

open hearts
open minds
open doors



The people of The United Methodist Church

The Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference

Communicator

an edition of

The United Methodist Reporter

Two Sections — Section A

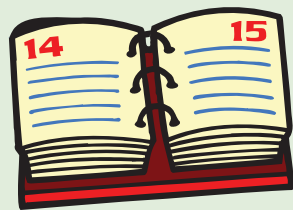
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Volume 155 Number 39

JANUARY 30, 2009

The Healthy Church Initiative

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



Events & Meetings Calendar

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2008 Apportionment Figures

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2009 Annual Conference

June 11, 12, 13
(Thursday-Saturday)

University of Maryland-Eastern Shore

Princess Anne, MD

Over 4000 Attended the 2009 “The Missing Peace” Youth Rally



By Tamara Ward

The 2009 Youth Rally, held at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City, Maryland was a huge success.

Over 4000 youth and adult leaders descended upon Ocean City, filling up quite a few hotels and helping out the economy for the weekend. Did you know that teenagers can Eat and Eat and Eat??

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson and the Peninsula-Delaware Conference Cabinet volunteered their time on Friday night helping out with registration and getting into the ‘70’s theme’ with their t-shirts and returned on Sunday morning

to help with communion.

One of the highlights of the weekend was having the Africa University Choir serve as the worship leaders. They were wonderful and we cannot thank them enough for braving the cold

weather to share the weekend with us.

If you missed the opportunity to attend this year’s conference, or you cannot wait until next year, then put January 8, 9, and 10th on your calendar for the 2010 Youth Rally.

Wesley College Inaugurates New President

By: Chad T. Robinson '05

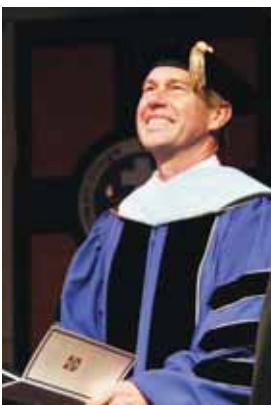
With a few brief words in the oath of office and the placing of the presidential medallion around his neck, Dr. William N. Johnston officially became the President of Wesley College on Friday, October 17. The Inauguration theme, "The Commitment of Community with a Vision for Tomorrow," was carried out with the weeklong festivities planned by the Inaugural Committee and led up to the historic occasion at Wesley College. This milestone brought the entire College community together and emphasized the importance of working together to achieve a common goal - a vision for the College's bright future ahead.

On Tuesday, the College opened an art exhibit in the Parker Library showcasing the work of local artist, Deborah Stelling. On Wednesday, faculty and staff were hosted at a reception and the 2008-2009 Faculty Lecture Series kicked off. Held in the Wesley Chapel, the first lecture in the series was presented by Dr. Elizabeth Espadas, Professor of Modern Languages, who spoke on "Spain's New Historical Novel: In Search of Lost Histories." Thursday was a day of celebration, service and reflection. The entire student community took part in a special Inaugural Dinner sponsored by Aramark, featuring a full buffet spread complete with carving stations and ice sculptures. The community theme continued as Dr. and Mrs. Johnston volunteered at the Hope Closet, a local outreach service which operates out of Wesley

Chapel and is jointly run by Hope United Methodist Church and the College. The president and his wife dispensed to needy residents various household items that had been collected by members of campus through the donation drive that was part of Inauguration Week. The evening ended with a Service of Thanksgiving in the Wesley College Chapel with guest preacher Reverend Charlotte Nichols, a 1973 graduate of Wesley.

Friday brought a day of great excitement for the students, faculty, staff, alumni, townspeople, delegates and special guests that overflowed the Rollins Auditorium of the Schwartz Center for the Arts for the Inauguration Ceremony. "In the 135 years of Wesley's history, the inauguration of a new President has only taken place fifteen times prior to today," said Chair of the Board of Trustees Charles R. "Chip" Dashiell. "Today is a momentous day for the entire College community," said Dashiell, "as we celebrate the achievements of this outstanding College and the investiture of its new President."

