



# Communicator

## an edition of

# The United Methodist Reporter

The people of The United Methodist Church

Two Sections — Section A

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## Bishop's Inaugural Message

### The Healthy Church Initiative

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



2008 Conference Journals are now available (see inside order form) PAGE 5



Observing Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday PAGE 5

### 2009 Annual Conference

June 11, 12, 13 (Thursday-Saturday)

University of Maryland-Eastern Shore

Princess Anne, MD

The Apostle Peter writes: "Respect everyone. Love the community of believers. Have reverence for God. Honor your ruler." (1 Peter 2:17 The Voice) The Bible teaches us that God's special anointing is upon the leadership of God's people. They have a calling from God and carry a holy responsibility. I believe that God uses our human institutions as God seeks to bring blessings into the lives of all people. Our God does not work from a perspective of fear, but from a perspective of hope for the world.

When George Washington was inaugurated President, April 30, 1789, Bishop Francis Asbury presented a congratulatory address to the new President. Bishop Asbury wanted to assure the new president that the people called Methodist would be holding him

in their prayers. They believed that God was doing a new thing in their lives and they had hope for this new land.

On January 20, 2009 President Barack Obama will take his oath of office. This historical event will follow the national celebration of the birthday of the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. and will be another step in the fulfillment of the dream of our nation, where we will not judge people by the color of their skin but by the greatness of their character. This is a time of great hope at a time of great need. There will be no easy answers for the problems we must face in the days ahead and no president can solve our problems for us. As God's beloved children we are going to need to work together to bring healing to this land.

There have been those who

have expressed fears about the changes that have come to our nation. There are those who want us to be afraid of this new day. There have been those who have said unkind things about our new president. We need to put all fear and unkindness aside. We love this nation, and perfect love casts out all fear. As Americans we have been blessed so we can be a blessing to the world. Not only has God enabled us to find solutions to our own problems but given us the opportunity to use what we discover to help so many others. Fear helps no one, not even ourselves. It is the hope that God places in our hearts that brings not only life, but a life of true spiritual abundance.

As a people called United Methodist, once again we need offer our prayers to our new President. It does not matter who

you voted for or what political party you belong to, we all need God to use President Barack Obama to bring blessing to our world. We will all benefit if God will give him wisdom and surround his life with godly advisors. We will all benefit if God can use his leadership in bringing peace in our world. As Christians we are called to show our new leader honor, in doing so we show respect to the God called him to this office. Our God is doing a new thing. Let us join together and encourage the hope that comes with a new day. Let us pray for a new spirit of cooperation. Let us pray a new creativity that will help us live healthier ways.



Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

## Peninsula-Delaware Conference To Sponsor Area-Wide Igniting Ministry Training

By Tamara Ward  
Communications Coordinator

What if we Rethink Church? What would that look like? What would that feel like? What would that live like? What if... we Rethink Church? Not in terms of what it is, but what it could be?

In 2001 the people of The United Methodist Church began declaring to the world that our hearts, our minds and our doors are open. But now it's time to take it to the next level. "Open" can no longer remain an adjective. It must become our calling. It must become a verb.

Rethink Church Training offers three ways to help our congregations become more actively engaged with spiritual seekers in your community. **Welcome. Connect. Identify.**

Are you ready to take your church to the 'next level'? It has been several years since we have offered a conference-wide Igniting Ministry training. The

first occurred at St. John's United Methodist Church in Seaford, Delaware when Igniting Ministries was first launched.

Since then we have had three persons available to come to our conference churches to share information that has developed out of our continuing need to welcome the unchurched and learn the true art of hospitality. But now it is time for the conference to join with Igniting Ministries and 'step up' and take it to the next level.

The Peninsula-Delaware Conference is inviting all of our church families to the RETHINK CHURCH Training to be held on Saturday, February 21st. This all-day training will take place at Kent Island United Methodist Church in Chester, Maryland. The day will start with registration and gathering time.

There will be general sessions and three break-out sessions covering the RETHINK CHURCH concept. (Welcome, Connect, and Identify) Because the training offers three separate tracks we are encouraging local churches to bring three persons (one person to attend each track).

Registration is being handled by Igniting Ministry in Nashville, TN. A brochure is available on our conference website ([www.pen-del.org](http://www.pen-del.org)). Persons can register on-line with a credit card or by downloading the brochure, filling it out and mailing it in with your payment.

There is a \$40 per church charge and a \$10 per person charge for lunch. There will also be morning snacks and coffee and water provided throughout

the day. There are also optional resource materials that you can pre-order and pick up the day of the training.

After choosing the three persons that will be attending, please have one person make the reservation for all three participants.

At the time this issue was going to print Igniting Ministries was experiencing some technical difficulties with the website address on the brochure. Until this situation is resolved, we have made a direct link to the on-line registration available from our conference website ([www.pen-del.org](http://www.pen-del.org)).

Igniting Ministries and the Peninsula-Delaware Conference apologizes for this and we hope that the alternative connection to the registration will not be too inconvenient for you.

If you have questions about the training, please feel free to contact Tammy Ward, Conference Communications Coordinator, at 1.877.736.3351, ext. 24 or by e-mail [tward@pen-del.org](mailto:tward@pen-del.org).



**BOYD'S BLESSINGS:**

It was an amazing Advent weekend. On a beautiful Friday afternoon, we called our younger daughter, Sarah, inviting her, along with husband Ted and our two-year-old grandson, Ryan, to join us for the Living Nativity sponsored by Conley's United Methodist Church in Angola, Delaware. Annually, thousands from the neighborhood and neighboring states gather to experience the miracle of the Christ child. A cast of over 100 (nearly half of the normal worshipping congregation at Conley's) learn lines and create costumes to share the story that truly transforms hearts and minds. We were deeply blessed by the experience, to say the least. Ryan, though tired in that early evening, was thrilled to pet a sheep on the scene.

Then, on Sunday morning following, Linda and I were driving to Sunday worship. We tuned in to our local talk radio station. The announcer mentioned that in a few minutes, with the audience's permission, his mother would be calling him from Grace UMC in Millsboro. After all, his four-year-old son would be appearing in a Christmas children's musical. The announcer and proud father had to work the Sunday morning shift at the radio station. He wanted to hear his son sing amidst the sea of voices that would be sharing the story of Christ's birth. Sure enough, shortly after 10 am, the phone rang, and unexpectedly, Grace Church for a few moments was broadcasting its Christmas cheer through children across the airwaves!

After the song, the announcer invited callers to suggest just the right Christmas gift for his wife. Within seconds, a voice came on the line and offered: "Tonight, why not bring your wife and son to the Living Nativity sponsored by Conley's Church?" The caller gave precise directions to the grounds where the story had been

shared each night of this wonderful weekend.

