

## An Update on UMCOR and Where the Money Goes

**A**s of December, UMCOR has received more than \$24 million in donations for hurricane relief. Your generosity has allowed UMCOR to support recovery in 13 states that have either been directly affected by this year's hurricanes or are hosting hurricane evacuees. Still, more is required to support the long term response to this year's horrific hurricanes, especially Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

UMCOR's "specialty" is long term relief and recovery work. In the case of Hurricane Katrina, UMCOR estimates that long term will translate to upwards of six years, particularly in hard-hit areas of Louisiana and Mississippi.

### Establishing a Long Term System of Response

In order for the long term recovery process to work, there needs to be a good establishment of the system. UMCOR works through annual conferences in each affected area which must have a contractor, a volunteer coordinator, local recovery stations, and a process to evaluate requests for assistance and to handle them in a fair and equitable way. They need to purchase supplies and set up material depots and coordinate the release of supplies. While UMCOR is providing training, consultant support, and funding to help each annual conference provide all of these services, it still takes time to set up an effective system to respond over the long term.

The magnitude of the damage wrought by Hurricane Katrina means that what would seem to be significant strides for recovery in other hurricanes appears to be only drops in the bucket in response to this one.

### Where the Money Goes

The UMCOR board of directors voted to disperse funds to affected annual conferences for hurricane relief and recovery according to their expressed immediate needs at their fall board meeting. The funds released to Mississippi and Louisiana are for use in only the initial six months following the hurricane because the size of this disaster prevents us from foreseeing all of the possibilities for need. More funds will be sent to these annual conferences as these additional needs are made known.

**Alabama-West Florida (12 months) \$ 914,000**  
**Mississippi (6 months) \$1,397,289**  
**Louisiana (6 months) \$2,052,221**

This is in addition to \$10,000 emergency grants that UMCOR sent to each of the following 18 United Methodist National Mission Institutions for immediate relief work.

**Alabama** Dumas Wesley House  
 Faith Mission Outreach  
**Arkansas** Camp Aldersgate  
**Georgia** Open Door Community House

**Illinois** Lessie Bates David Neighborhood House  
**Kentucky** The Bennett Center of London  
**Louisiana** Dulac Community Center  
 Methodist Home for Children  
 Louisiana Methodist Children's Home  
**Mississippi** Wood Institute  
 Wesley House  
 Bethlehem Center  
 Moore Community House  
**Texas** Huston-Tillotson University  
 Wesley House, Houston  
 Wesley Community Center  
 Good Neighbor Settlement House  
 Grace Community Services

UMCOR also sent \$10,000 emergency grants to each of the following 11 annual conferences serving evacuees.

- Alabama-West Florida
- Kentucky
- North Texas
- North Alabama
- Texas
- Wisconsin
- Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference
- Florida
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Oklahoma
- Virginia

### Additional Areas of Support

**Cleanup** UMCOR purchased and dispersed \$85,543 in cleanup supplies such as mops, brooms, and buckets.

**Consultants** UMCOR has placed 16 domestic disaster consultants, some full time in the field, to provide guidance to annual conferences in setting up their call service centers and long term recovery programs. The cost of their deployment as of Nov. 16 is \$126,547.

**Partner Agencies** UMCOR sent \$50,000 to support Church World Service's evacuee resettlement program.

**International** This year's storms also caused great tragedies in Central America. Thus far UMCOR has sent \$69,095 to local partner organizations in Guatemala, Mexico, and El Salvador.

This list of numbers and places UMCOR has provided funding for does not include the incalculable cost of time so many volunteers have already provided and the generous spirit of churches who have opened their doors, their treasures, and their hearts to the hurting.

Donations continue to be accepted. Local congregations can collect donations and send them to the Conference Resource Center with Advance Special 901323 for Rita and 982523 for Katrina on a Conference Benevolence Form.

## Samples of Fair Trade Products in Conference Office

By Rev. Amy Yarnall

**B**eginning in mid January, samples of Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, and Chocolate bars will be available at the Conference Office. Multiple varieties are available, with even more choices available when you order for yourself. If you find that you want to sample a particular item that is not in the Conference office, please contact me at pastor@trinitytownpoint.com or call 410. 885. 5641.

The purpose is to allow individuals and congregations to sample these products without having to purchase an entire case to start. The products are purchased through the Equal Exchange Interfaith Coffee Program, which has partnered with the United Methodist Church and other denominations, to provide these products.

