



Communicator

an edition of

The United Methodist Reporter

Two Sections, Section A

VOLUME 155 NUMBER 5

043000

JUNE 6, 2008

The Healthy Church Initiative
A Pathway to Healthy Disciples involved in Healthy Ministry Leading to Healthy Churches



Getting "Geared Up" for Annual Conference



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is time to "Gear Up" as we celebrate the ministry and mission of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference on the campus of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore on June 13-15, 2008.

Based on 1 Peter 1:13-16, our theme "Gear Up" will show how we are preparing ourselves for the journey to celebrate our Healthy Church Initiative. Come ready to step off the train without tripping on the lug-

gage! We will welcome back Bishop and Mrs. Ernest S. Lyght and be blessed by the Bishop as our distinguished preacher for the Ordination and Commissioning Service as well as the Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion. Bishop Lyght will be holding a book signing at Cokesbury so be sure to stop by! In addition, The Rev. Dr. Tim McClendon, Conference Superintendent in the South Carolina Conference – Columbia District, will lead the Saturday and Sunday morning Bible Studies. Tim is also the Episcopal

Nominee of the South Carolina Conference and Southeast Jurisdiction.

Join me in preparing for this time of Annual Conference by lifting up the faith community of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference and its ministries in prayer.

Yours in Christ,

Marcus Matthews
Resident Bishop

A Future with Hope
2008 General Conference Highlights
Page 8

The Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference
Laity Session
June 7, 2008
Clergy Executive Session
June 11, 2008
Annual Conference Sessions
June 13-15, 2008

extreme church
extreme expectations
July 13-18 —
Jurisdictional Conference in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

2008 Missional Appointments

As we have sought to be faithful to God's call to mission in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference, I have made the following appointments effective July 1, 2008 (unless otherwise indicated).

- John W. Van Tine appointed to Georgetown: Wesley (Dover District) from Laurel: Centenary (Dover District)
- K. Wayne Grier appointed to Laurel: Centenary (Dover District) from Centreville: Centreville (Easton District)
- Mark Farnell appointed to Centreville: Centreville (Easton District) from Millington-Crumpton (Easton District)
- James Bongard appointed to Seaford: Wesley (Dover District) from Ellendale (Dover District)
- Denise Founds appointed to the Ellendale Charge (Dover District) from Associate Pastor at Wilmington: St. Paul's (Wilmington District)
- Stephen Ackerman appointed to Wilmington: Aldersgate (Wilmington District) from Ocean View: Mariner's Bethel (Dover District)
- Alfred E. Taylor appointed to Ocean View: Mariner's Bethel (Dover District) from Wilmington: Chester Bethel (Wilmington District)
- Gary Meekins appointed to Wilmington: Chester Bethel (Wilmington District) from Pocono Lake (Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference)
- Barbara Auer appointed to Newark: Kingswood (Wilmington District) from Laurel-Mt. Pleasant (Dover District)
- Russell L. Lehman appointed to New Castle UMC (Wilmington District) from Pocomoke City-Bethany (Salisbury District)
- Tom A. Pasmore, Jr. appointed to Wilmington: Richardson Park (Wilmington District) from Dover: Hope (Dover District)
- Michelle Rekitzke appointed to Dover: Hope (Dover District) from School
- Carol G. Price appointed to Berlin: Stevenson (Salisbury District) from Harmony-Ames (Easton District)
- Elaine B. Ayres appointed to Philadelphia: Tindley Temple (Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference) from Director of Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century (Conference Office Staff)
- James Pennel appointed to the Sharptown-Asbury Charge (Salisbury District) from Seminary

- Frederick D. Wessell appointed to Clarksville: St. George's (Dover District) from Seminary
- Lindsay M. Wessell appointed to the Roxana Charge (Dover District) from Seminary
- Rebecca Kelly appointed to the Harmony: Ames Charge (Easton District) from Seminary

Laity Session of Annual Conference

Bishop Marcus Matthews will be welcoming the Laity to the session which will be held tomorrow, June 7th at the Schwartz Center in Dover, Delaware. Please plan to attend this morning event where members of the Youth and Young Adult Ministry will also be participating in the worship time and new Conference Lay and Associate Lay Leaders will be elected.

When: Saturday, June 7, 2008
Where: Schwartz Center, 226 South State Street
Dover, Delaware
When: 8:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

For additional information including a map for parking, please go to our website (www.pen-del.org).

Local Pastor Represents Shore in Annapolis

I believe part of my calling on Smith Island is to represent the communities here and beyond in some areas of the political world. At the county, state, and national level I have been able to speak with elected representatives on bills involving special license plates for Smith Island, the recent state dessert designation (our cake!), harbor upkeep, power plant emissions, and global warming. This last opportunity involved testifying before the US Senate Committee on the Environment in the Dirksen Building on Capitol Hill. It is a quite involved process where you need to submit your testimony beforehand and you have exactly five minutes to try to get your point across. Others testifying that day were 2 governors, 2 senators and 1 congressman, plus some scientists. The basis for my points were centered on the Biblical references to our responsibilities as caretakers (Genesis 2:15 "Work it and take care of it."); that we are partners with nature in a covenant with God (Gen. 9:10 "with every living creature that was with you"); and that we are to represent others (including nature) (Proverbs 31:8 "speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves"). I also said that my grandchildren's grandchildren will be born around the middle of this century, and encouraged the Committee to consider what we are leaving to them.

Another area of involvement in



Rick Edmund

the political scene is that I am asked to say the opening prayer for one of the daily sessions in the Maryland Senate each year. There are restrictions as to what can be said regarding the name of Jesus Christ, but the name of God is lifted up asking for guidance.

I have not submitted this article just to list the opportunities I have had in speaking about our obligation to address our social responsibilities, but also to encourage others to be involved at whatever level, and for whatever group you may feel called to represent. I believe there are a lot of injustice issues about which we need to speak. One of my favorite Dr. Seuss characters is the Lorax who says, "I speak for the trees." It is a fulfilling feeling to live in a country where that is usually possible regarding our political structure. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or opinions.

Local Fundraiser Brings Music & Fellowship to Fruitland

What do you call hard work, good fellowship and a chicken and dumpling dinner with a hymn sing? At St. John's in Fruitland on May 2 it was a fundraiser to benefit Darlene Webster, former conference lay leader.

The outreach Team planned the event and with the help of many people, served over 200 dinners. The evening concluded with several singers donating their time and talent to raise money. A special thank you goes to all who participated including Rhonda Farmer, Richard Porter, Brooke Carey, Rainbow's End, Linda Windsor, The Muir Family, Carla Colvin, Cassie Abbott, The Knettlers, Rev. Rick Vance, Erine Evans, Harmony By Faith and St. John's Praise Team.

At the present time we have



Neil and Darlene Webster received approximately \$4000.00. Anyone wishing to donate may send a check made payable to St. John's UMC and mail it to P.O. Box 236, Fruitland, MD, 21826, Attn: Outreach Team.

Everyone at St. John's wishes to thank all those who made this event possible and for your thoughtfulness in your gifts.

There have been several persons who have questioned the inclusion of an advertisement that appeared on this page in the April 9, 2008 issue. We apologize to any persons who were offended by the inclusion of this advertisement.

Getting Green in Ocean City

The Atlantic United Methodist Church in Ocean City has been Gettin' Green! The AUMC started with their Youth Group several years ago, recycling trash after the Youth sponsored dinners and other functions they were involved in.