After this conversation concluded, the announcer announced to the listening public that he was not "religious," but that he considered himself a "spiritual" person. The next caller suggested that the announcer might describe himself as an "agnostic." The talk show host responded, "I suppose so, if what I said fits the definition of the term." Another caller sought to engage the host in some Christian conversation: "You really should give Jesus Christ a try. He can change your life."

Having listened to the dialogue with the continuing callers, I said to Linda, "I just recognized the voice of the fellow who invited the host to the Living Nativity!" It was the voice of a Roman soldier who spoke as those attending the presentation dropped their gold coins into the coffers of the treasury box along the route. He is an acquaintance of mine.

I later meditated upon the meaning of all I had heard. The one inviting the host to the Living Nativity, and the one who invited the host to consider Christ, had it right. They have captured the meaning of "Epiphany," the season of the Christian year in which we find ourselves. Epiphany has to do with revealing the presence of God, and with giving a gift that keeps on giving. That gift is a reminder that in the midst of foreclosures, financial upheaval, frozen salaries and pensions, God is still with us. God in Christ, now growing into maturity, means that God is going to get us through all this—these things too shall pass. Epiphany is a time for evangelism, showing and telling the Good News of God's love, in spite of all we hear in the daily news these days. The news that God is with us is Good News after all—the greatest news, indeed!



Rev. Boyd Etter

Submitted by Tracey Moore-Higbee, Host Site Director, Whatcoat UMC-Camden

Angel Food Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational, national ministry. There are 15 Host Sites throughout the state of Delaware. AFM is open to everyone regardless of income, race, or religion. It is simply a way to help everyone stretch their food budget. With so much economic uncertainty many more people are finding

## Angel Food Ministries

themselves in a financial pinch and many have simply decided that now is a good time to start saving money wherever they can. AFM Host Sites are run completely by volunteers and the ministry saves the consumer money by working directly with the food vendors and cutting out the "middle man".

If you would like to find a Host Site closest to you please go to [www.angelfoodministries.com](http://www.angelfoodministries.com) or call 1-877-FOOD-MINISTRY. To order from Whatcoat UMC-

Camden or for more information check out our church website at [www.whatcoat.com](http://www.whatcoat.com) or you can call 302-632-4605. We welcome you, your youth group or other church group to come out and help on distribution day. This is the day every month where we get to show people in the community the love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We work hard, but we have loads of fun, too.

## My Mission Trip Experience

Submitted by Bob Kepfer, Felton United Methodist Church

It has been 3 long years, several trips, and countless lives touched and helped in Mississippi after the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina. None of us knew what to expect or what we were getting into on that first trip. Most of us had just met, but we did know that God tugged at each of us and told us to go.

Not only did we hold hands, pray, cry, and help many people rebuild, we also learned a lot about ourselves along the way. No one could have imagined the devastation that stared us in the face on our first trip down there, would have turned into the friendships, hope, and love that

was formed along the way. (God works in mysterious ways!) Most of the people in the church know that on our off time, we got to work on a very special project for me, helping my brother Joe Kepfer build his new home in Pass Christian. Not only did we tear down his old house and get to help him build his new home, we also attended his wedding to Joy on one of our trips. The service was conducted by Pastor Rick, the team leader of our trips. Good news, after three long years, Joe and Joy expect to move into their new home by Thanksgiving! It's amazing what a bunch of wood butchers with a tape measure and some nail guns can do when they work under God's direction and with the support of one of the best churches



in the conference!

If you ever get the chance to go on a mission trip, please go. It can truly be a life changing experience, not only for those that you help, but also for you. A heartfelt thanks goes out to all that have and continue to help through your donations, prayers, and direct support of mission trips. Without you, there could be no us!

## Neighborhood Faithfulness

Traveling down Holland Glade Road, you first notice an "Adopt-A-Highway" sign reflecting the cooperative effort Epworth UMC Church and Seaside Jewish Community Center experience several times a year by doing trash pickup along their common access road. Afterwards, they share a potluck supper and fellowship. It is only a 1/2-mile distance between these two buildings of faith and this year, that distance is becoming closer as a result of their growing relationship.

During September-October, the Jewish High Holy Days were held at Epworth with the sanctuary filled to capacity with worshippers who had traveled from many states to attend. It is Seaside's desire to host this regional celebration again Fall 2009. "The warmth and welcoming spirit shown by our Epworth neighbors greatly enriched our worship

experience and we are grateful for your hospitality and your friendship", said Beth Cohen, Seaside's lay religious leader.

In November, a book discussion was held with 21 people attending from Seaside, Epworth



and the Hindu community. "The Faith Club" was written by three mothers from three faiths—Muslim, Christianity and Judaism—who decided to write a children's book highlighting the connections between their religions. During the writing process as the women listened to and learned about each other's religious be-

liefs, they began to reevaluate and find a new understanding of their own faith as well as an informed appreciation of the other faiths. The co-leader of the evening felt that the discussion of "The Faith Club" served as a jumping-off point with most attending wanting more! ... some wished for a true discussion of the book itself while others wanted to go more deeply into a comparative religion study. A follow-up gathering will occur on Tuesday, January 20th -- another opportunity for the open discussion of rituals, beliefs, the common language and experiences each faith community share.

"What a blessing it has been to see God at work in this new relationship", said Rev. Jonathan Baker. It truly is an example that Epworth is a church with Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors to all possibilities.

**District Page: The Dover District Page is printed within the Peninsula-Delaware Conference Pages in the first issue of each month (January - June). The next District Page will be printed in the February 13th issue. Please submit all articles and photos no later than Friday, January 23rd, to Marilyn Cleeton, District Editor, by e-mail ([mcleeton@pen-del.org](mailto:mcleeton@pen-del.org)) or by regular mail - 139 N. State Street, Dover, DE, 19901.**

## From the D.S.

I feel excited about the New Year. Yes, I read the sensational headlines about predictions of economic collapse, political turmoil, violence, major shifts in weather patterns, terrorism getting worse, and the major changes in values in our society. I feel excited because none of this has caught God by surprise. None of these is overload on God's capacity to redeem, save, restore, and continue to do things that "eye hath not seen nor ear heard." None of these limits or diminishes God and the working out of God's plan for salvation. None of these has altered, or released the Church of Jesus Christ from its divine appointment to proclaim the Good News of God's redemption in Jesus Christ. There is no such thing as "cut back" in the ministry of proclaiming the Gospel-not just in word but also in deed. Yes, you obviously can't write checks when the money is not there. Yes, if less money comes in, some things cannot continue until the money is there. The proclamation of the Gospel was never designed to center around budgets and hinge on what we have. It centers on God purposes and God's ability to bring to pass what God wants. To invite your neighbor to church costs nothing. To give one of the several coats you have in the closet, and that shirt or pants or dress you can no longer wear comfortably to someone lacking these things doesn't cost anything. To volunteer your time at a shelter, or in a mission, costs nothing. To be a mentor to a child struggling in school, a comforter for someone grieving, a holy presence for someone dying are all free Gospel proclamations. The only real cost to inviting someone to Jesus Christ is to give up the energy draining fear of doing it. It really doesn't cost anything to sit down with others and study God's word. Carefully watch for the visitor who comes to your church to worship and show hospitality to them. What about the person or family who hasn't been seen in church for a few weeks? Pick

up the phone and call them, send a card, drop by. These things become costly only as we neglect them. These are things we can do because God not only calls us to do them, but God empowers us to do them. I am excited about the New Year because God is greater than anything that is in the headlines. It's a most opportune time for the Church, each local church, to be the Church God intends it to be. This is our time to excel as the people of God.