Representatives of various constituencies, including the faculty, staff, students, alumni, United Methodist Church, Johnston family as well as local, state and



Dr. William N. Johnston

U.S. government leaders, offered genuine and warm words of greetings to Dr. Johnston and wished him well in his new role. The ceremony included favorite hymns of the Johnston family, including "Be Thou My Vision" and "God of Grace God of Glory" and a performance by the Wesley College Choir. Representative James A.S. Leach gave the Inaugural Address and was also presented the Wesley Award for his many years of outstanding public service.

In his Inaugural Response, Dr. Johnston underscored the important work ahead for the College. "All that we hope to become is built on the strength of our community and I pledge to do everything possible to make this community as strong as possible."

Following the ceremony, a grand reception was held under a large tent on The Green in downtown Dover. The Green, laid out in 1717 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was bursting with the sound of bagpipes and African drums and highlighted by festive dancing of the Sankofa African Dance Company to make for a celebratory ending to a special day.



Rev. Johnson, Bishop Johnson, Mrs. Johnston and Dr. Johnston

The Summons

ATTENTION PRAYER WARRIORS

Have you ever been called a prayer warrior? Have you ever wondered if you were one? Soon you may have an opportunity to find out. June may seem like a long time away, but Annual Conference will be here before we know it.

Every year at Annual Conference there is a prayer room. Did you know that? It seems that many people miss the opportunity to spend time in prayer for our Conference and for one another

simply because they don't know the prayer room is there.

This year the Spiritual Formation Team is responsible for the prayer room. In this room we are hoping to have hourly prayer coverage for Annual Conference. This means that we are looking for individuals who would be willing to sign up for a half hour or hour spot to pray.

We realize that the schedule for annual conference is tightly packed with plenary sessions and other opportunities for gathering with friends and colleagues. We also realize how important prayer

coverage is to every aspect of Conference. We invite everyone to come and pray - even if that is your only reason for attending Annual Conference.

If you are willing to be part of this new venture, please contact ruthansimpson@atlanticbb.net. We will also have a sign up sheet at conference in the prayer room, but we would like to prepare ahead of time if possible.

Thank you,
Peace and Blessings
The Spiritual Formation Team

From Your Wesley College Chaplain

Your college is now back in session as of this writing. There are new faces in the midst of familiar ones. Some faces we will miss as they move on with their lives. Things change and there are more changes afoot as the College looks at its vision and develops its new strategic plan. We are in what is often called a kairos moment, a moment of opportunity. This will be reflected in our worship here at Wesley as well. Worship will highlight important times here in the Wesley community. In a busy (in fact as with the rest of our culture too busy), this will give people the opportunity to put things aside and come together for a kairos moment in Wesley's life. We hope you will come as well. Here is the schedule. The service runs from 12:10 to 12:50.

Wednesday, February, 25th - Ash Wednesday (with Communion).

Wednesday, March 11 or Friday, March 13 - A service celebrating



Rev. Mark Pruett-Barnett

the founding of the College.

Wednesday, April 8 - Palm/Passion Wednesday

Wednesday, April 15 - Easter Wednesday

Your brother in Christ,
Mark

Rev. Mark Pruett-Barnett
Chaplain of the College
120 N. State St.
Dover, DE 19901
Office E-mail:
barnetma@wesley.edu
Office Phone: 302.736.2485
Fax: 302.736.2539

IMPORTANT DATES Leading Up To Annual Conference

May 11, Monday PRE-CONFERENCE ORIENTATION - 6:30 to 9:00 pm - Salisbury District @ St. Paul UMC, Berlin, MD

May 12, Tuesday PRE-CONFERENCE ORIENTATION - 6:30 to 9:00 pm - Dover District @ Whatcoat UMC, Dover DE

May 13, Wednesday - Pension Luncheon 11am - 2:30pm @ Wild Quail Country Club, Wyoming DE

May 15, Friday - Clergy-Laity Banquet - 6:00 to 9:00 pm @ Whatcoat UMC, Dover DE

May 19, Tuesday - PRE-CONFERENCE ORIENTATION - 6:30 to 9:00 pm - Easton District @ Union UMC, Federalsburg MD

