



District United Methodist Women Dates to Keep in Mind

"Piece by Peace"

Focus: Promoting a world safe for women, children and youth
 Speaker: Jeane Yeager, Mid Shore Council on Family Violence
April 1, 2006 10:00 a.m.
Wye Carmichael United Methodist Church

"God's Shalom"

Focus: Culture – Diversity
 Speaker: Alma Hackett
October 5, 2006 10:00 a.m. – Place TBA

Easton District Council Meets

The District Council held its first meeting of the year on Monday, January 16th at St. Mark's UMC in Easton.

'What Matters Most?'

Life begins to end the moment we refuse to address those things that matter most. – paraphrase from Dr. MLK, Jr.

Each member was asked (1) What matters most in your life? What are the important issues for your personal life/family? (2) What do you consider to be the most important issues facing your work area?

Council members unable to attend the meeting were asked to send a substitute.

Reminder of Purpose:

1. Spiritually support each other
2. Coordinate and compliment our ministries
3. Seek ways to encourage/better our ministries

Each person then shared a few words about what has or has not been happening in their ministry areas.

The next District Council meeting will be held on Monday, May 22nd beginning at 7:00 p.m. at St. Marks in Easton.

District Council Members Include:

District Superintendent, Convener – Tom Donnachie
 District Council Secretary – Lisa Graine
 District Lay Leader – Roberta Wongus
 Associate District Lay Leader – William Ball
 District UMM President – Charles Brummell
 District UMW President – Ruth Higgins
 District UMYF President –
 District Youth Coordinator(s) – Lawrence Purnell, Billy Frick
 District Hispanic Task Chairperson – Helen Lockwood
 District Committee on Ministry Chairperson – Oscar Lopez
 District Building and Location Chairperson – Cindy Burkert
 District Coordinator of Communication- Tonya Pinkett-Wongus
 District Ministers and Mates President – Barbara Johnson
 District Coordinator for Racism Response Teams – William Wallace
 District Lifestyle Stewardship – Yvonne Penn
 District Coordinator STBC for the 21st Century – Michelle Nichols
 District Continuing Education Resource Team – Rev. Bonnie Shively

Strengthening The Black Church

Elaine B. Ayres, Director



A special African-American Laity Get-Acquainted Meeting was held January 11th at Mt. Vernon UMC in Church Hill and January 12th at Scott's UMC in Trappe.

Easton District Board of Laity

Greetings:

On behalf of the Easton District Board of Laity, we are excited to invite and encourage you-your congregation to share in celebrating "Our Youth."

On February 25th at 12:00 p.m. (noon), we will be holding our annual Clergy/Laity Luncheon at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Easton. The theme for this year's event is "Today's Youth for Tomorrow's Leadership." The keynote speaker will be Mr. David Burke, Director of Young People's Ministry in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference. Music Ministry will be

provided by Jason Yost. Praise Ministry will be provided by Total Praise (Lisa Jones). The meal will be catered by Jimmy's Grill.

We will be including recognition of outstanding service. Please forward the names of two (2) youth from your congregation whose service stands out – to be encouraged. Also include a brief paragraph on why these youth have been selected. All entries submitted will be recognized and will receive a certificate and four honorees will be highlighted.

Tickets for the luncheon may be purchased at the District Office for the cost of \$15.00 per person.

Space is limited! Hopefully you have already purchased your tickets but, if not, please contact the District Office immediately.

The support of all in celebrating our youth is necessary for the success of this event. Thank you in advance for your continued support, cooperation and participation. Once again, on behalf of the entire Easton District Board of Laity, we look forward to seeing you – **God Bless!**

Sincerely,

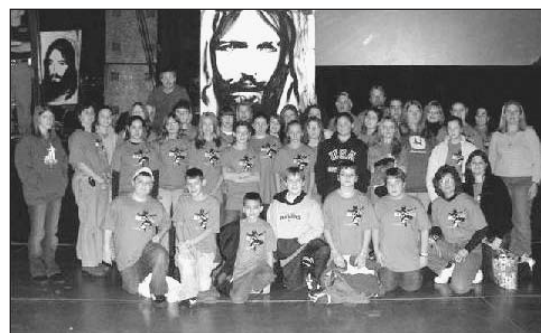
Roberta Jean Wongus

District Lay Leader

William Ball

Associate District Lay Leader

Sudlersville UMYF



Sudlersville UMYF with the Jesus Painting "Christ Eye's" they purchased at the 2006 Youth Rally

Groundbreaking Ceremony



A service For The Breaking of Ground for a Church Building – Waugh Chapel United Methodist Church – was held 22nd of January in Cambridge. The pastor is Rev. Dr. William T. Wallace.