Last year the Youth Group began a Sunday school series to teach the younger children to appreciate and honor God's creation by taking care of it. So they started digging out, planting and cultivating herb, flower, seed and weed gardens. Yes, even weed gardens! Thanks to member Janet Phillips' vast plant and herb lore knowledge, eagerness to volunteer her time, and great rapport with kids, the children have been learning all

about God's many green gifts and have written their own summaries for the care and aesthetic, nourishing and medicinal uses of each one. They even put together a little booklet, complete with hand-drawn pictures, and distributed them to the congregation.

The older youth currently have plans in the works for their own garden as well. But the kids aren't the only ones puttin' on the gardening gloves. Last year the older members got involved by adopting a section of the church yard to plant and nurture. The results . . . a beautiful new look, thousands of dollars saved in landscaping for the church, and a great feeling that they're helping, one little section at a time, to keep God's world as he



intended; gorgeous and functional. What's so great about this is that any church with a yard, no matter the size, can do the same thing. AUMC invites all to join in and 'Get Green!'

"Friday Night Live"

By Rev. Bernadette Beckett

The Wesley Foundation at Salisbury University hosted, "Friday Night Live" on April 18th in the Wicomico Room in the Guerrieri Student Center. The service was held at 7:00 p.m.

"Friday Night Live" was a night where students shared their various gifts they had been given by God, like renditions by The Salisbury University Gospel Choir, "The Untouchables," a liturgical dance team from Salisbury University, gospel soloists, gospel rappers, poetry, and even a Sermonette. The Sermonette was titled, "Getting Your Stuff Back" which simply meant being desperate for the Lord. The sermon text was taken from Daniel, Chapter 6.

This event was attended by over 200 students, campus employees, and community members.

Our God was worshiped and praised beyond anyone's imagination. The selections, "Without God," and "He Touched Me," brought down the house.



Wesley Foundation has birthed two new student organizations along with an Outreach Ministry Team. "ISI (Iron Sharpens Iron) a male group whose name derives from Proverbs 27:17; and Rare & Divine, a female group based on Proverbs 31.

Banquet For Charge Seniors Held

By Rev. Joanne Maxwell-Jenkins

On Saturday, April 19th the Quantico/Hebron/Wetipquin Charge's Evangelism Committee sponsored a Night of Elegance and Appreciation Banquet to honor 64 of their seniors who are 70+ years of age as Pillars of the church and community. The theme for this occasion was "We've Come This Far By Faith."

The banquet was held at the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center in Salisbury and was attended by 350 family and friends. The guest speaker for the banquet was Councilwoman Sheree Sample-Hughes, the first black woman to serve on the Wicomico County Council from the first district. Other dignitaries in attendance included: Rev. Yvonne Penn, pastor of the Cambridge/Vienna Charge, Delegate Addie Eckardt of the Legislative District 37B, Councilwoman Shanice Shields of the Salisbury City Council in District 1, Brother DeAngelo Johnson, Salisbury District Lay Leader, Sister Iona Townsend, Chair of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee of Eley UMC and Bishop Dean Jones-Evans, pastor of the United Missionary Baptist Church and New Birth Ministries of Cambridge. Gifts from the charge were banquet photos of each honoree, a plaque and a souvenir booklet as a remembrance of the special occasion (Sister Doris Handy and Brother DeAngelo Johnson took the photos).

Those seniors honored include: Rev. Leon A. Jenkins, pastor of Eley UMC and the first man of the charge. From Friendship UMC: Julia Birkhead; Clinton Camper; Mary Lennox; Pearlina Mitchell; Priscilla Mitchell; Corinda Moore; John Moore; Charles Robinson; Edward Taylor; Iris Warren; Daisy White; LeRoy

White; and Agnes Wilson. From Mt. Zion UMC: Helen Allen; Arnetta Atkins; Ruth Brittingham; Harold Dashiell; Mary Dashiell; Violet Dashiell; Louise Dutton; James Gould; Mannie Green; Dorine Griffin; James Hayman; Nellie Hayman; Marquerite Johnson; Elizabeth Lawrence; Goldsborough Lawrence; Robert Martin; Viola Martin; Joshua Mitchell; Ida Mae Newby; Constance Polk; Joseph Price; Percy Price; Florence Waters; Raynor Waters and Mary Jolley. From St. Luke UMC: Carolyn Birkhead; William Birkhead; Mary Jane Brown; Marie Collins; Shirley Coulbourn; Rose Dashiell; Susie Dashiell; William Ennis; Naomi Foxwell; Renzilo Foxwell; Dorene Giddens; Olive Handy; Pasty Handy; Annie Hyland; Tola Joynes; Thelma Mills; Olive Moore; Theresa Morris; Beulah Nutter; Geraldine Robinson; Evella Spencer; Freda Wharton; Matthew Wharton; Hattie Winder and Robert Winder.

Honorable mention was also given to those who have gone on before us: Sister Loretta Gale, Sister Violet Gunter, Sister Ella King, Sister Joyce Cornish and Brother David Camper all from Friendship and Sister Cornelia Fooks and Hattie Turner from St. Luke.



Rev. JoAnne Maxwell-Jenkins, Councilwoman Sheree Sample-Hughes and Rev. Leon A. Jenkins, pastor of Eley UMC and the first man of the Charge

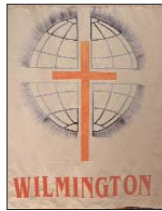
From the D.S.

What does it mean to be "holy?" What is your working definition of "being holy" as a Christian lay person, as a Christian pastor, as a Christian congregation? Could there be any relationship between being "healthier" and "more effective" as disciples of Jesus Christ, as servant leaders of God, as expressions of the body of Christ and "holiness?"

Holiness for me, and I believe for John Wesley, has at its core love of God, love of self and love of neighbor. In I Peter 1:15 and 16, the author declares "... as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy' (NRSV: Also, see Leviticus 11:44 and 45). What are some of the facets of God's "holiness?" I would suggest that at the very center of The Lord God Almighty, The Holy One, The Holy Other is Love, Mercy and Justice. Those of us who have responded to God's call to be "set apart" from this world for God's will and God's work are to be "holy." Even as our Holy God is "Other" than what is "business as usual" in this world (hate, greed, pride, revenge, selfishness, and injustice), so we are to be the "holy/Other" sons and daughters, disciples and servants of this God revealed to us in Jesus of Nazareth. We are to serve as instruments of God's love, generosity, humility, forgiveness, self-giving and justice. Yes, I believe that there is an important relationship between Christian holiness and healthy, effective Christian discipleship. Yes, I believe that we are to "prepare (gear up) for action" that will lead us to healthier and more effective Christian leadership and ministry.

Our Annual Conference's Healthy Church Initiative theme for this year's Annual Conference is "Gear Up" (See I Peter 1:13-16, The Message: A Contemporary Rendering of the Bible by Eugene H. Peterson). Our railroad metaphor invites us to be intentional about equipping, making ready, being prepared to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of this world. The suggested pathways for this equipping, making ready, being prepared, "gearing up" involve training effective leadership, discovering and using God's gifts, and knowing our neighborhoods. This scriptural reference to "gear up" is in the context of an invitation, a challenge, a command to "holy living: a life energetic and blazing with holiness." This "holiness" will not come accidentally or easily. We are told "to prepare:" put your mind in gear and "discipline yourselves:" roll up your sleeves. Let us hear the truth of I Peter 1:13-16 and commit ourselves, through God's grace, "to gear up" for being God-like, for being Christ-like, for being "holy" in order that we may be healthier and more effective Christian disciples, leaders and congregations.