I'm not afraid of the New Year. I think of the beginning words of Minnie Louise Harkins' poem, "At the Gate of the Year," which are: "I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied, 'Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God; That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!'" I think of the chorus of the old gospel hymn by Ira Stanphill, "I Know Who Holds Tomorrow" that says: "Many things about tomorrow, I don't seem to understand, But I know Who holds tomorrow, And I know Who holds my hand!" I think of a thought recorded by my grandmother in her diary, "And so the year 1935 has passed, and I am all alone in my little sun room with my memories, awaiting the coming of the New Year, 1936. I have no fear whatsoever is in store for me. I shall not be afraid, for God leadeth me." She lived with that confidence until her death in 1959. A poem. A hymn. An expression of faith in a diary. All written by people, confident in God's promises never to leave or forsake us, and that God will bring to completion what God has started (Deuteronomy 31:6 & Philippians 1:6). In Christ, God is and will always be our constant companion.

Happy New Year. Bill



By David Heistand, Team Leader

Our efforts were focused on 3 farm families who were members of the Oakville U. Methodist Ch. All three farm families had extensive damage which destroyed their homes, crops, machinery and livestock. No flood insurance coverage, period.

With Thanksgiving approaching, the families were still trying to get their houses ready to move back in. There will be no income this year to pay for their essentials.

Our work consisted of insu-

lating a home, draining flood water from machinery and tanks, cleaning furnace pipes, removing damaged equipment, power cleaning shops and equipment, securing roof shingles, painting, and numerous other details. As a team with farm backgrounds we knew how to help fellow farmers and understood their loss. Our hearts were touched as we worked with them, ate our meals together and listened to their many stories of loss and survival. Life long relationships were established. There was a sense that God had prepared us to be together. It was an experience we cherished and were thankful



Pictured from L to R front row, Sarah Kirk, Ann Neal. Back L to R, Scott Kirk, Wheatley Neal, Larry Kreps and David Heistand

to have made the step of faith to serve. One member of our team said, "I didn't know what I was getting myself into, but I wouldn't have missed this trip for anything in the world". Well said for us all.

### Bishop Johnson's Signature is added to "Nothing But Nets" Basketball

During the 2008 General Conference, Annual Conferences were challenged to make a donation to Nothing But Nets in return they would receive a basketball signed by all of the Bishops of the United Methodist Connection. As a way to kick off the donations for Nothing But Nets in the Easton District, Bishop Johnson added her signature to the basketball. If you or your church are interested in making a donation or would like to have more information you can go to [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org) or contact Kevin Goodwin or the Easton District Office.



Bishop Peggy A. Johnson with Rev. Rick Vance, pastor of First UMC in Chestertown

### MLK Celebration Preston/Hurlock Charge

The Preston/Hurlock Charge will celebrate its second annual community MLK celebration on January 19 at 2:00 p.m.. The event which will feature a cross section of talents in both Caroline and Dorchester Counties and will take place at Hurlock UMC located at 502 S. Main Street, at 2:00 p.m.

## OPEN HEARTS AND OPEN HANDS SHARING BLESSINGS

Submitted by Church Hill/Burrisville Charge-

St. Daniels UMC on the Church Hill/Burrisville Charge donated turkeys and food baskets to eight families during the Thanksgiving Holiday. As St. Daniels relinquished their fruits of love, kindness, generosity, and joy, it



brought a smile on the face of the receivers with a glow in their eyes of excitement and gratitude. We pray that we shall be good and faithful stewards, sharing with others the abundance that Jesus has given to us, ever giving and serving from a willing heart.



### Photos from Bishop Johnson's 'Day On The District'

At right: Bishop and Rev. Johnson speak with guests at the event



Rev. Dr. Sandra Steiner Ball talks with Russ Phillips



At Left: Bishop and Rev. Johnson

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## Bishop White Named Ecclesiastical Endorsing Agent and Retired Pastor Tom Carter Assumes Role As Director of Endorsement

The Council of Bishops has named Bishop Woodie W. White (retired) as Ecclesiastical Endorsing Agent for The United Methodist Church, Dr. Jerome King Del Pino announced. Del Pino, general secretary of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, said Bishop White will assume his responsibilities when the Rev. Patricia Barrett, assistant general secretary of the Division of Ordained Ministry and Ecclesiastical Endorsing Agent, retires at the end of 2008.

White has led retreats for chaplains in Europe and has been involved with the work of endorsing chaplains since 1987, when he worked with the former Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries, providing spiritual and episcopal leadership for the chaplains and pastoral counselors in the Far East.

"His longstanding support for, and awareness of, the ministry of chaplains and pastoral counselors will undergird his ministry as Endorsing Agent," said Del Pino. Del Pino said the work of endorsement was originally carried out by a commission of the Council

of Bishops, then shifted to the newly created General Board of Higher Education and Ministry



**Bishop Woodie White**

after the 1968 merger of the Evangelical United Brethren and the Methodist Church.

Del Pino said there is a close relationship between endorsement and the appointive authority of the bishop, and that "the majority of our sister Methodist denominations exercise endorsing through the office of the bishop. After consulting with the bishops currently chairing the Endorsing Committee, Del Pino said he "determined to seek a restoration of the close relationship between the Council of Bishops and the ministry of endorsement," and so asked the Council of Bishops to appoint White.

"Bishop White has been working with the staff of the United Methodist Endorsing Agency, which will continue to function within the Division of Ordained Ministry, in planning for a seamless transition," Del Pino said.

### Rev. Tom Carter

Upon recommendation by Mary Ann Moman as associate general secretary for the DOM, and approval by Dr. Del Pino, as general secretary, we are pleased to announce that the Rev. William "Tom" Carter has been named as director of endorsement for the United Methodist Endorsing Agency at the GBHEM effective September 1, 2008. As most of you know, Tom has been serving as interim in this position.

During this interim time, Tom has greatly increased the effectiveness of the endorsing process by providing mentors to all newly endorsed persons. He has also developed new support programs

for chaplains returning from combat areas. We appreciate his efforts and rejoice in his willingness to remain in the position on a regular basis. Please join in congratulating Tom and wishing him continued success as the director of endorsement.

