

Pocomoke City Welcomes Bishop Marcus Matthews

St. James United Methodist Church – Pocomoke City cordially invites you to worship with them on Sunday February 25, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. The guest speaker for the morn-

ing message is our very own Bishop Marcus Matthews. St. James is located on Colona Road five miles southwest of Pocomoke City. For further information, please call 410.957.0689.

District Leadership Training

Over 300 persons came out on a Saturday morning (January 13, 2007) to Christ United Methodist Church for the Salisbury Lay Academy Leadership Training. Classes for Trustees, Finance, Administrative Council, Staff Pastor Parish Relations and Lay Leadership were a gift of grace, as we continue to build God's church.

Clergy Connections Planning Team Gets Underway

The goal of CLERGY-CONNECTIONS is to help pastors on the Salisbury District get to know each other and share support, fellowship and creative ideas for ministry. The Planning Team (left to right): Rev. Charlotte Nichols, Rev. Sally Dolch, Rev. Andy Turner, Rev. Everett Landon, and Rev. Anna Foster, were nominated by their peers at a December District gathering hosted by Rev. Nichols and Rev. John Hinkle of Pittsville-Ayres Charge. Brainstorming that occurred at that gathering is guiding the work of the Planning Team for 2007.



Home Baked Pies Support Local Homeless Shelter

By Rev. Patty Frick



Home-baked pies, provided by the talented bakers of Bethany United Methodist Church (Berlin) were a hit at a church picnic. So much so that \$360 was raised through a pie auction for *Diakonia*, the local homeless shelter. The top seller was a homemade lemon meringue pie that fetched \$30 (a birthday present from a loving wife to her husband). Bill Shockley was the auctioneer and in a whirlwind of activity had coconut custard, chocolate cream, pumpkin, and the most popular, lemon meringue, going to the highest bidder. In other words, if you snoozed even for a second, you lost your chance to have one of these delectable delicacies. Pastor Patty held up the pies for inspection and bids came from all over the fellowship hall, from young and old alike. The church holds a number of fundraisers throughout the year to support the work of *Diakonia*, including a monthly "milk money" collection and the ongoing collection of canned goods. But the home baked pie auction seemed to be the biggest hit of all – perhaps because baking is becoming a lost art in our fast-paced society.

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church Travels to See Christmas Celebration 2006

On Saturday, December 9, 2006 about 70 members, including Rev. Shirlyn Henry-Brown, pastor of Mt. Zion-St. James-Pocomoke Charge in Pocomoke City and guests, traveled to Upper Marlboro, Maryland to see the Evangel Cathedral's presentation of Christmas Celebration 2006. The trip, sponsored by the Christian Disciple Fellowship of Mt. Zion, was the first such outing for the church in over twenty years.

Christmas Celebration 2006 was the most spectacular Broadway-

style Christmas musical in the Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia metropolitan area. It lasted two and a half hours with ten scenes depicting Victorian era, modern-day, and Biblical times. The first half of the production dealt with the secular side of Christmas and gradually built up to the second half which dealt with the real meaning of Christmas. Performance attendees saw scenes dealing with the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. There were

guest appearances by recording artists Vickie Winans and Pastor Marvin Sapp.

"It was awesome. It was something that you don't do everyday. My husband wasn't feeling well, but we were glad that we went. Everybody in the play had talent. I even enjoyed the live animals. I was truly touched when Jesus ascended into Heaven." Sister Louise Matthews, member of Mt. Zion.

"It was fine. I thoroughly enjoyed myself. If you take another trip, let me know." Sister Emma Schoolfield, member of St. James.

Peninsula-Delaware Women Clergy Travel to Dallas

"Mind, Body and Soul"

A time of revival, restoration and remembrance was **The African American Clergy Convocation** held in Dallas, Texas January 3-7, 2007. Twelve Clergywomen went to a worship experience, full of educational delights and graceful desserts. The menu consisted of spirit-filled preaching, dynamic teaching and glorious learning experiences. The Convocation offered jewels to enhance even the most seasoned pastor, in their role of an effective shepherd. Speakers included Rev. Kirbyjohn Caldwell and Rev. Joe Daniels, along with such workshops as – "The Preaching Theologian," "Preparing for the Future," "Clergy Self-Care," "From Enemies to Allies," "Strengthening the Black Church" and much



more. Specific attention was given each day to pastors leading healthy lifestyles, with time for exercise, reflection, and spiritual renewal. To honor God, we have to take care of the temple!