Your Partner in Ministry,
William M. Fitzhugh



Mission Trip to China – A Family Affair

September of 2008 will be a first for the Jentsch family. Not only will mother, Tracy, and 13 year old daughter, Jordan, be climbing out of their comfort zone and into the for-

eign lands of Hong Kong and China, but a third member will also be joining them, Tracy's biological mother, Helen.

Having met Helen (who lives in Roanoke, Virginia) as an adult, they have found that they have similar passions and one is their love for the United Methodist Church. This trip will be the first time that they will have done anything together. Adopted at birth, Tracy feels truly blessed by God to have two moms and that Helen will be taking this journey with them.

Tracy and Jordan are members of Janes United Methodist Church in Rising Sun. Tracy says that she has always had a heart for missions and found Ubuntu eXplorers one day while surfing the internet. Jordan, who also has a "real heart for serving the Lord," wanted to go with her mom and after much discussion because of her age, they agreed to allow Jordan to be on the team. So the Jentsch family not only is blessing this organization with three generations of women, they are also the first family to have a member of the team under 18 participating.

Jordan has also taken the reigns in helping their entire team with the Chinese language. Tracy likes to "dabble" in other languages and knows French but neither she nor Helen speak the language. Jordan, on the other hand, has been studying Chinese language at Rising Sun Middle School, and preparing her heart through prayer. She has been "teaching" the group of 12 women via the internet through a monthly newsletter.

The purpose of the Ubuntu Journey is, in Tracy's own words – To connect with our faith sisters in Hong Kong/China, expressing our solidarity in concern for women's rights and well-being by witnessing through a quiet Christian presence. The Bible tells us in Micah 6:8 – What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to have kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. As participants, we will learn about the culture of China; we will pray, sing, cry, teach, work, listen and tell stories, and engage as sisters in Christ. We will visit and have a mission experience at institutions such as schools, clinics, women's training centers, hospitals and nurseries. The Ubuntu

Explorers program offers United Methodist Women opportunities to visit mission partners in various areas of the world to learn first-hand the issues they face and contexts in which they live and work.



Helen, Tracy
and Jordan

As mentioned before, they will be traveling to Hong Kong and then on to mainland China to Guizhou Province, in southwest China, where ethnic groups still keep their old customs and traditions. (please visit www.pendel.org/TracyandJordan to learn more about what they will be doing while in Hong Kong and China).

With the recent natural disaster that China has been dealing with, Tracy and Jordan are more determined than ever that there is a real need for their visit at this time. When asked about what their friends and family think of their trip, Tracy said that "most people think we are crazy! A lot of people ask us questions about why we are doing this. We live in Cecil County and there is not a lot of diversity there. This is a great chance for us to minister and share our faith. Jordan's friends think it is exciting, and a great opportunity. She says that a lot of her friends think she is lucky, and she tells them that with hard work and a heart to do this, anyone can do this. There is nothing special about us!" They belong to a small group Bible study at Janes UMC who, and along with their family, have been incredibly supportive of them.

Tracy, Jordan and Helen are stepping out on faith with this trip but it isn't just for them. They are eager to return home and share what they see and learn with those that supported them and others so that more and more people here can understand what it is like in other parts of the world. If you'd like to help them on their journey, you can send monetary support to the attention of Janes United Methodist Church with CHINA MISSIONS on the memo line. The address is Janes UMC, 213 Walnut Street, Rising Sun MD 21911. For additional information, please feel free to e-mail Tracy at jentsch@udel.edu. They are also asking for your prayers as they embark on this journey so please add them to your prayer lists at church and in your small groups as they travel September 2-15, 2008.

We hope to hear about their journey upon their return and include it in a future issue of this publication. For more information on United Methodist Ubuntu eXplorers program, please visit <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/ny/programs/ubuntu>.

Mt. Joy's People Celebrate 135 Years and Beyond

By Seandra Sims

Mt. Joy's greatest asset is its people. This sentiment was echoed time and again as Mt. Joy United Methodist Church in Wilmington, Delaware, celebrated 135 years of dedicated service to Southbridge and surrounding communities.

Mt. Joy, one of Delaware's oldest predominantly Black churches, was founded in August 1873 as one of 16 daughter churches under the Old Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church. In its inception, the church was named Whittington Methodist Episcopal Church in honor of an early founder, Rev. Joseph Whittington, but was later renamed Mt. Joy in 1889 when its existing chapel was erected.

On April 19, 2008, more than 110 congregation members and friends gathered to commemorate the milestone anniversary, themed "We Are the People of Mt. Joy – Past, Present, and Future." The luncheon celebration, held at Waterfall Banquet and Conference Center in Claymont featured an afternoon of praise through song and dance, fine dining, fellowship, and even rapping.

Right from the start, emcee Marlene Dryden, talented soloist Millie Wright, and the jazzy Kenny Brown Trio set a festive tone for the event – with Mrs. Dryden, a lay leader at Mt. Joy, directing the musicians to "play something that will make them move in their seats."

A special table included clergy and their families from Mt. Joy's past and present, including District Superintendent Rev. Dr. William Fitzhugh; Rev. Derrick E. Porter, current pastor of Mt. Joy; Rev. Jose Berrios, Mt. Joy's pastor of visitation; Revs. Donald

Hamilton and Lorenzo Murdaugh, former pastors; and Mrs. Bernice Hilton, wife of former pastor Hilton.

The church congregation was presented with an official Proclamation from New Castle County Executive Christopher Coons, recognizing Mt. Joy's longtime contributions to the county and its citizens. In attendance was former County Executive Tom Gordon, who circulated the room and thanked church members for their positive influence on the lives of others.

Willard Wise narrated a slide presentation of photos highlighting moments from the church's past, including a building rededication during the 1970s. He also showed a gathering of the gospel choir under the leadership of Marian Stokes some 30 years ago. Mt. Joy's oldest living original member, Grace Boardley, was recognized as her granddaughter shared memories of Mrs. Boardley's upbringing in the church from age nine during the Great Depression to her enjoyment of today's services nearly 90 years later.

The children of Mt. Joy proved that they are indeed the church of the future, as teen church member Lewis Jordan presented an original rap – his self-proclaimed and unashamed "testimony" – which brought the audience to its feet in applause. Justin Bowen-Anderson, along with other teen church members, presented Rev. Porter with several gifts for his guidance through the "Hook Up" program, a weekly Sunday school class he leads for high school teens. In addition, three young women from Heidi's Dance Academy, a local Christian-centered performance school, offered a stirring praise dance in celebration of the church's many accomplishments and hopes for the years ahead.

Church member and luncheon committee chair, Wayne

Brown, unveiled an artist rendering of Mt. Joy's proposed new church layout, noting that the community portion was to be built first so that outreach programs could serve more children and families. He encouraged the audience to support future building efforts with their prayers, ideas, and donations.

Perhaps the most poignant moment of the afternoon came when Mt. Joy member Taryn Perkins recounted her first experiences with the church some years ago as she received meals from the decade-old breakfast ministry run each Sunday by the church.

She recalled that she was battling drug addiction at the time, but was encouraged by the friendly faces and warm reception she received at the breakfast. Eventually, she brought her children to Sunday morning worship service and began to see positive changes take hold in her life. She proudly announced to the anniversary crowd that she is celebrating seven years of sobriety, thanks largely to Mt. Joy's embrace.