"I am excited to be affirmed as the director of endorsement. You, the members of the endorsed community, will continue to be the focus of our ministry at UMEA. Please call upon us at anytime," said Tom.

Tom Carter served as an Army chaplain from 1965 to 1998. Upon his retirement from the Army, he was on staff at Saint Johns United Methodist Church in Seaford, Delaware then took a position as camp and retreat director on the Peninsula - Delaware conference staff.

Tom has been an endorsement interview chair since 1993. In August of 2002, Tom came to GBHEM to help out because of staff retirements and a person out on medical leave. Thanks to his wife, Judy, they decided to move to Nashville, Tenn., where Tom was a consultant with UMEA, interim director, and now director of endorsement. Tom and Judy have two daughters and two grandchildren. He is a skilled woodworker and gardener.



**Rev. Tom Carter**

## Preaching For Life Change Seminar Held

On Saturday, November 22, 2008 the Preaching for Life Change Seminar was held at Mariner's Bethel UMC in Ocean View, DE. The presenters of the seminar were Pastor Steve Ackerman, currently serving Aldersgate UMC, Wilmington District, and Pastor Woodie Wilson of Mariner's. The two ministers teamed up after their experience at a Rick Warren seminar at Saddleback Church and agreed to carry the vision where God was leading. There were 36 who registered and 34 who participated including clergy, lay speakers and lay

leaders. The first session included the purpose of preaching, God's purpose for man, God's purpose for the Bible, and God's purpose for the preacher. Another session addressed the topic of becoming a life-change preacher and the truths about preaching for life change.

The two afternoon sessions focused upon communicating to change lives, the biblical method of wise preachers and the eight questions to ask before one preaches. This seminar was very well received. Pastor John Hornberger of the United

Methodist Church of the Atonement commented of the benefits of the seminar and Mrs. Amy Peters, answering God's call to the ministry, expressed her deep appreciation and gladness to have participated. Also, the hospitality of Mariner's was greatly appreciated and skits by the youth were very effective and applicable for life change. The breakfast and lunch were delicious and we thank all those involved. It is hopeful that this seminar will be offered again in other districts of our conference.

## Young People's Ministry

As I write this article, many people are currently working to make final preparations on the 2009 Youth Rally. By the time you read this article, "The Missing Peace" Youth Rally will have taken place and 4000+ youth and youth leaders will have arrived back home from a weekend of wonderful fellowship, great music, inspirational speakers, and perhaps even a new t-shirt, necklace or other souvenir from one of the artists.

If you happen to see someone at your church wearing a tie-dye shirt or other colorful shirt with the bus on the front, stop and ask them about their weekend in Ocean City at the Youth Rally.

On another note, I wanted to share with the leaders and potential leaders of young adult ministries an event for you to consider attending

**Elevate**, scheduled for July 10-12, 2009 in Pittsburgh, PA is an event for leaders and potential leaders of young adult ministries in local churches, on college campuses, and in annual conferences.

The event is sponsored by the Northeast Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church through a grant from the jurisdic-



**Shane Hinderliter**

tional vision table.

The cost of the event is only \$129 if you register by May 15 and \$149 if you register by June 15. The cost includes registration, hotel for two nights (based on double occupancy), most meals, and a lot more. Participants are responsible for transportation to and from Pittsburgh and Saturday night dinner. Registration is limited to 175 participants so if you are interested in attending, please consider registering early to confirm your spot.

Please feel free to contact me by e-mail (shinderliter@pen-del.org) or by calling 1.877.736-3351, x 15 with any questions.

## BUMP (Black United Methodist Pastors) Planning Spring 2009 Mission Trip

Dear Pastors and friends,

Once again we will be traveling to New Orleans, Louisiana to support the ongoing Katrina Relief effort. The people who lost so much are still alive and in need regardless of what we have seen or heard about on TV. The need is still great.

I am writing to all clergy and laity interested in our third mission trip to New Orleans sponsored by BUMP. The work of rebuilding is still a very high priority for those in need. This wonderful opportunity is available to all interested clergy and laity. Clergy, please inform laity.

The mission trip is March 13 through March 20, 2009. The mission team will consist of approximately 27 persons. The focus is the 9th ward and surrounding areas. Last year it was

our goal to take \$10,000 and we did, with your help. We seek donations once again. All donations are due February 28, 2009. Please send donations to the Peninsula-Delaware Conference office. Put in the memo line BUMP Katrina Relief and to the attention of Brenda Gaines. The total cost for the mission trip is \$600.00.

If you are interested in the mission trip, please contact Rev. Yvonne Penn at 1.410.221.8898 or fax at 1.410.546.4669 or Rev. Joseph Henry at 1.410.641.3303. The mission team will be receiving training in February. Additional information will be forthcoming. Please make your contact as soon as possible.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Yvonne Penn, Chair  
BUMP





# Reflecting and Looking Ahead

*“Goodness is the Only Investment That Never Fails.”- H. D. Thoreau*

This past year was difficult for investors, Church endowments, and the World investment markets. We all witnessed the unprecedented history of a Global financial meltdown and the results and failures of unbridled Wall Street greed. I am certain we should feel the financial effects well into 2009 and will remember the economic crisis of 2008 for the rest of our lives.

I wish I wrote the opening quote, however it is attributed to Henry David Thoreau. As I was reflecting on my first year as Executive Director of the EPP United Methodist Foundation this short quote came to mind. The quote helped me shift my negative thinking away from the short-term financial failure of our investment returns, and focus instead on the total return of the investment in goodness our important Ministry makes every year.

The Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula United Methodist Foundation exists for one simple purpose: to invest in the goodness potential of all our churches. Our mission is to both manage investments and offer new ways to build and view stewardship



**Jack Brooks**

among our churches. We want to financially strengthen Churches. For individuals we offer ways to give including investment in Charitable Gift Annuities to benefit any church or ministry.

The Foundation is a nonprofit investment corporation that is owned by the Church. Investment assets are committed to us from many Conference Churches and Ministries. Without us managing these investments, our important Ministry would cease to exist. All our profit is invested back into local stewardship programs and Church investment education. We also benefit from the investment in goodness made by our Board of Directors, Investment Managers, and Volunteers. They help support our mission thereby financially strengthening our United Methodist Church.

To measure the Foundation's 2008 performance by pure monetary returns it was a difficult investment year. We did show

outperformance against many of the benchmarks our asset classes are measured against, however most investment returns closed negative for the year. I do feel that the Foundation is well positioned for the market recovery and now would be a good time to add to Church investments and endowments.