A View from the District Window

Looking into God's Kingdom

By Barbara Kelly, Administrative Assistant
Salisbury District Office

It is obvious that when speaking about a view from a window it means that you are seeing outside of the walls of the room you are in. This can be from a bedroom, living room, kitchen, or some other room of your home, from your car window, or from a window where you work. It means that you are now looking out into a larger world.

This is what happened for many of us in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference last July. We looked into the extended world of God's kingdom here on earth. Thirteen of us, along with some guests, were privileged to attend the World Methodist Conference in Seoul, South Korea. The Conference is a once every five year event that is under the auspices of the World Methodist Council and is held in a different location somewhere in the world each time. We connected with people from around the world who worship under the Methodist and Wesleyan traditions. We all spoke the same language of God, no matter what tongue it was spoken in. It helped us know that we are not alone here in our corner of the world; there are others in God's creation who are our brothers and sisters.

This is what it is all about. We should remember to look outside our windows, outside our walls, and know that we are connected through the God who created us all in God's own image! And, we need to go outside these walls to the people we see outside

our windows who are not part of our connection yet and introduce them to Jesus Christ. Perhaps there is someone looking IN your window who is wondering what is going on inside there. They should meet the Jesus Christ who connects us all. If we don't make that introduction, who will? Think about it.

Good News Corner

Salisbury State University —
Wesley Foundation is on a Mission



The Wesley Foundation has coordinated Health and School Kits for the Katrina victims. Students were excited about doing this mission project. In addition, the students gave Christmas gift boxes to fifteen Wicomico Nursing Home residents.

From the D.S.

Clergy and Laity of the Wilmington District:

Thank you! Thank you for your faithfulness in your support of the missions and ministry of our United Methodist denominational witness, our Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference and the Wilmington District through your contributions to the 2006 Apportionments. We, as a district, were able to increase our contributions this past year as we move towards a 100% support of our apportionment responsibility. I was informed by our Annual Conference Business Office on January 9, 2007, that we had paid 90.7% (which represents \$1,689,809.34) of our World Service and Conference Benevolences. (Our 2005 contributions were 86.9%.) Please express appreciation to your congregational leaders and members for their support throughout this past year. Many lives were touched as bodies, souls and minds were nurtured in the name of Jesus of Nazareth on our district, in our Delaware and Eastern Shore of Maryland area, and throughout this nation and around the world because of your financial gifts. Thank you for staying "connected" as we seek to do more together than we could ever do separately.

Now, where were we? The season of Charge Conferences and Supervisory Interviews is behind us. We have moved through Advent, Christmas and Epiphany into a new calendar year. We are moving into the Appointment Season. The Bishop and Cabinet ask for your prayers. Please include the Cabinet in your prayer lists and in your corporate prayers.

We, as a district, at a District Conference this past fall elected the 2007 Wilmington District Council and this council will have met for the second time by the time you receive this edition of the Communicator. I will convene the Wilmington District Nominating Committee in February in order to set the "classes" for the recently elected Wilmington District Committee on Urban Center Ministries. Hopefully our Urban Center Ministries Committee will be convened in March. While we are often challenged by the Conference, District and local church calendar commitments, we are continuing to move forward in organizing these new ways of joining together representatives of our Wilmington District. We join together for "holy conferencing" in order to discern and to do God's will for ministry in and through this Wilmington District of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Stop with me for a moment to reflect upon this thought: If doing this kind of District work and ministry were a fast and easy process, we would have had all of this in place years ago and would be reaping the benefits today. I suggest to you that this kind of District work involves a slow and difficult process but one to which I am committed. I ask for your patience and prayers. Pray for me, but also pray for all of those who will serve on the newly formed District committees.

Your Partner in Ministry,
William M. Fitzhugh

Tonnage Rocks!