May 20, Wednesday - PRE-CONFERENCE ORIENTATION - 6:30 to 9:00 pm - Wilmington District @ Marshallton UMC, Wilmington DE

June 9-10 Tuesday/Wednesday - African-American Summit @ UMES, Princess Anne, MD

June 11, Thursday - Laity Session - UMES, Princess Anne MD

June 11, Thursday - Clergy Executive Session - UMES, Princess Anne MD

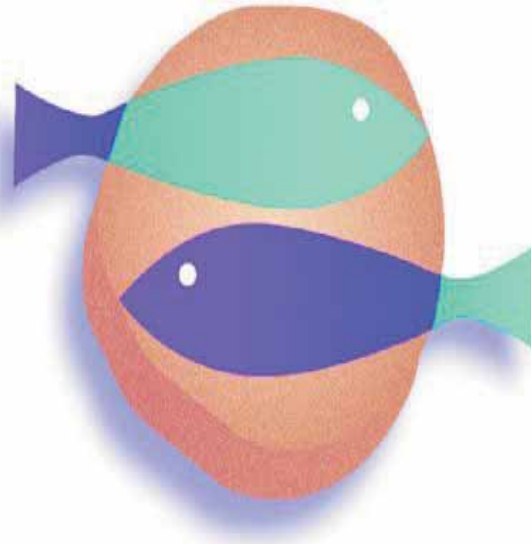
June 11, Thursday - Extension Ministry Luncheon - 11:30 - 1:00 pm - UMES, Princess Anne MD

June 11/12/13 Thursday/Friday/Saturday - 224th Session of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference @ University of Maryland, Eastern Shore in Princess Anne, Maryland

Editor's Note: The article and photos from the Inauguration of Dr. William N. Johnston are courtesy of Wesley College. The article also appeared in a fall issue of the Wesley College alumni magazine.

2008 Peninsula-Delaware Conference Apportionment Report

The Peninsula-Delaware Conference did not escape the economic downturn that has gripped the nation since late summer. Receipts on apportionments fell below the 90% mark for the first time to 89.86%. Historically, this percentage has been in the 94% - 96% range. The Council on Finance and Administration was faced with a Funding Plan deficit of \$250,000 to \$300,000. They took several steps in response to this deficit. First, they committed to fully supporting the United Methodist connection by paying 100% of ALL General Church Apportionments. Secondly, many program ministries were notified that they would receive only about 80% of what had been budgeted. They actually received 84% after all apportionment receipts were recorded. Lastly, they instituted a salary and hiring freeze for the first six months of 2009. The Council on Finance and Administration will be working diligently with the Bishop, Vision Team and Cabinet to identify additional steps to be taken in 2009 to counter the gloomy economic forecasts for the coming year.



The Advance, as second mile giving, is truly a reflection of our call to follow the example of Jesus and share the abundance that has been provided by our Lord. The

table below reflects similar economic impact on our response to this call in 2008. Overall giving to missions declined by 11%. The one bright spot is the increase in giving to UMCOR. We extend our deepest appreciation for those congregations that have maintained their full support of the missions and ministries of the United Methodist Church in local communities, within our conference and throughout the world in these financially challenging times. We also give thanks for those congregations that recognize the importance of staying connected to all these ministries and made efforts to provide some level of support. Grace and Peace to you all as you enter the New Year. Our prayer is that 2009 will bear witness to God's abundant power and we will grow stronger not only financially but more importantly in Spirit.

General Church and Conference Missions

	2008	2007
World Missions	\$57,422	\$70,039
National Missions	15,600	24,916
UMCOR	105,440	92,633
Africa University Scholarship	26,422	32,168
Special Sundays/Offerings	84,676	93,727
Conference Missions	<u>136,364</u>	<u>166,326</u>
Total	\$425,924	\$479,803

General Church Apportionments

World Service	\$813,017
Black College Fund	105,216
Ministerial Education Fund	264,233
Africa University	23,235
General Administration	71,570
Interdenominational Co-op Fund	20,869
Episcopal Fund	<u>212,621</u>
Total	\$1,510,761