Editor's Message



The Setting: First United Methodist Church in Secretary. The Honored Guests: The Curvacious Red Hat Ladies, Roy Johnson from the Powerhouse gym, Gale Collins – Mary Kay Consultant, Phyllis Cook – Silpada Designs, Linda Mitchell – Musical Selections and last, but not least, everyone in attendance.

Welcome to the First United Methodist's Afternoon Tea. We are glad that you could join us, Please relax and enjoy this time of fellowship. An Afternoon Tea, The food, The love and just plain joy in the air. There was a sweet, sweet spirit in this place . . .

Our Hostess was Rev. Helen Lockwood



The deadline for the March 17th issue is February 24th and the April 14th issue deadline is March 24th. To submit articles and photos please contact the editor, Tonya Wongus, at tonyawongus2005@aol.com or call 410.221.0158.

Take a journey through an African American time of grace and mercy;

Please, Join Us for a Group Tour and Presentation

Where: **Sturgis One-Room School Museum**
209 Willow Street
Pocomoke City, Maryland

When: Month of February by Appointment

Why: To Celebrate Black History Month
For Reservations, Call the Director,
Sudie Gatling at 410.957.1913

Free Admission During the Month of February

Gospel Night At Mt. Pleasant Church in Crisfield

Pastor — The Rev. Carol Carlson

On Sunday, February 12th a Gospel Night at Mt. Pleasant UMC in Crisfield was held. A free-will offering to benefit the ministries, renovation and/or relocation of Mt. Pleasant's Opportunity Shop was taken.

Special guests included the Crisfield High School Gospel Choir, Ralph Justice, Jr., Highway Holiness Choir, Ernie Evans,

Holy Encounters Drama Team, and several more. There was also a bake table with well-loved items from the ladies (and gentlemen!) of Mt. Pleasant as well as light refreshments.

The Opportunity Shop is in desperate need of repair or relocation and your support is crucial to reaching this goal. If you would still like to contribute in some way, please call 410.713.5682.

A View from the District Window

By **Barbara Kelly**,
Administrative Assistant

I have a day off today and as I am doing my favorite "wake up" routine, coffee and solitaire on the computer, I am thinking of something special going on in my life.

So, this "view" is from the window of my heart rather than the window in my office.

I am going to become a first time grandmother in August. So many of you have been in this awesome position (maybe as a grandfather), so I hope you will remember those special feelings and indulge me in my reflections! And, all this is being said with the permission of my daughter.

Kelly came to our family through adoption having been born in Seoul, Korea in 1978. She is a precious gift from God to our entire family. God created her half-way around the world just for us. Now she and her husband are going to have a baby. I am excited about the baby but when he/she arrives, among other things we will deal with, will be dirty diapers! So, I am enjoying this time of going through the pregnancy with my daughter. I have seen the budding of arms and legs, have

seen the actual heartbeat, and yesterday Kelly *heard* the heartbeat for the first time! Modern technology has made this all possible but sometimes I am so overwhelmed with the awesomeness of it that it is almost impossible to comprehend. I accept it as another blessing God has given us.

What does a new baby coming into the family mean? It is a continuation of creation of life that God has given us. If it is a boy, it will mean the continuation of a family name. It is full of promises that maybe WE can do it better than perhaps we felt we did it with our own child. Most of all, it is the opportunity to direct another life back to God. Someone sent me an e-mail recently entitled "Baby and God."

