 years, she has been the program chairman of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. banquet, where over 1,000 residents from the Tri-County area attends. We, at Union were honored to sponsor this service and give thanks to God for making it possible.

Rev. Timothy A. Duffield, Sr.
Pastor

Program Coordinators:
Sis. Phyllis Hardy, Lay Minister &
Sis. Rosemary Hudson, Worship
& Music Chairman

Black History Celebrated Through Music

The American Spiritual Ensemble, a professional choir who will be at Asbury United Methodist Church in Salisbury on Sunday, February 22, for both the 11 AM worship service as well as a 4:00 PM Concert, is the finest group of spiritual singers you will ever hear in a manner respectful of their heritage.

This ensemble tours in America during Black History month in an effort to keep the American Negro Spiritual alive in the ears of adults and children. Their repertoire ranges from spirituals to classical to Broadway and dance. ASE was founded by Everett McCorvey in 1995. Its members, who are each soloists in their own right, have sung in theaters

and opera houses around the world, including the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, Houston Grand Opera, and abroad in Italy, Germany, Britain, Scotland, Spain and Japan, thrilling audiences with their dynamic renditions. Put the date on your calendar now, Sunday, February 22, 11:00 AM Worship, with a 4:00 PM Concert. The \$10 admission tickets are available in the Asbury United Methodist Church office during the week and in the Welcome Center following worship times. This concert is co-sponsored by Asbury United Methodist Church and Salisbury University. Advance ticket purchases are recommended.

**CARE TEAM****"Nuts & Bolts for Implementing Safe Sanctuaries"**

Saturday, February 28, 2009

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Asbury United Methodist Church

1401 Camden Avenue

Salisbury, Maryland

District Page: The next Salisbury District Page will be printed in the March 13th issue. Please submit all photos and articles to the District Editor, Rev. Shirlyn Brown (shirlynbrown@aol.com) by Friday, February 20th.

From the D.S.

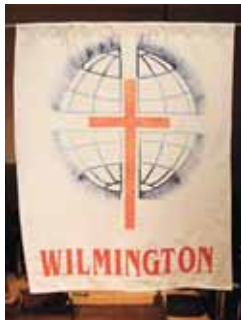
As we move into this second month of a new year, I would have us reflect upon this journey that we are on entitled "The Healthy Church Initiative." While the details of our Conference's initiative are unique to us, the general concept has been discussed throughout our United Methodist denomination for a number of years.

What has this initiative meant to your congregation? What effect has this emphasis had upon your leadership priorities and goals in 2007 and 2008? How might this metaphor of "health and vitality" be applied to your servant leadership and to your congregation's mission and ministry in 2009?

I want to share with you the scriptural foundation for seeking to be a "Healthy and Vital" congregation and servant leader (whether lay or clergy). In the summer of 2005 Karen Greenwalt and the Staff of the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church shared a document with the New District Superintendents and Directors of Connectional Ministry entitled "KEYS to BUILDING HEALTHY AND VITAL CHURCHES." Outlined in that document were four (4) biblical passages that I would invite you to read and reflect upon as we move further into this new year.

I challenge you to read through, reflect upon and relate

the following scripture texts to your personal servant leadership and your congregation's ministries:



•The Great Commandment: Matthew 22:36-39 "... You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind... You shall love your neighbor as yourself"

•The Great Requirement: Micah 6:8 "... and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

•The Great Commitment: Matthew 16:24 "... If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

•The Great Commission: Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."

May your reading, reflecting and relating be a blessing to you and to your congregation throughout 2009.

Your Partner in Ministry,
William M. Fitzhugh

Ministry Opportunity:

You may be a Seaman's Center Volunteer

There are over 10,000 seafarers visiting our ports of Wilmington, Claymont, and Delaware City each year. These seafarers are away from home for nine months at a time and greatly appreciate friendship. Most are married and have families. They are just trying to make a living. If you would like more information or would like

to be a ships visitor, be a desk help person, or drive vans for seafarers while their ships are in one of our ports you may contact Joan Lyons, Seaman's Center Director, at 302-757-1300. Many churches prepare Christmas gifts for the sailors too! You might be surprised at all the ways you can help.

(Submitted by Rev. Don Hurst)

District Page: The Wilmington District Page is printed within the Peninsula-Delaware Conference Pages in the first issue of each month during the spring. The next District Page will be printed in the March 13th issue. Please submit all photos and articles to the District Editor, Denise Scoles Knettlar (altofire150@yahoo.com) by Friday, February 20th.

Cecil County Churches Host Rotating Homeless Shelter in 3rd Year

Rev. Amy Yarnall

Several of the churches in Cecil County are again participating in the Rotating Homeless Shelter. This ministry is led by the ecumenical "Meeting Ground" ministry, in conjunction with a range of churches in our area.