Apportionments and Receipts

DISTRICT	APPORTIONMENT 2008	APPORTIONMENT 2007	PAID 2008	PAID 2007	% 2008	% 2007
Dover	\$1,385,811.00	\$1,326,985.00	\$1,326,589.93	\$1,317,831.30	95.7%	99.3%
Easton	1,075,060.00	1,047,826.00	930,557.78	978,509.65	86.6%	93.4%
Salisbury	1,123,223.00	1,111,443.00	1,019,593.68	1,061,097.16	90.8%	95.5%
Wilmington	1,860,716.00	1,871,630.00	1,616,028.24	1,711,560.62	86.8%	91.4%
Total	\$5,444,810.00	\$5,357,884.00	\$4,892,769.63	\$5,068,998.73	89.9%	94.6%

Comparison of Churches Paying Apportionments in Full

District	2008 TOTAL CHURCHES	2007 TOTAL CHURCHES	2008 # PAID	2007 # PAID	2008 % PAID	2007 % PAID	2008 # UNPAID	2007 # UNPAID	2008 % UNPAID	2007 % UNPAID
Dover	106	106	98	101	92.5%	95.3%	8	5	7.5%	4.7%
Easton	129	131	98	113	76%	86.3%	31	18	24%	13.7%
Salisbury	130	130	97	104	74.6%	80%	33	26	25.4%	20%
Wilmington	82	82	54	59	65.9%	72%	28	23	34.1%	28%
TOTAL	447	449	347	377	77.6%	84%	100	72	22.4%	16%

Annual Conference Appeals Approved

By Kevin Goodwin, Conference Appeals Coordinator



Kevin Goodwin

Bishop Peggy Johnson and the Sessions Team have endorsed the Christian Service Team's proposal for offerings at the 2009 session of Annual Conference. Please consider these needs as you plan for the first half of the year. The Appeals for 2009 are:

- **Nothing But Nets:** By the time you finish reading this article, 4-6 more children will have died of malaria in Africa! This Appeal buys mosquito-treated bed nets for families to sleep under for protection from bites.
- **Central Congo Partnership:** This Appeal supports our work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (medical, food, education efforts).
- **Board of Ordained Ministry (BOOM) Scholarships:** This Appeal supplements

the MEF apportioned funds retained by the AC to provide financial support to pastors in seminary or the Course of Study program.

One envelope allowing designation to any/all three Appeals will be sent out this spring in the Pre-Conference packets. All pastors should by now have received a complete list of all Conference Appeal and Special Sundays for 2009. If not, email me and I will send you a copy (Missionsczar@aol.com). Thanks for your support.

Nothing But Nets Campaign Offering to be taken at Annual Conference

What is the Nothing But Nets campaign?

Nothing But Nets is a global, grassroots campaign to save lives by preventing malaria, a leading killer of children in Africa. Sports Illustrated columnist Rick Reilly challenged his readers to donate \$10 for the purchase of an anti-malaria bed net, and thousands of people have joined the campaign. The people of The United Methodist Church, along with Sports Illustrated, NBA Cares, the United Nations Foundation and several other groups, are raising funds to purchase bed nets to end malaria. You can join the cause and contribute money for bed nets that will keep children and families safe.

Why Should I Get in the Game?

The children of Africa need you to help stop the spread of



ing the disease, and the insecticide on the net kills mosquitoes when they land on it.

How Do I Get Involved?

Send a net. Save a life.

You can save a life by making a \$10 donation through The Advance (982015). It's that easy.

Annual Conference Offering

As Kevin indicated in his article to the left, the 2009 Annual Conference Sessions will include an offering to this campaign. We hope that all of our local churches will collect monies prior to our June conference and have the lay members bring them to Princess Anne, Maryland to use for the offering.

Ways You Can Help

For information on how you can contribute to this campaign and for more information, please visit www.nothingbutnets.org.

RETHINKCHURCH

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?