It spoke of a baby in heaven being worried and talking with God. God was telling the baby about being sent to earth and how her Angel would take care of her (I just don't like calling a baby "it"). God was reassuring the baby that its Angel would teach her how to speak the language, would teach her how to love, and most of all, teach her how to put her hands together and talk to God while still here on earth. (If you

would like to have a copy of this, just get in touch with me and I'll send it to you)

I am excited about this new baby in my family; I am excited about buying all the wonderful clothes, toys, etc. I can to spoil my grandchild, and I have already started to do just that; I am excited about this new life, a blank canvas, to help mold into as wonderful an individual as my daughter and son-in-law are; and I am excited to be able to take my grandchild to church and teach him/ her about God.

The future is unknown still. We still have to get through the entire pregnancy and go through the delivery. We pray for a healthy baby and we thank God for God's creation already. We will take this new creation and do our best, with God's help. I am not taking my grandchild for granted as I almost did my own child. I am older now, I have been through the process, and I know more about the reality of challenges, fears, and joys of raising a child. I promise, however, to make sure my grandchild knows lots of love and, first and foremost, I promise to bring my grandchild to God and trust God to guide his/her path.

Salisbury District hosts African-American Clergy Convocation

"A Glimpse of Mercy, Holiness and Worship"

Reclaiming the Call was sponsored by Strengthening the Black Church and under the visionary direction of Rev. Elaine Ayres.



Pictured above are a few of the 40 quilts that were taken to Mission Central on September 19, 2005. They were all made and donated by the Lydia Quilt Guild of Rockwalkin United Methodist Church. From L-R: Karen Kundell, Janice Minton and Denise Nelson. There are approximately 16 additional quilts that will be taken to Mission Central for the Gulf Coast victims.

'The Breaking of Waves'

by Shirlyn Henry Brown

the breaking of waves
our souls are gathering
the breaking of waves
wind is rushing
rain is cleansing
our souls are gathering

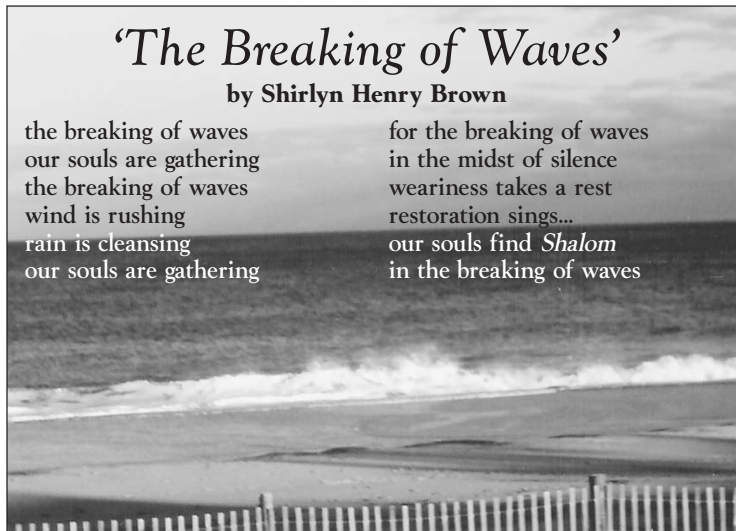
for the breaking of waves
in the midst of silence
weariness takes a rest
restoration sings...
our souls find *Shalom*
in the breaking of waves

The Salisbury District is encouraging congregations to share their stories in the District page each month. This page is set aside for you to show others what ministries you are doing in your communities and beyond. Please don't be shy, articles and photos are always and greatly appreciated. The next two deadlines are: for the March issue – February 24th and the April issue – March 24th. Please send your information to the district office or e-mail it to Rev. Shirlyn Brown, sistalady@hotmail.com. Please contact her to let her know you have something, especially if you do not have internet access, and she will work with you to receive the information (410.957.0689).

Good News Corner

Oriole: St. Peter's will again have their famous **Sausage Days** on February 22 and March 1. Please contact Rev. Carol Loy at 410.651.2612 to order.

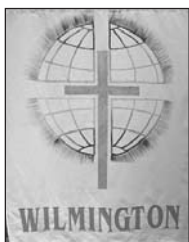
Pancake and Sausage Supper at Salisbury: St. Andrews on Tuesday, February 28. 4:30-7:00 p.m. Cost is \$5, children 5 and under are free. Call 410.749.8607 for more information.