By Denise Scoles Knettler

The needs of our communities are strongly felt by all our faith-based organizations as we seek to demonstrate the love of Christ and follow His example. Leeds UMC is no exception. For the past few years Rev. Vance and the Missions Team have chosen to challenge the congregation to contribute to the feeding ministry of Ray of Hope Mission. Each year a target amount was set as a goal. Last year the target was set at 1600 lbs. With the help of our congregation and associated ministries such as the Cub Scouts and their can drive, we received in excess of 1800 lbs. Remembering that Leeds UMC is a small membership, rural church; this was no small feat! After this success, the Missions Team set the goal for 2006 at 1800 lbs. After the gasps and raised eyebrows and the news that the Cub Scouts were not doing a can drive in 2006, the people of God got busy. Slowly at first the totals began to climb. By the end of October the goal was in sight and the word "ton" began to be whispered. I am happy to report that at the end of 2006, the congregation of Leeds UMC had donated not just a ton (2000 lbs.) but 2450 lbs of food to Ray of Hope Mission to assist their in-house feeding program as well as local Meals on Wheels! To paraphrase one of our Biloxi Mission teammate's expressions of "Tonnage rules," we proclaim that in this case, "Tonnage Rocks!" We are looking forward to next years challenge!

Interfaith Service Held

Open hearts, open minds, open doors . . . and open arms. In the last few years the people of Peninsula-McCabe UMC and area churches have opened their arms, hearts, minds, and doors to people of other faiths, also created by God, in the area. Since October 2005, there has been an interfaith dialogue and communal dinners honoring the various faiths called "One light, many faiths." Various Protestant faiths, Roman Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh were represented.

This year an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service was hosted by Peninsula-McCabe with various religions worshipping together, praying for each other. IMAM Rudolph Ali preached, lifting up the commonality in all our faiths and that Jesus is highly respected in the Muslim reli-



gion as one who was sent by God.

We are not only celebrating but trying to dialogue about the inner-city problems and what we might do together in our area.

Rev. Dr. Heather Murray Elkins of Drew University Theological Seminary shared a story about one of her father's most treasured possessions—a spoon. It was a spoon that he used to feed

some children (physically and spiritually) with whom he came into contact—sharing hospitality in a war-torn, divided country.

From one spark, one candle, one prayer together and . . . one spoon—we hope to bring light, warm hearts in hospitality, and transform minds, spirits and lives. Please pray for our inner-city churches, will you?

Cecilton Charge Reaches Out to House the Homeless

With an ever-growing homeless population, it is increasingly critical that Christians obey the Lord's commandment to take care of the poor. And, that's just what 23 Cecil County, Maryland churches of many denominations are doing this winter by participating in the Rotating Shelter Program organized by Meeting Ground, a faith-based organization that operates four emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities in the county. Under this program, the churches provide the facility, meals and monitoring services; Meeting Ground provides the beds, bedding and transportation to and from the various shelter sites. Meeting Ground also screens participants every day before they are admitted into the program.

From December 18th through New Year's Day, St. Paul's UMC in Earleville hosted 20 homeless men

and women in its fellowship hall. This was a cooperative effort with the Ecumenical Council of Chesapeake City. Since it was Christmas time, a wonderful dinner accompanied the distribution of practical gifts from a most generous community-at-large. Members and friends of St. Paul's report that they were equally blessed by this experience, which was not just another event to attend over the holidays, but a beautiful God-given opportunity to come together to serve their less-fortunate neighbors, and to get to know the faces and stories of some of the men and women "on the street" — folks who, for one reason or another, have slipped through the cracks and have watched the advantages of living in this great country pass them by. This outpouring of love and compassion at St. Paul's moved one member, who rarely speaks up publicly, to announce during a worship service

that he was "very proud to be a member of a church that would step forward to meet these kinds of needs head-on." Other members agreed that this was the most meaningful Christmas they had experienced in years.

Homelessness is an increasing social problem not only in Cecil County but throughout the entire United States. Thus far, federal and local governments have been reluctant to tackle this challenge in any meaningful way. As Christians, we are called to touch these people's lives with the same love that Christ has shown to us. And when that happens, the church truly becomes the Body of Christ beautifully striving to make a difference in our world.

Zion UMC, also part of the Cecilton Charge, hosted the Meeting Ground Rotating Shelter January 22nd through the 29th.