When looking ahead people often ask me “is now a good time to invest?” As a financial professional I will tell you, “now” is always the most difficult time to invest. But NOW! is the time for you to make an investment commitment to growing the goodness of your church. Please seek out opportunities this year to invest locally in your church and help it grow for future generations. You can start by adding to an endowment fund, paying a bill for your church, increasing giving a little, or remembering the Church in your Will. My best investment advice for 2009, invest in your Church. To paraphrase Thoreau, “You will find your investment in the goodness of your church to be the one investment that will never fail.”

Blessings to you for a happy and healthy 2009,  
Jack

## Cokesbury Connection

Ever want to know more about John Wesley's beliefs on such topics as eternal life, forgiveness, grace, heaven, holiness, justice, faith, mission and works? Then be sure to order a copy of the JOHN WESLEY STUDY BIBLE. (9780687645039). This is a new NRSV study bible from Abingdon Press (Cokesbury). You get study notes by 50 key scholars, life application notes by 50 key pastors, explanation by key Wesley experts, extended references to works by John Wesley. Words are user-friendly. A must-have study bible for preacher, teacher and learner. Order now for February publication.

**UM QUADRENNIAL RESOURCES:** Have you placed your order for the new quadrennial resources yet? 2009 UM calendars? Guideline booklets for each ministry area? Job Descriptions and Leadership Training for the Local Church? Membership Records and Financial Planning forms? Every four years after General Conference, changes are made to these official resources. They govern how we conduct business and membership in the United Methodist Church. Save \$8.00 by ordering the 2 Pack Special that includes the Book of Discipline and the Book of Resolution. Place your order soon to be among the first to receive all



**Madeline Beall**

these new resources.

### COKEBURY'S CHOIR ROBE SALE: JANUARY 5-MARCH 31, 2009

Save 15% on all custom choir robes and choir robe accessories. Plus receive a FREE robe bag and hanger for each custom robe purchased! (\$16 value) All SpeedShip and ReadyRobes are 10% off. Bring a sense of identity and unity to your choir with beautiful new choir robes! Just as music is a vital part of the worship service, beautiful new robes invigorate the choir and the congregation. To request a Choir Robe Catalog Packet use item number RS09-772392. I am happy to help you and your church with your choir robe needs.

I hope for each of you a very happy and healthy New Year!

Per John Wesley: “Love God with a warmed heart. Serve God with active hands!”

Madeline Beall  
1.877.792.5410  
mbeall@cokesbury.com

### PENINSULA-DELAWARE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



#### DIRECTOR, Strengthening the Black Church & Congregational Development

The Peninsula-Delaware Conference of the United Methodist Church is currently seeking applicants (laity or clergy) for the position of Director for Strengthening the Black Church & Congregational Development. The Director will be expected to develop goals and strategies in the following areas:

- Spiritual Gifts Assessment
- Worship
- Lay-Clergy Partnering
- Christian Education
- Evangelism
- Spiritual Disciplines
- Community Outreach Development
- New Church Development
- Vital Congregations

Duties include linking and networking with U.M. General agencies in relation to the African-American churches.

Qualifications include: a Masters Degree, experience in growing the local church, and expertise in visioning and goal setting. The position will require knowledge of United Methodist history and polity and familiarity with the conference structure and ministry strategy. This position requires travel and a valid driver's license.

A resume and a letter indicating reasons for seeking the position, including reflections on the Position Description,\* should be received by February 15, 2009. Please send all material to:

M. Cleeton  
139 N. State Street  
Dover, DE 19901  
or by e-mail to: mcleeton@pen-del.org

\*Applicants will need to call (1-877-736-3351) or e-mail Mrs. Cleeton to obtain a copy of the Position Description.

### 2009 “The Missing Peace” Youth Rally

A great big “Thank You” to everyone that came out last weekend to the youth rally. We hope that you enjoyed the fellowship, the messages, and the wonderful music that the weekend brought to over 4000 youth and youth leaders, staff, and visitors. Plan now to attend the 2010 Rally scheduled again at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City, Maryland on January 8, 9, and 10th. More information to follow in the next several months. “Rock On”



### Monday, January 19th is the Observance of the late Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday

#### 2008 CONFERENCE JOURNAL ORDERS

The Conference Journal is available and orders are being filled as they are received. The price is \$23.00 per copy. This year there will be a limited supply of spiral bound Journals available for the price of \$25.00 per copy.

To place your order, complete and return the order form below. A check or money order must accompany all Journal orders. The postage for mailing the Journals will be paid by the Peninsula-Delaware Conference. **Please do not include your Journal payment with benevolences on the Conference Benevolence Remittance Form.** Mail your journal order to: **Journal Order, Peninsula-Delaware Conference, 139 N State St., Dover, DE 19901.**

.....(cut here).....

#### 2008 CONFERENCE JOURNAL ORDER FORM

Charge \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Journals Ordered \_\_\_\_ @ \$23.00      No. of Spiral Bound \_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00

Total Payment Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOUCHED by the HEART of  
SALISBURY

## The Churches Response to Hunger and Homelessness

Each Saturday morning, anywhere from 150 to 200 people come to God's Kitchen at Grace UMC for a hot meal. These are people who are struggling to make it in today's economy or people who are on fixed income, homeless or unemployed. They are our neighbors.

The Tri-County Alliance for the Homeless conducted a survey last year that covered families and children in Somerset; Worcester and Wicomico counties. The Survey showed that on a given day there were 1,350 homeless children in the Tri-County area. 1,204 of these children were staying with friends or relatives, 43 were in shelters, 56 were in motels or hotels and another 47 were listed as other.

There are many reasons why people are homeless. According to the survey reasons for being homeless ranged from addiction, mental illness, family conflict, re-

cently released from prison, loss of jobs and veteran issues. As the economy continues to decline, churches and shelters, as well as service agencies and food banks are seeing more and more people asking for help.

The Advocacy Resource Team along with Salisbury Urban



Ministries is sponsoring a day with the homeless on February 21, 2009. This special event will be held at Grace United Methodist Church in Salisbury. The day will be divided into two parts. In the morning fifty members from churches on the Salisbury District will eat and fellowship with those

who come to God's Kitchen and then from 1:00 – 3:00 PM a seminar opened to the public will be held in the sanctuary.

A panel made up of individuals who work directly with the issues listed above will make presentations and answer questions to help attendees better understand the realities that many of our neighbors are facing in today's economy. If you or your congregation would like to know more about how your church can respond to the issues of hunger and homelessness in your community this is an event you will not want to miss. For more information please contact Salisbury Urban Ministries at 410-749-1563.

You and your family can also thank Him for what He has allowed you to do for others. In that way others can give thanks as they offer their thanksgivings for you.

## Thanksgiving Delivery a Blessing

Mt. Pleasant & Quindocqua United Methodist Churches in Crisfield and Marion, MD came together to provide, pack and deliver Turkey Bags to 12 families for Thanksgiving. Pictured left to right are: Tim Clayton, Vicki Hoffman, Ralph Justice, Sherri East, Cynthia Tyler, Larry Powell, Pastor Debbie Dunn & Mary Powell. Not

pictured are Harry & Edith Done, Sandy Landon and Julie Horsey.