From the D.S.

My earliest invitation, as the new District Superintendent, to meet with a group on the district came from our Retired Ministers' Group. I was invited to bring a bag lunch and meet with them in September to share my vision for the District. Think about that for a while. After only two months on the District, this "passive and humble" group of retired pastors wanted a vision statement from me! Such a challenge caused me to begin to reflect upon my ministries on a variety of districts, serving under the leadership of a diverse group of district superintendents. As you reflect upon your years of service, whether as clergy or lay, do you recall a specific vision statement being articulated either by a district superintendent or a district council? I cannot. Should a district superintendent, pastor of a local congregation, lay person serving in a congregation have a vision for his or her ministry? I suspect that the responsible answer to that question is "Yes."

My honest response to the Retired Ministers' Group was that I was in the process of discerning that vision. I am being intentional about learning "the way things are" in our district congregations, committees, and shared ministries. It takes time to discern the current reality and to listen for "the voice of God" regarding one's specific ministry in a particular area at a specific time. One way to understand vision is to think of "the way one wants things to be"—in a congregation, on a district, in an Annual Conference. Theologically, of course, we are ultimately to want things to be the way God would envision them to be (See **Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation 2005-2008**, pp. 4-5).



After experiencing hundreds of hours, during these past six months, with congregations in Charge Conferences, pastors in supervisory interviews, the Cabinet in meetings and retreats, the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, the Equitable Salary Commission, the Apportionment Review Committee, the District Board of Laity, the District Hispanic Task Force, the District Committee on Ordained Ministry, the District Minister's Meetings and a variety of other gatherings, I am beginning to discern a vision for my ministry of administration as Wilmington District Superintendent.

The newly elected Wilmington District Council will be meeting this spring and it will need to begin to work on a vision for our district. I will share a working draft of my vision for my role and place in the ministry of this district, but we will need a shared vision in order to develop goals and action plans for our future together.

I ask each of you, clergy and laity, to Pray for our district's ministry in the next five years. Pray for those recently elected to serve on our new District Council. If you have some insights concerning "the way God would envision our district to be," please send those insights to the District Office. We need our collective wisdom.

Let us remember that "I am the District! You are the District! We are the District together! All who follow Jesus, as United Methodist Christians, all around Cecil County and New Castle County! Yes, we are the District Together." So Be It.

Your Partner in Ministry,
William M. Fitzhugh

Marshallton UMC Awaits New Parsonage

By Betty Tull, Marshallton Lay Leader

"Wait Upon the Lord" —

There is never a disappointment when we wait upon the Lord. The congregation at Marshallton United Methodist church has received this message loud and clear.

We have a wonderful new pastor, Rev. Dr. Patricia Bryant Harris. We have experienced exciting and joyous accomplishments under her leadership and in sharing the visions she has for our future and the future of our church. Together we have been working (and waiting) toward a goal of having a new parsonage for our pastor. This new home will be built immediately adjacent to the church and for the first time since the 1970's the pastor will live in the community she pastors. What a blessing for this community.

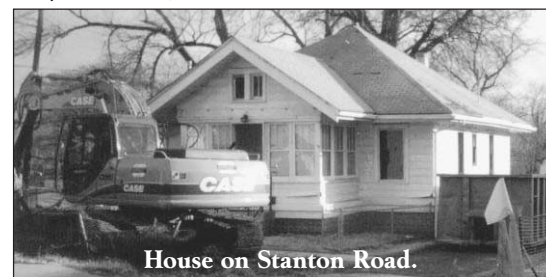
On a clear and cold, absolutely beautiful day, December 27, 2005, the Spirit of the Lord was with Marshallton United Methodist church.

We anxiously awaited the arrival of the equipment that would begin the long awaited process (demolition) necessary before we could begin construction of our new parsonage. We had several church families present see the old house at 1111 Stanton Road give way to allow for the glorious workings that the Lord was providing for us; to build a parsonage on this property.

Well, shortly before 9:00 a.m. the dozer arrived and promptly at 8:55 a.m. the first "blow" was struck. Within an hour, the first dumpster was full and left for the landfill. Meanwhile, at respectable intervals, we frequently warmed ourselves in the downstairs of the church by consuming coffee, juice, donuts, and muffins (supplied by the MUMC Building Committee) and giving praise.