Together we take turns hosting 20-25 residents for a week at a time. Each time we host, God blesses us with an outpouring of servants and opportunities to shine God's love. It is awesome to see folks open themselves to God's love as they are loved by the servants in this ministry.

At the watch night service on New Year's Eve, residents took

turns reading Scripture, prayers, and reflections. Two of the participants commented later that it was the first deep church experience they had had in many years and one asked for prayer that Christ would become her Lord and Savior.

God works in wonderful ways through this ministry. For example, the 2 weeks that were not adopted by a church were co-hosted by a consortium of church volunteers from all over the county. A woman who had been recently laid off decided to be the site supervisor for the week, thinking that it was better to serve than to sit home. After serving for the week, she had a job interview and was immedi-

ately offered the job.

Chesapeake City UMC hosted the week after Christmas and will again host the first week of March. We literally don't have enough opportunities for folks to cook meals for the weeks; they fill up fast. As one of our site supervisors says, there is an amazing peace that comes over the shelter at night, when the lights are out, and the overnight volunteers are sitting quietly. It's the peace that comes from knowing that God is present in a special way.

This ministry also breaks down a lot of the barriers of fear that arise around homelessness, creating a deeper sense of God's love that casts out all fear.

Hopewell Chili Cook-off

Boat Load of Chili" Cook-off!

On Sunday, January 25th, the men of Hopewell United Methodist Church in Port Deposit, MD had their 5th Annual Chili Cook-Off. There were many delicious pots of not so "cool" chili! The men really pulled out all the stops in this "hot" competition. The table displays were incredible and so creative! The winners of the contest were as follows:

Grand Champions: Bill, Logan, Ryan and Ian Fisher- "Fishermen Chili"

First Runner Up: Patrick Barrett-"Mississippi Gut Chili"

Second Runner Up: Jason Snedden - "Ultra Conservative Bitter Clingers Chili"

Judge's Choice Display: "Chili Rain" - Jason and Jeremy Brooks

People's Choice Display: "Election Year Chili" - Cory, Kevin and Sean Marshall

Everyone in attendance had a great time and sampled some fanatastic chili! The church hall was literally packed with people who came out to enjoy the food, the fellowship, and the fun! We all had a great time and look forward to next year's competition!



Chili Rain by Jason and Jeremy Brooks



All the cooks



Election Year Chili by Cory, Kevin and Sean Marshall

District Lay Academy Scheduled for April

The Wilmington District Lay Academy will begin the week of April 20, 2009 and conclude the week of May 18, 2009. Sessions will be held at Christ UMC in Elsmere on Mondays, Elkton UMC on Thursdays, and Union

UMC (Bear, DE) on Saturdays. There is a position on the Board of Lay Ministries for someone to lead a committee that will be responsible for the programming and operation of the Academy.

The committee should consist of at least a registrar, recording secretary, and treasurer and others. Contact: Yvonne Younger at von2d@aol.com OR Charles Rossiter at charles.rossiter@comcast.net.

Message From Our Director of Connectional Ministries (Council Director)

Health Ministries Team

Health Ministries Team of our conference has undertaken an ambitious project to assist churches in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference in regard to our physical health. It is their hope that all 462 churches will become participants in the promotion of programs related to the physical health of their congregation. The Health Ministries Team is a part of the Evangelism and Outreach section of The Healthy Church Initiative. The team aims to demonstrate that we in the P-D Conference can and will develop health consciousness as we include practices of preventive medicine in our daily living and as we pursue our greater objective of the healthy Church initiative. The team is seeking the cooperation of the clergy and of course

the laity to achieve success in their undertaking. In November last year the team undertook a survey of all the churches in the conference to find out how many churches had a "Parish Nurse or Faith Community Nurse" and health programs and received back 311 responses. Of these they found: 41 churches to have both a FCN and some health program 49 churches to have a FCN but no health program 12 churches to have a health program but no FCN and 209 churches to have neither. The Team's focus this year is to create a library of resources and health programs and to learn of the effectiveness of programs in some churches. To do this they plan to meet with the churches which have responded to have both a FCN and a health program. The team is also hoping



Rev. Dr. Sandra Steiner Ball

to build partnerships with other health care institutions to avail of their expertise in preventive medicine. A limited number of scholarships will be available from the HMT to train FCNs. They also will like to organize a workshop for FCNs in our conference if their financial resources will permit. The team asks for your prayers and will keep you updated with their progress.

forward to forming a deeper relationship with your Church.