## Good News Corner

### Church Raises \$1,000 Towards Apportionments

Curt Dunn & Denise Thomas (pictured at right) work together to serve at the Dec. 13th Soup and Sandwich Luncheon at Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church. The Church raised over \$1000.00 to be used towards their apportionments for 2008.



## MT. CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### FIRST ANNUAL SENIOR CITIZEN APPRECIATION BANQUET

Submitted by Rev. Anna Foster

The first Annual Senior Citizen Appreciation Banquet, for Seniors over the age of 80 years, took place on Saturday, November 8, 2008 at Salisbury University in the Bistro Dining Room. Mt. Calvary United Methodist Church honored 18 persons, most of who are still active in the church, with a night of fun, singing, family, friends and message of hope.

Our guest speaker for the occasion was Rev. Ronald Bell Sr., Executive Director of Salisbury Urban Ministries in Salisbury, Maryland. His wife Joyce accompanied him at the banquet. There was a trio selection by Michael Foster, Lester Purnell, and Sherwood Wigfall and a solo by LaVerne Harmon. A memorial was given by Virginia Wigfall and Connie Harmon and Alexis Dashiield read the scripture.

A poem was read by Marie White entitled "You Are Remembered" written by Glendola

Stevens:

#### *You Are Remembered*

*Give me flowers while I can still smell and appreciate,  
Don't wait for tomorrow, for tomorrow may be too late.  
So on behalf of Mt. Calvary United Methodist,  
We decided to honor twenty-one faithful senior saints on our list.  
For these seniors have worked hard and paved the way,  
Their tireless labor has made our church what it is today.  
Your stewardship is recognized from the past as well as days to come,  
And we take this opportunity to express our gratitude to each and everyone.*

*Some have worked with the youth and been their role model,  
For it is your footsteps, they have chosen to follow.*

*Some have lifted our spirits through scripture reading, singing and prayer,*

*Whatever gift they have they are always willing to share*

*Some clean the church, or serve in the kitchen*

*Others open their hearts and are willing to listen.*

*So to all you seniors, the work you have done have spoken for you,  
And this banquet is our expression of how we honor what you do.  
We wish you well. We wish you love,*

*We wish you continued blessings from God above.*

The Honorees included Pecola Stevens, Ida Stanford, Anne Dashiield, Lucinda Parsons, Otha Lee Collier, Ruby Collier, Priscilla Black, Marilyn Leatherbury, Mary Gladys Jones, Ruth Carey, Thomas Dennis, Genevieve Jones, James Deal, Charles Deal, Franklin Jones, Thelma Doane, Liz Fountain and Thomas Dorsey.

A great celebration led by committee members Michael Foster, Marsha Hankerson, Marie White, Connie Harmon, Sherwood Johnson and Sherwood Wigfall.,

## St. Peter's in Oriole "Church Happenings"

On December 7th, St. Peter's UMC invited the Asbury UMC Choir from Crisfield to perform during their annual Christmas Concert. This event has been held for at least six years. Each year a "love offering" is collected, which goes to the Seton Center in Princess Anne, MD to help with their Christmas Fund. Thanks to the people who attended this year, they were able to give \$1000.00 to the Sisters at the Seton Center.

Every Sunday at St. Peter's the children bring their pennies and give them to Jesus. At the end of the year, they are counted and a check is sent to "Bless Our Children" at WBOC-TV. This year a check for \$100.00 was sent with a note saying that the children have collected their pennies so that they can help other children at Christmas.

**LEADERSHIP TRAINING**  
Sponsored by the Salisbury District Board of Laity  
Saturday  
January 24, 2009  
Nelson's UMC or St. Paul's UMC  
Hebron  
(See class list below)  
8:00A.M.—12:00 Noon  
\$6.00/person  
(Materials included)  
Light breakfast refreshments will be provided

For all NEW and/or RETURNING Chairs and members of:

Administrative Board/Council—Nelson's UMC, Hebron  
Rev. Dr. Sandra Steiner Ball, Instructor  
Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee—St. Paul's UMC, Hebron  
Rev. Charlotte Nichols, Instructor  
Evangelism—St. Paul's UMC, Hebron  
Mr. Levin VanSant, Instructor  
Trustee Committee—Nelson's UMC, Hebron  
Rev. Ron Bell, Instructor  
Finance Committee, - Nelson's UMC, Hebron  
Mr. Bill Westbrook, Instructor  
Lay Leader—Nelson's UMC, Hebron  
Mrs. Betty Gooch, Instructor

"There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men."

1 Corinthians 12:5-6

"Serving our churches through the ministry of Lay Leadership"

**District Page:** The Salisbury District Page is printed within the Peninsula-Delaware Conference pages the first issue of every month (January-June). The next printing of the District Page will be Friday, February 13, 2009. Please submit all photos and articles to the District Editor, Rev. Shirlyn Brown, by Friday, January 23, 2009. (Shirlynbrown@aol.com)

## Bishop's Lenten Day Apart to feature Author

We are privileged to have as the guest speaker and preacher the Rev. Dr. Gwen Purushotham, Author of *Watching Over One Another in Love: A Wesleyan Model of Ministry Assessment*.

Gwen has served churches in East Hartford, CT, Sudbury, MA, Worcester, MA, and Wayland, MA. She completed eight years as a district superintendent in the New England Conference in 2003. During that time she received a Doctor of Ministry degree from Andover Theological School in supervision.

Gwen joined the staff of General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in Nashville in July 2003 where she served as Direc-

tor of Clergy Supervision and Accountability. Her responsibilities at GBHEM included developing resources and training for supervision of clergy within the structures of the UMC, providing consultative services for district superintendents and cabinets regarding pastoral supervision, developing resources for ministry assessment.

In July 2008 Gwen was appointed as pastor of Main Street UMC, Nashua New Hampshire.

Gwen's husband, Sam, is retired from a career in auditing and finances. He enjoys gardening, cooking, eating and conversation with family and friends, music, politics and a wide variety of service in the church. Gwen and Sam have three adult

children-- Vikram, Nisha, and Matthew.

This year's Lenten Day Apart will take place on Tuesday, February 24 during the morning hours at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Wilmington, Delaware



Rev. Dr. Gwen Purushotham

where Revs. Steve Ackerman and Beverly Lewis are our host pastors.

## Barratt's Chapel Celebrates 224th Anniversary

By Demetrio Beach, Associate Conference Leader

*"O for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise, The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of His grace!"*

On Sunday, November 9, 2008, the 224th Anniversary of Barratt's Chapel began with songs of joy and praise. The congregation that gathered joined Charles Moyer and Marcia Lawton for praise and worship with singing of hymns, How Firm a Foundation, How Great Thou Art, On a Hill Far Away, Go Tell It on the Mountain, When the Storms of Life Are Raging and many more.