Equal Exchange buys directly from democratically organized cooperatives, eliminating the "middle man." This eliminates the exploitation of the farmers, and ensures that the people who grow the products

are the ones who profit from them.

At the 2005 session of Annual Conference, we passed a resolution to use Fair Trade products in our churches and affiliated agencies of our Conference. Many of our church families are now using these products as a way of living out Biblical justice. Coffee is a leading source of income for the Developing World. Through fair trade, it can be a delicious and powerful tool to bring about positive change for small farmers and their families.

Go to their website at <http://www.equalexchange.com/interfaith> or email them at [interfaith@equalexchange.com](mailto:interfaith@equalexchange.com) or call them at 774.776.7366. The average bag of coffee tastes as good or better than gourmet coffee sold in coffee shops and grocery stores. It is also less expensive than gourmet coffee.

At Annual Conference in June 2006, the Advocacy Resource Team will be recognizing churches that are using these products. If you are among them, please contact me at pastor@trinitytownpoint.com 410.885.5641.

## Conference Youth Activities

**A**s I write this article the office of Young People's Ministry is in the midst of the busyness of placing final touches on Youth Rally 2006 at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City, Maryland. Please keep this power-packed weekend in your prayers (Friday, January 6-Sunday, January 8). Most of all, please pray that the youth and adults will return to the churches on the Delmarva Peninsula and beyond by living the theme of Jesus, "All or Nothing."

Please mark your calendar for these events...

**February 27: A DAY APART AT CAMP PECOMETH** for all full-time and part-time youth ministers. Come for a free lunch and spend the day, relax, fellowship, share, pray and be refreshed. **OVERNIGHT LODGING IS ALSO AN OPTION SO YOU CAN GET AWAY AND REST.** For more information, please contact Jack Shitama or me.

**Sunday, March 5: CONFIRMATION RALLY 2006** to be held at Asbury United Methodist Church in Smyrna, Delaware. We will have one rally this year beginning at 4:00 p.m. and concluding at 6:00 p.m. The program will be released in a conference-wide mailing later this month. The event is OPEN to all confirmation students, parents, and church leaders as well as your entire youth group.

**Saturday, April 1: Joy Melton, the author of *Reducing the Risk of Abuse in Youth Ministries* will be the guest speaker/trainer** for a conference-wide event sponsored by the Care Team. The location and details of the event will be announced shortly. Don't miss this unique opportunity to experience this



David Burke

excellent presenter with an extremely important topic that relates to all church leaders.

**Sunday, April 23: YOUNG ADULT EVENT.** All young adults, ages 18-28, are invited to attend this powerful evening of praise and worship, fellowship, and fun with other young adults. The event will be held at Connection Community Church, 100 W. Green St. in Middletown, Delaware. The worship and concert artist for the night will be Jami Smith. Jami has led worship at the Creation festival as well as numerous events throughout the country. For more information on Jami, please go to [www.jami-smith.com](http://www.jami-smith.com). There will be a speaker and other special surprises as well. There will also be plenty of coffee, food, fun, and fellowship with other young adults so stay tuned for details.

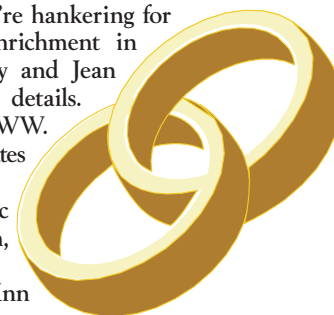
For more information about these and any help you need in youth and young adult ministry in 2006, please contact me at [dburke@pen-del.org](mailto:dburke@pen-del.org) or 877.736.3351, ext. 15.

Blessings in 2006,  
 David Burke  
 Director of YPM

## Marriage Encounter Weekends

**I**f squeezing the toothpaste from the middle has doused the romance in your marriage, a United Methodist Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend may just be the spark needed to rekindle the fire of your wedding day. Here's a 44-hour marital makeover away from job, kids, chores and phones. You will focus only on each other. If you're hankering for greater depth, growth, and enrichment in your relationship, contact Rudy and Jean Iannacone at 609.259-2527 for details. Or visit the website at: [WWW.ENCOUNTER.ORG](http://WWW.ENCOUNTER.ORG). Weekend dates and places:

Feb 10-12, 2006 Atlantic Sands Hotel in Rehoboth Beach, DE  
 Mar 24-26, 2006 Golden Inn Hotel in Avalon, NJ



This section will be available for a family member of a recently deceased pastor should they wish to share a memorial/obituary with the Conference. Editing for space consideration is at the sole discretion of the Editor.