At 10:40 a.m., the house toppled and the visions in the minds of those present were that we had been privileged to really see God working with and for our church.

The desire of our pastor to be part of this community and the eagerness, diligence and faith that the congregation has held in seeking this goal is truly an inspiration . . . "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:31



House on Stanton Road.

'Let The GOOD NEWS Roll' – The Congress on Evangelism 2006

"Welcome to New Orleans" was the greeting brought by Bishop William W. Hutchinson of the Louisiana Annual Conference and received by the 1,500 people gathered for the 2006 Congress on Evangelism on January 3, 2006. This greeting was especially poignant in that the Congress was not taking place in New Orleans as originally planned but rather was assembled at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, TN. This change in venue came about, of course, because of the devastation and destruction left by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita from which New Orleans and the whole Gulf Coast is still recovering. The audience heard and saw a presentation by Rev. Darryl Tait of New Orleans about the current situation in the Gulf Coast and an announcement was made by Gary

Exman, the President of the Council on Evangelism, that they hoped to raise \$100,000 during the Congress to send for disaster relief. The group also received greetings from Bishop Dick Wills of the Tennessee Annual Conference. A men's chorale of Korean students from Asbury Theological Seminary assisted Congress Worship Leader, Wes Putnam, in the opening worship and Tyrone Gordon of Dallas, TX gave the opening address.

For the next three days, Jan 4-6, the participants studied the Bible with Billy Abraham of Perkins School of Theology whose theme was "Faith, Reason, and Evangelism," and attended workshops on a variety of subjects such as Urban Evangelism, Prayer, Hispanic Ministry, Faith Formation in the Emerging Generation, Saving Women, Utilizing Technology, etc. They heard

keynote addresses by Bishop William Willamon of the North Alabama Conference and participated in General Workshops led by Kirbyjon Caldwell of Houston, TX, Jessica Moffatt of Bixby, OK and Gary Exman of Gahanna, OH. Many ministries provided displays of information, upcoming events, and available resources for evangelism and ministry such as General Board of Discipleship, Cokesbury, Upper Room, Aldersgate Renewal Ministries and His Name Exalted Ministry.

After the Election of Officers and Presentation of the 2006-2008 Council of Evangelism Board which will be headed by David Kerr, the Congress concluded with a Sending Forth Service and Communion led by Bishop William Hutchinson. The 2007 Congress on Evangelism will be held January 2-5 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Spring Break 2006 University of Delaware Wesley Foundation Student Mission Project in New Orleans

Dear Friends in God's Love,

From March 25-April 1, 2006 18 University of Delaware students will be traveling to New Orleans, giving their entire Spring Break recess assisting people to rebuild their community. This is an extraordinary offering of "free time" to help others so desperately in need and each of them is excited about being able to serve others. This mission project is coordinated by the University of Delaware Wesley Foundation (the United Methodist student fellowship) and the Louisiana United Methodist Storm Relief Center. Our student team is represented by many faiths,

bonding together as we help to rebuild communities. As the Wesley Foundation campus minister, I, along with two other adult leaders, will be on the team as well.

Each student is donating \$150 in addition to the work they will be doing. To permit maximum time in New Orleans we will be flying. This will allow two additional days on the work sites. Mini-vans will be rented for local transportation and we will need to purchase and prepare our food. The students have already done several fund-raising events and plan more, but we need additional support.

We need your help in donating money to

this worthy cause. We will need \$11,000 to meet our costs. We ask you for your donation that will support these caring college students as they help others in their time of need. What better way to give our students the opportunity to serve and bond with different people as they work together as a team and within the New Orleans community, and what better way to share God's love with our New Orleans friends in need.

Please help us make this mission project a reality by contributing as you are able. Personal checks are payable to "The Wesley Foundation" and may be sent to The Wesley Foundation, 69 E. Main Street,

Newark, DE 19711. If you are able to give, please do so at your earliest convenience as we need to make deposits for transportation soon.