Success stories such as these have become commonplace these days at Mt. Joy under the able leadership of Pastor Porter. One of his greatest accomplishments has been to make Mt. Joy a welcoming place to all people, and it was noted at the luncheon that his original idea for the breakfast ministry was transformed by God to include opening Mt. Joy's doors to people that "no one wants to sit next to."

With God's mercy and grace, Mt. Joy's committed and generous people from all walks of life have sustained the church for 135 years. The anniversary marked a "joyous" opportunity to display the evidence of Mt. Joy's everyday mission – to "Worship God, Witness Christ through our love, and Win Disciples of Jesus Christ."

United Methodist Men Peninsula-Delaware Conference

By Albert Gobatos

The "Annual/May" meeting of the Peninsula-Delaware UMM was held Saturday the 17th of May. The "Gathering" was hosted by Prospect UMC in Vernon, De. Prospect is part of the West Harrington Charge on the Dover District. The ladies of the church presented a continental breakfast including many homemade treats. Of particular delight to this writer was Barbara Hansen's Coffee cake blueberry muffins—mmmm good.

Registration was 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. 18 men registered with three Program Leaders for a total of 21 attendees. Dave Killen and John Derrickson led a presentation on missions. Their focus was on the Katrina catastrophe. They presented a slide program, the pictures of same generated from their mission trips over the past three years to the Biloxi, Mississippi area of devastation. Dave and John are working thru mission endeavors of the Felton UMC. Donations to assist their ongoing trips to help repair the devastated area should be made to the Felton UMC/Mission Trips, PO Box 247, Felton, De. 19943. If you should wish to donate your time and go to the Biloxi area, contact Dave Killen at 302.670.4884.

The above program was one of two programs offered. Sessions were split in two with half the men attending each program for approximately an hour and then switching to the other program. At approximately 10:40 a.m., following a welcome and devotions



with the Peninsula-Delaware Conference President Charles Brummel we went to our sessions.

The second but not least session was a Bible Study conducted by Rev. Dave Buchanan. Rev. Buchanan is Director of Development for Camp Pecometh. The Bible study centered on Luke 18:18-30, "The Rich Man." This writer was not in both sessions at one time but I tell you my session was FULL of participation. The questions were numerous and well thought out. Rev. Buchanan was quite knowledgeable and very much able to present the scripture and meaning to us all. Such was the session that we went over our allotted time and I had to help bring this session to a close. The same was true of the Missions sessions that I finally had to interrupt so that we could switch sessions. Both programs so engrossed us that we were truly unaware of the time expended. The ladies of the church remained attentive to us and had refreshments available during break.

Around 12:30 p.m. we again came together in the Prospect church sanctuary. President Brummel had some closing remarks. We all agreed that the day had been well spent in fellowship with each other and praising the Lord. The lack of

attendees was disconcerting but it was agreed that those absent were the losers. Charles Taylor, UMM co-chair person, was asked to close us out in prayer and did so with great praise to the Lord.

We gathered at the front of the church for a group picture. We then went to the fellowship hall for a delicious lunch prepared by the United Methodist Women of Prospect. Cold cuts, nice fresh sandwich rolls, fresh garden lettuce (compliments of the church's own gardener, Fran Dill), condiments and chips and HOME made soups, navy bean and three different variations of vegetable. The many cakes and other goodies were also present. Many thanks to the ladies of Prospect UMC.

President Charles Brummel, Sect. Charles Adams, Dover District Chairpersons, Charles Taylor and Albert Gobatos, remained after for a brief meeting in regard to the Annual Men's Retreat at Camp Pecometh. The Retreat is always the first weekend after Labor Day. This year will be Saturday the 6th of September and Sunday the 7th and will be the 51st retreat. MEN, make your plans NOW for the annual retreat. More information will be forthcoming.

GOD IS GOOD and GOD IS GREAT! PRAISE HIS HOLY NAME!

In Sympathy

The Peninsula-Delaware Conference sends our prayers to those that have lost loved ones recently:

To Rev. Joe Burris and his family on the loss of his mother, Miriam Burris, who passed away on Monday, March 24th.

To Rev. Bruce Cooke, his wife, Gail, and their family on the loss

of her brother, Frank Lichtenstein, who passed away on Thursday, March 27th.

To Rev. Peggy Briggs and her family on the loss of her father, Robert Fooks who passed away on Wednesday, April 2nd.

To Ginny Durant and her family on the loss of her husband who passed away on Tuesday,

April 15th. (Ginny was our Bookkeeper for the Conference for over 25 years)

To the family of Goldie Beckwith, surviving spouse of Rev. Walter Beckwith, who passed away on Friday, April 18th.

To the family of Bud McKeen (chairman of the Conference Personnel Committee and past chairman of the Board of Stewards for Camping and Retreat Ministries) who passed away on Thursday, April 24th.

To the family of Rev. Roy Phillips who passed away on Wednesday, April 30th.

To Bishop and Mrs. Barbara Matthews and their family on the death of his mother, Eliza Stackley Matthews, who passed away on Monday, May 5th.

To Amy Botti and her family on the death of her father, William E. Brown, who passed away on Wednesday, May 14th.

Young People's Ministry

If you visit the BFEM Resource Center in Dover this summer you may notice a few new faces. No, it's not an attempt by the Personnel Committee to lower the average age of the staff by 10 or 15 years. In reality, Young People's Ministries has hired two summer interns, a college student and a recent college grad.

Jera Lammy lives in Dover and is a member of Kenton UMC where she works with the youth ministry. She is a student at Eastern University in St. Davids, Pennsylvania.



Jera Lammy

Andy Blystone is a native of Union City, Pennsylvania and a recent graduate of Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky with a degree in Christian Ministries.



Shane Hinderliter

Both interns will be working extensively with Mission Possible, the summer mission camp sponsored by the Conference Council on Youth Ministries. Each will attend Annual Conference and have been assigned other projects to work on throughout the summer.

If you see Andy or Jera please welcome them to the conference!



Andy Blystone

Young People's Ministries Upcoming Activities

June 7: Laity Session

The Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) will be leading worship at the Laity Session, held at the Schwartz Center on South State Street in Dover. Registration is from 8:15-8:45 a.m. and the session is from 8:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m. This event is open to all lay members of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference as a time of preparation for Annual Conference.

July 27 — August 2: Mission Possible

This mission trip is being held at Meredith Middle School in Middletown, Delaware. It has a focus on building up and reaching out to our community. Registration is due by July 1st. Any groups interested are encouraged to contact us for more information.

August 29 — Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Make plans now to attend the Delmarva Shorebirds game in Salisbury, Maryland on Friday, August 29. Young People's Ministries is sponsoring a pre-game NEEDTOBREATHE concert. With a recently released second album, *The Heat*, and a busy touring schedule, NEEDTOBREATHE has a rapidly growing fan base and is a band that people from different generations can all enjoy. Concert-goers will be allowed onto the field for the 5:30 p.m. concert, which will be followed by a 7:05 game. Tickets to the event are only \$6.00 each and are available at the Bishop Felton Edwin May Resource Center. Tickets get you admission to the game and the concert! Plan now to bring your youth ministry or your whole church. Please contact Penny Carney at pcarney@pen-del.org or 1.877.736.3351 x21 with questions or to order tickets.