Children's Worship

On Sunday December 17 at the 10:00 a.m. service, the children of Leeds UMC asked the congregation this question, "Do you have the Spirit?" Sunday school leader, Judy Lagasse, and her team of helpers (and 'herders'!) Sandy Kisner, Karen Thuresson, Diane Sprout and Erin Murphy did something that has not been done for a number of years — assisted the children of the congregation in presenting a Christmas program. The reason that is remarkable is that the Leeds Sunday school program has grown with God's help and the passion He had given the teachers, to a place where the numbers and interest to do such a thing have come together! From the littlest angel to the eloquent shepherd they came together to remind us that the true Spirit of Christmas is not found in the perfect present or the most beautiful cookies or the hustle



and bustle of the preparations, but in the love that God sent to us as His gift. He came to give us joy, peace, hope and show us God's love, expressed in Jesus. This love is truly, "the gift that keeps on giving!" It is something we can have not only at Christmas but all through the year. Do you have the Spirit?

Sandra's Snippets

"Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The past is over and gone. Behold, the new has come."
(2 Corinthians 5:16)

As we begin this New Year together I hope you will meditate on this scripture and reclaim God's call on your life. Yes, you have been chosen by God. Love God with all your heart, and Listen to God, and God will teach you all you need to know.



Rev. Dr. Sandra Steiner Ball

As leaders in our churches, families, work groups, classrooms, projects, or other groups of people I would like to remind you of something as you reclaim your call and continue to become God's new creation. Authority is power used creatively, as a writer creates a new story. Authority is not power over people, not tyranny, but generative power that is organized in partnership with people for the benefit of people.

Leaders align themselves with the divine principles of justice, truth, wisdom, and compassion. Today's leaders need to make decisions, manage resources, and preserve justice guided by spiritu-

al wisdom. Leaders need to consistently act for the good of the people they serve, and as leaders our purpose is to serve and preserve God's world and its peoples.

This is the role God calls us to fulfill whenever we are entrusted with a responsibility for people or a program or a project. I guess what I am saying is: Get yourself out of the way. When we are thrust into leadership there is always the temptation to summon up a domineering presence or take on a sophisticated air or a know-it-all attitude in order to get ahead, be noticed, or get chosen. But none of these has the true heart of a leader. The heart of a true leader can be found in that innocent, unassuming, humble, honest place within us, the beloved part, the part that was created by God to love and serve God.

With this in mind, I entreat you to listen again to God's call in your life. May God truly use you, the truest, humblest, most honest and beloved part of you, to love and serve God, to love and serve God's Church, and to love and serve God's people as you lead this year.

Much Thanks for Your Faithfulness to Our Conference and Connection

Dover District paid 100.09% of the Conference Apportionment and 99.4% of the District Apportionment this year. This tremendous act of stewardship is to be commended. The Churches of the Dover District through their payment of apportionments have enabled ministry to people of all ages, nations, races, and situations in our own back yard and around the world. Your great stewardship has served to support ministries and missions that introduced people to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ and enabled a better life for many of God's people. Thanks again for your constant help and support in so many ways!

— Sandra Steiner Ball

Basic Course and Advanced Lay Speaking Classes to be held in Seaford on Saturdays – March 17 and 24, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Dover District Lay Academy will be offering the Basic Lay Speaking Class, Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church, 315 High Street, Seaford.

Six advanced Lay Speaking classes will be held at Gethsemane United Methodist Church, 2701 Woodland Ferry Rd (Rt. 20), Seaford.

They are:

Safe Sanctuaries for Children, Youth and God's Church led by Rev. Cindy Burkett
Don't Shoot the Horse, Till You Know How to Drive the Tractor – Moving from Annual Fund Raising to a Life of Giving led by Chuck Smith

How to Pray for Healing and Wholeness led by Levin VanSant

When the Storms of Life are Raging Stand By Me: A Basic Course in Disaster Preparedness and Response led by Rev. Dale Brown and members of the Peninsula-Delaware Disaster Relief Team

Understanding and Interpreting Our Social Principles led by Howard Mason
Advanced Preaching led by Rev. Peggy Briggs

Call/email the District office for more information and for a registration brochure (302.734.3082 or ddsuper@aol.com).