Thank you so much for your generosity in supporting our Wesley Foundation students and our friends in Louisiana. If you need to contact me directly, call 302.368.8802 or email at doc@udel.edu.

In God's Peace,
Dr. William (Bill) Shearer
Wesley Foundation Campus Minister and Executive Director
University of Delaware
and All of the Student Volunteers

The Greater Love Quartet!

Asbury United Methodist Church, 200 Wiener Ave in Harrington invites all Southern Gospel enthusiasts to join us on March 12 as we host The Greater Love Quartet! We have hosted them once before, and they are spectacular. The Greater Love Quartet hails from Orange, Virginia, and their testimonies, music, and great sense of humor make for a wonderful hour of worship. Some words from their website, www.greaterlovequartet.org:

"Our calling continues to be spreading the word of our Lord and Savior. We hope that our music ministry lifts you up and draws you into a deeper, more personal relationship with Jesus Christ." They will be with us on March 12 during our 11:00 a.m. worship hour. Bring your friends for an enjoyable hour of praise and worship, and have your faith strengthened! For more information or directions to the church, please call Asbury's church office at 398.3390.

A Promise Kept – March 10-11

With the goal to glorify Christ in all things, the Greater Seaford Ministerium is sponsoring "A Promise Kept," a regional marriage conference to strengthen Christ-centered marriage and teach its Biblical principles as well as to provide tools and resources to assist couples in attaining a fulfilled and Godly marriage. Clinical psychologists, Drs. Dave and Jan Stoop of the Marriage and Family Network, a division of the American Association of Christian Counselors, will be the presenters for the conference to be held March 10-11 at the Atlanta Road Christian and Missionary Alliance Church in Seaford.

When speaking to couples, the Stoops present their seminar with humor and insight using role plays and lots of interaction. Information presented is based on the latest research on why marriages succeed or fail. They show practical ways any couple can strengthen their marriage, whether they're a newly married couple or a couple celebrating their Golden anniversary. Engaged couples and singles also may attend and find the seminar helpful in preparing for their marriage.

The Friday session will be from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. while the Saturday session will be 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There is a \$40.00 registration fee. Free child care will be provided for children up through grade five. Information and registration forms can be downloaded at www.atlantaroadcma.org/apromisekept.

For more information or ways to support the conference, contact Rev. Constance Hastings at St. John's United Methodist Church, 302.629.9466, ext. 21.

Holly-Day Event at Wesley Church, Dover



Pictured left to right are: Holly-Day Committee Members Shirley Mundorf, Vicki Stoops, Mary Ann Dashiell, Barbara Jones, Fran Deats and Sylvia Cooper.

The snowy weather on Friday, December 9, 2005 was causing the United Methodist Women to wonder what they would do with all their cookies, silent auction items and soup, but it stopped snowing around 8:30 a.m. and the sun came out around 10:00 a.m. Schools were cancelled, so we had an overwhelming turnout, especially for lunch – we ran out of soup and sandwiches! The good news is our fund raiser was a success! We raised \$3,144 for mis-

sion work! Thank you from the United Methodist Women for your support at the Holly Day Event! The committee members also want to thank everyone who contributed cookies and items for the silent auction, and thanks to all who supported the UMW by coming on Friday to bid on items, buy cookies and have lunch. Thanks to all the UMW kitchen helpers on Thursday and Friday. Thanks again for making the event so successful.

On Holy Ground – Building on God's Promises

On Sunday, March 5, Wyoming United Methodist Church will kick off their second Building Campaign, under the theme "Building on God's Promises." Under the direction of Jeff Townsend, Building Campaign and Follow-up Chairman; and Garry Saroukos, Building Team Chair, the reality of that promise is at last in sight.

A number of events will lead up to the Campaign Kick-off on March 5.

During January, all church members received an information packet with a letter describing the church's 40 Days of Prayer and Creative Fasting, as well as a prayer calendar requesting prayers for the various teams, chair people, and activities of the church, and the new church building.

The Building Campaign's Prayer Team, chaired by Mrs. Judy Field, has been working on a series of activities to undergird the church with prayer during the campaign. The first of these occurred on Sunday January 8 and 15, when Sunday bulletins at all services contained bookmarks with a prayer written by church member Jim Dorton. The prayer, which follows, was used as a responsive reading in each church service, led by a member of the prayer team.