## In Memory of Rev. Robert L. Thomas – 1934-2005

Rev. Thomas was one of two children born to Carson Emmett Thomas and Zelma Perkins Thomas on August 24, 1934 in Fairmont, West Virginia.

He graduated from East Fairmont High School in 1952 and entered Fairmont State College. He graduated in 1956 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Arts. Rev. Thomas also served his country in the U.S. Army from 1957 to 1959. He continued his career as a teacher after being discharged from the Army.

Rev. Thomas felt the call to enter the ministry and in 1965 he entered Crozer Theological Seminary where he graduated with a Master of

Divinity Degree in 1969.

Rev. Thomas faithfully served United Methodist Churches in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference from 1964 until his retirement in 1997. He served Unity-Washington and Wesley Churches from 1983 to 1988. Even after retiring he was called upon several times to take a charge as well as to fill in for a fellow pastor. He was an asset to the church during the time he was able to attend after retirement. He was instrumental in starting a Men's Group that was active for several years.

Rev. Thomas was a help to many churches by being a member of the District Committee for Building and Location for twenty

years. During that time he served as chairman, co-chairman, and secretary. He held this position until his health began to fail.

He is survived by his wife Sandy, two daughters, Krystal Thomas of Chestertown, Kathy McMillan and her husband, Jimmy, of Hurlock, two sons, Karl and his wife, Deanna, of Hurlock and Kent and his wife, JoAnn, of Stevensville. He is also survived by six grandchildren and his sister, Margaret Olexa, of Morgantown, West Virginia.

Rev. Thomas was predeceased by his first wife, Jeanne, in 1992.

His willingness to serve in any way he was asked will always be remembered.

## 50 ways to honor your clergywoman

By Linda Bloom\*

Take a clergywoman to lunch. Or honor her with flowers on the altar, create a scholarship in her name, invite her to preach at your church.

These are some of the 50 suggestions offered on a poster marking "50 Ways to Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Full Clergy Rights for Women" in the United Methodist Church.

The full-size poster, available for purchase, is a joint project of the denomination's Commission on the Status and Role of Women and Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Designed to give local congregations, pastors, Sunday school teachers, youth groups and others ideas on how to mark the anniversary, the poster also promotes awareness of the history and current role of clergywomen, according to M. Garlinda Burton, the commission's chief executive.

Burton said she became more aware of the longtime contributions of women in the denomination as she worked on the poster project. "Long before we officially started ordaining women, women have been pastors and preachers," she explained. "In 1956, we just caught up with what had been an ancient Judeo-Christian practice of having women preach and teach."

As the poster points out, Sarah Crosby became the first woman, in 1761, licensed to preach by John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. Today, nearly one-quarter of all United Methodist clergy are women.

Burton said the United Methodist Church has a commendable record when it comes to recognizing the gifts of women.



(photo by Tim Tanton, UMNS)

**Women are active at all levels of the church. Bishops Charlene Kammerer (foreground, left) and Violet Fisher (foreground, right) join in a blessing at the Council of Bishops' fall gathering.**

"I'm always proud of what a pacesetter our denomination has been. People continue to look to us as a role model for nurturing and training and allowing women's gifts to have impact."

Among the poster's suggestions for marking the 50th anniversary:

- ✓ Write a note to a female pastor, missionary or bishop who has influenced your life.
- ✓ Create a scholarship in honor of the first clergywoman in your conference.
- ✓ Honor clergywomen in the congregation, district or conference during Women's History Month in March.
- ✓ Sponsor a listening event where clergywomen of color talk about the challenges they face.
- ✓ Invite teen girls to your next clergywomen's gathering.
- ✓ Learn the names of the 16 active and four retired women

bishops.

- ✓ Use music, art, stories and drama to explore themes of women in ministry.
- ✓ Visit the Anna Howard Shaw Center at United Methodist-related Boston University School of Theology.

One copy of the poster is being mailed to every local church, as well as to chairpersons of annual conference commissions on the status and role of women, according to Burton.

Her agency is also creating a button for the 50th anniversary, which she expects will be ready after the first of the year.