Dover CROP Walk



The Missions Committee of Wesley United Methodist Church in Dover reports that a total of 80 walkers took part in the Church World Service (CWS) CROP WALK on October 8, 2006. CWS is affiliated with 35 denominations worldwide to fight hunger and to aid in relief and relocation of displaced persons internationally and nationally.

The participants were greeted by a beautiful day for a walk. This was not just any walk, however. The walkers raised in excess of \$6,900 for CWS, with 25% of the total remaining in the local community. The local portion of this year's CROP WALK will go to Kent Ecumenical Food and Crisis Fund.

Wesley walkers were joined by members of the

following churches: Peoples Church, Christ Episcopal Church, First Baptist Church, Camden Friends Meeting, Church Women United, St. Andrews Lutheran, Holy Cross, as well as United Methodist friends from Hope, Magnolia, Roby, and Woodside.

Thank you very much to the walkers who found the sponsors who donated funds. Many thanks go to the sponsors of our walkers. We are very grateful for their generous support of this mission project.

The walk for this year is scheduled for September 30, 2007. For more information please contact George Dunning at 302.678.0126 or gdunning@midatlanticfarmcredit.com or Ray Book at 302.734.5826 or rbook@rfbookpcas.com.

326th Airlift Squadron Assumption of Command

Submitted by Doug Boyce

Lieutenant Colonel Robert (Rob) H. Shepherd, a member of Wesley UMC in Dover, took command of the 326th Airlift Squadron during an assumption of command ceremony at Dover Air Force Base on December 2, 2006. He and his wife, Mary Beth, and their two children live in Dover where he has served as lay reader and lay member of Annual Conference for Wesley Church. Many members of Wesley's Tuesday morning men's study group, of which Rob is a member, attended the ceremony to offer their congratula-

tions and to wish him success in his new command position.

The 326th is currently flying the C-5 Galaxy, but is undergoing a conversion to the C-17 Globemaster III aircraft. Lt Col Shepherd joined the Air Force Reserve as a C-5 Evaluator Pilot with the 709th Airlift Squadron, Dover AFB in June 2001 after completing 14 years of active duty service. He is a command pilot with over 7000 total flying hours, 4000 of which are in military aircraft. He has received numerous military decorations and awards throughout his military career. Lt Col Shepherd is currently a pilot for Southwest Airlines flying the Boeing 737.





From the D.S.

What an adventure!! My first 6 months have ended. Charge Conferences and Supervisory Interviews are done. What a learning experience!!! Pastors and laity have shared needs, dreams, frustrations, fears, and at times, pleas for help with me. Reflecting on our conversations, I have developed some specific destinations that I would like the District to arrive at this time next year. As such, by this time next year, I would like the Easton District to have arrived, or be well along the way to arriving at the following destinations:

Training (Luke 6:39-40): Local Church leadership will have had training in their specific areas of responsibility. There will be a greater degree of confidence in carrying out their specific ministry. They will have a clearer sense of answering the call of Christ, and leading their congregations in answering the call. They will have gained a deeper understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and a servant leader.

Financial Stewardship (II Corinthians 8): Training opportunities for Financial Officers will have enabled congregations to budget properly, develop Financial Stewardship plans that will enhance the fiscal soundness of local churches and look beyond "meeting the budget" and "focusing on what they think they 'can't' do; and emphasize fully funding ministry, including paying Conference Apportionments and District Apportionments in full.

Communication (Romans 10:13-16): Communication between the pastors, churches, District and Conference will have become multi-faceted, specifically direct-

ed when needed, and timely. This will insure that pastors and churches have a clearer idea of what is happening. This shared information will have enabled churches to support and pray for one another. It will also have made the connectional relationship between the local church, the District, and the Conference clearer.

Partnership (Philippians 1:3-11): The Churches and pastors will have developed a deepening sense of partnership, and shared ownership for the ministry of not only their churches, but of the District and the Conference. By identifying

local needs, churches can partner to meet those needs. Churches with areas of strength and expertise will have become resources for churches needing help in particular areas. To paraphrase the title of the book by Captain Michael Abrashoff, "It's Your Ship" I want to make it clear that first and foremost, the Easton District is God's District – period. God has graciously entrusted the District and all of its ministries, people, and churches to us to be good stewards. In a sense, it is YOUR District and my District. It is our District together.