Training

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.
- Romans 15:7 (NRSV)

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 your congregation become more actively engaged with spiritual seekers in your community: **Welcome. Connect. Identify.**

In our day-long training experiences, you will begin to **Rethink Church** and **open** hearts, minds and doors. These interactive, high-energy sessions will help you begin to plan how your congregation can more effectively communicate with—and meet the needs and interests of—**people under age 40.**

Welcome	Connect	Identify
In "Welcome" we help participants learn how to see their church... ...from the outside in... To see church from the outsider's perspective ...from the inside out... Preparing to "Welcome" seekers as honored guests ...and upside down... To Rethink Church and come to a new understanding that opening our doors isn't just about letting people in, but about us going out and making personal connections in the world around us.	Our impact in a community depends on how we "Connect" with... The Community... Seekers who need to meet us outside the church walls The Connection... Other churches and resources that can help us Rethink Church The Creator... so we can "Connect" seekers to a relationship with Christ And with Change... as we transition from talking about church to <i>being</i> the church The "Connect" session hits welcoming, inviting, discipling, and transition head on to help congregations move further down the road to community.	Every church in a community has a name... it just might not be the one on the sign. What is your church known for? "Identify" will help you figure that out... and begin to rethink that identity. In a process we call Discover - Design - Do. You'll Discover... who you are and who you want to reach in your community You'll Design... strategies that play to your strengths and meet community needs as you open doors beyond worship to be relevant to new generations And You'll Do... something... anything... to Rethink Church and reach seekers instead of waiting for them to come to you.

This event is a conference-wide training for our local churches. Please consider sending three people from your church to attend this all day training on Saturday, February 21st at Kent Island United Methodist Church. You will learn more about the next phase of the Igniting Ministry Campaign as well as helpful hints to enhance your welcoming and hospitable skills as people visit your services. Please go to www.pen-del.org and click the RETHINK CHURCH section. You can register on-line from there. (The current address given in the brochure isn't available as of the printing of this issue.) For more information please contact Tammy Ward, Communications Coordinator, at tward@pen-del.org.

Red Bird Mission Conference Hosting Mission Encounter Weeks

Everyone loves a great mission trip. The excitement of going somewhere new and different. The challenge of working on a new task. The triumph of learning new skills. The awesomeness of experiencing God's presence as you serve Him. And finally, the realization that you were the one blessed. While most people are happy to return home, and thankful for their Blessings, there are a few people whose hearts are full of questions and unrest. Perhaps completing the project became so central that you did not have time to listen to Christ's tugging. Or perhaps you did hear His tugging, talked about it, but did not know what to do with it after returning home. No matter what your reasons, there is a trip for you.

The Red Bird Missionary Conference is hosting two Mission Encounter Weeks

for young adults who have finished 11th Grade through age 25. They will be held July 19-25 or July 26 - Aug.1, 2009. It is a chance for you to come, with other young adults from around the United States, and focus on the calling into missions, rather than only the project. Teams will spend the week working on a variety of projects, and seeing Missions from many angles. Each day, teams will spend serious time in intense worship with several of our Associate in Missions (AIMS) pastors and staff. The Red Bird Missionary conference is the most comprehensive mission organization in the United States. In other words, if you can imagine it, it is probably being done here in some form or another, so this is a great opportunity.

The week will be hosted at Camp O'Cumberlands, Red Bird Conference's camp. Each



David Malloy

week is limited to 25 individuals. The cost which includes food, housing and team supplies is \$400. Each individual is responsible for their own transportation to and from the camp.

If this is something that you feel God is calling you toward do not hesitate to get more information. An application can be found at our website www.redbirdconference.org, through email campoc@redbirdconference.org, or by calling 606.664.2909. The contact person is Angela Cunigan. Welcome to the first step that could start you on an amazing life long journey.

Interfaith Resource Center

Interfaith Resource Center hosts Donald Griggs in April

Dr. Donald Griggs, respected educator and author of *Teaching Teachers to Teach* and *The Bible from Scratch*, will come to Delaware for two days of lectures on April 24 & 25. Sessions are planned in Dover and Wilmington for clergy, Christian educators and laity on topics ranging from Biblical literacy to practical tips on Christian education. This is a unique opportunity promising to inspire all those who lead studies for every age or anyone who is interested in the quality of Biblical literacy. It has been endorsed by the Spiritual Formation/Discipleship Team. Please visit our website at www.interfaithresourcecenter.com for more details and a full schedule as plans develop. Proceeds benefit the Interfaith Resource Center, your library for faith resources. Please contact us to reserve tickets at 302.477.0910 or 800.336.6152.