Yes, these are challenging economic times, but we are called to grow our Church in both good times and bad. The Bible is full of empowering scripture remembering times when the Christian Church grew during difficult periods. I recommend you attend one of the beautiful

older Churches in the Conference where you can sit, worship, and witness how difficult economic challenges in our history were met by past generations. Now is your opportunity to be a good steward and gift the Church to the next generation. May God bless us all as we move forward to meet the challenge facing us today.

Update Your Interpreter Subscription List! It's Never Too Late!

Pastors and Church Leaders:

Have your submitted your list of church leaders to receive Interpreter magazine in 2009? If so, it's not too late. If you're not certain, please check.

Be certain that your congregation has updated its list of leaders to receive World Service Fund-paid subscriptions to Interpreter magazine in 2009. If there is any question as to whether or not you have updated your list or if it has been received at United Methodist Communications, please call our Customer Service team, 1.888.346.3862, or drop a note to interpreter@umcom.org. If you have not submitted it, please do so as soon as possible by updating it on-line, faxing

or e-mailing it or sending it via postal service.

Each congregation is entitled to 10 subscriptions for their leaders. For help in ordering magazines for the first time, a list of leaders now receiving the magazine, assistance with on-line enrollment or anything else, please call Customer Service at United Methodist Communications, 1.888.346.3862, or e-mail interpreter@umcom.org. If you are unfamiliar with Interpreter, please let us know, and we will



provide a way for you to preview a copy.

Kathy Noble, Editor
Interpreter Magazine, United Methodist Communications

Women's History Month Bulletin Inserts Available at www.gcsrw.org

The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women is again providing bulletin covers, liturgies and inserts for March's Women's History Month celebration. These are available electronically and are free to be downloaded and copied for your

March worship services. Women Called to Ministry is a 6 session study that's perfect for local churches for Women's History Month. It too is available and free to download copy and distribute at www.gcsrw.org

Conference Calendar of Events

February 2009

- 14 Committee on Clergy & Lay Leadership Meeting, Dover: Wesley UMC, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 16 Presidents' Day, BFEM Resource Center Closed
- Sexual Ethics Training, Bear: Cornerstone UMC, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- 17 Council on Finance & Administration Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- Credit Union Annual Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 11:45 a.m.-2:15 p.m.
- Personnel Committee Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 1:00-3:00p.m.
- Insurance Committee Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 3:00 p.m.
- Investments Committee Meeting, BGEM Resource Center, 3:00 p.m.
- Board of Pensions Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 5:00 p.m.
- Christian Service Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 5:00 p.m.
- Volunteers In Mission Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 6:30
- 18-20 Clergy Effectiveness Training, Rehoboth: Atlantic Sands
- 20 Committee on Native American Ministries Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 9:00 a.m.
- 21 Igniting Ministry Local Church Training, Kent Island UMC, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Conference United Methodist Women Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- 24 Bishop's Day Apart for Clergy—Lenten Season, Wilmington: Aldersgate UMC, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

- 26 Health Ministries Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 10:30 a.m.
- Board of Ordained Ministry Supervision Committee, BFEM Resource Center, 12:30-5:00 p.m.
- 28 "Nuts & Bolts of Implementing Safe Sanctuaries (Salisbury District)," Salisbury: Asbury UMC
- Black Methodists For Church Renewal Meeting, Dover: Whatcoat UMC, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- Dover District Board of Lay Ministries Banquet, Georgetown: Grace UMC, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

March 2009

- 2 Leadership Development Resource Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.
- Committee On Clergy and Lay Leadership Meeting, Dover: Wesley UMC, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- 2-4 Nurturing Wholeness In Community Seminars, Rehoboth: Atlantic Sands
- 3 Wesley Foundation-Delaware State University Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
- 7 Confirmation Celebration, Bear: Cornerstone UMC, 2:00-5:00 p.m.
- 8-10 Board of Ordained Ministry Candidate Interviews, Rehoboth Beach: Atlantic Sands Hotel
- 10 Black United Methodist Preachers Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 11:00 a.m.
- Vision Team Meeting, Wesley College-Room # 206, 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Equitable Compensation Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 3:00 p.m.
- 12 Advocacy Resource Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
- Commission on Archives & History Meeting, Frederica: Barratt's Chapel, 10:00 a.m.
- Peter D. Weaver Partnership Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 6:30 p.m.
- 15-17 Board of Ordained Ministry Candidate Interviews, Rehoboth Beach: Atlantic Sands Hotel
- 18 Annual Conference Sessions Team Meeting, Wesley College: Room # 206, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- 25 Christian Service Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 5:00 p.m.
- Volunteers In Mission Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 6:30 p.m.
- 28 Black Methodists For Church Renewal Meeting, Dover: Whatcoat UMC, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- 30 Extension Ministers Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 6:00 p.m.