October 11 — TiLT: The (incredible) Leadership Thing

This one-day training event is designed for adult and student leaders to help equip and strengthen their leadership skills. All leaders are welcome to share this time with us. More information will be available soon.

January 9-11, 2009 — Youth Rally 2009 "The Missing Peace"

Youth Rally 2009 is coming fast! Next year's theme verse is John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." The complete lineup of speakers and bands will be announced at Annual Conference!

For questions or more information, please feel free to contact the Young People's Office in Dover, Delaware:

Shane Hinderliter
Director of Young People's Ministries
1.877.736.3351, ext. 15
Peninsula-Delaware Conference, UMC
shinderliter@pen-del.org

Communicator

Peninsula-Delaware Conference,
139 N. State Street, Dover, DE 19901

e-mail: tward@pen-del.org Website: www.pen-del.org

Phone: 302.674.2626 Or toll-free: 1.877.736.3351 Fax: 302.674.1573

Marcus Matthews, Bishop

Sandra Steiner Ball, Director of Connectional Ministries

Tamara Ward, Editor, Communications Coordinator

Linda Stimel, Layout & Design

Linette Warren, Subscriptions Individual subscriptions, \$9.50 per year

All information marked UMR Reporter within the Peninsula-Delaware Conference newspaper is the sole responsibility of the UMR Reporter and is not necessarily the views of the annual conference.



Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula United Methodist Foundation Annual Conference Review

The past year has proven to be a time of change, opportunity, and challenge for the EPP United Methodist Foundation. The EPP Foundation showed dramatic growth as it continued to become a trusted investment resource for United Methodist Churches and organizations in this very difficult economic and market environment. The Foundation, a non-profit Investment Corporation established to manage UMC assets, improved investment returns, reduced costs, and offered independent and objective investment advice to churches throughout the Conference. This year the Foundation continued to move forward by adding a number of new churches as clients, establishing new choices

for investments, and continuing service improvements including:

- Welcoming new Executive Director, Jack Brooks, an investment professional with over twenty years of experience in both money management and working with non-profit organizations.
- The addition of Value Manager, Stratton Management of Plymouth Meeting PA, a top quartile investment performer for ten consecutive years.
- The addition of Small Cap Core Equity Manager, C.S. McKee of Pittsburgh PA, a top performing team of investment management professionals.
- The addition of an International Index Manager, Capstone Investment Management of Houston TX, a Socially Responsible Index



Jack Brooks

Manager.
 • Achieved the Foundation's goal of offering 100% Socially Responsible Investments with impressive performance at the lowest cost possible.
 For additional information please contact:
 Foundation Executive Director,
 Jack Brooks
 1.800.828.9093
 Jack.Brooks@EPAUMC.org

We are Gearing Up for Annual Conference

It's here, after all the preliminary work, meetings, reports, etc. the 2008 Annual Conference Sessions will be taking place next weekend at the University of Maryland – Eastern Shore campus in Princess Anne, Maryland. We hope that many of you will be able to join us for the three day session. It is promising to be a time of fellowship, worship, celebration and renewal. We will say hello to new commissioned and ordained pastors and goodbye to those that will be retiring. We will also be remembering those that we have lost since last year's conference.

If you are unable to attend any of the sessions, you can read about what is going on by visiting our website (www.pen-del.org). When possible we will upload photos and a daily recap will also be posted by the following morning. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings will have a newsletter available at conference and on-line. For a recap of the entire weekend, please watch for the July 4th issue of this publication.

Below is a tentative schedule of the weekend's activities. Again, we hope to see you in Princess Anne.

“Gear Up”

Friday, June 13, 2008		12:00 pm	Lunch – Student Center
7:30 am	Registration, Performing Arts Center	1:45 pm	Time of Gathering Holy Conferencing
9:00 am	Opening Worship – Bishop Matthews preaching Holy Conferencing	5:00 pm	Dinner – Student Center
12:00 pm	Lunch – Student Center	6:30 pm	Clergy Robing Ordination and Commissioning Service – Bishop Lyght preaching (BOM Scholarship Fund offering)
1:45 pm	Time of Gathering Holy Conferencing (AU/Global AIDS offering)	Sunday, June 15, 2008	
3:30 pm	Celebration of Ministry	7:00 am	Breakfast – Student Center
5:00 pm	Dinner – Student Center	8:15 am	Service of Appointments
6:45 pm	Time of Gathering Laity Address Camp Pecometh Missions (Congo Partnership offering)	8:30 am	Bible Study – Rev. Dr. Tim McClendon Holy Conferencing
Saturday, June 14, 2008		10:00 am	Seating of Families
7:00 am	Breakfast – Student Center	10:30 am	Service of Remembrance – Bishop Lyght preaching
8:15 am	Time of Gathering Bible Study – Rev. Dr. Tim McClendon Holy Conferencing	Noon	Lunch – Student Center



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION/FAITH DEVELOPMENT . . . Is one of the five most important “Practices of a Fruitful Congregation,” says author Robert Schnase . . . along with Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Risk-Taking Mission and Service and Extravagant Generosity. He reminds us that the followers of Jesus matured in their faith by learning IN COMMUNITY. “Learning in community replicates the way Jesus deliberately taught his disciples. Wesley and the early Methodists realized growth in faith does not come easily or automatically, but requires placing ourselves in community to learn the faith with others.” (page 63-65) Hence the class meetings. And as Cokesbury says about its new curriculum ROCK SOLID, faith is not taught, it's caught!



Madeline Beall

Please go to www.cokesbury.com to check out all the great new information about this new children's curriculum.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE: Please stop in the Cokesbury Bookstore at Annual Conference in Princess Anne June 13-15 for a great display of resources to help you and your church, meet Bishop Lyght for a signing of his book “Three Ebony Bishops” . . . and enjoy some Free Trade coffee, celebration cake and Krispy Crème donuts! O yes, and clergy robes will be on sale!

AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCES . . . NEW BOOKS!

- 1) “Heroes in Black History” by Dave and Neta Jackson (9780764205569) A wonderful book to inspire young people with stories of great character.
- 2) “When Harriet Met Sojourner” by Catherine Clinton; Shane W. Evans, Illustrator. This picture book celebrates two important women, Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, both born as slaves and both worked to free others from the bonds of slavery. Having met only once, this book imagines what their conversation might have been.

“**FAITHFUL WITNESSES . . . United Methodist Theology of Mission**” by John Edward Nuesse and study guide by Diana L. Hynson (9781933663197) just published by the General Board of Global Ministries, is the first resource book of The Academy of Mission Renewal, the educational program arm of GBGM. For those of you interested in Christian missions and why we are called to this important ministry and why the UMC supports it in our Book of Discipline (and thru Kevin Goodwin!) this would make an excellent small group (learning in community) study.

SUMMER!!! Getting some rest and renewal, pastors moving to their new appointments, VBS, planning for Sunday school, getting that new service going, starting a new Bible Study . . . whatever it is, please think of Cokesbury as your ministry partner. We are here to help!

Madeline Beall
 Cokesbury Consultant
 1.877.792.5410
mbeall@cokesbury.com

The Communicator Takes A Rest

By Tamara Ward, Editor

The *Communicator* is published twice a month during the months of September through June but during July and August the paper ‘rests’ from its work. Due to the timing of Annual Conference and the newspaper weeks, this year subscribers will receive an additional issue (July 4th) that will be used to wrap-up Annual Conference Sessions.