Our Father who art in heaven . . . where you prepare a place for us. Help us as we prepare this house for you. Hallowed be thy

name...And may we reflect your holiness with the work of our hands. Thy kingdom come, and Lord, we desire to fill this new church and more, in order to better represent your kingdom. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. May we seek out your will through each step, each dollar, each brick, each person! Give us this day our daily bread, And Father, in response to your generosity, may we provide to those in need. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Forgive us if we, in our zeal, should stray from your path, and to be kind to others who do the same. And lead us not into temptation. Let us not be tempted to think too highly of ourselves, or to consider these accomplishments ours, but recognize that we succeed exclusively through your power and will, but deliver us from evil: and draw us to your glorious light. For thine is the kingdom, and yours is this church and the power, and our lives, and the glory, and our present, and our future, and all that we are, forever, and ever. Amen!

On February 11, an eight-foot cross was erected at the site of the new Wyoming United Methodist Church on Wyoming Mill Road, where for the last three years only a sign has stood. At 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 12 the congregation of the church gathered around that cross for a

service to consecrate the land as "holy ground." With prayers, hymns, and hopes, the people of the church will dedicate themselves to pray for this site and for the new church. Each person in attendance will receive a tiny container of soil from the site, to keep as a reminder to pray daily for the church of Wyoming and its future building.

Also on Sunday, February 12, personal communication meetings were held in fellowship hall, following each of the three morning services. At that time Jeff Townsend and Garry Saroukos discussed the campaign and the new building and answered questions individuals had concerning the upcoming charge conference.

On Sunday, February 19, there will be a charge conference at 12:30 p.m., when church members will vote on the building program, including: (1) the sale of Faldan house, site of the church offices, (2) sale of one acre of church ground, and (3) final plans for the new church.

A 24-hour prayer vigil will begin at the church at 8:00 a.m. on March 4, continuing until 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 5. Prayer leaders will facilitate each hour of the vigil.

The second three-year building program of the church will officially begin on Kick-off Sunday, March 5. This will be followed by First Fruits Sunday, when the first offerings of the new building campaign will be received.

Mission and Outreach High Priority at Asbury-Smyrna

Submitted by Carol Terry, Associate Pastor

The second Sunday of every month has been designated "mission Sunday" at Asbury UMC in Smyrna. Following the weekly offering, members from the Missions Team pass baskets for worshipers to give a second offering which is designated for mission projects above and beyond the special appeals that come from the Conference. Recipients this past year included the Katrina relief efforts, the refugees in Darfour, Africa and the Community Development Project in Smyrna.

The second Wednesday of every month a dedicated crew may be found in the Asbury kitchen preparing full course dinners which are delivered to homebound members and others in the community. There are volunteers who call for donations, who prepare the meals, who deliver the meals and who clean up. This has been a longtime ministry of the church and it is heartening to see it continue with new leadership.

The Caring Committee at Asbury oversees the packing of gift boxes for our men and women serving overseas in the armed services. They also stay in contact with persons on the prayer list and are resources for the pastors keeping them advised when members are in need of pastoral visits. The members of this committee were trained to do visitation and two by two make regular visits to the area nursing homes. They nurtured the formation of a Prayer Shawl Ministry and these shawls are given to members and friends who are ill, hospitalized or going through a difficult time.

The proceeds from the Annual Church Bazaar were distributed to local charities and included

\$1,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of Smyrna; \$1,000 to the Community of Shalom in Smyrna for the school dental program; \$1,500 to seven Smyrna Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops; \$500 to the Smyrna-Clayton Ministerium; \$500 to the House of Pride homeless shelter in Dover; \$500 to the Shepherd's Place in Dover; \$400 to Barratt's Chapel in memory of George Caley; and \$1,000 was sent to Baker's Chapel UMC in Boonesville, Indiana who suffered severe damage from recent tornados. The proceeds from the bazaar are the results of many, many volunteers working together not just for the local church but to reach out beyond the walls and into the community and beyond.

... for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

Matthew 25:35-36