Interlibrary Loan Comes to the Churches

The Interfaith Resource Center, in cooperation with Wyoming UMC, has succeeded in a pilot program to link church libraries through the internet. Margaret Bryan, a retired librarian and



Paula Hartzell

member at Wyoming UMC, has entered the entire collection of that church's library into our database. Here's how this works. If you go to our online catalog at www.interfaithresourcecenter.com/webRQM/index.asp and do a search, some of the items will be marked with a prefix W for Wyoming. If the resource is at that church, you may contact the IRC or Wyoming directly to arrange to borrow the resource. It's a special benefit to Wyoming members, too, because they can browse their own library online! But our network needs more sites. If you have a well-cared for library with a dedicated computer-literate volunteer librarian and are willing to loan your books and videos to the broader church community, please contact us at resource.ctr@dol.net or by phone for more information. It's a vision that can happen with your help!

New Resources

Parenting The Early Years is a 6-session DVD study from Les and Leslie Parrott about raising your children through aged 12. Highly respected for their ministry in the field of family counseling on the topics of dating, marriage, and parenting, the Parrotts bring to their studies a wealth of practical experience and understanding including the personal experience of raising two boys of early elementary age. This series is ideal for a small-group study for couples, singles, or even grandparents serving as caregivers. It includes a leader's guide, sample workbook, and copy of their book *The Parent You Want To Be*.

Discipleship Explored by Barry Cooper is 8-sessions based on Paul's epistle to the Philippians, perfect for anyone who wants to grow in their Christian life. If your church is looking for a Bible-based study intended to enhance evangelism, this curriculum should definitely be part of your program plans. Our kit includes study & leader's guides. For this or any other quality resource, contact us at 302.477.0910 or 800.336.6152 or email us at resource.ctr@dol.net.

Message From Your Associate Conference Lay Leader

Are Your Dreaming? Genesis 28:10-16

"I have a dream." My brothers and sisters it is many years now since the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stood at the Washington Monument and delivered those words, but they will never be forgotten. Whenever a man or a woman says, "I have a dream," the whole world waits and listens.

As our minds may well go to those whose dreams were responsible for the founding of our churches here in the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference. Those builders exemplify Plato's advice: "Have a dream; have a great dream; dream it greatly." They built on a firm foundation laid at the beginning of our faith.

The Bible puts a good deal of stock in dreaming. We sing in our churches of Jacob's ladder, his dream that there was an unending connection between heaven and earth. The early church my brothers and sisters bridged from Asia to Europe following Paul's dream of a man calling him over to preach the gospel there.

It is strange that we should use the term 'dreamer' for someone who is impractical and non-productive, because it is the dreamers who get things done. The dreamer is the builder, the shaper. Someone wrote,

We are the music makers,
And we are the dreamers of dreams.
Wandering by lone sea – breakers,
And sitting by desolate streams.
World-losers and work forsakers
On who the pale moon gleams:
Yet we are the movers and shakers
Of the world, forever, it seems.

Now, my brothers and sisters as we come to another new year we look ahead to a bright future and beyond. It is a good time to ask, "Just what are our dreams for our churches?" Howard Thurman used to say, "Where there is no dream, life becomes a swamp, a dreary dead place and deep within the heart begins to rot." This can happen to a church. So, what shape do our dreams take? Many of them are contained in the reports of committees of our church. Let us take time to define carefully what our vision and mission of the future may be.

When we have taken a careful



Demetrio L. Beach

look at our plans, our dreams, we will want to ask ourselves, "Would Jesus be pleased with these dreams?" Would we be proud to sit on our patios or in our living rooms in front of the fireplace and share them with him? Is there enough here to tax our talents? To stretch us? Are they the dreams of a church committed to love for neighbor? Remember with me the popular ideas from *The Sound of Music*. "Climb every mountain... follow every rainbow." Do they have the kind of challenge in them?