During this time there will be opportunities for local churches to continue to communicate with the conference and vice versa. The local church announcement e-mails will continue to be distributed weekly and other e-mail blasts will go out whenever needed.

If you are looking at the possibility of scheduling a meeting or event, please utilize the on-line calendar as a resource so as to try and avoid your event being on the same day as another conference-related event. Along those same lines, if you have an event that is on the conference calendar and there is a change/cancellation (to the date, time, place, etc.) please be in touch with Penny Carney (pcarney@pen-del.org) as soon as the change is confirmed so that the on-line calendar will contain the most up-to-date information as possible.

The *Communicator* will return in September and issue dates/deadlines will be available on our website (www.pen-del.org) by the middle of July.

During the summer months we will continue to accept stories from local churches that will be kept until the paper begins again with some that may even be featured on our website.

May you have a safe and pleasant summer. See you in September.

Boyd's Blessings

Several persons have taken note of the fact that Annual Conference concludes on the morning of Father's Day. My reply is that this does not often happen, but that it last occurred in 1997, when the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference met in downtown Wilmington.

Then there were the conversations I had involving a pastor and parishioner from one of our local churches. They were prayerfully discerning how both Pentecost and Mother's Day could be celebrated simultaneously. I suggested to the pastor that he include as a sermon illustration the story of Susanna Wesley. Susanna was, of course, the mother of the founders of Methodism — John and Charles Wesley. There were three brothers and seven sisters in the Wesley household who survived an early death, or who remained after older siblings left home. As children, they had the common experience of growing up in an Anglican rectory (what we call a parsonage in our United Methodist tradition.) Their primary spiritual mentor was not their father, Samuel, who was ordained in the Church of England. It was rather their mother, Susanna. And it was their mother who answered her son John's question about the advisability of women preaching and teaching. Susanna showed the way by leading Bible study groups in the church at Epworth!

I think often of the spiritual example of my own mother, who taught a third-grade Sunday school class for over 20 years. And then there was my grandmother, who despite partial paralysis due to an accident in her forties, taught Bible study classes from her home. To this day, I have yet to meet anyone whose Biblical knowledge surpasses hers.

In this season between Mother's Day and Father's Day, there are many memories of my father as well. He taught me the importance of social justice, and of respecting persons of different ethnic backgrounds. He, like me, was the beneficiary of white privilege, but again taught me to set aside some degree of prejudice which I might otherwise have harbored. My grandfather was also a man of deep spiritual conviction. My grandparents' prayerful and financial support of our local church also left a lifelong impression upon my young life. Today, a new Janes United Methodist Church stands in Rising Sun, Maryland, on ground that was once a part of my grandparents' farm. The Baptist Church in which Linda, my wife, received her roots in the Christian faith is located on land that once belonged to her grandfather.

Granted, there is the consternation of those concerned with an Annual Conference session on the morning of Father's Day, 2008. Yet, I am reminded of the last time these two significant events coincided on the calendar. On Father's Day, 1997, the Annual Conference concluded in late afternoon with the Service of Commissioning and Ordination. At least one family friend was being ordained or commissioned that year. My family met me in Wilmington, attended the service with me, and then treated me to dinner that evening in an area restaurant!

I give thanks to God for my immediate family and their unending support of my ministry for these past thirty years. And I rejoice in my extended family, the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference, which has so blessed my life with wonderful friendships among laity and clergy. Jesus aptly asked: 'Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?'

Then he looked at those around him and said, 'These are my mother and brothers. Anyone who does God's will is my brother and sister and mother' (Mark 3:33-35, New Living Translation).



Rev. Boyd Etter

Come Meet the United Methodists

By Rev. Harry Baxter

Has it been a while since you were in Confirmation Class? Have you forgotten who John Wesley was and why so many United Methodist churches are named after him? Do you wonder who Jacob Albright was; what a General Conference does; how you get to be Bishop and who does what in the local church?

For five Tuesdays from noon to 1:00 p.m., between twenty-five and forty people met in the church parlor of Wesley UMC in Dover to meet the Methodists. Week one was on the history of the three largest branches of the church. Week two was on the organization of the local church and the denomination. Weeks three, four and five were on what Methodists believe and the Social Principles.

All were invited to bring a bag lunch (beverages were provided) and join together to discover who we are and what we stand for as the people known as United Methodists. The class was led by the three pastors at Wesley (Harry Baxter, Don Godwin, and LeRoy Jones). Those attending were long time Methodists as well as those who recently became United Methodists.

"Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home."

By Pastor Scot McClymont

The Bible is full of homecoming stories that would be perfect for any homecoming celebration at a church. Jacob's homecoming to meet his brother Esau, the return of the nation of Israel from exile, or one of the most remembered, the return to home of the Prodigal Son. But truth be told, isn't the whole view of scripture a homecoming story? It begins with Genesis and our departure from paradise and it ends with Revelation and our return to paradise. Homecoming!

On Sunday May 18th, Kenton United Methodist Church had its first homecoming service in quite awhile. You might be thinking, homecoming in the spring? Well, isn't it great to come home anytime and why not the spring? This was a special time for Kenton. The new steeple went up and it was also time to have the steeple dedicated.

We started off our morning worship at 9:30 am and had the Precious Memories Gospel Band come and share their praise to the Lord in song. Hands were clapping, people were shouting, "AMEN!" and we would have broken out in dance if we had enough room. The Rev. Dr. Ed Levin, my uncle, flew in from North Carolina to bring God's word. Uncle Eddie is a retired

Nazarene Pastor who speaks at many United Methodist churches throughout the Western North Carolina Conference and is a wonderful man of God. He spoke to us the Word from 1 Samuel 7. Specifically verse 12 when Samuel took a stone and set it up and marked this place between Mizpah and Shen as a place where God helped them. He told of how our steeple is an Ebenezer which marks our church as a place where God helps us. It is a mark to anyone who sees it that this church is a house of God and all are welcome. What a blessing! The Holy Spirit was moving and working in our midst and in this morning service there was a middle aged man who came up to me and my uncle at the end of the service with tears rolling down his cheeks and he told us that he had accepted Christ in his heart. One more for Christ, one more for the kingdom!

Then the celebration ensued in the afternoon as we came back at 2:30 pm and we were joined by the 20 piece orchestra from Crosspointe Church of the Nazarene in Salisbury, Maryland. This was the church that I grew up in as a child and it was a blessing to share a bit of my "home" with my new home. We sang some of the favorites from "Victory in Jesus" to "How Great Thou Art." I think that the



neighboring community, a few miles away, heard us singing and worshipping the Lord. We were joined by our District Superintendent, Rev. Boyd Etter, who led us through the service of dedication for the steeple. We recognized the two gentlemen who were responsible for getting the massive job done. Thank you to Jeff Ulrich and Wayne Ford for seeing this project through. We then had a time of witnessing and a couple of the former pastors from the church came and shared and several people in the congregation shared as well. Then we shared the Word of God once more and had a little homecoming lesson on the Prodigal Son in which we urged those who weren't home with Christ, to come home today. It is such a privilege to serve the Lord!

The Grace of Christ
be with you all,
Pastor Scot McClymont
Proverbs 22:6

S. Lowan Pitts Day Care Center

On April 20, members of the Board of Directors celebrated at the consecration ceremony and open house of the S. Lowan Pitts Day Care Center. Pictured are Blanche Crim, Alice Carter, Mary Monroe, Geraldine J. Jones, Rev Alice J Ervin and Sonja Brown. Pastor Ervin officiated at the ceremony.