I believe that these four destinations will accomplish several things that will keep us on course to fulfilling the Great Commission, keep us healthy, and create a greater sense of ownership of the ministries of our church and of our District. Our churches will be strengthened and empowered to develop and sustain healthy congregations and ministries. I believe that these four destinations will glorify God in amazing ways.

I hope you will share the journey with me. Our destination is great.



Rev. Bill Sterling

Milton Church Train in Cambridge Parade; Christmas Cheer Spreads Far

Submitted by Lynne Schulman

The Milton United Methodist Church in Woolford created Milton Engine 1881 and its "railcars" for the Annual Woolford Day community celebration. This year, the colorful engine and its cars were part of the Cambridge Christmas Parade.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLES A. MARSHALL

Milton Church was Sharing and Caring this Christmas season. The Milton Rainbows are the outreach and caring presence of the United Methodist Church family. This past year, the Rainbows had several projects for Christmas:

- Vision Quest Center male residents received a gift from caring folk at Milton Church. These young people are generally from struggling inner city families and are placed by the courts for rehabilitation and education in this therapeutic setting in Woolford.
- Holiday gifts to community or church shut-ins.
- Bringing Christmas Blessings to those who are so far from home, in service to our Nation with phone cards for our Veterans.
- Bringing joy to a child in need of special compassion thru the Milton Angel Tree in cooperation with the Salvation Army. Members select a boy or girl by age and need for anonymous gifting, helping to be Santa for that child's wish list.

You can send your support for this caring and sharing project with a check to Milton UMC – Milton Rainbows, c/o Nancy Collins, P.O. Box 106, Woolford, Maryland 21677.

Enoch House (at Union UMC in Federalsburg)

Do you realize the good work that the Enoch House does? Your donations of clothes and other goods provide low cost items for the lower income members of our local community. In addition, we offer these things at no cost to people who cannot afford to pay. Our efforts extend beyond Federalsburg as our clothes and toys are sometimes given to the homeless as far away as Baltimore. The

Enoch House also keeps medical equipment that is given or loaned to those in need. Due to health issues and other commitments of our committee, the members are struggling to keep the Enoch House open. Our requests for assistance from the congregation have been unsuccessful. Fundraising efforts have not been supported, and requests for help selling our wares have been to no avail. Our efforts to

renovate the Enoch House have had to be put on hold due to lack of money. With much sadness and regret the committee is making one last appeal to solicit help. We will be closing this Union Church mission project unless people come forward. Please call Dottie Mackert at 410.754.5411, June Elzey at 410.754.8143, or Pam Elzey at 410.754.9413 if you are interested in keeping the Enoch House open.

Celebrating 90 years

Submitted by Thelma Sterrett and Gloria Henry – Union UMC

Congratulations to Mrs. Mamie M. Stanley who recently celebrated her 90th birthday. More than two

hundred family, members and friends gathered at Hurlock United Methodist Church for this glorious event. Additionally, the presence of congregations from former churches she and her husband pastored were defining and very special. Highlighting the activities were proclamations presented by Rev. Arthur L. de'Souza George to Mrs. Stanley from the Governor of Maryland, the Mayor of Hurlock, as well as a "Key" to the Town of Hurlock. Birthday wishes were many including a message from President George and Laura Bush.

Entertainment and laughter were the medicine of the day. Performances by the Hurlock United Methodist Church liturgical dancers, reflections, strolls down memory lane, comedy routines and the Ray Charles impersonator brought joy to the souls



Mamie M. Stanley

and hearts of all. The delicious dinner was prepared and served by Mrs. Stanley's children and grandchildren. A time of love and blessings from God provided great comfort and joy to this celebration.

Christmas/Advent Celebration



The clergy families of the Easton District gathered for good food, worship and Advent Wreath making at First United Methodist Church in Secretary. Rev. Helen Lockwood hosted the dinner and approximately 18 families made Advent wreaths. After the completion of the wreaths, the first candle of Advent was lit, followed by carols and scripture readings.