What are we willing to risk to make it come true? Every good dream issues an action. We mentioned Jacob's ladder. The dream came as a surprise to Jacob. He actually thought he had escaped from God but the dream forced him to see that God was everywhere. On that basis he built an altar, returned home, made amends, and changed his ways. Following a dream can be costly. It can also be magnetic. Howard Thurman says, "Two miracles are attached to dreaming. One, the dreamer becomes their dream. Two, the dream begins to exert a pull on others."

My brothers and sisters one of literature's great dreamers has come alive on the stage with *The Man of La Mancha*. The ideas in DonQuixote's song sums up the best dreams of human kind. It speaks of dreaming an impossible dream, fighting the unbeatable foe, bearing the unbearable sorrow, running where the brave dare not go. To right unrightable wrongs, to try when arms are weary to reach the unreachable star.

It is a long way from the dream to the drudgery of making it come true, but it is the way God has chosen for his children to live – from dream to action, from action to accomplishment. Are you dreaming?

Grace and Peace,
Demetrio Beach

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.

Bishop Johnson Is Blogging



Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson is helping to bring the conference farther into the technological age with weekly messages and her very own blog.

Each week she is sending out a different message to the members of the Peninsula-Delaware conference. To see her messages, log onto the conference homepage (www.pen-del.org) and click where it says 'Bishop Messages.'

From our homepage you can view her blog (and send comments) as well.

Camping and Retreat Ministries

Camp Pecometh Offers EZPay for Summer Camp

In challenging economic times, families have to make difficult choices. Yet, cutting out summer camp for the children is one of the last things a family wants to sacrifice. Camp Pecometh is addressing this concern with its new EZPay program. Families can register their campers, then divide the fees in up to eight manageable monthly payments. For more information, go to www.pecometh.org or contact Julie Lutz at 410.556.6900, x128 or julie@pecometh.org.

Ambassador Training Re-Scheduled

Camp Pecometh's Ambassador Training has been re-scheduled for Saturday, February 21, 2009, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Pecometh; so there's still time to sign up and be a part of the Pecometh promotion team. If you're passionate about your Pecometh experiences and would like to help spread the word so that young people can have a Pecometh summer camp experience, then you're just the person we're looking for to become a Pecometh Ambassador. We'll teach you everything you need to know about Camp Pecometh and give you a really cool Ambassador shirt. We'll also provide you with promotional materials and guidance to develop a

promotion plan. You go back to your church/community and start promoting summer camp. We'll even send staff and/or volunteers to help you with any events that you decide to schedule. Last year was our first year of the Pecometh Ambassador program and we believe it was one of the factors in our increased summer camp enrollment. Help us to make that possible for 2009, as well.

For more information, contact Jack Shitama at 410.556.6900, x101 or jack@pecometh.org.

Volunteer Day Set

Pecometh's Annual Volunteer Day is set for Saturday, April 18, 2009. This is a great time for individuals, youth groups and adult

groups to help get Pecometh ready for summer. Volunteers help with cabin preparation, grounds clean-up, painting and other projects to keep Pecometh looking great. A picnic lunch is provided. For more information, contact Buddy Landing at 410.556.6900, x107 or buddylanding@pecometh.org.

Donate a Quilt or Silent Auction Item for Pecometh Day

The 3rd Annual Pecometh Day on Saturday, April 25, 2009 is fast approaching. You can help us by donating a special item, gift certificate or service for the Silent Auction, donating a quilt to the Quilt Auction, encouraging others to attend, volunteering to

help and attending the day. For more information, contact Jack Shitama at 410.556.6900, x101 or jack@pecometh.org.

Summer Staff Applications Available

We're looking for young adults who love Jesus to be a part of the 2009 Summer Staff. This is a fabulous opportunity to impact children for Jesus, hang out with 70+ other Christian adults AND get paid. Go to the staff section at www.pecometh.org for more information and to download an application or apply online. Contact Richelle Darrell at 410.556.6900, x103 or richelle@pecometh.org for more information.