After thirty-eight years of service to the Greater Dover community, Pitts Day Care Center relocated to 1160 Walker Road in Dover. This beautiful two story building will accommodate seventy seven infants, toddlers, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten children. The theme for the Day Care is "Reading is our major priority!"

Future plans for the center will include a latch key program, parenting education and community outreach. Whatcoat United Methodist Church prayerfully believes that this ministry will reflect the love of God . . . as they reach out to children, youth, and their families.

Their mission statement is:

Our main goal is to meet the individual needs of your child(ren).



To stimulate their interests, and encourage development of their intellectual, physical, social, creative, and emotional potential by:

- ♥ Working with parents in order to develop a sound educational program.
- ♥ Providing an environment where young children learn as they play.
- ♥ Providing a flexible program where children have the opportunity to move and explore, to linger and to participate actively or passively in various activities.

The Dover District Page is printed once a month (September-June) as part of the Communicator. The next District Page will be published in the September 26th issue. Please have all articles/photos, etc. to Marilyn Cleeton, editor, (mcleeton@pen-del.org, 1.877.736.3351, ext. 23) no later than Friday, September 5th.



From the D.S.

"By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward - to Jesus. I'm off and running and I'm not turning back.

So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision - you'll see it yet! Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it." (Philippians 3:13-16 The Message)

A few weeks ago, our district once again was saddened over the death of one of our retired clergy members. On Wednesday, April 30, 2008, the Rev. Roy Phillips, retired elder of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference, entered the Church Triumphant. We thank God for his life and ministry. We continue to lift his wife, Thelma, and the family in our prayers.

Since coming on the district in July of 2006, our district has felt sadness of the deaths of four clergy, one clergy spouse, and the district Administrative Assistant. I have been privileged to share pastorally in the final days of some of them. I have had the privilege of being invited to be a part of the celebration of their lives and ministry. In being a part of the ministry of comfort to them and to their families, I have done a lot of pondering about their ministry, ministry in general, and my ministry in particular.

With each one, I have heard countless stories of how the person made Christ real to someone. I heard stories of tireless ministry, of times of compassion, of long hours of support and counseling, and of readiness to roll up their sleeves and go to work. I heard of how lives were touched and changed through each one. When I hear the



Rev. Bill Sterling

stories of their lives and ministries, I realize they understood Paul when he spoke of keeping focus and not turning back and staying on the right track. These servants of Christ weren't perfect. They were faithful. They didn't let their imperfections hold them back. They stayed the course.

As I have spoken with families, and in some cases, stood in the pulpit assisting in their services, I have felt the weight of the legacy being passed on to me, and to all of us, clergy and laity alike. It's the legacy of faithful and determined ministry. It's example after example of serving Christ. It's teaching us how to live as Christians. It's teaching us how to die in faith and hope.

Like the Olympic runners, passing the torch to one another when they finish their leg of the race, these servants of Christ, and all servants of Christ who have finished their course of faith, have now passed the torch on to us. For a while we ran together. Now, the torch is passed on to us and we continue the race - the race to spread the life saving, life transforming Gospel of Jesus Christ. One day, each of us too, will pass the torch on.

Questions arise in my pondering; questions of self examination: "Am I being as faithful as I can be?" "Am I running the race as hard as I can?" "Am I focused on Jesus Christ?" "Am I free of what lies behind me or does it continue to hold me back?" These are pondering questions for all of us. The torch continues to be passed. The race continues to be run. May God continue to give us the encouraging witness of faithful runners, and give us the grace to run the race.

Blessings,
Bill

Union Celebrates Pentecost

Pentecost and Mother's Day fell on the same Sunday this year and Union United Methodist Church in Federalsburg celebrated them both in a big way. There was a balloon release, a birthday cake for the children, the wearing of red, and a powerful message of God's love in the worship



service through word, song and multi-media.

Pastor Danese Collins connected these two important days by saying Pentecost is the celebration of the birthday of the Christian Church and Mother's Day celebrates the one who gave us birth. She explained that it is in community that we learn to be the church... and it is in community that we learn to know who we are as individuals.

Using the example of wind power she asked, "Are we ready to fly? Are we ready to catch the power of the Holy Spirit to meet the needs of the world and our own community? Through creative and "now" ways of communicating, with courage to tell our own stories with clarity, we can make a difference in the lives of others as we tell the story of God's love in a language all can understand. Please join us for worship any Sunday at 10:30 a.m. 301 N. Main Street, Federalsburg, MD 21632 410.754.9210 and visit us on the web at www.unionchurch.com

Waters UMC Celebrates Oxford Day

As part of the Annual Oxford Day Celebration on Saturday, April 26, 2008 Waters church in Oxford participated in the parade commemorating 125 years of worship experiences. With much longevity in the community and love from faithful and lifelong members, friends and neighbors on Sunday, October 19, 2008 Waters will celebrate 125 years! "125 Years of Grace" is our theme and Rev. Walton Burke of New Spirit Christian Community Tabernacle in Philadelphia, PA will be the guest preacher. Rev. Burke was a previous pastor of Waters UMC.

Many members represented the church in the parade; Shirlee Chase and Carlton Greene carried the banner, Charles and Rev. Alma E. Boulden followed, then Marshall Johnson chaffered Marjorie Gray and Emma Nixon and finally a flatbed trailer being driven by Mr. Lewis with Helen Chase, Cora Brice and other members of Waters made Oxford Day memorable and exciting for all.

In addition to having participated in the Oxford Day Parade, there were 2 locations as the Women of Waters sponsored a Bake Sale, the Men of Waters



worked very hard as they sponsored their annual Fish Fry and Chicken BBQ, and there was even cream of crab soup, hot dogs and hot sausages. Later that day The Friendship Choir was in concert for the community. The church family enjoys and always looks forward to this day as another way of community fellowship for all.

Easton District Administrative Professional Day Luncheon

On Thursday, April 24, the Easton District honored the Administrative Assistants to the District's clergy and churches at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Denton. Those also in attendance were Rev. Dr. William Fitzhugh, Jr., Wilmington District Superintendent and his Administrative Assistant, Carole Dobson and Sandy Wilkins, Dover District Administrative Assistant.

The day began with a devotion time led by the Easton District



Superintendent, Rev. William T. Sterling, Jr. Following the worship time, speaker Billie Wall, Music Director at St. Matthew's-By-The-Sea in Fenwick Island, Delaware, gave an uplifting testimony of her life and spiritual journey. Lunch was served by the United

Methodist Women of St. Luke's. A special thank you to Rev. Ray Graham for hosting this year's Administrative Professional Day Lunch, the United Methodist Women of St. Luke's, Mrs. Billie Wall and her husband, and Mrs. Jackie Sterling.

St. Mark's "A Day Apart"

The United Methodist Women of St. Mark's Church sponsored "A Day Apart" recently at the Tred Avon Yacht Club in Oxford. The 18th annual affair was chaired by Claudia Knox and the meeting was led by United Methodist Women President, Ann Yingling. About 75 people attended the program.

The keynote speaker was the Rev. William T. Sterling, Jr., District Superintendent for the United Methodist churches in the Easton District. His focus was on "Living Sacramentally" and included an exchange of thoughts between him and the audience and some role-playing by him and the Rev. Darlene M.