Mr. Kenyon Camper, Chairperson of the Commission on Archives and History welcomed the congregation to the Anniversary Celebration. Mr. Camper shared the mission of the Commission on Archives and History. The worship celebration was led by the Secretary of the Commission on Archives and History. The congregation opened with a call to worship and opening hymn,



Bishop Fisher with Barb Duffin

"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing."

Members of the Commission on Archives and History participated in the worship celebration. Kenyon Camper and Barbara Duffin gave the presentation of the gavel to Bishop Peggy Johnson. The anniversary celebration was then led to the word of God by Retired Bishop Violet Fisher. Bishop Fisher thanked the commission for the invitation to speak at the 224th anniversary celebration. Bishop Fisher also shared with the congregation that it feels good to be back on the Eastern Shore. She shared that there is good soil on the Eastern Shore and she still has Eastern Shore sand in her shoes.

Bishop Fisher opened her sermon titled "The Bones of Joseph" with the question, "what brings us here?" Bishop Fisher shared that we are here to celebrate the beginning of the Methodist Church. Bishop Fisher shared with the congregation the rich history of the Methodist Movement. She also shared with the congregation that we must become the church of the future.

We have lost our identity in the way and we must reconnect and know who we are and whose we are.

Bishop Fisher told the congregation to take the bones of Joseph. We must come and prepare and bring the bones. Why the bones? Joseph said that when you are free don't forget to take the bones because I prayed for God's



Bishops Fisher and Johnson

deliverance. The bones remind us of God's providance, God's promise, God's presents. Bishop Fisher reminded the congregation that we are here to understand that our true identity is with God. We must reclaim our hertiage. Bishop Fisher shared that we must be the Asbury's and Wesley's and share the good news. Bishop Fisher ended her sermon with asking the congregation what will we leave for the next generation that will follow us? Are we sharing our story? Where will the next church be in 5, 20, 50 or 100 years from now? Where will the bones of Wesley, Asbury, Harriet Tubman, Charles Tindley be?

After the sermon the Great Thanksgiving was shared by Bishop Johnson and Bishop Fisher and the congregation was sent into the world with the closing hymn "And Can It Be That I Should Gain." Many of the persons that attended the anniversary celebration visited the Museum and Vestry following the anniversary celebration and explored the the rich heritage of the Peninsula - Delaware Annual Conference.

## 2009 Harry Denman Evangelism Awards

The Denman Evangelism Awards were begun in 1980 by the Foundation for Evangelism to honor a United Methodist lay and clergy person in each annual conference who have exhibited unusual and outstanding efforts for work in Christian evangelism by faithfully carrying out the mission of "making disciples of Jesus Christ." Those eligible for these prestigious awards are persons who are effective in developing true disciples of Jesus Christ! This can involve personal witnessing, speaking, and inspiring individual persons or the local church to be actively involved in effective evangelism and outreach. The size of the local church with which the person is affiliated, the age

or gender of the person, nor the length of time of involvement is not primary criteria for selection. One's accomplishments in the area of evangelism are what really count, as they establish the person's lifestyle, provide witness to that person's ministry, and bring honor to Christ and the church. The Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference wishes to honor one lay person and one clergy person from our conference this year and to present the awards at the June session of our Annual Conference. Nominations are made by any interested person on the attached forms and forwarded to Marilyn Cleeton, Peninsula-Delaware Conference, 139 N. State St., Dover DE 19901 by March 15, 2009.

## 2009 Annual Conference "Reach In" Important Information

The 2009 Annual Conference is coming up in just 5 months and the BFEM Resource Center and Annual Conference Sessions Team will be sending out information during the next several weeks to keep everyone informed and up-to-date with all of the activities/events that will be going on leading up to and including our time at Annual Conference. As we get started, please see below a time-line of deadlines for those of you requesting time on the annual conference agenda,

dates for pre-conference materials, resolutions, and more. You can also find this time line and important events on our conference website, [www.pen-del.org](http://www.pen-del.org).

This year's sessions will be held at the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore campus in Princess Anne, Maryland Thursday through Saturday (June 11-13, 2009). Please continue to check future issues of this publication and the conference website for information on the 2009 Annual Conference Sessions.

### TIME LINE FOR 2009 CONFERENCE YEAR

2009 DEADLINES	Materials/requests due to Resource Center (c/o Marilyn Cleeton) unless otherwise noted
March 6, Friday	<b>IF YOU ARE REQUESTING CONSIDERATION FOR TIME ON THE CONFERENCE AGENDA:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All requests for consideration <b>MUST</b> be submitted in <b>WRITING</b> to Mrs. Amy Botti, PO Box 620, Valley Forge PA 19482 or by email: <a href="mailto:amy.botti@epaumc.org">amy.botti@epaumc.org</a>. Late requests will <b>not</b> be accommodated.</li> </ul>
March 13, Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notification of consideration to be given to presenters based on total agenda items being brought to holy conferencing</li> </ul>
March 20, Friday	All Materials due for Pre-Conference Packets includes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reports to Annual Conference, summary of activities, review of 2008 goals, updated/new 2009 Goals, Goals for 2010</li> <li>Resolutions</li> </ol>
March 20, Friday	All approved flyers, brochures, etc for inclusion in Annual Conference Packets - that are not camera ready
March 20, Friday	<b>IF YOU HAVE A RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resolutions are to be submitted to the Conference Secretary: <u>The Rev. John Van Tine, 102 E. Laurel St., Georgetown DE 19947</u> Direct your questions to: (O: 302-856-2414) email: <a href="mailto:pdresolutions@gmail.com">pdresolutions@gmail.com</a>. The name of the actual presenter <b>must</b> accompany each resolution.</li> <li>Details for how to provide resolutions: Resolutions, in portrait format, must be sent on a disk or CD in Microsoft Word, along with a hard copy.</li> <li>Please see sample Resolution on the conference website (<a href="http://www.pen-del.org">www.pen-del.org</a>)</li> </ul>
After March 20, Friday	Resolutions submitted <b>after March 20, 2009</b> deadline will be referred to the Agenda Review Committee in accordance with the rules of the Annual conference. Copies cannot be made by the office staff at the Conference Office.
April 13, Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detailed scripts must be received by this stated deadline. Presentation privileges will be <b>lost</b> if the date is missed.</li> </ul>
April 13, Monday	<b>THE AUDIOVISUAL DEADLINE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All presentations must be delivered to the Communications Office by this stated deadline. Presentation privileges will be <b>lost</b> if the date is missed. Bishop Johnson and the conference office are committed to providing quality presentations at annual conference. In order to achieve this goal, deadlines must be respected. <b>Please note: the audiovisual presentations are <u>not</u> the scripts.</b></li> </ul>
May 1, Friday	All Worship Booklets - camera ready
May 1, Friday	All camera ready approved flyers, brochures, etc for inclusion in Annual Conference Packets

Thank you for your cooperation!  
We believe that this information will greatly assist the work of the Annual Conference 2009.