Ordering information will be available soon at [www.gbhem.org/clergywomen](http://www.gbhem.org/clergywomen).

\*Bloom is a United Methodist News Service news writer based in New York.

NOTE: An order form and photograph are available at <http://umns.umc.org>.

## Cokesbury Connection

Our three-year-old granddaughter Ava came running in to her mother on Dec. 9th "Mama, Santa's coming! Santa's coming! I opened all the doors. I opened all the doors. Santa's coming!" (She opened all the doors on the Santa "Advent" calendar, that is.) And being the little smarty-pants that she is, she figured that meant Santa was coming . . . any minute! Of course behind each door on this calendar was a piece of chocolate, which was quickly eaten so as to move on to the next door! (I told you she was smart!) Oh, praise God for a child's joy. Don't you wish that we could get that excited about Christ coming into our world and lives? It really is something to shout about.

COKESBURY has a few things to shout about to help you get excited about sharing Christ with those who know Him and for those who do not know him.

**NEW SHORT-TERM STUDY** from the *Companions in Christ Series: The Way of Transforming Discipleship* by Trevor Hudson and Stephen D. Bryant is a new six-week *Companions in Christ* study that challenges Christians from the viewpoint of a white South African pastor who lived through the political changes in the country and experienced with rare vulnerability the spiritual struggles inherent in the processes of truth-telling, reconciliation, deep pain, and poverty. **Trevor Hudson** is a well-recognized pastor, preacher, author and retreat leader in the field of Christian spirituality in southern Africa. He serves a large Methodist church outside Johannesburg. In the post-apartheid era, Hudson has been one of the leading voices in reconciliation and restoration in the Christian community. **Stephen D. Bryant** is the editor and publisher of Upper Room Ministries and a United Methodist pastor. The authors bring a message of vital, transforming spirituality through knowing who we are, changing from the inside out, listening to the groans of others, and discovering the deep spirituality of belonging.



**Madeline Beall**

**YOUTH RALLY '06:** Going on NOW! Please stop into the Ocean City Convention Center this weekend and visit Cokesbury's 30-table display of youth and youth worker resources.

**VBS 2006:** Join *Cokesbury* and the *Interfaith Resource Center* for VBS SHOWCASE DAYS. Choose one of 3 locations that fit your schedule. **20% OFF all items ordered during Showcase Days. Watch for details!**

**Jan. 28th** – The Interfaith Resource Center, Wilmington, DE

**Feb. 4th** – St. Mark's UMC in Easton (as part of the Cokesbury Book Display at the Easton District Leadership Day.) Cokesbury Display in Fellowship Hall

**Feb 11th** – Wesley UMC, Dover, DE

\*\*\*Our thanks to all the churches for hospitality during these events\*\*\*

A **NEW BOOK** by Eugene Peterson, *EAT THIS BOOK*, does a great job of reenergizing one's discipline of reading scripture. It combines his pastoral experience, his literary skills and his familiarity with scripture. It will give new meaning to filling up and digesting what gives you LIFE.

Get Excited! Open a new door every day this year . . . open your Bible!

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## Conference Calendar of Events

January 2006

- 6-8 **Youth Rally**, Ocean City, MD: Roland E. Powell Convention Center
- 7 **Clergy Taxes Seminar**, Wesley College: Rm. #206, 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- 9 **Board of Ordained Ministry Meeting**, Centreville, MD: Centreville UMC, 9:00 a.m.
- Credit Union Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 1:30 p.m.
- 10 **Small Group Task Force meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 1:00 p.m.
- Delmarva Drug Prevention Intervention Interfaith Coalition meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 6:00 p.m.
- 11 **African-American Laity Meeting**, Church Hill: Mt. Vernon UMC, 7:00 p.m.
- 12 **Commission on Archives & History Meeting**, Frederica: Barratt's Chapel, 10:00 a.m.
- Communications Commission Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 10:30 a.m.
- African-American Laity Meeting**, Trappe: Scott's UMC, 7:00 p.m.
- 14 **Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium**, Millsboro: Long Neck UMC, 3:30-6:00 p.m.
- 16 **CLOSED – Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observed**
- 17-19 **Bishop's Mid-Winter Retreat**, Rehoboth, DE: Atlantic Sands Hotel
- 18 **Health Fair Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 1:00 p.m.
- 19 **Committee on Native American Ministries Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.