Dixon, Youth & Family Pastor at St. Mark's. There were round-table discussions and responses by the audience. Rev. Sterling discussed the "North Star Strategy" based on Sue Nilson Kibbey's book, *Ultimately Responsible*. After the morning session, lunch was served by the Yacht Club employees.

The afternoon part of the retreat included Holy Communion administered by the Rev. Gary L. Moore, Senior Pastor at St. Mark's, and assisted by the Revs. Sterling and Dixon and Mrs. Yingling. St. Mark's Music Director, Scott Clausen, led the group in song and provided an a cappella solo during communion.

The time of reflection ended by everyone reading the United Methodist Women's benediction.



L to r: Rev. Gary L. Moore, St. Mark's Senior Pastor; Claudia Knox, chairman, St. Mark's Day Apart; Rev. William T. Sterling, Easton District Superintendent; Ann Yingling, president of St. Mark's UMW; and Rev. Darlene M. Dixon, St. Mark's Youth & Family Pastor.



A Report From Your General Conference Delegation What Happened??

Missions:

- Almost \$500,000 was raised for various mission projects from the delegates and their Annual Conference pledges, mostly for *Nothing But Nets*.
- An effort was launched to raise \$100,000,000 for the UMC Global Health Initiative. William Gates, Sr. announced our partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation which will provide \$5,000,000 to promote this effort.
- Passed a budget of \$462,000,000; an increase of only 4.8% over the prior budget.
- The Central Conference Pension Initiative passed. Currently there is no pension plan for pastors serving outside the United States.

Focusing Our Efforts:

All General Boards and the budget will now focus the UMC into 4 areas:

- Developing principled

- Christian leaders for the church and the world
- Creating new places for new people and renewing existing congregations
- Engaging in ministry with the poor
- Stamping out the killer diseases of poverty by improving health globally

Reworded our Missions Statement as a Church:

- The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

What changed:

- Pastor and Bishop mandatory retirement age was raised from 70 to 72 (effective immediately for bishop, effective 2009 for clergy).
- Deacons in remote areas, under special circumstances, and with permission of their Bishop can serve communion.
- Local pastors can now vote for General and Jurisdictional delegates..

- The new companion worship litany to our 100-year old Social Creed was adopted.
- Raised the percent from 25% to 35% a pastor can take as a lump-sum from their pension plan upon retirement.
- The Northeast Jurisdiction will lose an Episcopal area this quadrennium.

What did not change:

- Requests to change the language related to 'incompatibility' in 161.G was overturned by the full General Conference session.
- Changing the "right" of appointment to a "privilege" was rejected by the Higher Ed Committee.
- While the Local Church Committee approved language that would have changed a pastor's right to decide on church membership, the full General Conference voted this down by 12 votes.
- The pension plan for pastors.
- General church's support for

Strengthening the Black Church

Special Highlight:

- Liberia President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf addressed the General Conference. President Sirleaf was raised and educated by United Methodists.

Other Issues Included:

UMC Plans Annual Celebration of Older Adults

An annual Older Adult Recognition Day will be held in UM congregations starting in 2009 to celebrate older adults. General Conference voted to add this celebration to the special observances on the church's calendar. The day is to be observed annually, preferably during the month of May, and is intended to provide congregations with the opportunity to learn more about the issues and concerns related to aging and older adulthood. The Committee on Older Adult Ministries at the General Board of Discipleship will have responsibility for supervising and promoting the observance.

General Conference revised the church's resolution on aging in the United States to include the latest information from the U.S. Census Bureau. Updated information shows people are living longer, and by 2032, there will be 72 million people 65 years of age and older in the United States. The Census Bureau projects that by 2030, there will be more older adults in the United States than children and youth combined. The average UM is at least 60 years old, according to the committee. The Comprehensive Plan for Older Adult Ministries for 2009-2012 will emphasize care giving ministry and intergenerational ministry to help build understanding between younger people and older adults by promoting the

gifts, faith and wisdom of each age group.

UMs Affirm Native American Sovereignty, Support Development

In an April 28 vote, General Conference approved continuation of the Native American Comprehensive Plan for another four years and approved its \$1.2 million budget funding education and enrichment for the UMC's 18,000 Native Americans. Conference action also moved the plan from its 16-year home at the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) to the General Board of Discipleship (GBOD). General Conference also amended and readopted a 2004 resolution on "Native American Tribal Sovereignty," affirming that native nations were sovereign, autonomous and self-regulating before they had contact with Europeans and even after the establishment of the United States, but that treaties guaranteeing that sovereignty have often been ignored or undermined.

In another amended resolution, delegates supported the economic development for Native Americans, outside of gambling, which the church does not condone. Delegates called the church to authorize the General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) to work with the National Congress of American Indians and other Native American organizations in advocating federal economic development programs, facilitating the participation of UM Native Americans in the work of the United Nations Permanent Fund on indigenous issues. They also urged GBGM to support funding of Native American economic development projects and urged the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits to invest monies in Native American financial institutions and community organizations.

Conference Calendar of Events

June 2008

- 7 **Conference Laity Session**, Dover: Schwartz Center, 8:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- 9 **Credit Union Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 1:30 p.m.
- 11 **Clergy Executive Session**, Dover: Whatcoat UMC, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- 11-12 **16th Annual African-American Summit**, Princess Anne, MD: University of Maryland - Eastern Shore
- 13-15 **Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference Session**, Princess Anne, MD: University of Maryland - Eastern Shore
- 18 **Equitable Compensation Committee Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 3:00 p.m.
- Spiritual Formation Task Force Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 6:00 p.m.
- 19 **Strengthening The Black Church Retreat**, Wesley College: Carroll Room, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- 24 **Conference United Methodist Men Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 7:15 p.m.
- 26 **Advocacy Resource Team Meeting**, Dover: Whatcoat UMC, 2:00 p.m.
- Health Ministries Committee Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.
- Outreach/Evangelism Committee Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 5:00 p.m.
- 28 **Stewardship Workshop**, Wilmington: Simpson UMC, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

July 2008

- 4 **Happy 4th**. BFEM Resource Center Closed
- 8 **Conference Board of Lay Ministries Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 7:00 p.m.
- 14-18 **Jurisdictional Delegation Meeting**, Harrisburg, PA

- 23 **CARE Team Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.
- Communications Commission Planning Retreat**, Rehoboth: Epworth UMC, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- 27-Aug. 2 **Mission Possible Camp**, Middletown: Meredith Middle School
- 29 **Personnel Committee Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 1:00 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 Committee Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 5:00 p.m.
- 30-Aug. 2 **School of Christian Mission**, Dover: Wesley College

August 2008

- 1-2 **Mission Possible Camp**, Middletown, DE: Meredith Middle School
- School of Christian Mission**, Dover, DE: Wesley College
- 7 **Resource Development & Management Team Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 9:30 a.m.
- Board of Stewards Meeting**, Centreville, MD: Camp Pecometh, 6:00 p.m.
- 12 **Conference United Methodist Men Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 7:15 p.m.
- 21 **Committee on Native American Ministries Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center, 9:00 a.m.
- 23 **Conference United Methodist Women Mission Team Meeting**, BFEM Resource Center
- 29 **"NEEDTOBREATHE" Concert**, Salisbury, MD: Perdue Stadium, 5:30 p.m.

Save the Dates!

Bishop's Advent Day Apart for Clergy

December 2, 2008
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Aldersgate UMC, Wilmington, Delaware

Bishop's Mid-Winter Retreat for Clergy and Spouses

January 13-15, 2009
Clarion Hotel, Ocean City, Maryland