Conference Calendar

The conference calendar that appears in each issue of this publication (usually on the back page as this one is) is updated as close to the publication date as possible. Please note, however, that additions/changes to the printed calendar may not be the most up-to-date version.

We encourage you, therefore, to review both this calendar and the on-line (www.pen-del.org) calendar. The on-line calendar will have the most recent additions/changes. **Thank You**

JAM GARDENS "HELP" STRETCH OUT HOUSEHOLD FOOD SUPPLY

Congregations and/or individuals from this annual conference donated seeds or financial contributions to the Jam Gardening Project (Green Thumb Gardening Project). Thanks to the generosity of churches and individuals etc. last summer 2,928 households were supplied seed potatoes, tomato plants and a variety of vegetable seeds. With the inventory of food banks, pantries etc. becoming increasingly limited, the concept of "Growing" ones produce becomes increasingly attractive/needed. The JAM Gardening Project encompasses

19 counties in southeast Ohio.

Since the early 1970's Jackson Area Ministries has sponsored a significant garden project, provid-



ing seeds and plants for families or individuals in the Appalachian counties of southeast Ohio. The mission of the program is to offer seed potatoes, tomato plants, and vegetable seeds to each participant with the intent that they can "grow" their own garden. If each garden were to hypothetically yield \$200 worth of food then the combined value of the 2008 program could be estimated at \$585,600.

Congregations, Sunday school classes, United Methodist Women Units, youth groups and individuals all have made this program

highly successful. The garden program in 2008 received donations from 34 different states.

If you are interested in participating this year send your inquiry to: JAM Gardening, P.O. Box 603, Jackson, Ohio 45640. Phone 1.888.237.3141 or e-mail at jamjar@bright.net. Brochures, complete report, bulletin inserts and other information are available from our office.

Deadline for seeds April 18th.

Conference Calendar of Events

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 p.m.
- 5 Annual Conference Worship Sub-Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 1:30-4:00 p.m.
Candidacy Mentor Training, Milford: Avenue UMC, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- 7 Board of Stewards Meeting, Centreville, MD.: Camp Pecometh, 9:30 a.m.
- 10 Black United Methodist Preachers Meeting, BFEM Resource Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries, Harrington: Asbury UMC, 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
- 14 Committee on Clergy & Lay Leadership Meeting, Dover: Wesley UMC, 9:30-11:30 a.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.
Personnel Committee Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 1:00-3:00
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
- 20 Committee on Native American Ministries Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 9:00 a.m.
- 21 Igniting Ministry Local Church Training, Kent Island UMC, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Conference United Methodist Women Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- 24 Bishop's Day Apart for Clergy—Lenten Season, Wilmington: Aldersgate UMC, 8:30 a.m.-12:00
- 26 Health Ministries Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 10:30 a.m.
- 28 "Nuts & Bolts of Implementing Safe Sanctuaries (Salisbury District)," Salisbury: Asbury UMC
Dover District Board of Lay Ministries Banquet, Georgetown: Grace UMC, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- March 2009
- 2 Leadership Development Resource Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.
Committee On Clergy and Lay Leadership Meeting, Dover: Wesley UMC, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- 2-4 Nurturing Wholeness In Community Seminars, Rehoboth: Atlantic Sands
- 3 Wesley Foundation-Delaware State University Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
- 5 Resource Development Management Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 9:30 a.m.
- 7 Confirmation Celebration, Bear: Cornerstone UMC, 2:00-5:00 p.m.
- 8-10 Board of Ordained Ministry Candidate Interviews, Rehoboth Beach: Atlantic Sands Hotel
- 10 Black United Methodist Preachers Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 11:00 a.m.
Vision Team Meeting, Wesley College-Room # 206, 7:00 p.m.
- 12 Advocacy Resource Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Commission on Archives & History Meeting, Frederica: Barratt's Chapel, 10:00 a.m.
- 15-17 Board of Ordained Ministry Candidate Interviews, Rehoboth Beach: Atlantic Sands Hotel
- 18 Annual Conference Sessions Team Meeting, Wesley College: Room # 206, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- 25 Christian Service Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 5:00 p.m.