## 2009 Awards

### Merit Scholarship Nominations Being Accepted

Dear Pastors and Laity:

The Peninsula-Delaware Conference presents the Merit Scholarship Award to a United Methodist student attending a United Methodist college or university. The awards are funded by a rebate to the annual conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry through its Office of Loans and Scholarships. Funds rebated to each Annual

Conference amount to 10% of the Student Day Offering receipts from that Annual Conference.

The student is selected by the Conference Leadership Development Resource Team and an award certificate is presented to the recipient at the Annual Conference. The scholarship is disbursed to the candidate upon verification of their full-time enrollment at a United Methodist-related college or university.

The purpose of the scholarship is to foster value-centered

education in a Christian context in United Methodist-related education institutions through scholarship assistance to United Methodist-related students.

Please visit the conference website and give the information to any member of your congregation who is attending a United Methodist college or university who you feel should be selected.

The forms must be completed by the individual and pastor and returned to Marilyn by March 15, 2009.

### Barnabas Nominations Deadline Approaching

Dear Friends,

We are fast approaching that time of the year when the 2009 awards of the Order of St. Barnabas will be made. We want every qualifying person of the Conference to have the opportunity to be nominated and appointed. We want to recognize those among us who have rendered outstanding stewardship service.

Barnabas stewardship is dynamic stewardship and is available to everyone. We want to recognize, as members of the Order of St. Barnabas, those individuals and groups that involve themselves in the life and the work of the church. They should practice a dynamic stewardship

that is patterned after the life and stewardship of Barnabas.

We need your nominations by January 31, 2009 so that we may be able to make the appropriate choices. A letter/profile should accompany the nomination form. On the one sheet (letter/profile) in 500 words or less, state why this individual or group is being nominated. Please promptly send all nominations to: Marilyn Cleeton c/o Bishop Felton Edwin May Resource Center 139 N. State Street, Dover, Delaware 19901 or mcleeton@pen-del.org. Deadline is January 31, 2009.

Blessings,  
Renea Bowe, Chairperson

### The Francis Asbury Award

#### The Francis Asbury Award for Fostering United Methodist Ministries in Higher Education

**What:** A non-monetary award to recognize and encourage support of higher education ministries within The United Methodist Church. The award will offer recognition to individuals who have made a significant contribution to fostering the church's ministries in higher education at the local, district, or annual conference level of the church. The name is based on Bishop Asbury's admonition to the people called Methodist to erect a school in the vicinity of every church "...

to give the key of knowledge in a general way to your children, and those of the poor in the vicinity of your small towns and villages."

**Who:** All persons, clergy or lay, employed or volunteer, who are members of The United Methodist Church and who meet the criteria below.

**When:** Awarded annually, with the award being presented during Annual Conference session. Arrangements can be made to make the presentation at a local church.

**Selection:** Each individual will be selected by the annual conference board of higher education and campus ministry, meeting the

general criteria listed below:

The individual must be:

1. A United Methodist, lay or clergy;
2. Active in supporting, strengthening, and promoting the church's work in higher education ministries (schools, colleges, campus ministries, scholarships, Black College Fund, Africa University) at the annual conference, district, or local church level;
3. Offering outstanding leadership, above and beyond basic responsibilities, to help bring heightened awareness to the significance of the church's higher education ministries;
4. Involved in efforts in agree-

ment with the direction and policy concerns of the annual conference board of higher education and campus ministry and the Division of Higher Education of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

**How:** If you know of an individual that you would like to nominate please complete the attached form and return to Marilyn D. Cleeton by March 15, 2009.

Marilyn D. Cleeton  
Peninsula-Delaware Conference  
Administrative Assistant/Office  
Manager  
139 North State Street  
Dover DE 19901  
877-736-3351 ext 23 toll free  
302-674-2626 ext 23

**Special Note: Unless otherwise noted, all award forms should be sent to Mrs. Marilyn Cleeton at the address printed above. Any questions can be addressed to her or the chairperson of the appropriate committee.**

## Conference Calendar of Events

### January 2009

- 17 **Black Methodists For Church Renewal Meeting**, Dover: Whatcoat UMC, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- 19 **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance, BFEM Resource Center Closed**
- 21 **Christian Service Team Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 5:00 p.m.  
**Volunteers In Mission Team Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 6:30
- 22 **Health Ministry Team Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 10:30 a.m.
- 24 **"Nuts & Bolts of Implementing Safe Sanctuaries (Dover District),"** Harrington: Asbury UMC, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
**Certified Lay Training**, Wesley College, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
**Youth Rally Evaluation & Wrap-up Meeting**, Kenton UMC, 2:00-7:00 p.m.
- 26 **Credit Union Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 1:30 p.m.  
**Leadership Development Resource Team Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 5:30 p.m.
- 27 **Board of Trustees Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 5:00 p.m.
- 31 **"Nuts & Bolts of Implementing Safe Sanctuaries (Wilmington District),"** New Castle: Asbury UMC, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

### February 2009

- 2 **Board of Ordained Ministry Full Board Meeting**, Long Neck (DE) UMC, 9:30 a.m.
- 4 **CARE Team Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 pm
- 5 **Resource Development Management Team Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 9:30 a.m.  
**Annual Conference Worship Sub-Team Meeting**, BFEM Resource

Center, 1:30-4:00 p.m.

- 7 **Board of Stewards Meeting**, Centreville, MD: Camp Pecometh, 9:30 a.m.
- 10 **Black United Methodist Preachers Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 11:00 a.m.  
**Annual Conference Sessions Team Meeting**, Wesley College-Room # 206, 4:00-6:00 p.m.  
**Vision Team Meeting**, Wesley College-Room # 206, 7:00 p.m.
- 11 **Conference Board of Lay Ministries Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 7:00 p.m.
- 12 **Advocacy Resource Team Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
- 16 **Presidents' Day, BFEM Resource Center Closed**
- 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.-2:30 p.m.  
**Personnel Committee Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 1:00-3:00 p.m.  
**Insurance Committee Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 3:00 p.m.  
**Investments Committee Meeting**, BFEM 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 p.m.
- 18-20 **Clergy Effectiveness Training**, Rehoboth: Atlantic Sands
- 21 **Igniting Ministry Local Church Training**, Kent Island UMC, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- 24 **Bishop's Day Apart for Clergy—Lenten Season**, Wilmington: Aldersgate UMC, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- 28 **"Nuts & Bolts of Implementing Safe Sanctuaries (Salisbury District),"** Salisbury: Asbury UMC

### March 2009

- 2 **Leadership Development Resource Team Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.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.